



The Dylan Report

News from the HardRock Cafe

February, 2002

The Year in Review

I don't have to tell you how difficult and tragic last year was. I'm happy – very selfishly so – to report that I don't know of any NCC'ers who lost their lives or members of their immediate families, but I know that many of you wrote me how you had been affected by the deaths of neighbors and friends. There is nothing that anyone can really say to lessen the sadness, but in our moments of deepest despair, I'm glad that many of you found comfort in your memories of North Cove Cottages and the small but closeknit community we have created.

We had a very subdued Columbus weekend, with the usual suspects: the Beros, Norman Salant, Heidi and Ray Reed, the Buettners, the Saronsons, and the Campells. Bernie silk-screened t-shirts for "Kevin's Crew," and almost everyone from our summer group (except me) went off to the Ripton Ridge Run. Kevin Heaney, Brian, Alan, and Carol Campell ran. Everyone else – Julie, Sonia, Alison, Marisa, Bernie and Barbara, Elizabeth and Matt, Leila and Kate –walked the course, which began in the snow. A number of our folks came home with lovely glass medals. So another tradition is born.

We Mourn

It's been a very difficult year for our oldtimers. We lost three of our oldest friends this past year. Kathleen Martin died in April at her home in Middlebury. Our wonderful neighbor, Margaret Damm, died at the very end of the summer. She was 98. And Len Tinkel, who brought us to Vt. in the first place, died a few days short of what would have been his 90th birthday, at the very end of December.

Our hearts go out to all the families and friends of these marvelous people.

Me and My Dog

Dylan had a difficult Fall in Vt. For a while, I thought she was diabetic because she was drinking so much water, eating so much, and losing weight. She's recovered from whatever ailed her. Although she's still having difficulty with her hind legs, she behaves very much like a puppy at times. The rest

of the time, she stretches. She'll be 15 on May 1. We'll be looking for a companion for her in late Spring. **Please** check your local newspapers and let me know immediately if you find any ads for golden retriever/lab cross pups. By the time you read this, I'll have gotten a cochlear implant. The



The Runners/Walkers

surgery is scheduled for Feb. 28, my birthday. After that, it's 4 weeks waiting for the incision to heal, then "turn on," and learning to hear again. All very exciting.

Middlebury on the Move

As usual, Middlebury businesses are playing musical chairs. A bunch of buildings are opening off of Exchange St. and several businesses have moved there. Steele's Mobil, across from Cannon Park, is now just a service station. The town is no longer interested in the property for a new town hall. There has recently been some talk about building a new Town Hall complex on the site of the Maple Manor Motel. So far, it's just talk. Meanwhile, the new hotel will start construction

soon just south of Brooks Pharmacy. No word yet on what chain it will be.

From Lee Greene

Kudos to Lee Greene, who astutely recognized that the "Maine" of the original story was a typo for "Vermont":

It seems a man in Topeka, Kansas decided to write a book about churches around the country. He started by flying to San Francisco and started working east. He went to a very large church and began taking pictures. He spotted a golden telephone on a wall and was intrigued by a sign that read: "\$10,000.00 a minute."

Seeking out the pastor he asked about the phone and the sign. The pastor answered that this golden phone was, in fact, a direct line to Heaven and if he were to pay the price he could talk directly to God.

He thanked the pastor and continued on his way. Visiting churches in Seattle, Boise, Denver, Minneapolis, Chicago, Milwaukee, New York, and other places, he found more phones with the same sign. From each pastor he received the same answer.

Finally, he arrived in the northeast part of the U.S. Upon entering a church, low and behold, he saw the usual golden telephone, but this time the sign read: "Calls: 35 cents."

Fascinated, he asked of the pastor, "Reverend, I have been in cities all across the country and in each church I have found this very same golden telephone, and I have been told it is a direct line to Heaven, and that I could talk to God. However, in the other churches, the cost was \$10,000.00 a minute. Your sign reads 35 cents a call. Why?"

The pastor, smiling benignly, replied: "Son, you're in Vermont now. It's a local call."

We Heard From

We have a large freshman class this year. Jim Mitchel is in a new business program at Stevens Institute of Technology. Joel Legatt is rowing crew at Rutgers. Jess McCullough is at St. Scholastica College in Minnesota. v Now *this* is scary: Austin Grimm started school this year. v We offer our condolences to Jerry Morgan, whose dad died this year. v It isn't only Middlebury, where they're playing musical property. At the end of the summer, the Saronsons bought a lovely pice of land on "Millionaire's Row," just south of Branbury. Their longtime housesitter will purchase their old house. Paul also bought the owner's gorgeous boat. v Judy Kunhardt wrote that Andy now has two children.

Craig Schorr
Atheneos

On the Coffee Milk Front

The iced cappucino from Stew Leonard's supermarket chain in Connecticut has received this year's Java Nip Award. A close second is Hood's coffee milk.

The Wonderful One Hoss Shay

I tried to sell the immortal Nissan wagon all summer, all 210K miles of it. I tried to sell it to a junkyard. I tried to donate it to charity. No takers. Finally, the day before I left, a young fellow in Middlebury towed it away. Carla LaFountain tells me that she's seen it around Middlebury. Long may it live.

Non Christmas Giving

Now that you've given to all of your favorite charities for last year, consider donating to some in Vt. this year. The following are some worthy local causes that Widget and I recommend:

Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association

Friends of Shard Villa
P.O. Box 416
Middlebury, VT 05753
Help keep the old mansion running

Porter Medical Center

Salisbury Volunteer Fire Dept.

Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS)
27023 Church Hill Rd.
Woodstock, VT 05091
\$50 family; \$25 individual; \$15 senior/budget
Free admission to Raptor Center, discounts, newsletter

Addison County Humane Society
236 Boardman St. Middlebury 05753
Www.addisonhumane.org

Vermont Public Television
88 Ethan Allen Ave.
Colchester, VT 05446-3129

The Vermont Folklife Center
P.O. Box 442
3 Court St.
Middlebury, VT 05753
Preservers of the "old Vermont"

Vermont Land Trust
8 Bailey Ave.
Montpelier, VT 05602-9942
"Conserving land for the future of Vermont"