



South Royalton Market Manager Peggy Grote, standing, talks about last year's trip with 10 co-op market representatives to the organic coffee growers' cooperative in Chiapas, Mexico, that produces the Fair Trade Coffee her market sells. She then served coffees, teas and accompaniments at the annual April tasting social.

Ice Show Trip, Book, Quilt Raffle To Benefit Steeple Repairs

The Historical Society is in the eighth year of raising money, primarily through the annual raffle, for restoration of the 1870 North Tunbridge Baptist Church. Deterioration of the steeple and damage to the building make this fundraising urgent.

During the 1980s the Baptists asked the Historical Society to join with them in the protection and use of the church building. The society now has the use of the building for meetings and display of some of Tunbridge's history.

In recent years the society painted the church and did some initial repairs to the steeple. Unfortunately, much more work needs to be done. Areas around the steeple have been damaged and the inside ceiling of the vestibule has collapsed, causing water damage to stored items.

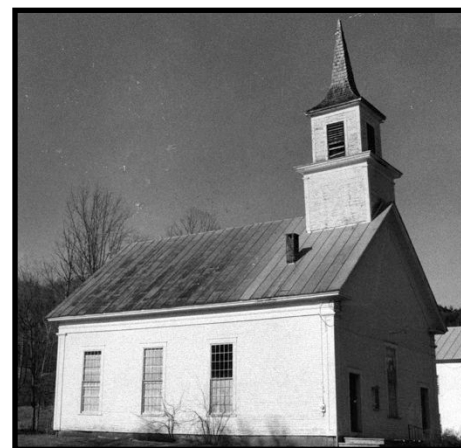
The current estimate for repairs amounts to over \$27,000. The society will continue to seek funds from raffle sales and donations, as well as grants, which will require matching funds from the society. Donations to preserve this

historic town building are greatly appreciated and would be tax deductible.

3 Raffle Prizes

Raffle tickets will go on sale Memorial Day. The drawing will be held at the October annual meeting. The first name drawn will get first choice of prizes and the winner does not have to be present. Many thanks to the generous donors of this year's prizes.

Genie Bird Shields of Tunbridge has donated a copy of her book *Fairie-ality: The Fashion Collection from the House of Ellwand* with photographs by David



North Tunbridge Baptist Church

Don't Throw It Out!

Part of the Tunbridge Historical Society's mission is to collect and preserve Tunbridge documents and memorabilia. Anyone going through outbuildings or attics is asked to call one of the officers before throwing something out. We'd be happy to go through the stuff first and help dispose of things. Postcards, photographs, letters and other records help document the history of the town and its residents.

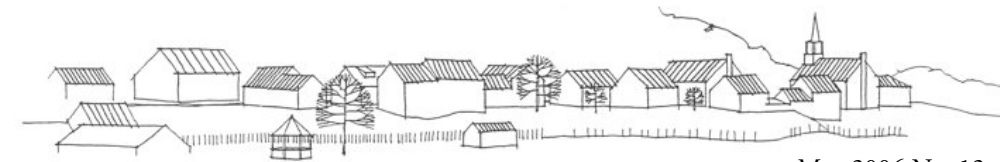
Ellwand, "top designer of couture and accessories" in the faerie world, and art by fashion illustrator David Downton. Nearly 150 fashion creations are featured.

Milne Travel will take a lucky winner and companion to the Smucker's Stars on Ice show at the Lake Placid Olympic Center on Saturday, Nov. 25. The day trip valued at \$280 includes motorcoach transportation and dinner for two at the Lake Placid Resort Hotel.

Ella Pappius of Tunbridge donated a 1930s 85 inch by 72 inch pieced quilt in the rolling stone pattern. The colorful quilt is made of cotton, including many feedsack prints, with a thin cotton batting. The quilting is at 10 stitches per inch and includes angle quilting on the borders and diamond and circle quilting over the face. It is in excellent condition.

Watch for raffle tickets at the Memorial Day booth, summer historical society events and the fair. Or call T Swayze at 889-3234 for tickets. (A separate 45th anniversary celebration raffle will be held on Aug. 8. See the August meeting writeup.)

Bridges



May 2006 No. 12

The Newsletter of the Tunbridge Historical Society

Bruce Coffin Will Read From Woodstock Memoir On June 6

Bruce Coffin, a native of Woodstock who wrote about his village in *The Long Light of Those Days: Recollections of a Vermont Village at Mid-Century*, will speak on Tuesday, June 6. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. He will read from his memoir, chat with attendees about small-town Vermont and sign copies of his book.

The Woodstock Historical Society, which published the book under its Elm Tree Press imprint, says, "You can go home again, if only in memory, Bruce Coffin assures us, in this illuminating recollection of growing up in a small Vermont village fifty years ago."

Coffin says, "I wanted to restore the Woodstock I had first known, where houses were largely homes and not real

estate investments, and where the commercial buildings were places for stores serving the basic needs of the community and its outlying farming districts rather than so many feet of retail space for profiting from the consumer demands of transients and tourists.

"I wanted to put it back just the way it had been before I grew up and went away, before it all changed."

Vermont Life reviewer Deborah Straw wrote, "This memoir may be specific to a man and a town, yet it feels universal, not unlike Russell Baker's memoir *Growing Up*. Anyone who loves the singular character of Vermont will enjoy Coffin's book."

After growing up in Woodstock Coffin attended the University of Vermont, Trinity College (Dublin), New York University and Wesleyan University. He has taught English in independent schools in the U.S. and England and is a contributor to scholarly journals. He has been on the



Woodstock native Bruce Coffin

faculty of Westover School in Middlebury, Conn., since 1972. He and his wife divide their time between Middlebury and Woodstock.

If Coffin's name and face seem familiar that's because he's the twin of Howard Coffin, Vermont Civil War historian who has spoken to the Tunbridge Historical Society and is a familiar face at the Tunbridge Fair and the Vermont History Expo.

Celebrate Society's 45th Year At Aug. 8 Talk By Euclid, Pot Luck

Historical Society President Euclid Farnham will present a new slide program, "Early Tunbridge," at the society's Aug. 8 meeting. The 7:30 p.m. presentation at the Dodge-Gilman Building will cap the society's 45th anniversary celebration.

A pot luck supper will start at 6:30 p.m. No desserts are needed — the society will provide a 45th birthday cake for all to enjoy.

To mark this local history talk, the society will have a special one-night-only raffle to benefit the North Tunbridge Church steeple fund. The prizes are a copy of Euclid's *Tunbridge Past: A Pictorial History of Tunbridge* (softcover second edition), which he will sign, and the "Fred Speaks" CD featuring Fred Tuttle.

TALK continued on page 3

For information or to volunteer or donate items please contact one of these officers:

President: Euclid Farnham 889-3458
 Vice-Pres.: Kay Jorgensen 889-5528
 Secretary: Elaine Howe 888-5560
 Treasurer and Membership:
 Townsend Swayze 889-3234

Program Committee:
 Catherine Freese, Elaine Howe,
 Kay Jorgensen

Memberships support restoration of the North Tunbridge Church and society programs.

Annual dues: Individual \$5, Students \$1,
 Family \$10, Life \$50

Thanks to Heidi Allen Goodrich for newsletter design

Tunbridge Historical Society Coming Events

The walks and talks are co-sponsored with the Tunbridge Library. All are free and everyone is welcome.

Sunday, June 4, 3 pm

History Mystery Walk

Meet at the library

Tuesday, June 6, 7:30 pm

Bruce Coffin

Town Hall

Author of *"The Long Light of Those Days: Recollections of a Vermont Village at Mid-Century,"* speaking about his native Woodstock

Saturday & Sunday, June 24 & 25

Vermont History Expo 10 am -5 pm

Tunbridge Fairgrounds

The society will have interpreters in the Schoolhouse and Log Cabin

Tuesday, July 11, 8 pm

Locale Talent Musicale

Tunbridge Church

Following Tunbridge Church Ice Cream Social

Tuesday, Aug. 8, 6:30 & 7:30 pm

45th anniversary celebration &

potluck supper 6:30 pm

Euclid Farnham slide program on

"Early Tunbridge" 7:30 pm

Tunbridge Fairgrounds

Sunday, October 22, 1 pm

(rain date 29th)

Ghost Walk, Spring Road Cemetery

October to be announced

Annual Meeting, Attic Treasures show and tell, dessert social

Selection of raffle winners, election of officers.

Donations Welcome

The Historical Society welcomes special gifts, memorial gifts and the underwriting of programs.

Tunbridge School Students Win Essay And Art Prizes

Tunbridge Central School students in Grade 5-8 took part in the society's annual essay and art contest. The Historical Society judged the entries and provided certificates that were presented with cash prizes from the School Club at an assembly.

Fifth graders submitted two entries. They wrote about the immigrant experience in Vermont, incorporating an interview, and did an art project related to the culture that they wrote about.

The winners were:

Grade 5: Essays: Susanna Billings (Yankees), Gabrielle Elder (Chinese), Elizabeth Haas (Germans), Darren Cilley (French-Canadians), Melissa Murawski (Polish). Art: Susanna Billings, Mario Sacca, Melissa Murawski, Gabrielle Elder and Christina Ferris.

Students in grades 6-8 had a challenging assignment. They were asked to read at least 10 picture books for young children, then write and illustrate their own book.

The winners were:

Grade 6: Dakota Jensen (Champ), Victoria Oliver (catamount), Brooke Russell (Tunbridge fair), Alexis Vincelette (showing calf).
Grade 7: Marshall Distel ('27 Flood), Ella Hayslett (Town Meeting), Raechel Braley (Ben & Jerry's), Dalton Kadar (Champ), Tyler Hoyt (Tunbridge Fair), Michael Landry (covered bridge).
Grade 8: Molly Mattern (Sally and the Quilt), Christine Elder (pumpkins), Mariclaire Joseph (Phineas Gage), Suzanne Howe (leaves), Meghan Phoenix (Snowflake Bentley), Ryan Mullen (maple sugaring).

The Tunbridge Mystery Question

Answer correctly and you will win the esteem of the Tunbridge Historical Society AND win a free year's membership PLUS a free book of raffle tickets. Be the first to call Euclid Farnham at 889-3458 and claim your prize. The next four people with the correct answer will win a book of tickets for this year's raffle.

Here's the question:

Name the location of the Tunbridge airplane spotting observation post during World War II. And when it opened and when it closed.

Last year's question and answer:

How many one-room schoolhouses are left in Tunbridge and where are they?

A dozen of the town's 21 one-room schools remain, as well as the two-room Market Village School, now the town offices. Congratulations to Jerilyn Mulvey who again was the first person to answer the Mystery Question.

Three of the schools are on Route 110 in North Tunbridge, two are within the Historic District (one on the Fairgrounds). Others are on Whitney Hill Road, Stafford Road, Potash Road, Howe Lane, Ward Hill and Kelsey Mountain Road, which has two schools, one the 1929 replacement.

Last year's mystery photo was the schoolhouse that Fred Welch lives in near the Tunbridge Central School.

Society Receives Survey Responses

Thanks to residents who answered the society's survey that was handed out at Town Meeting and made available at the library. The officers welcome program suggestions and other ideas at any time, as well as volunteers to help

with raffle ticket sales at the fair and other activities.

The favorite topics for programs, according to survey respondents, are Tunbridge, the region and Vermont. Suggested programs include more talks by Euclid Farnham (see separate article) and local people and places.

The June-August meetings, History Mystery Walk and Ghost Walk were the best-attended programs.

As for possible fundraising activities, a social event and field trip were the most popular ideas. While fewer people were interested in entertainment, when given the choice of classical or folk, the overwhelming number chose folk music.

Newsletter Is On Line

Tell your friends here and afar to go to www.tunbridgevt.com to read this newsletter. A calendar of community events and news from Tunbridge organizations and town departments are also on the site, as well as photos. Everyone is invited to sign up for weekly e-mail notification of new postings.

Walk Along For History & Mystery

Everyone is invited to join in two fun walks sponsored by the Historical Society and Tunbridge Library.

The annual History Mystery Walk will be held on Sunday, June 4. Meet at the library at 3 p.m. to carpool and join

the caravan to a historical spot in town.

The ghosts of Spring Road Cemetery will come back to life on Oct. 22 (rain date Oct. 29). They'll talk about themselves and share some of the town's history. Meet at the cemetery at 1 p.m.



Euclid Farnham leads the annual History Mystery Walk.

TALK continued from page 1

The Tunbridge Historical Society's start dates to 1960 when a committee was formed to plan for the town's bicentennial the following year. The society was formed in 1961, with John Howe as president. Euclid became the society's fourth president about 30 years ago.

Over the years the society restored cemeteries, sponsored historic date signs for town buildings, and funded the Tunbridge Village Historic District signs on Route 110 and the signs for the town's 20 cemeteries. Current efforts are directed at restoring the North Tunbridge Church building.

The society continues to work to preserve Tunbridge artifacts and documents. Before throwing out contents of old houses and barns people are asked to call Euclid and give him a chance to look through things first.

Euclid's "Early Tunbridge" slide talk will cover more than 100 years of town history, up to about 1920. Few people are in a better position to know Tunbridge as intimately as this Tunbridge native. His positions in town include president of the Tunbridge World's Fair and Friends of Tunbridge Public Library, Town and School Moderator, Tunbridge Church treasurer, Justice of the Peace and Cemetery Commissioner.



GHOST WALK: Peter Button, who was killed by Indians, a German immigrant, a Civil War soldier killed at Fredericksburg, Va., two Howe women and the town's first traffic fatality were among residents who appeared at Button Hill Cemetery.