

Under the Hump

SOCIETY BUSINESS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 12,
noon, Duxbury Town
Office site

- Please bring a dish to share at the picnic and your own lawn chair. Paper products, silverware, and beverages will be provided.

The upcoming annual picnic will be held at the Duxbury Town Office site on Sunday, August 12, sharply at noon. Everyone (member or not) is welcome to attend our potluck picnic. Please bring your own lawn chair and either a hot dish, salad, or dessert to share. The paper products, silverware, and beverages will be provided by the Society.

Our business meeting will take place as you are enjoying your dessert. There will be no organized program, but rather displays, and the church will come to you in case you missed the Waterbury parade. ALL of these will create much enthusiasm and interest. If you have an article, document, or photo to share and discuss, please bring it along. Also as planned, we will have a scanner available so you can scan documents or photos that you wish to bring along. This will allow you to have an image taken of your item in your presence and also have a copy made for security reasons.

We will have a donation box at the picnic for anyone that would like to contribute for our friend and neighbor, Shirley Marshall.

An update on our town's 250th birthday celebration plans will be announced—so bring your neighbor and we will look forward to seeing you on the 12th.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS SOCIETY MEMBER?



Last Issue's Photo:
Louise Welch



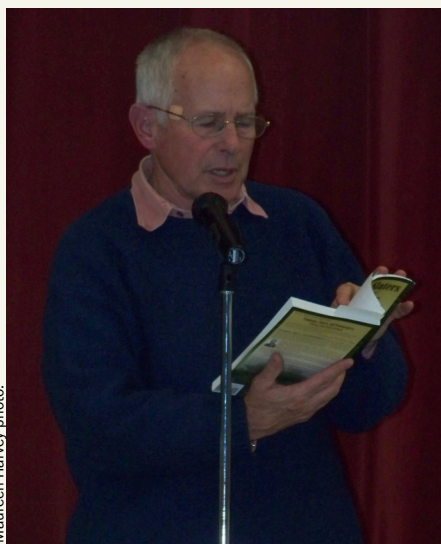
Plant Sale Update

Once again we had a successful plant sale and were able to add \$600 to our bank account. The plants came direct from Claussens greenhouse that morning and were in the hands of our customers that afternoon. The quality of the plants did not disappoint and are sure to provide us with more repeat customers. Please continue to support the plant sale and if you have not ordered before, please consider supporting us in 2013.



Maureen Harvey photo.

SOCIETY BUSINESS



Maureen Harvey photo.

The Vermont Humanities Council sponsored Vincent Feeney, our speaker at our May meeting. Vincent was an adjunct professor of history at the University of Vermont and did his presentation, *The Irish "Wave" in the Green Mountains*. He spoke of the Irish immigrants that populated Vermont during the 1800s.

After the presentation to the large crowd, he did a question and answer period and autographed his book, *Finnigans, Slaters and Stonepeppers*. If you were not able to get a copy of his book after the program and would like to contact him, he can be reached at 802.426.3425 or vfeeney@fairpoint.net.

250th Celebration Committee Update

The committee met on June 27th at the Town Clerk's office. The plans for the upcoming Waterbury parade to celebrate the 4th of July were finalized. We will have two floats made by Donnie and George Welch and people walking alongside waving our Duxbury 250th flags and tossing candy!! The T-shirt sales continue with plans made to set up at the Farmer's Market this summer. Stephanie Koonz (committee chairperson) is meeting with the administration at Crossett Brook next month to set up a date for our opening ceremonies on the school grounds. Ongoing plans for our Camel's Hump hike, Bed and Breakfast Tour, Duxbury marathon and nature hike, and flagpole and monument relocation are continuing. The committee is recessing in July with the next meeting held on August 29, 6 pm. We welcome any new members or interested people to join us!!!

Archival/Preservation Committee Report

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

At the meetings held in May and June we scanned in several photos donated by residents and Alice Delong's records. We also composed a draft questionnaire to be used when interviewing individuals from the community. The hope is that this will aid the interview committee to standardize a loose format for the videos the society is hoping to produce in the future.

The archival committee does not meet during July or August. Our next meeting will be held in September, date to be determined.

The August picnic being held at the town office will provide members an opportunity to view any of the files currently held by the society.

Monetary Donations

Theresa & Gordon Wood—support of quarterly newsletter production

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Anonymous—multiple cash donations for general fund

Donation Artifacts/Documents

Helen Davis—scrapbooks and magazine relating to the Washington County and Vermont Farm Bureau

Debbie Sweetser—photo of Bartlett & Gladys Sherman family

WHS ALUMNI BANQUET



A big turnout for the banquet!

The Duxbury Historical Society's Food Committee served the dinner at the Waterbury High School Alumni Banquet on June 16. The banquet was held in the Crossett Brook Middle School cafeteria. We decorated the banquet tables with black and orange (school colors) centerpieces with daisies and flags, made by Maureen Harvey. Each place setting also had a bookmark with a picture of the High School. We would like to thank Dick and Linda (Rompney) James for their help with the bookmarks.

We served 187 people a stuffed chicken breast dinner with all the fixings followed by strawberry shortcake for dessert. Each worker was wearing a quilted green apron with "Duxbury Historical Society" embroidered on the front. The aprons were made by Maureen Harvey and will be used at future Historical Society events. After serving dinner, we led a trivia game with questions from Waterbury High School's history. One question was, "Who wrote the school song?" The person with the correct answers received a centerpiece to take home. The evening was enjoyable and a success with proceeds of \$1756. We have to thank Arvad's Restaurant for all their guidance, Cabot Creamery, Red Hen Bakery, and Green Mountain Coffee Roasters for their donations.

A big thank you to all the Historical Society members and friends that worked tirelessly and willingly at this fundraiser!! Thank you, thank you!

~Mary Ethel Welch, chairperson



Donald Welch and Kelly Welch wearing the aprons made by Maureen Harvey.



Perry Family photos.

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO



Vermont History Expo, June 16 - 17, 2012

Although our society volunteers were spread a little thin due to providing the dinner for the Waterbury High School Alumni Association this same weekend, the Duxbury Historical Society participated in the Vermont History Expo held in Tunbridge and sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society. This year's theme was 'Vermont in the Civil War.' We displayed information we had accumulated from our archives as well as information from my own research of Duxbury veterans. Several artifacts were provided for our display by members of our society. This is the first year we chose to take two adjoining booths to display and I think this really added to the success of our display. We had multiple visitors who felt we had one of the best displays in the show. We were one of only a handful who had any Confederate/southern artifacts. We also had personal information on several of our veterans which visitors seemed to enjoy.

Most important is the fact that we had some items which could be touched and handled by visitors. They would tell others who would then come visit our booth. Several visitors left questions regarding our veterans and I am currently in the process of researching their questions and updating them on any additional information I can find. Even though we now have to pay for our booth I feel it does provide us an opportunity to promote and 'show off' our society's dedication to our town's history.

I want to personally thank Bill Morse, Eulie Costello, Bonnie Morse, Myra Perry, Lynn Lewis, Alison & Christian Magnani, Paul Lewis, Megan Perry, Larry Frasier, and Sam Perry. These individuals helped set up and tear down the display, manned the booth, and/or provided artifacts and information relative to our veterans or other aspects of the civil war. Without their help we couldn't have been so successful.

~Mark Morse, Chairman of 2012 Vermont History Expo - Duxbury Display



Eulie Costello speaking with a visitor.



Photos on this page by Alison Magnani.

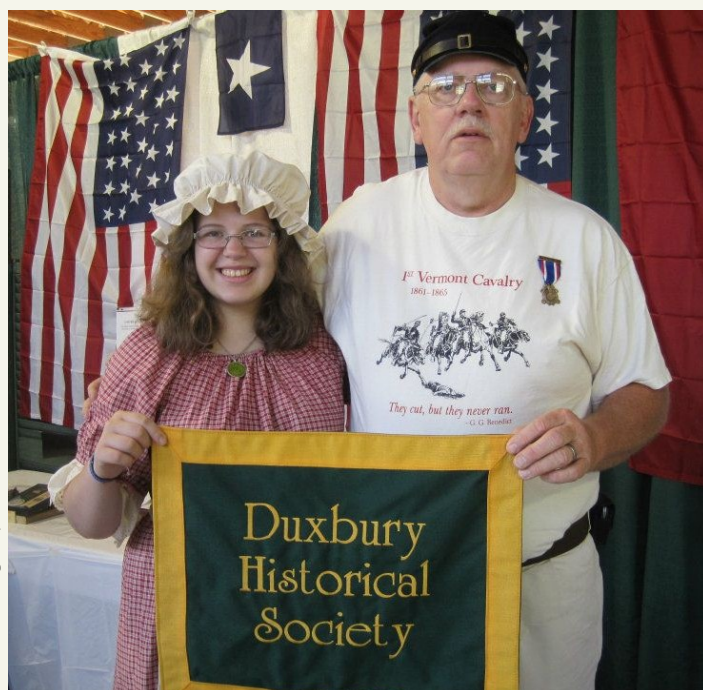
VERMONT HISTORY EXPO



Alison Magnani photo.



Alison Magnani photo.



Myra Perry photo.

Megan Perry and Mark Morse

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



Myra Perry photo.

Left to right: Kelly Welch, Donald Welch, Mary Ethel Welch, Wendy Welch, Jim Welch, Shari Welch, Megan Perry, Sam Perry, George Welch, Dylan Welch, Stephanie Koonz. Front: Shawn Perry.



Myra Perry photo.

Donald Welch with his replica of the South Duxbury Church.

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



Alison Magnani photo.

George Welch displays and demonstrates the woodworking tools that built Duxbury—then and now.



Myra Perry photo.

Megan Perry showing her patriotic spirit!



Alison Magnani photo.

Kelly Welch and Shawn Perry.

COMMUNITIES REVISITED

Early Roads on Crossett Hill
Roads 16 & 23

By Donald Welch

These early road numbers have no correlation or reference to current road identification or the ancient road policy that is prevalent today. These road numbers were to identify only these early road locations.

Since these two roads did interconnect (in the past) they allowed for migration to other areas in town along these and other mountain top corridors.

Road #16 started at the intersection of Crossett Hill Road and the current Richardson Road. The map illustrates residence #13 (currently Jill Smith's) with #32 as the Wm. Berry's, then #29 represents (in the past) the Corse Place. Up to about this point this road has been improved lately with residents and vacation homes creeping up the eastern slope of Crossett Hill. The old road above the Corse Place continued through the notch and down the mountainside to Hayden Hill. From there early access to either Scrabble Hill or River Road was possible.

At least the upper section of the road to the Corse Place was laid out in 1866 for Erastus W. Corse. The Washington County Gazetteer lists Wells E. Corse as residing on this 50-acre farm in the 1870s. In 1881 (DLR) depicts Dan C. Corse and his wife Julia Ann Osborne deeding their home and premises to their son C.C. Corse, along with conditions for life lease. C.C. Corse is believed by the family to be both Christopher Columbus Corse and Christopher Clifton Corse. His nickname "Crit" was acknowledged both by his family and also in Janus Crossett's diary (1846-1905). This family migrated to Duxbury very early from the Greenfield area; leaving their foot prints in this soil over time as many descendants reside in the area still.

Road #23 (in the past) started from the hill farther up the road. To avoid confusion, we will commence from the intersection of Pollander Road and continue in a westerly direction up Pollander Road past the John Senning home for about 3/4 of a mile to the former site of the John Carver farm. From here this road turned northerly across the meadow and into the woods towards "Bear Swamp." This wooded swampy area is a group of springs that converge together and form a small tributary that flows easterly down the slope. Old timers referred to this area as "Bear Swamp." This old road went through the lower section of this swamp and small brook as the road heads northeasterly down to site #4 (Dan & Dave Manning as well as Edgar H. Morse Place). Previous to site #4 was #12 (Healy then—now Senning), and site #5 (John Carver—now M. O'Brien).

As the road originally entered "Bear Swamp," due to the swampy area, an early landmark was constructed for this roadway. Referred to as the "Stone Bridge," this was

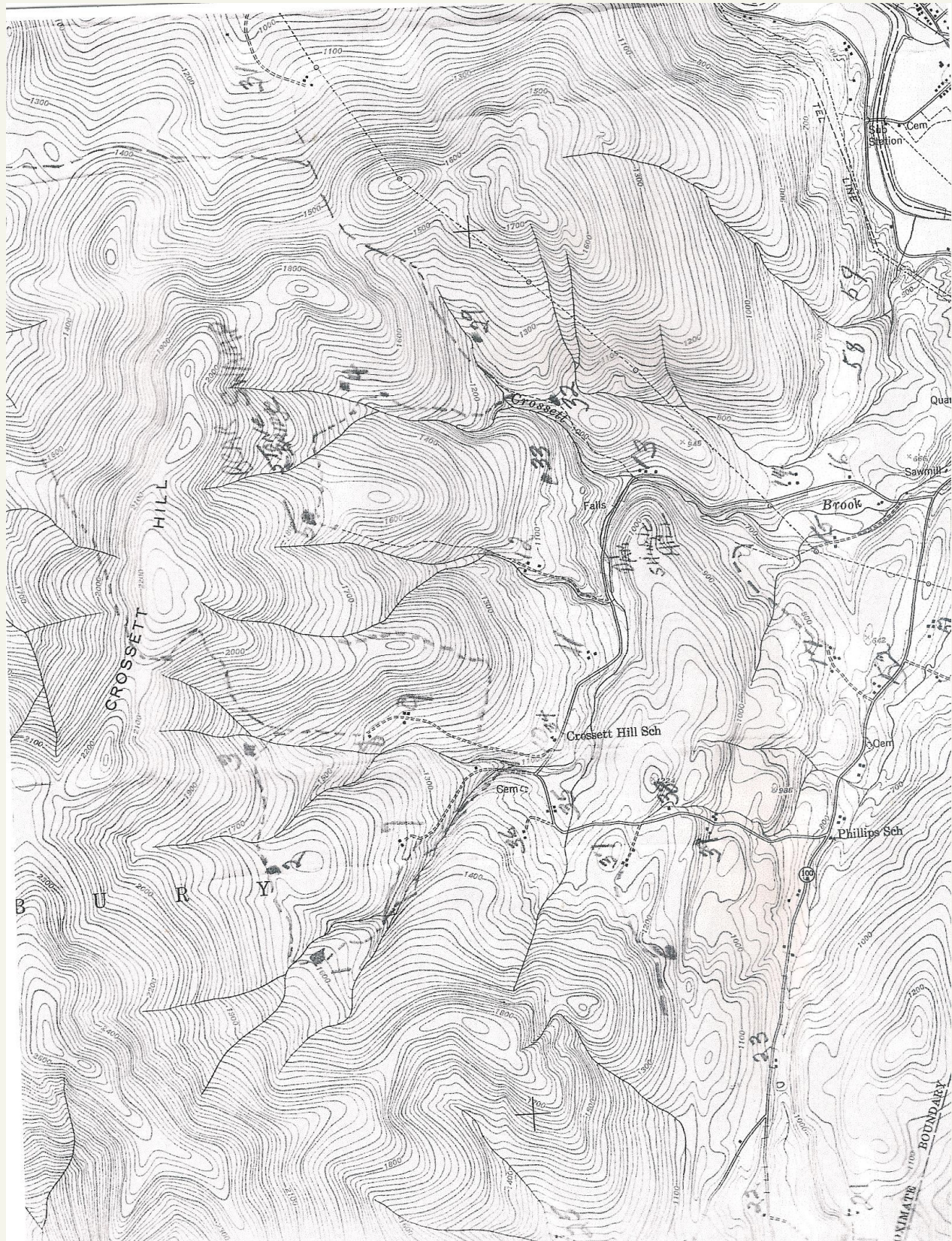


Christopher Columbus Corse
Also called Christopher Clifton Corse and nicknamed "Crit."
Born in Duxbury on November 4, 1853.
Died on July 27, 1928.
Painter, paper hanger, also a store owner in Hyde Park, VT.

a remarkable piece of art. Through this swamp they constructed a one-lane road on top of a uniformly laid stone wall. The bridge in the middle of the stone wall road is of flat rocks for the roadway to forge the stream. Except for minor damage to the actual bridge from past storms, this entire stone bridge remains much the same as when it was constructed. The sad part is this work of art is hidden high up on the mountainside, tucked away in heavy woods, forgotten by some and yet so well remembered by a few.

After site #4, the road heads easterly and now allows access to vacation homes that enter from road #16 coming up the hill. Roads #16 and #23 connect at the brook crossing as it always has allowing (in the past) access to North Duxbury, Scrabble Hill and Crossett Hill.

COMMUNITIES REVISITED



P O T P O U R R I

The following is an article and accompanying photos that ran in the Times Argus on July 23, 1969.

Agile And Artistic At 81 Dr. Lahee Bound To Climb The Hump

By Steve McLeod

NORTHFIELD—Dr. Arnold Lahee of Winch View Road, Northfield, is 81 but he doesn't believe it. He will admit that climbing Camel's Hump with art equipment on his back is becoming difficult now, but in the same breath he vows "I'm going to get to the top of Camel's Hump this year or bust."

Dr. Lahee combines a knowledge and appreciation of the outdoors with considerable artistic talent and an unusual painting style to produce some excellent landscape paintings.

His paintings have been exhibited in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., in Europe and in several art museums around the United States. Currently he has a revolving exhibit at the Northfield Savings Bank and a thirty-six painting exhibit at the Chittenden Trust Co. in Burlington. The State Capitol dining room and Vermont Technical College are among other Vermont locations where his work has been exhibited.

Dr. Lahee, an economist by profession, has received several awards in connection with his artistic ventures, including most recently the Tercentennial Medallion from the

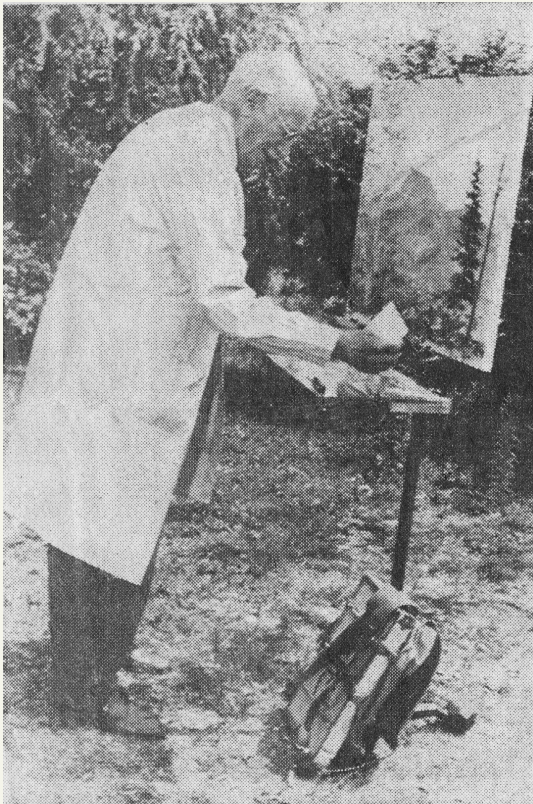
A.A.P.L. when he retired as president "for the promotion of American Art during his administration."

He did not begin painting until he was 50 and he began then only through "pure chance and three lucky circumstances."

An underexposed picture provided the spark for his preliminary artistic ambition. His first paintings were on photos. This practice is frowned upon in artistic circles, but Dr. Lahee is glad he started in that fashion.

The second lucky circumstance occurred when he found some oil paints in the home of his deceased aunt.

After he produced a number of paintings with the oil paints, he became acquainted with an expert photographer when—not knowing that the photographer was an expert—he offered to show him how to take better pictures. The photog-



A UNIQUE METHOD — Dr. Lahee is shown working on his latest painting, a landscape featuring Camel's Hump. He is one of the few painters to work with a knife rather than a brush.



THIS IS HOW HE DOES IT — Dr. Lahee, with art equipment packed on his back, turns toward the camera. Grassy hillsides sprawl behind, the top of which could be the inspiration of the spry Northfield resident's next painting. Such outdoor locations have been the vantage points for many of his unique representations of nature.

P O T P O U R R I

rapher belonged to an art club of some sort and invited Dr. Lahee to display his paintings to the club where they were well-received.

Finally, the Wagner Act "threw me (Dr. Lahee) out of a job and I went to art class." The art class sealed the marriage between Dr. Lahee and painting. Once he begun painting, Dr. Lahee wished that he had started years earlier.

He said that he did pretty well in grammar school art but other than that had never noticed that he had any artistic talent until after he returned to painting.

The only other time Dr. Lahee thought of taking up painting before he was 50 was when he briefly considered entering the field of illustrated advertising.

"I started with the idea that portrait painting required more skill than landscape painting," said Dr. Lahee, "and I was going into painting portraits but a few bad experiences switched me to landscape painting."

The bad experiences involved people who requested portraits and later tried to keep them without paying Dr. Lahee.

"I still have those paintings in the cellar," chuckled the hearty Northfield resident.

"Incidents like those sicken me so and I love nature and camping so I turned away from doing people," explained Dr. Lahee.

Dr. Lahee still etches portraits occasionally, but the majority of his work is of the landscape variety.

He admires all aspects of nature. Recently, he has been fascinated by the beauty of the clouds and is intent on capturing that beauty on his easel as soon as possible.

"I'm frustrated up here because there are so many chores," he says. "I keep vowing that I'm going to make a painting of the clouds but by the time I get my paints the formations have moved."

Dr. Lahee has rigged up his knapsack in such a way that his art equipment, easel and all, fits in it.

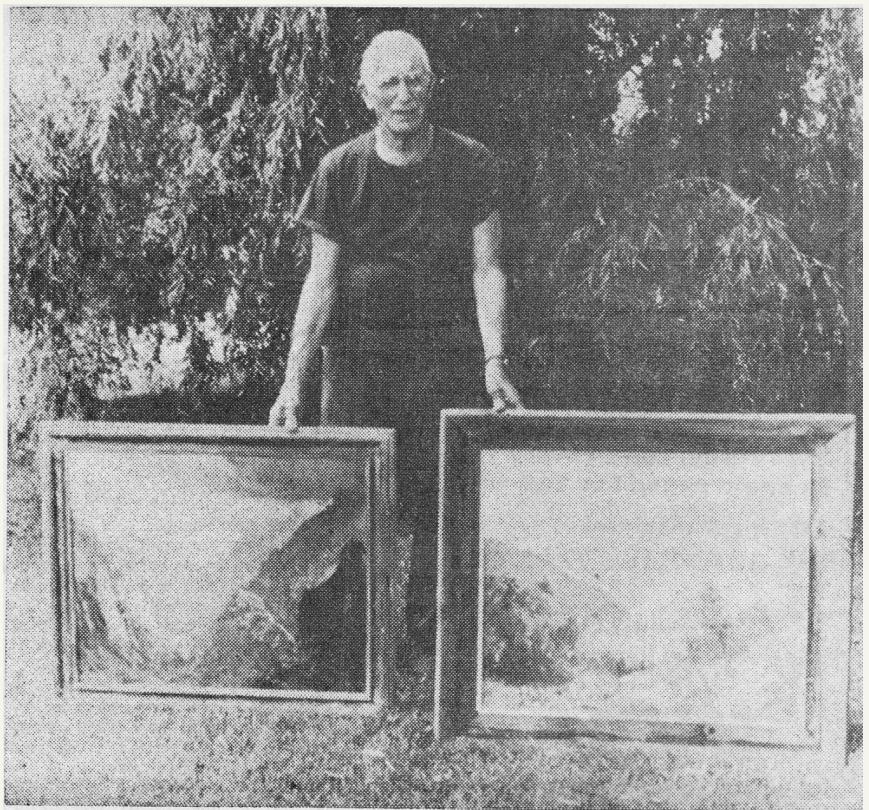
Thus, he paints many of his landscapes from unusual vantage points from deep within nature's kingdom, instead of painting them as a detached observer. His painting acquires a rugged naturalness through the use of these vantage points.

Would you believe Dr. Lahee is a radical? In the art world, he is anyway. Instead of using a brush for his landscapes, he uses a knife.

"With a brush you can paint every twig and leaf," he explains. "With a pallet knife you just slap it on. It gives you a freedom and a thrill. I don't know many who do that but that doesn't matter."

When asked if he considered himself a commercial painter, Dr. Lahee chuckled, "I paint mostly for my own pleasure. I'd starve if I had to rely on painting for my livelihood."

He added that he also enjoys activities that complement



NATURE AND PAINTER — Dr. Arnold Lahee poses in front of a favorite willow tree with two paintings of the rugged Vermont landscape.

painting, such as art demonstrations for ladies' clubs and the like.

However, he has sold several paintings. Selling a painting which he deeply admires gives him mixed feelings.

"Sometimes it hurts me that they're gone," he says. "I painted one with a lot of memory and people wanted to purchase it so I let it go and have been kicking myself ever since. Later I had another that was saturated with memory and I turned down an offer for that one."

"At the same time it gives me a kick to get offers for my favorite paintings, though, because then I know people like what I like."

Dr. Lahee can't choose a standout painting from his collection.

"Oh I like some better than others," he reminisced, "but I like several for different reasons. Almost every painting I make relates to an incident in my life and each evokes its own beautiful memories. And I don't think I could judge the quality of my individual paintings anyway."

Dr. Lahee lives with his wife, Gladys, in a ranch home nestled among several trees high above the Northfield valley. Their only child, Katherine, lives next door.

"We've been married only about 51 years," says Dr. Lahee, "or maybe it's more, I don't know. It could be 54 years."

When you're climbing mountains, camping and painting at age 81, a few years don't make much difference.

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If you have any comments or contributions for the newsletter we would love to hear from you.

www.DuxburyVT.com

DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING - AUG. 12
DUXBURY TOWN OFFICE SITE - NOON

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