

# Under the Hump

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:  
Feb. 20, 7 pm, CBMS

- Annual elections will take place at the meeting.
- We will host the potluck luncheon at Town Meeting 2018.

Last Issue's  
Mystery Photo:  
William Douglas



### GUESS WHO?



Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20th, 7 pm, in the Crossett Brook Middle School cafeteria. The business meeting will include the annual election of all officers and those scheduled trustees whose term will end.

Our program will be a PowerPoint presentation by Skip Flanders. It will include class photos of the South Duxbury School and the Duxbury Corner School during the time period of about 1929 through the mid 1930s. The Moretown students from the Rock Bridge area attended Duxbury Corner School and are included in this program. The teachers were Charlotte (Barney) Clifton and Evelyn Shontell. Many of the students in the photos are not identified so we will appreciate your knowledge in naming those not already known. This will be your quiz for the evening. Also included in the presentation will be early photos of the Barney family of North Duxbury. All are welcome, so please come, bring a friend, and help us out. Refreshments will be furnished.

### Town Meeting 2018

Our society will once again host a potluck luncheon for Duxbury's annual town meeting. The cost will be \$5.00 per person. If possible, please bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert (NO NUTS or PEANUT OIL) to add to the feast. Beverages and rolls will be provided. Our society will also have coffee and donuts available in the morning. Any questions, please call Mary Ethel Welch at 244-7558.



## SOCIETY BUSINESS

## Archival/Preservation Committee Report

Members: Eulie Costello, Lori Morse, Bonnie Morse, Mark Morse

We continue to catalog donations, scan photos, and review/update existing documents to ensure they are properly identified and stored.

## Monetary Donations

Stephanie Koonz \* Mary Whitcomb \* Al & Bev Young \* Willis Morse \* Janet & Ralph Ainsworth  
Dale Christie \* Kathy Grace \* Jim & Wendy Welch \* Cathy Fisk

## November Food Sale

We held our annual bake sale on November 18, in front of Kinney's in Waterbury. This turned out to be very successful on a rather cold day! Our proceeds were \$146. Due to the generosity of Kinney's and the many bakers that supported us, we had a good day. We also wish to thank all who stopped by and supported the society.

Many thanks to Shawn Perry and Kelly Welch for enduring the weather to make this happen.

~Sincerely, Mary Ethel Welch



Alison Magnani photo.

A Recipe to Share

Our Society members are great cooks and we'd like to feature some of your recipes in the newsletter. If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please submit it to the newsletter committee. The recipe in this issue is courtesy of Phyllis Grout.

*Peanut Butter Brownies*

- 2 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup creamy peanut butter
- 2 Tbsp margarine or butter
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 1/3 cup unsifted flour
- 1 Tbsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 Tbsp chopped peanuts

In a mixing bowl combine eggs, sugars, peanut butter, margarine, and vanilla. Whip at medium speed until thoroughly blended. Add flour, baking powder, and salt; continue mixing until smooth. Spread batter evenly in a greased 9 inch square pan and sprinkle with chopped peanuts. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 30 minutes. Cut while warm. Enjoy!

THOSE WERE THE DAYS



Opening Dance  
**TONIGHT**  
**Red Barn**  
JONESVILLE  
A Friendly Place  
Where Friends Meet  
**Buddy Truax**  
and His Play Boys  
Round and Square Dancing  
9:30-1:30 ADM. 60c Tax Incl.

2 BIG HITS  
Show Starts Dusk  
**SUNSET DRIVE-IN**  
AUTO-THEATRE  
MOVIES RAIN OR CLEAR  
TONIGHT AND WED.  
"LONE STAR"  
Clark Gable — Ava Gardner — Broderick Crawford  
"JUST THIS ONCE"  
Janet Leigh — Peter Lawford — Lewis Stone  
Cartoon

**MALLETTS BAY**  
SHOW STARTS AT DUSK  
RAIN OR CLEAR  
TODAY. — WED. — THURS.  
**DRIVE-IN THEATRE**  
"TEN TALL MEN"  
(In Technicolor)  
Burt Lancaster — Jody Lawrence — Gilbert Roland  
— PLUS —  
"THE FLAME OF STAMBOUL"  
Richard Denning — Lisa Ferraday

**TONITE**  
**Harte's Barn**  
**DANCE**  
WILLISTON  
Don Fields and His Pony Boys



## FRANCIS VAUGHN

Remembering Francis Vaughn  
1919-2017

Roberta and Francis Vaughn

Francis lived in several towns that surrounded Duxbury but because his life involved so much in this town, it seemed like he lived in Duxbury most of his life. He was very community-minded with his church, Dillingham Grange (that had been previously in Moretown and Duxbury), and also an earlier Duxbury Historical Society.

He was small in stature, quiet and agreeable in mannerism with a slow and steady voice, yet Francis could be stalwart and decisive with rebuttals.

His ambition was expressed by many accomplishments in his earlier years by purchasing a burned out building lot with much debris to clean up prior to building his own home. He also constructed a miniature automobile, piece by piece, from either discarded material or a part that he removed from its former life that would fit his need. On top of this, he usually had a garden each summer that consisted of his favorite vegetables and annual flowers galore.

Most summers, Francis and his wife Roberta would host a child from New York City during the Fresh Air program. Brian Rogers was one of these children and he returned to this family for many years. Brian also visited them in their twilight years.

Francis and Roberta also enjoyed heading for the sunny south during winters, escaping our frigid and brutal weather. All in all, Francis enjoyed his friends, his community, his family, and his life.

~Donnie Welch



Francis, Roberta, and Bev (Driscoll) Wrisley

Photos courtesy of the Burton Green Family



# Waterbury Man's Hands-On Approach Never Fails

By BRUCE TALBOT  
Correspondent

WATERBURY — Quietly in his basement — with almost no one aware of what he was doing — Francis Vaughan did what Henry Ford did.

Vaughn built a Model T Ford. Vaughan's eyes sparkled and he shrugged his shoulders recently as he recalled the undertaking. "It was just something I always wanted to do," he said with a grin.

Vaughn began working on his Model T Ford in 1984 and took a year to complete it.

"I had had the urge to build a Model T ever since I saw one when I was a boy in Hinesburg," said Vaughan, who is now 71.

As is his style, Vaughan built his one-third-size replica with no fanfare...and no plans. His only guide was a clipping from the national Grange magazine he had tucked away for 35 years. Not surprising to those who know Francis Vaughan, his recollection was exceptional, and so was his final product.

The proportions of the Model T are exact and the details are authentic: the way the door handles turn, how the roof folds down, the stitching of the upholstery and the design of the headlights, the doors and the running boards.

Vaughn also re-created the work style of Henry Ford.

When Ford began building cars in the late 1800s, he scavenged and collected parts. For his first car, he

used bicycle wheels and the exhaust pipe of a steam engine for the cylinder of the engine.

Also an ingenious man, Vaughan fashioned his car from scavenged materials. The round wooden ends of electrical cable spools were carefully sawed to form spoked wheels.

Two plastic antifreeze bottles were joined to form a gas tank. The hubcaps were made from fabric softener bottle caps and the headlight lamps were fashioned from plastic margarine tubs. A discarded air conditioner provided sheet metal.

A few coats of black paint resulted in a magical transformation.

Several years ago, Vaughan's Model T made its public debut, displayed on a trailer in the Waterbury Fourth of July parade. The crowd loved it.

Building things is second nature for Vaughan.

"I putter around," he said. "I've made a coffee table and a couple of night stands."

In 1959, Vaughan did a lot more than putter. He built his home — almost single-handedly.

The Dillingham Grange Hall on the western edge of Waterbury had burned in 1958, and Vaughan could see possibilities where only a burned shell was standing. The next year, he bought the Grange hall foundation.

"I had a catalogue of ready-built

houses, the kind with the wood ready-cut," Vaughan recalled, "My wife, Roberta, and I picked a design that we liked a lot. We were going to get the house and set it up on the foundation, but we couldn't get a loan."

"That didn't stop Francis Vaughan. The hall was a ruin, but there still was plenty of usable lumber on the site."

Mustering the confidence he had gained working on carpentry jobs for a Stowe construction company and the state hospital, Vaughan enlisted the aid of his father, J. Burton Vaughan, and began tearing down the remainder of the Grange hall.

The two pulled down what was left of the building and neatly piled the wood next to the foundation. Then they cleaned out the basement, wheeling out load after load of ashes and soot.

"I'd be covered every night when I went home!" Francis laughed.

With the house partially done, Francis and Roberta moved from their Waterbury apartment, and Francis completed the house around them.

About four years later, Vaughan built an apartment on the back of the house.

Not content to let his skills go idle, he eventually applied his talents on a bigger scale. For 10 years, until retiring in 1985, Vaughan worked as a mechanic and carpenter — as well as weekend watchman — at the National Life Insurance Co. hilltop home office in Montpelier. His touches still can be seen throughout the huge building.

"I just like to work with my hands," Vaughan said, in typical understatement. "I guess I enjoy it."

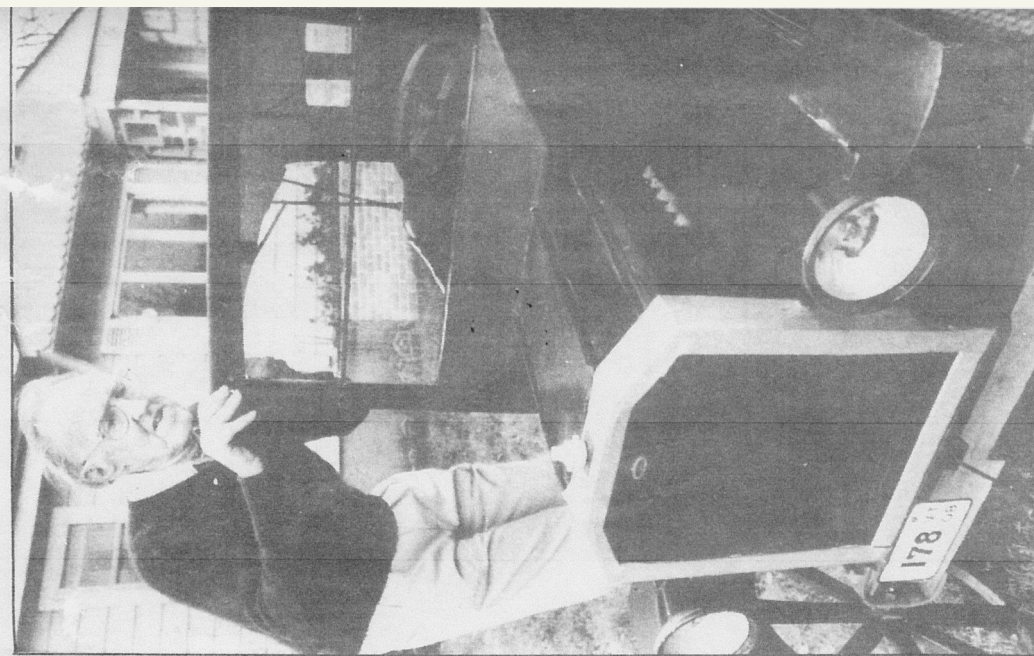


Photo by Bruce T.

Francis Vaughan works on his replica Model T.

Column 2, paragraph 2 reads: Two plastic antifreeze bottles were joined to form a gas tank. The hubcaps were made from fabric softener bottle caps and the headlight lamps were fashioned from plastic margarine tubs. A discarded air conditioner provided sheet metal.



## FIRST NEW CAR

First New Car in 1946 Goes to Duxbury Farmer Ray Davis

By Skip Flanders

**Ray Davis Gets First New Car Shipped to Waterbury**

The first new car in years has made its appearance in Waterbury—a half-ton heavy duty Ford truck, painted dark green, with tan plastic fittings on the hood and radiator. Equipped with 6-ply tires and hydraulic brakes, its four springs make it capable of carrying heavier than customary loads for its size and weight.

Who gets it? It's for the OPA to decide and a priority certificate is required. Ray Davis of Duxbury has met the qualifications and to him goes the distinction of having one of the first "post-war" cars, produced in the Ford plant that up to not so long ago was turning out heavy bombers.

That one car will be conspicuous for a while, however, as production is not great so far and additional deliveries are not expected with any great frequency. One or two of the same, and perhaps a ton and a half truck, are all that W. E. Collins, local Ford dealer, expects to get in the immediate future. New passenger cars? Perhaps a few new ones by Fall, according to Mr. Collins. Coupes and sedans. But only perhaps.

When I was a boy staying with my grandparents, Ray and Marion Davis, on the North Duxbury farm for the summer in the late 1950s, I had an opportunity to ride daily in that historic old green Ford pickup. Each day, seven days a week, after breakfast, I would ride with my grandfather Ray in the pickup with eight 10-gallon milk cans identified by the number 70 painted in red, to the Mt. Mansfield creamery near the railroad station. By the late 1950s this vehicle was suffering from years of salt and rust on the streets and highways of Waterbury and Duxbury. The fenders rattled and the tailgate was wired up. No one shared with me the history of the vehicle I had the privilege of riding in. I did not learn about the origin of that 1946 Ford pickup until 2014 when I was doing some research in the old *Waterbury Record* newspapers. I was surprised when I came across this June 1946 article announcing that Ray Davis was to receive the first new vehicle since the war. The vehicle was delivered through the W.E. Collins Ford dealership on North Main Street owned by William "Bill" Collins.

That old pickup was the all-purpose farm vehicle that took the milk to the creamery, carried hay, carried tons of grain in 100 pound bags from the railroad station, loads of sawdust from Demeritt's or Ravlin's sawmills, carried fire-

## FIRST NEW CAR

wood, and any other chore that needed doing on the farm.

I don't know what happened to that historic old pickup. It was traded for a 1960s Chevy pickup that didn't last nearly as long.

I do wish we had a better picture of Ray and Ralph with that new pickup in 1946.

Going through old photos, I found two showing the pickup in use. The first is a photo taken in 1946 of Ralph sitting in the back with the tailgate down and milk cans in the back. Daughter Ethel is in the baby carriage. The other is a photo taken in 1952 showing the Ford pickup backed into the hay-mow with a load of hay bales with Ralph and son Ralph Charles. Ralph appears to be untying the rope holding the bales on the load. You can see the tan plastic trim on the grill and hood described in the 1946 newspaper article.



Ray T. Davis and his son,  
Ralph P. Davis



**D U X B U R Y   H I S T O R I C A L   S O C I E T Y ,   I N C .  
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**DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING - FEB. 20  
CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL - 7 PM**

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S O C I E T Y ,   I N C .  
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