

1905: MAN, HORSE
LIKELY TO RECOVER

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NEW MILL

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LAKE PLEASANT

MILLERS FALLS

MONTAGUE CENTER

MONTAGUE CITY

TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 24

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 31, 2016

TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING!

Carnegie Library records estimate this photograph, taken on Third Street in Turners Falls, dates to about 1920. The building is gone – the site is now a parking lot next to the Playground Skateshop, in the former Chick's Garage building, across from the gas station.

A Surprise Special Issue

The special historical editions we published in January and July 2015 were among our most popular ever.

We took core samples of local history, using the online archives of the weekly *Turners Falls Reporter* (1872-1922) and *Herald* (1940-1942), as well as our own back issues, to explore how the same week felt in these parts from year to year.

The main difference between those two issues had to do with that between winter and summer, so we figured we'd throw another one out there, focusing on the March 31 to April 6 week.

The beginning of April has generally been a mild time of year in these parts: a time of melting and cleaning, assessing and preparing, gathering energy and intention.

We hope you enjoy reading this time-lapse version of spring in Turners Falls, and Franklin County generally, as much as we did preparing it.

We should warn our readers that there are episodes of violence, tragedy, and the gory results of accidents described in these pages. The men who controlled the power of the river here were seldom the ones who got caught in the machinery it moved – or in the town that grew up around it.

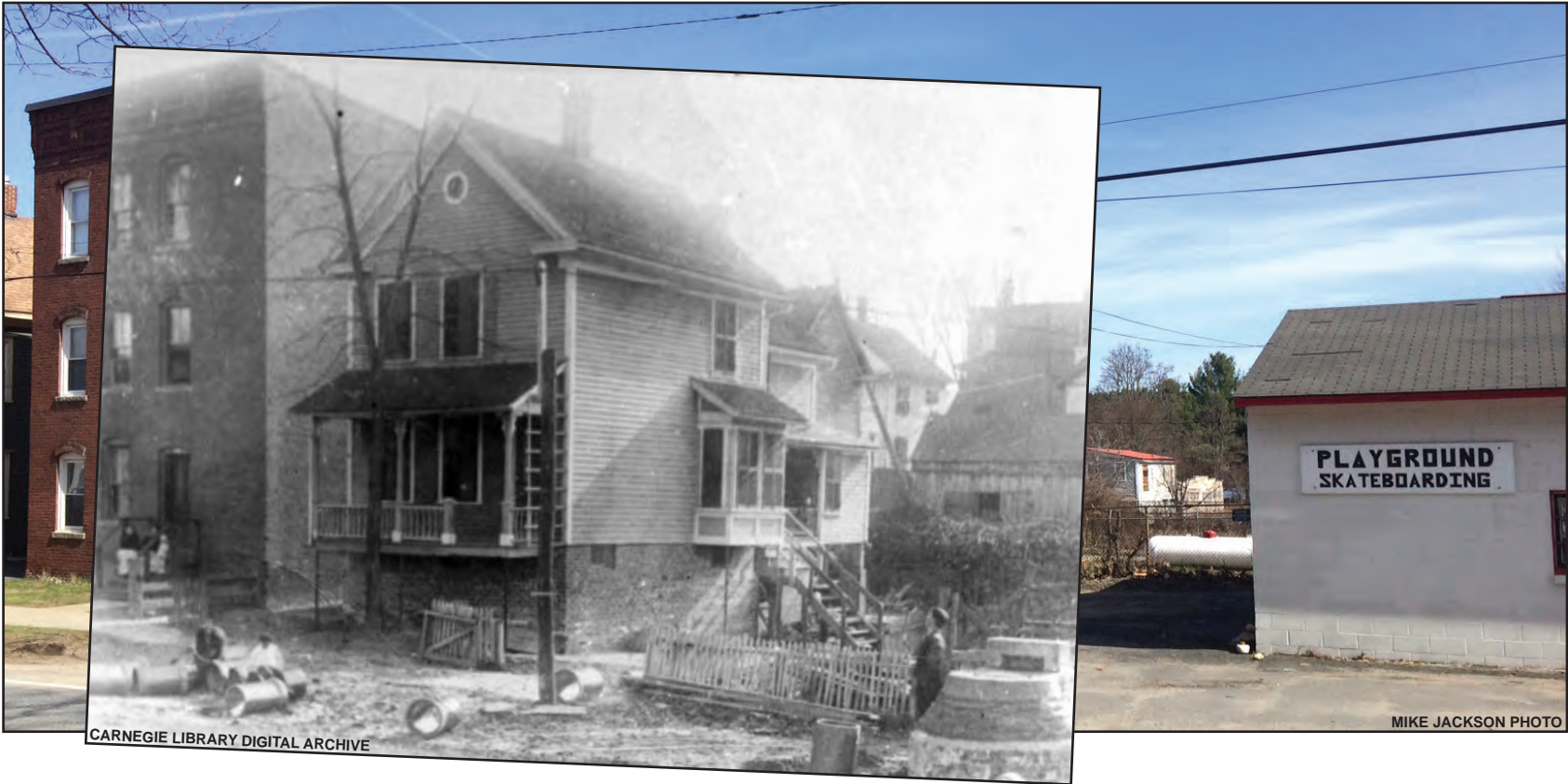
Much of the local copy of the *Turners Falls Reporter* was written by its proprietor and publisher, Cecil T. Bagnall. In later years, he was joined by Antonia J. Stemple, a local woman who rose through the ranks to become managing editor and business manager. We owe a deep debt of gratitude for the record they created.

Many thanks also to the Montague libraries, who have made these rich archives available to the public for free via montague.advantage-preservation.com. We've taken some liberties with excerpting, reordering and paraphrasing, and any reader with a serious interest should refer to the source material.

Oh, and one last thing:

Mixed in with the old news is one April Fool's item of our own devising. Think you can spot the fake story out of all the bits and pieces we've assembled?

Let us know which one you think it is by April 10, by sending your contact information to info@montaguereporter.org or to our office at 177 Avenue A in Turners Falls. We'll draw from the correct answers and the winner will receive a glass wind chime, donated by Nina's Nook. We'll announce the winner in our April 14 edition.



Turners Falls Reporter.

Vol. I.

Turners Falls, Montague, Franklin Co, Mass., Wednesday, April 2, 1873.

No. 40

April 2, 1873

STRUCK WATER at the Artesian well! Sixty gallons per minute!

A healthy looking sprig of clover of this spring's growth lays on our desk.

The rain storm of Saturday has caused old Connecticut's mouth to water.

The saw mill of the Millers Falls Company is now in running order. An addition is in progress of erection which will be occupied by Sawyer and Fuller, carpenter and millwright.

F.M. Ball has purchased of I. Chenery his stock of goods, and leased the Post Office Building (excepting one half of the lower front room which is reserved for the Post Office), and will put in a general stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, Clothing, Boots, Shoes &c., where he will be pleased to see his old friends, and many new ones.

Our Fire Department exhibits signs of life at last, and a meeting is to be held very soon when all the causes of delay will be discussed. Mr. Edward J. Braddock has been appointed clerk, vice J.S. McVey.

Upon inquiry, we find that no blame can be attached to the officers appointed. The whole thing has been in such a shape as to thwart them at every move, and it is now proposed to commence where the illegality began and do the work right. We will have a fire department yet, if we only wait. "Haste makes waste," and we have nothing to waste.

Leonard Lodge of Good Templars is more prosperous than ever; weekly additions are being received, and the interest in the meetings is increasing. The Dialogue, "Marry no man if he drinks," was rendered last week with success.

Harry Moynihan was unlucky enough to get a hoist down the elevator at the Montague Mill, on Monday. Bruised cheek, and confinement to the house for a few days. Dr. Coy.

Yesterday was All Fool's Day, and we have no doubt that its votaries celebrated the occasion with a religious fervor that would most likely spring from the fact that it is the only day in the year sanctified for the benefit of simpletons.

April 1, 1874

Miss Kendrick's private school is a success. Forty-five pupils.

Messrs. Campbell and Hazelton have resumed operations on their buildings.

D.M. Randall has opened a fish and oyster market on Fourth Street. A want much felt is thus supplied.

There are a variety of stakes stuck around the ravine on Prospect street. It looks as if something was going to be did.

The Messrs. Griswold & Sons have sent word that they will resume operations on Tuesday next. Mr. Griswold, senior, will arrive on Monday, bringing about forty men with him. The force have been in the woods during the winter, getting out lumber.

Just what portion of the work they will take hold of we do not know, but welcome them to any. Mr. Griswold, we have some good men here who are out of work, whom we would like to have you remember.

Turners Falls has just made an addition to its citizens in the form of its first colored business man. As he is quite a character, a short sketch of him may not be uninteresting.

His name is Levi Childs, was born in Maryland, at Elicott's Mills, brought up in Baltimore, served an apprenticeship of seven years at the carpenter's trade in Norfolk, Va., under John Hay; then was sold to a speculator and carried or driven to Marengo County, Alabama, and there sold to a Mr. John P. Clark, Clark County, Miss.

He made the money to buy himself from Mr. Clark by working odd jobs, overtime and on Sundays, Mr. Clark laying it up for him.

He paid two thousand dollars for himself, and four hundred each for his nine boys.

Was forty years in slavery, is a good mechanic and a good barber, since the war has kept shop in Albany, N.Y., and Springfield, Mass. Nine of his boys served two years each in the army. Has seventeen children, all living; had three wives. Such is his history in general, further particulars on application at the new barbershop, Fourth street.

March 31, 1875

The ice in the river at present is fifteen inches thick, and solid and blue at that.

A greater number of people have gone down the valley of death on double rippers, in Massachusetts, the past winter, than have passed in their checks at railroad accident matinees during the entire year. Truly the past winter was a notable sleighing season.

Minks are committing depredations upon some of the private trout ponds.

The first freight through the Tunnel was a car load of rags for the Keith Paper Co.

The largest shipment of brick ever made in one day from any Franklin county yard was that of 50,000 sent from Adams & Son's yard, Friday.

The Clark & Chapman Machine Company find business improving.

Twenty-two of the twenty-six towns of the county have officially, through their selectmen, protested against the action of the Legislature in the matter of the proposed new bridge here, and other towns are expected to follow their example.

The capital stock of the new box factory at Leverett (\$25,000) is all subscribed, and the officers chosen and work commenced. They intend to employ 80 hands, and will use up from five to eight hundred cords of pine lumber a year.

S.M. Randall has been making improvements to his restaurant on Fourth street. He has had a large ice cream room constructed, especially for ladies, and will do a large ice cream business this summer. The supper for the band ball will be served at his restaurant.

Henry Chapman of Greenfield, formerly president of the Troy and Greenfield railroad company and up to about 10 years ago one of the most prominent citizens of Greenfield, died at the Northampton insane asylum, Tuesday, aged 75.

Christinia Herte, an unmarried German woman who has been living on pretty intimate terms with a man named Buck for several years, attempted suicide, Monday, by jumping into the river, just because

the wife had returned from Germany to the bosom of her Buck. She was prevented from carrying out her design, and now seems to have no desire to do so some more. But Christinia has two or three children on her hands for whom she appears to have no particular use.

C.E. Barton has been taking a number of negatives for stereoscopic views of the collection of bird tracks and fossils belonging to T.M. Stoughton, Esq., of Riverside.

The notice that a place for tramps had been fitted up in the village had no sooner gained publicity than swarms of these impecunious pests began to flock here to enjoy their rights.

April 3, 1878

Benjamin Fay has begun his new brick block on the Avenue. Geo. F. Hartley blasts out the cellar and puts in the foundation.

A newly built shanty, 10 by 12 feet, near Mr. Griswold's mill, is occupied by a French family.

The special bridge commissioners met on Thursday last and decided to advertise for proposals for a bridge: at the ferry, all complete; and also for each part separately – the superstructure, masonry and earth work.

The river at the ferry is 530 feet wide, and as a suspension bridge over 500 feet in length costs much more in proportion than a shorter one, it is proposed to place on either side of the river, a short distance from shore so as to reduce the span to 450 feet, and make the approaches of wrought iron truss work, at an incline, so as to obviate the necessity of much filling.

A granger was thrown from his wagon on L Street, yesterday, and was more frightened than hurt. Two doctors were called, and the man drove home a few minutes afterwards.

The concert of the German church, on Thursday evening, was on account of the weather, not very largely attended, but those present enjoyed a good time. The singing of the choir is improving.

The interest in the Farmers' Club meetings which has been somewhat

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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abated of late, was revived last Saturday evening, at the tenth meeting held at the Grouts Corner House. The principal topic under discussion was: "Whether the manner in which that hen, which belonged to the club, and was rented to Mr. A.F. Houston, was legal or not."

Peter Dyer was arrested by Sheriff Allen, Saturday, for drunkenness, and Justice Barton imposed a fine, with costs of \$10.

A public meeting will be held in Colle Hall, to-morrow evening, to choose officers for the new temperance society.

April 2, 1879

The ice in the river is fifteen inches thick, and thawing slowly.

T.M. Stoughton, president of the Turners Falls lumber company, has returned from a trip to the timber region of northern New Hampshire and the bordering region of Canada, in which neighborhood he has bought two and a half million feet of timber, to be started soon in a drive down the river.

F.I. Webster has a larger stock of grass seed this spring than has ever been kept in town.

The Commissioners have filed a statement of the cost of the new bridge at the ferry, at the office of the Clerk of the Courts. From it the whole cost of the bridge is found to be \$41,996.54. The largest item is \$25,000, paid the New York Bridge Company for the superstructure as per contract. The sub-structure on the Gill shore cost \$4808.19, and on the Montague shore \$7934.48.

Saturday, the Superior court tried Mike Bone of Greenfield for the larceny of \$150 from Clarence Porier. He was found guilty and sentenced to 18 months in the house of correction.

Wayne Washburn of Greenfield gets seven months and Sarah Barnes 10 months for adultery. William N. Arling gets one year for adultery with Emma A. Tolman of Northfield, and she is given nine months.

There is to be a "Microphone, Phonograph and Telephone concert" at the Methodist church on Friday evening next, at half past seven, for the benefit of the church.

The phonograph, as everyone knows, is Edison's machine which "bottles up" the voice and emits it at the pleasure of the operator, while the microphone magnifies sound so that the footfalls of a fly may be heard at the distance of a mile. In the afternoon, the operator of the machine gives a free exhibition to children at half past five o'clock.

The preparations for the annual Spiritualists camp-meeting at Lake Pleasant are being made on a larger scale than usual, 60 more lots having been already engaged than were

ever yet spoken for in advance of any meeting.

A large number of local people are talking of moving to the far West to engage in farming and mining.

March 31, 1880

The early robbin has gone back for an overcoat and snow shovel.

Clifford Bebo has bought a lot, 40 by 110 feet on G Street, and expects to have a house built and ready for occupancy by the middle of May.

Joseph Rivet is building a two story addition to his L street house.

Another large number of immigrants have arrived here from Germany.

F.I. Webster, the hardware merchant, is quite ill with measles.


Jesse Weatherhead, of Vernon, Vt., a young man of exceedingly prepossessing appearance, who was at Bernardston a great deal last year, succeeded in victimizing one of the best girls in the latter town, the results of which recently became apparent, and the seducer, who happened in Bernardston at 5 o'clock Friday afternoon, was nabbed by a local officer, but escaped and went north into Vermont. Weatherhead used to live in Turners Falls.

The young women who came from Germany, recently, are eagerly sought after by housekeepers, they being considered the best of domestics.

John Ross, the inventor of the powerful horizontal turbine water wheels that drive the pulp machinery of the Montague paper mill, who was well known to our local mechanics some years ago, died of pneumonia in a western town, last week.

LADIES,

DO YOU USE THE WEED?

 If you want to buy the best Sewing Machine in the world, at a low figure, call and examine the Weed. at the Jewelry store of

J. J. HAWKES,

Turners Falls, Mass

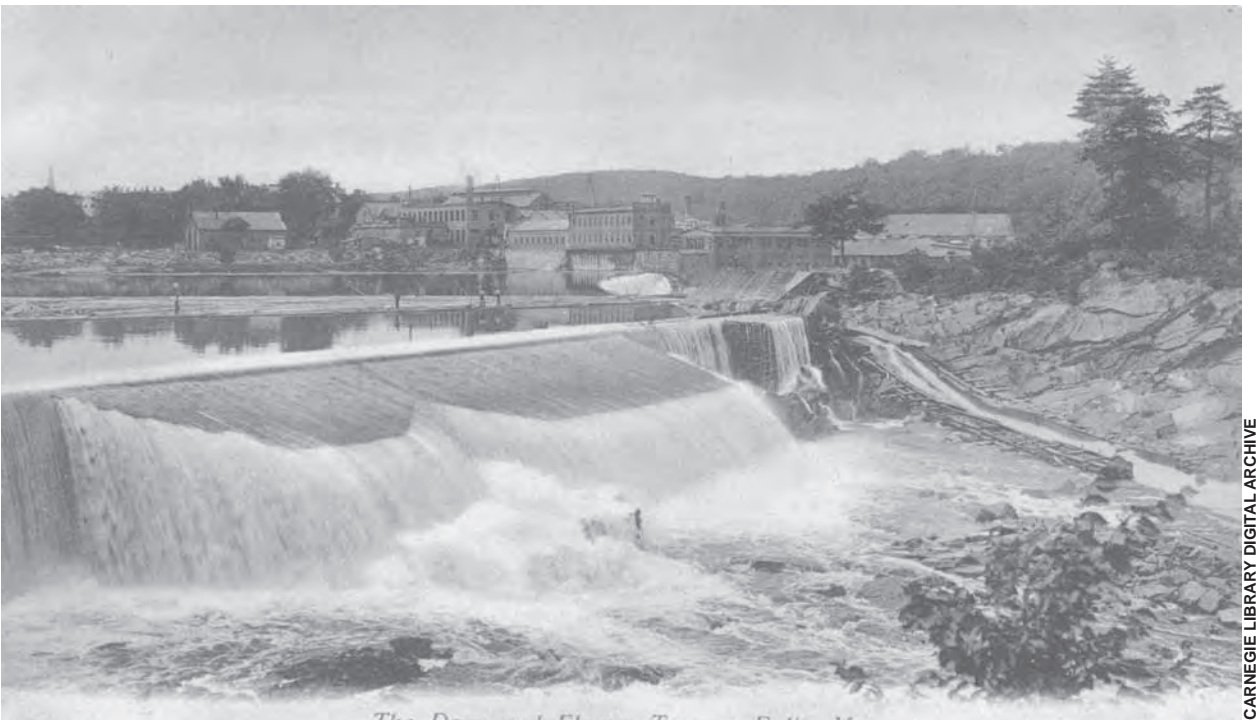
Ad from April 6, 1881.

April 6, 1881

Dry wood is extremely scarce in Turners Falls, and brings large prices. A load of such wood, in fact, almost creates a sensation in the streets.

Maurice Keefe has bought a lot on Fifth street, West of the Avenue, 50 by 110 feet, and will build this summer.

Brown, the butcher, has bought out the Union House.



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Postcard image of the dam and flume at Turners Falls, around the turn of the last century.

The Turners Falls Company will exchange, even, a lot on J street for the Second street school house lot, if the town desires it. The locality is the best that could be selected, and it is probable that the town will build a good school building on the corner of Fifth and J streets.

As the village express in Shelburne Falls was about to start from in front of the hotel this morning, the horses started suddenly, and two passengers, a lady and a gentleman, were thrown violently to the street. The lady turned a complete somersault and struck the sidewalk in a sitting posture, but the gentleman fell on his head and received such severe injuries that no hopes were had of his recovery.

Library dramatic entertainment and calico ball, April 21.

April 5, 1882

The frogs have singing school every night now, although the bass singers haven't turned out much yet.

The ice has gone out of the river before the first of April for several years in succession. In the early years of the village no one looked for the departure of the ice before April Fool's day.

The roads are drying up fast, and the travelling is fair all over the county. On the Montague plain the dust is about an inch thick.

Men are at work repairing the roads in and about the village.

Landlord Foster is having many of the chambers in the Farren house thoroughly renovated.

Augustus Dike has commenced grinding corn at his new mill at Montague, much to the accommodation of the farmers.

The selectmen of Gill advertise for bids for the construction of three pieces of road in Riverside.

The box making department of the John Russell Cutlery Company is quite a help to the village, as it gives employment to quite a large number of young women at fair wages.

The school committee have been obliged to establish another school in this village this spring, making thirteen in all. Miss Kate Perry of Riverside has been appointed teacher.

Joseph Moreau, the brick manufacturer, died after a short illness, Saturday, of congestion of the brain, brought on by excessive mental and physical labor.

Mary Crimmons, relict of the late lamented John Crimmons, was found on the Avenue yesterday in a beastly state of intoxication, by Policeman Keefe. He found her as limp as a dish-rag, and he tried to

lug her to the lock-up on his shoulders. He failed, however, and had to employ a passing team.

A whole night in the lock-up sobered her off, and before the justice she was rather penitent. Inasmuch as the town helps her, and would have to pay her fine, the magistrate thought best to continue her case during good behavior, the woman having sincerely promised to go to work and earn money for the support of her young children.

The eighth annual report of the New England Spiritualist Camp Meeting Association has been issued, and shows the gross receipts for 1881 to have been \$6,233.39, an increase of \$4,000 in four years, over the gross receipts of 1877. The association is composed of 202 members, and about 115 of these own cottages at Lake Pleasant, and the remainder have large tents.

April 4, 1883

The Millers Falls company have had a new water wheel put in their shop.

The importation of horses throughout the county has been so great this spring that the price of horse flesh must be somewhat affected.

There are rumors on the street of another paper mill.

Everett Scott, the highway superintendent for the south end of the town, is sick with diphtheria.

Montague City people have caught the improvement fever and it appears quite contagious. Geo. Wells has bought the house from Russell Pease; Geo. Andrews has bought the old toll house and moved it up in line with his other houses; Geo. F. Adams is building an addition to the house opposite his residence; and B.N. Farren has a number of carpenters and masons at work around his property.

The following persons have had their houses improved with paint: George Gemmell, Thomas Burnham, George Holden, and Volney Warner.

The Unitarians have a chicken pie supper and a dance at Unity hall, this evening.

A service for Fast day will be held at the Congregational church in Montague on Thursday. The pastor will speak on "The Emigrant and what to do with him."

April 2, 1884

The bridge between Erving and Wendell has been rendered unsafe by the recent high water. Fears were entertained that the dam at the Farley paper mill would be wrecked. Celars are flooded in some localities.

John, the peanut man, has pulled

up stakes in Turners Falls, and gone to Greenfield. He says there is too much trust dammed up, or words to that effort.

E.L. Goddard, on account of poor health, intends to give up his milk business, and offers for sale eight fine milch cows.

Russell & Palmer having completed the addition to their skating rink, and put in a new hardwood floor, will reopen on Thursday evening, with music, skating and dancing.

Town meeting at Colle Hall, on Monday, was one of the most orderly held in Montague for several years. A remonstrance from the Centre people against holding the meeting in Turners Falls, was brought out, but the moderator decided it out of order and the whole thing was totally ignored.

It was voted to sell all school buildings not used for school purposes. Accepted the road petitioned for by George F. Adams and others. Also accepted Ninth street. Fifth, T and N streets were accepted and established as highways.

The proposed village improvement district for Turners Falls and Montague City was voted on and decided adversely, because Montague City objected to unite.

Sympathizing friends recently made up and sent a purse of \$60 to Fred Field, whose arm was injured at Nims' mill.

Willie Kennedy has been sent to jail by Justice Dana to await trial by the August court for breaking into T. J. Carey's fish market and stealing a box of cigars. Napoleon Martin, an accomplice, has had his hearing continued one month.

The new town by-laws prohibit crowds of more than two persons from standing on any of the public streets. That will kill the corner loafer nuisance.

April 1, 1885

Business has begun to boom at last. An overcoat factory has been started on the avenue near Colle's opera house.

A.L. Weatherhead is to build a shop on the lot purchased of Mr. Grout at Millers Falls.

Twenty teams are engaged in drawing stone from Winchester, N.H., and the granite quarry on Northfield Mountain, to Mt. Hermon in Gill, preparatory to further building for the benefit of the Boys' school.

Charles Connolly, the dry good merchant who has done so much to attract trade to this village, "pulled

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up stakes,” yesterday, and went to Holyoke. It is the misfortune of this place that its slow growth drives away its enterprising business men, who cannot afford to throw away the best of their lives living on faith.

A grindstone burst in the Lamson & Goodnow cutlery company’s works at Shelburne Falls, Monday morning, dismounting the horse and part of the stone. The workman on the saddle, Fred Spencer, was knocked on the head, the blow crushing his skull. He is in a critical condition. All the grinders quit work for the day.

Now that the snow has disappeared the exposed carcasses of diseased hogs, cats, dogs, etc., make the village look like a battlefield after a severe struggle. Dr. Coy of the board of health is giving his attention to such matters in his own vigorous and commendable way, for which the people should all rise up and call him blessed.

With cholera, diphtheria and smallpox all within hailing distance of the village, a little carelessness in sanitary matters might start an epidemic that would kill off half the people. The board of health are bound that the filthy creatures to be found in every factory town won’t endanger the lives of those disposed to be on friendly terms with soap and water, and have made regulations which they will enforce to the letter or know the reason why. This is no time for fooling.

On Saturday a minstrel company occupies Colle’s Opera House stage. It is formed by “Lew” Benedict and “Billy” McAllister, the well-known endmen of more than one excellent troupe of late years, and numbers beside several favorably known lights of negro minstrelsy, among them being J. Garis, Tom Adair, R. Livingstone, Thomas Stone, J. B. Dixon, J. Henderson and “Prof.” Burnell, the roller skate contortionist. The dramatic entertainment for the benefit of the French Catholic church, comes on Thursday evening, April 9th, at Colle’s opera house.

An effort will be made to take another vote on the license question at the adjourned town meeting by general consent. All parties fear a year of free rum.

March 31, 1886

To-morrow will be “everybody’s day.”

Last week of March, and on the whole the blustering fellow has been quite amiable, for him. The ice in the river quietly melted away, Sunday, for a mile or two up the river. There is considerable snow on the hills yet, and a chilliness hangs over the country that is quite oppressive.

Sugar-makers are busy in Wendell, some of them having an excellent run of sap. The usual sugar festival by the ladies aid society will be held in due time.

Armand Veotch is having his Second street block thoroughly repainted and renovated.

There was a little strike among the section hands on the Canal Road one day last week, but when a new gang

was found to take the vacant places, the strike ended.

Engineer P. Blake, in the employ of the water committee, has taken levels of the water in Lake Pleasant, and in Fall River, with a view of reporting cost of those supplies for the use of Turners Falls.

There are a thousand rumors about a business boom at Riverside this spring. It is said that Fort hill has been purchased for a manufactory, extensive rubber works are to be started, and a company is to be formed to make pulp out of sawdust.

At the last Gill town meeting it was voted that one-half the books of the town library should be brought down to Riverside, and they have now arrived. The library is open every week day, with L.M. Tucker as librarian.

Geo. E. Hartley had his little finger broken by a log falling on it in the woods, the other day.

Chas. N. Johnson has returned from his trip through the west, looking as gimpy as a game rooster.

Through the blundering of somebody in Greenfield, we didn’t get any mail here until Monday noon. Complaints are beginning to come in again that the REPORTERS don’t get to Montague as soon as they ought to. A week or two ago they didn’t arrive till Monday. Some official is to blame. Who is it?

The court at Field’s store in Montague argued the question of foreign immigration at one of its last meetings. Decided that the inducements and facilities for home emigration take the lead.

April 6, 1887

The electric light in front of C.P. Wise’s store on Second street is a great thing for that neighborhood, and the whole street gets the benefit of the private enterprise.

Bruno Mungan is changing his brick blacksmith shop on Fifth street into two tenements. The building is 28 x 47, and makes two very good tenements. E. G. Peabody is doing the work.

Herbert Squires, the new meat peddler, started his business cart on the road Monday.

A.M. Crittenden of Conway has been chosen to take care of the town farm and the poor the coming year. He arrived April 1st and had five tramps apply for lodging the first night.

Chief Justice Brigham continued the superior court Monday for the disposition of several court cases. The most important case of the day was that of the town of Gill against the Mount Hermon school for boys, which is to go to the supreme court to settle the validity of the taxation of these schools.

These schools were established by the evangelist D. L. Moody, as a literary, benevolent and scientific institution for the education of boys and they were taxed by the town of Gill in 1884 and ‘85 for \$350. The schools paid under protest, and now seek to recover.

The schools occupy two farms of

100 acres each, formerly known as the Purple farm. It is claimed by the town that the school has been using its personal and real property for other than educational purposes, selling stock, milk, butter and other products of the farm. The school authorities claim that even these proceeds are used for educational purposes.

A couple of the most respectable young women in the village had a knock down fight, it is said, the other night because each wanted the exclusive company of a certain young man.

The saloons may be on their good behavior, but it is a fact that a printer employed in the REPORTER office got all he wanted on Sunday last and on Monday, although as drunk as a fool, he was freely supplied with liquor all day. The men who sold him liquor are not fit to have licenses.

Rob. Hamilton, well known as a first-class ball player and respected by all, is soon to leave us to strive for honors on the diamond at Lawrence. We shall all miss him.

The people of Millers Falls will no doubt be ready to welcome Joe Warner again, when he returns from the house of correction, where he was induced to stay through the winter on a charge of vagrancy.

April 4, 1888

To-morrow will be Fast Day.

Pussy-willows are awakening to life. About the village, the snow is well gone, and the walks are drying up quite fast.

Thaxter Shaw has already made 300 lbs. of maple sugar this year.

Policeman M. O’Keefe has been made a day-and-night patrolman, coming on at one in the afternoon and coming off at one at night. Mr. O’Keefe has long been a very competent and faithful officer, and physically competent for the arduous duties. He has been but thirteen nights absent from duty in eight years.

On Thursday last an alarm of fire brought out the department to find smoke issuing from the second story of Sullivan & Carroll’s block, on the avenue. A line of hose was quickly laid but no water was thrown from the hydrant, as the firemen found they could extinguish the flames with a few pails of water. The fire caught in a closet among a lot of clothing.

In the evening of the same day a bright blaze from Central street summoned the firemen again, who had considerable difficulty in getting the hose up the hill through the deep snow. They found Geo. Raspberry’s house, a lightly framed wooden building, in flames, but a stream of water from a hydrant nearby soon put out the fire and saved the adjoining house.

Frank Norwich, a very plucky fireman, fell from a ladder at the Central street fire and was quite badly hurt.

The annual Easter ball by the St. Mary’s Temperance Society was held at Patucket hall, last evening, and was in every way a glorious success. Enemies, vicious and snake-like enemies, of this excellent society had tried hard to prevent this worthy organization from raising funds in a legitimate way to carry on their noble work of reformation and charity, but notwithstanding all the snake in the grass business, they came out on top, and their success was pleasing to every decent inhabitant of the village.

Dr. Thomas Fyfe from Cleveland, Ohio, is coming to Montague to establish himself as a homeopathist doctor.

The selectmen have appointed D.W. Bugbee to the police force. After he gets into a tussle with a drunken whisker puller, he will feel less like cultivating a long beard.

April 3, 1889

The catching of trout is now in season – that is, if you can catch ‘em.

There has been an effort made to form a village improvement society, with a view to securing better streets and permanent sidewalks. The shade trees should be looked after carefully.

The board of health have given notice that all privy vaults in the village must be cleaned out before the 1st of June, or the authorities will order the work done at the expense of the owner of the real estate. P.D. Kelliber will have charge of the night soil cart, and the board recommends his employment as being a capable person.

The Kindling wood mill has been shut down for the summer on account of shortness of dry wood. The new pulp mill takes all the waste wood now, at a greater profit.

T.N. Graves will put a new water wheel shaft into the old upright sawmill at Montague, owned by Henry Graves, and otherwise repair it so as to use it soon.

A.W. Crittenden, who has been manager at the Town farm for two years past, leaves that place the 1st of April, and Charles O. Wood has been appointed to take his place.

Somebody stole a carpet out of the upper story of Jacobus’ block the other night, but when the jail doors began to creak, the carpet was brought back and left on the door step.

Selectman Bartlett of Millers Falls, with considerable back-bone and an eye to the public good, caused a raid to be made on certain places in Millers Falls which public report pointed strongly to as nuisances. Three places were selected and the force of officers made the raid simultaneously.

At the Lake House two full cases of lager were found, and a couple of empty cases. At James Donoghue’s the officers captured a choice assortment of liquors, but at Emory Brown’s hotel they were not successful in finding the stuff.

A base ball game is announced between the Millers Falls and local team, to-morrow afternoon if the weather is fine.

Three suspicious looking characters have been casting wistful eyes at the lot on the corner of Avenue A and Second street.

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high is being built across Millers river just above the old bridge on the Erving road. A brick power-house 30 feet square will be built below the bridge on the Montague side and will contain machinery driven by two water-wheels of 150 horsepower each for furnishing power to two electric roads, one to run from Millers Falls to Turners Falls and the other from Turners Falls to Greenfield by the way of Montague City and Cheapside.

Selectman S.H. Amidon, the very capable engineer and contractor, is to have charge of the entire work.

The milk producers of Charlemont held a meeting last evening and 18 signed an agreement not to submit to a reduction of one cent a can which the dairy company proposes to make, or to the washing of cans, or to the new rule regarding charging back surplus milk. The company is giving until the 10th to revoke these obnoxious rules. The farmers say that they will take their milk to the creamery at Charlemont rather than submit to these new rules.

A special train of 25 cars loaded with root beer left Philadelphia, March 26th, for Boston and other New England cities. The Fitchburg railroad managed the show into this territory.

April 1, 1896

As the warm spring sunshine melts the snow and the buds commence to start, so the hopes of the people of Millers Falls commence to rise looking forward to see the ruins of the disastrous fire replaced by buildings, such as Mrs. Ward and Mr. O’Keefe have recently erected and thus beautified our little village.

William H. Starbuck of New York, the millionaire shipowner and railroad man who died last week, was a distant relative of Mr. Joseph H. Starbuck of this village. Both were raised in Nantucket, where so many stanch businessmen have been raised.

During the month of January, A. R. Baker had 16 pullets lay 310 eggs.

Cyrus, the new post office in Heath, strikes a good many people as a very peculiar name for the post office. It should bear remembered that the government uses these odd names because mail is less liable to be missent. There are only five offices in the United States bearing this name, none of them in New England. This name was given in honor of the late Cyrus Carley, father of the present postmaster.

Two tramps tried to make a meal of station agent Stoddard’s hand, yesterday. He will be in favor of passing a law to have tramps muzzled in future.

March 31, 1897

It really looks like spring. Blue birds and robins have been quite plentiful the past week. The ice is pretty well out of the river, for several miles up at least.

A general cleaning up of rubbish has begun, and gardens are being looked over.

Raised sidewalks of coal ashes just put in have lifted pedestrians out of mud-puddles on Second and Third streets, from the Avenue to Canal street.

Bicycles are out by the dozen, and riding is passable between this village and Montague City, but the average country road is all mud yet, in some places hub deep.

Lady riders of wheels are out in force and the number of riders of the gentle sex will be very large

this summer.

The county commissioners are petitioned to straighten and improve the road through Riverside to Munn’s ferry.

The Orange Knitting Co. have begun clearing ground and preparing for erecting their new factory at Farley soon.

The selectmen are gravelling the Montague City road, and fixing up the water courses somewhat. A good many would like to see the road machine on that road rounding it up so as to give the water a chance to go off at the sides. However, the road machine is not in favor everywhere.

The report of the doings of the Village Improvement association deserves the attention of every one who takes a pride in the village, and who has its good at heart. The association has done much to improve the appearance of our streets and surroundings and merits the encouragement and support of every citizen.

Wait till we get the factories running brisk again, and you will see Turners Falls take a start upward that will charm the heart of every real estate owner.

Julius Equi, the Avenue A fruit merchant, expects to sail for home from Havre. While in Italy he was married, and he will bring his bride home with him.

The present quarters of the public library, in Hibernian block, having become much too small, the trustees have taken a lease for five years, of the lower story of Clapp’s block, on the Avenue. The new location is very desirable; the room is amply large, light and airy, besides being much nearer the centre of the book taking population than was the old library room.

A.E. Perry of Riverside has recovered from an attack of the grip. He was for many years a prominent manufacturer near Keene, N.H., and invented all the machines that made the cheap production of clothes pins possible.

Cornelius Connors of Millers Falls was charged with disturbing the peace, Sunday night, near the home of Richard Hopkins. The defendant in testifying in his own behalf claimed that the plaintiff’s dog attacked him and when he drove the dog into the yard, Mrs. Hopkins attacked the defendant with the ax. Connors was found guilty and sentenced to 30 days in the house of correction, which was afterward changed to a fine of \$15.

Thomas Perouk, the “King of Poland,” was before Associate Justice Dana of the district court, yesterday, on a charge of disturbing the peace and threatening the life of some of his neighbors during a drunken brawl on L street, Monday night. He was sentenced to 60 days in the house of correction.

Warren B. Abbott of Montague has been adjudged insane by Judge C.C. Conant, and was committed to the asylum at Northampton. He has shown symptoms of insanity for about two years, and has been in the habit of firing a shot gun promiscuously.

The comedian, Mr. Hennessy Le-royle, will appear at the opera house on Monday evening, in the high class comedy, “Other People’s Money.”

April 6, 1898

The blizzard of yesterday has not been equalled for April weather for seven years. The ground was well covered with snow this morning, but a warmer sun has caused the earth to come to light again, except on the hills, which yet hold

their coverlet of white.

The owners of the Schuler block are building an addition to be a little larger and higher than the old bowling alley, the second story of which will be occupied by Martin Fritz as a barber-shop when completed.

The plumbing company of Millers Falls seems to find plenty to do, the water system recently introduced bringing in considerable work in many residences. None who have used the “city water” would now willingly dispense with the benefits it brings.

The Heath town farm is to be again leased, making the third season it has been rented, there being no resident paupers to be cared for.

There was a full attendance at the town meeting in Gill on Wednesday of last week. It was voted to pass over the articles referring to street lights and precinct voting. The Conway creamery has just made about 1000 pounds of butter for the Jewish synagog of New York, under the personal direction of one of the faith sent to Conway for that purpose.

Fred E. Field has been selected to take charge of the roads for the Centre precinct the coming year.

A two-year-old child of Swedish parents, living on Fourth street, met with a horrible accident last Wednesday morning which resulted in the poor little tot’s death. It is the same old pitiful story. The child’s mother had just poured a dish of boiling hot water, preparatory to doing some washing. She left it standing on the floor, while she went to the door in response to a knock. The little one backed into the water and terribly scalded the whole back of its body and its arms. The unfortunate child died the next day.

The Father Mathew temperance society have moved from their late quarters in the bank block to the Hibernian block.

Another bicycle club is being organized in town to help defray the expenses of a cycle path to the City. All wheelmen should help the good cause.

April 5, 1899

Several hill town farmers tapped their sugar orchards the first of last week, but the snow was so deep in the woods they could not do much. It averages about four feet in places and the drifts are 10 feet deep in the roads.

If we had that proposed bicycle path now, couldn’t we make good use of it?

The timber is being rapidly cleared off the lot which S.E. Ripley recently bought on Greenfield mountain. We suppose it is no use to grumble over the devastation, but those of us who have travelled up and down the mountain “in pleasant and in stormy weather,” cannot but feel a pang whenever we pass by that way now, and the difference will be still more strongly marked when summer comes again.

Wm. Fritz is building a double piazza on the front of his Second street house.

Photographer Berry is displaying some artistic new pictures in his show cases.

Mr. Martin of the George F. Blake manufacturing company is at Lake Pleasant setting up the new pump at the pumping station. Work will be put through with as little delay as possible.

Harry Wise, who went to Cuba for the bodies of the dead soldiers returned last Friday. All the bodies were recovered with the exception of that of Joseph Lenois, who died

in the hospital from wounds received at El Caney. His remains could not be positively identified, and with those of the other unidentified or unclaimed dead, will be buried in the national cemetery at Arlington near Washington, to-morrow.

All the world loves a soldier a great deal better than a lover, if the double funeral, Sunday, of Privates Jeremiah J. Sullivan and John Thyne, Jr., members of Co. L, Second Regiment, who died in Cuba, is any criterion. There was subdued excitement in the air, all day, and as soon as the Sunday dinners had been disposed of, knots of people began to drift up the Avenue and Fifth street, and in a little while everybody who was not actually bedridden was on the pavement.

A stranger must have thought that President McKinley or General Miles was expected, or that some other equally important dignity was on parade. Every society in town was in the procession, in regalia, and the parade was the largest ever seen here, on any occasion.

Leverett people are wrought up over the story on “A New England Hill Town,” by Rollin Lynde Hartt. The picture they say is greatly overdrawn.

“Simon Bolivar, the Liberator of South America,” is the subject of the lecture to be given by Marshall Putnam Thompson of Boston at the Baptist church, next Friday evening, under the auspices of the young people’s society.

When President McKinley, in speaking of the flag, asked “who shall haul it down?” we are very positive indeed that he was not referring to the flag that waves so wearily over the band stand. We feel quite sure that some one ought to haul down that flag. Just observe how it has faded. It has lost the first blush of youth, and appears conscious of it.

On Thursday evening, the Turners Falls cadets will hold an ice cream social in the Unitarian church. The proceeds are to be used towards buying uniforms.

The old Gill tavern that entertained Mr. G. Washington has at last gone the way of all earth, and yesterday the remains of the structure curled up in wreaths of lazy smoke, telling the last chapters of its eventful history.

April 4, 1900

Dust was flying on the Avenue last week, almost the same as it does in July. Bicycles have come out in force the past few days, and wheeling is very good on most of the village streets.

C. O’Leary of K street has been put to a good bit of annoyance since the town report was issued. It appears there is another C. O’Leary who resides in Millers Falls, and is no kith or kin to Mr. O’Leary of Turners Falls.

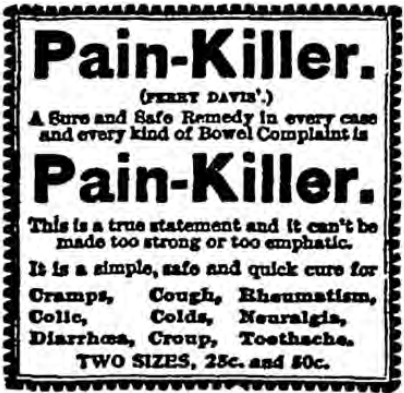
The Millers Falls man has received aid from the town according to the report of the overseers of the poor. The report does not specify which O’Leary was aided. In consequence many people thinks Mr. O’Leary of Turners Falls was the one who was helped, whereas this is not and never has been the case.

Sunday last, local boys fishing by Rock Dam landed a 20-pound specimen thanks to combined efforts and some very helpful assistance from Melvin Jankowicz of Gill, who was picnicking at the site with a friend, and did the final honors in landing the sizable catch.

It was discovered, when the wise old fish was prepared for fillets, that



Ad from April 1, 1896.
(Reprinted for historical interest only. The Montague Reporter does not endorse the use of tobacco products.)



Ad from March 31, 1897.
(The Montague Reporter does not endorse the use of opiates.)

Town of Leverett
HEARING NOTICE:
PROPOSED BYLAW
CHANGES

A public hearing will be held at the **Town Hall on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 7 p.m.** to discuss proposed changes to the “Code of Leverett” as outlined below:

Chapter 3 Administration

Article 1 Elected Boards and Offices
3-2 Officers; terms

Change

from “Officers of the town to be elected for three-year terms of office shall be a Moderator, a Town Clerk and three (3) Constables. Officers to be elected for one-year terms of office shall be an Assistant Moderator and a Tree warden.”

to “Officers of the town to be elected for three-year terms of office shall be a Moderator, a Town Clerk and three (3) Constables. Officers to be elected for one-year terms of office shall be an Assistant Moderator and a Tree warden.”

A copy of the complete Code of Leverett is on file at the Town Clerk’s office.

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Grade 7

Jade Tyler
Jacob Sak

Grade 8

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there existed a packaged meal for the youngsters in the gullet of the same: a fork and knife were parked inside, ready to be implemented in the final meal.

The utensils were badly formed, most likely tossed out the cutlery workshop window by some hapless employee, seeking to conceal his mistakes, and landing them in the path of the omnivorous shad.

Raymond Smith, a milk man, had a narrow escape from death Saturday morning as he was at the crossing below the station at Shelburne Falls about 6 o'clock. An east-bound freight running at a low rate of speed, struck his team as he was right on the track, carrying horse, wagon and all about 40 feet down the track and then pitching them down a bank.

Mr. Smith was not much hurt, the horse suffered internal injuries, while the wagon was demolished and the milk was spilled.

April 3, 1901

The bicycles have come out of winter quarters in force the past few days.

The Montague City road is the usual mud hole this year. If the State road out in the wilderness could be brought in and shown the most travelled highway in town it would blush little three-cornered stones at the sight. But state highways are not made for use. They are made for a theory.

Tree Warden A.M. Lyman has decided to save the tree standing at the corner of Central and Ferry streets in the layout of the state highway, for the removal of which a petition was addressed to Mr. Lyman – to the annoyance of one faction and the delight of the other.

The small boy and his wheel have come out like flies where the sun has been shining.

The Farley Paper Co. has to run its mill to its fullest extent to keep up with the orders it has.

The house in Conway where the Chinese laundry has been located has been purchased by Charles Page. The laundry business will be moved to Shelburne Falls.

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Ad from April 9, 1901.

The board of health of this town will receive bids from reliable parties who will contract to clean the alleys in Turners Falls three times a week and to keep them clean for a year, also to remove all garbage and rubbish as fast as it accumulates. One party must agree to do both. The board reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

Frank, the six-year-old son of John J. Donovan, while playing with other boys on the turn-table at the Fitchburg station, Sunday, received a bad fracture of the leg between the knee and hip. Dr. Messer set the fracture and will have care of the little fellow.

The twenty-third annual grand concert and ball of the St. Mary's Temperance society of Turners Falls,

which will be held this year on Easter Monday, in Hibernian hall, will be one long to be remembered as one of the most successful balls in the history of the society.

The music engaged for the occasion is the well known Second Regiment band orchestra of Springfield, Mass. One of the features during the concert will be Mr. Amsden, the only man in America or perhaps any where else who plays two cornets at the same time, a different tune on each instrument.

The public is cordially invited and a good time is promised to all who attend. Special electric cars to Greenfield and Millers Falls after the ball.

Emma B. Nado of Greenfield has been granted a divorce from Bert Nado of Greenfield, on the ground of desertion and confirmed habits of intoxication.

The rummage sale held by the Women's Relief Corps in the Hibernian block, last week, was a success, considerable "rummage" being disposed of.

The public telephone in Montague has been moved from S. C. Lincoln's to James B. Marsh's store. E.O. Williams and Sheriff Chenery are to have telephones at their houses.

Miss Fanny Lincoln Chenery has recently joined the Daughters of the Revolution.

April 2, 1902

The clerk of the weather was very obliging last Sunday, and actually condescended to smile most of the day. The churches, one and all were thronged and the Avenue at noon presented a very gay appearance.

The business meeting of the town of Montague will be held at Hibernian Hall, Monday April 14 at 1 o'clock. pm. The warrant is a lengthy one. It contains 41 articles some of which are bound to be the cause of much oratory.

A petition signed by all Turners Falls business men, asking for the erection of a new Boston & Maine railroad station, has been sent to President Tuttle. The railroad company has at last decided to do something toward improving the station, and to make it look less like a western prairie shanty.

The traveller who gets his first introduction to Turners Falls through the present B & M station invariably receives a very bad impression and is bound to form an unflattering estimate of our village and its inhabitants, which even long acquaintance may not wholly remove, so indelible are first impressions.

Samuel Klotzle, a well known character, was sentenced to the State farm at Bridgewater, Monday, by Judge Lyman, for being a common drunkard. Officer Ripley arrested him Saturday. Klotzle was formerly a respected workman, but for the last year or two his fondness for stimulating drinks has been gradually getting the better of him.

WANTED: Four or five girls to wind fishing rods. Montague City Rod Co.

April 1, 1903

Gottlieb Zschau of Fourth street is quite ill.

The body of Eugene E. Newell, who was drowned a week ago yesterday, has not yet been recovered, although diligent search has been made, both at the place where he was drowned and at other points along the river.

A. J. Reed, who has been in the meat business at Millers Falls for nearly 20 years, has sold out to



Montague Center horse dealer E.O. Williams his and son Harry in white shirts. This photograph was taken by the Howes Brothers sometime between 1887 and 1907.

Frank Lyman, who has run the meat cart of E. L. Bartlett of Montague for a long time.

The Democratic caucus, which was held in Hibernian hall, last Thursday night, was decidedly long and heated. The attendance was the greatest known at any caucus ever held in the village, and the tides of oratory rose to great heights. It was fully two o'clock Friday morning before the caucus closed, and then there had been no nomination made for town clerk, no nomination for treasurer and no nomination for collector of taxes.

The rock on which the caucus split was the matter of a nominee for collector and treasurer, and the oratory on this subject surpassed every other effort... After balloting for collector and treasurer, for which office there were two candidates, Edward P. March and John W. Haigis, it was found that Mr. March had 203 votes and John W. Haigis 169, and three scattering votes, a total of 375 votes, while the check list showed that 378 votes were cast.

On ground of the vote being illegal, the moderator declined to declare Mr. March the nominee of the caucus, and after much argument, pro and con, against this decision, the matter rested.

The towns of Shelburne, Leyden, Gill and Colrain will get considerable money by the recent death of Mrs. Quintus Allen. Mrs. Allen waived the provisions of her husband's will, getting in addition to rights in real estate, \$10,000 in her own right and the income of much more. By her death a trust fund created by Mr. Allen is increased from \$17,840 to \$35,836.

The Springfields, the professional basket ball team who hold the pennant of the Central Massachusetts league, played the St. Mary's basket ball team at Hibernian hall, Saturday night, in the presence of a great crowd of spectators, and downed our home team 66 to 24. It was a game worth seeing.

Morgan & Hoyt's moving pictures exhibit will be at Colle's opera house on April 15. The company includes two fine boy sopranos, a lady whistler and a ladies' band and orchestra.

Last Thursday night some person or persons greased the electric road track at the hill near Green pond at Millers Falls. The grease was liberally applied and when the car bound for Turners Falls in the early part of the evening attempted to mount the

hill it slid down and could not get up. The occupants of the car got out and by dint of much effort and by sanding the rails the car was finally able to get up the hill. A serious accident might easily have been caused by this piece of work and there is considerable indignation over the matter.

It is said the affair will be thoroughly sifted and those responsible be brought to account. It is supposed that politics was the incentive for applying the grease, as a large number of Democrats bound for the caucus that night were on the car.

It was reported to-day that John Partenheimer had seen the body of Eugene Newell in the river below Montague City this morning, but no boat was available at the time, and when one had finally been procured, the body had disappeared. April fool?

March 30, 1904

Dust will soon be blowing on the Avenue and the next growl will be for a watering cart.

Muskrat hunting has been much indulged in at the Deerfield River during the past week. One man shot about 30 of the rodents on Saturday.

Gradually the slimy pond on the south side of the Ferry road is being filled up. It will be a happy day for the residents on Prospect street, when every drop of river water is shut out from that locality, which has been a breeder of malaria for many years.

Some people have confidence that sooner or later a sizable little factory will go up at Riverside, on the site of the old saw mill, and give employment to a great many people.

The Carnegie library committee have received from the Turners Falls company a deed for the corner lot on Avenue A and Seventh street, on which the library is to be erected.

One thing about the Poles, always said with respect and consideration, is that they are good Catholics, and are faithful to their religious vows and convictions. A man who has a religion and a conscience working together is apt to win out in the long run.

The spot once chosen for a high school, on K Street, is part of a clay bank following the Connecticut River all the way to Springfield. The brick for the Griswold mill was got from that locality, and the senior Mr. Griswold used to say that the clay bank went half way to China. There are some rocks there, but

more clay than most people would care to bargain for.

April 5, 1905

A gang of Italian laborers has arrived at Turners Falls to complete some work on the canal which was left unfinished at the time work ceased in the winter.

A forest fire burned over the woods near Rock Dam at Montague City last Sunday, and also over a good deal of the surrounding territory. At one time the flames had spread uncomfortably close to the houses on the end of Depot street and then men turned out to fight the fire, which died out after the strong wind went down.

Mrs. George O. Peabody is having her house on Fifth street raised two or three feet and a cellar put under it. John Lapoint is doing the work.

Julius Equi is having a new and spacious piazza built on his block on Fourth street, formerly known as Lougee's block.

The material for the new Central Vermont R. R. bridge, which is to replace the one at Millers Falls, has arrived. The old bridge has been considered unsafe for some time, since heavy freights cross it.

The board of health of Montague have made a new regulation which, if strictly enforced, as it is proposed to do, will greatly improve the sanitary condition of the town, to say nothing of appearances. As soon as the alleys have been cleaned up, no further dumping of garbage of any kind will be permitted in or about the alleys or the streets of the town and all property owners abutting in the alleys will be required to furnish a can, barrel, or box to hold garbage, and will not be allowed to dump filth and garbage into the alleys indiscriminately.

Mrs. Maria Avery Daniels Pike of Colrain celebrated her 101st birthday last Thursday. She is still hale and hearty.

In the Hibernian hall on last Saturday evening, the Father Mathews were defeated by the Shelburne Falls A.C. in the first game for the championship of the county, by the score of 26 to 21. It was nip and tuck throughout; first one side would lead and then the other.

John Barber of Northfield was arraigned in court Saturday for selling cigarets to minors. He pleaded *nolo contendere* and was fined \$10, which was paid.

Eldora Judd of Greenfield, who was arraigned earlier in the week

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for unlawful cohabitation, was held for the grand jury and placed under \$300 bonds. She was committed.

Valley lodge of Odd Fellows will work the initiatory degree on several candidates to-morrow night.

John A. Miles, aged about 40, and employed at the Esleeck mill as a paper maker, attempted suicide Thursday about noon during a fit of insanity by taking paris green. He also gave a dose of the poison to a horse he formerly owned and sold to Charles Clifford of Turners Falls.

For some time Mr. Miles had been brooding over the sale of a horse and outfit which he bought in the winter at South Deerfield and sold to Mr. Clifford after a short ownership. Wednesday he told his landlady, Mrs. Clifford, as he paid her the money due for room rent, that he was going to do something mysterious. He is a steady man, an Odd Fellow and unmarried. His rash act proves that he is mentally unbalanced, and he has been committed to the Northampton Insane asylum.

The horse, which is a stallion of some value, is likely to recover.

April 4, 1906

Nothing doing just at present as the roads are not suitable to team over.

Victor Cote, Louis Sicard, and George Campbell have bought a \$2000 twin screw naphtha launch for public passenger traffic on the river between the bridge and the mouth of the Millers river. The boat is 33 feet long and eight feet beam, has a cabin, with large plate glass windows, all furnished in mahogany, with brass fixtures, rails, etc. It is driven by two independent screws and engines of five house power each. The fare for the round trip will probably be 20 cents a passenger.

Jessie Johnson, Gladys Woodbury, and Edith Barber have been entertaining the measles.

W.A. Butman has returned from a visit to his son in Waltham. Mr. Butman has been having severe nasal hemorrhages.

John K Burkhardt of Wendell recently captured a wild cat that weighed 20 pounds and brought the body to the town clerk, to get the bounty of \$3.

A fire some way got started in the wood shed adjoining Rob Boynton's dwelling in Wendell, which fortunately was discovered in time, else we might now be relating something more serious. Rob and his sister are having the time of their lives all by themselves, the father being away to Boston, and he too is probably pleasantly situated or would not remain away so long.

But as to the fire. It is thought the fire started from the pipe of a visitor. No other damage than the loss of a horse blanket and the burning of one side of a barrel was the result.

They had a mock trial in Greenfield last week, conducted by the high educational institutions and authorities. The criminal convicted was sentenced to ten years in the state prison at hard labor or to live a year in Turners Falls, as he might choose.

Several of the leading society lights in Greenfield were in years gone by given the option of living honest lives among honest men, and they readily chose the alternative of the state prison, so the inference is that the rising generation would not choose Turners Falls in this instance.

John Brown, who went to Kalamazoo recently, has decided that this commonwealth is good enough to live in, and will return East.

If any exchange knows of peripatetic printers, singly or in droves, whose stomachs are getting smaller than their vests, the REPORTER office will do the Christian act of furnishing some food, and the devilish mean trick of some work to precede the grub.

April 3, 1907

The Montague City road is a huge mud pie in several places.

New maple sugar and syrup are now on the market, and lovers of buckwheat cakes with maple syrup, and other like delectable combinations, are getting in some good licks.

The Connecticut Valley Street railway is laying quantities of new ties on the Turners Falls division, above Montague City, and will lay about 8000 new ties this year.

The selectmen are putting a new fence around the West Gill cemetery which has needed it for a long time.

The little wooden building at Montague City, formerly used by the street railway for an office, is being remodelled and will be occupied as a meat market by a Greenfield butcher.

Millers Falls has a two story house with eight rooms of all kinds, and 23 Polanders find shelter and sleeping places there. Tenements are in demand.

Michael Blassberg will be ready to rent tenements in his block on X street next week.

Miss Minnie Veotsch of Simmons college is home for the spring vacation.

A great deal of petty thievery is going on about town all the time.

The little two-year son of Albert Drescher of Central street fell 15 feet from a balcony landing, Thursday afternoon, and had a leg broken.

The horse attached to the milk cart of George Koch of Riverside, got the fire of Spring into his bones Easter morning and ran away. Milk wagons are not intended to travel at high speed, so the nourishing fluid in the cans was spilled, and the streets which Dobbin so hastily traversed, ran with milk, if not with honey, while the cart was reduced to a sorry wreck.

One of the closest match games of candle pins ever rolled at the Vladish Bowling alleys was played last Wednesday evening, when the Clerks defeated the crack Fast Five Bowling team by a margin of one pin. The outcome was in doubt until the last string was finished, when it was found that the Clerks were the victors by one point.

The Amherst College Glee, Banjo and Mandolin Clubs, who will give a concert at Colle's opera house on Wednesday evening, April 17, under the auspices of the Turners Falls High school Alumni association, comprise some 30 members, and will render one of their enjoyable college programs.

Dennis Rivet of Second street was arraigned in the district court last Wednesday afternoon, charged with assaulting Mrs. Blanche Navaski of Second street. The trouble began with the eight-years old son of Mrs. Navaski throwing a snowball at Agnes, the 15 years old daughter of Mrs. Rivet. She caught the youngster and slapped his face.

Mrs. Navaski thereupon administered chastisement to Agnes with a stick. For that she answered in court, the court finding her guilty and filing the case away on payment of costs.

Mr. Rivet then took a hand in the proceedings and was charged with catching Mrs. Navaski by the

shoulder. For this he was haled into court and fined \$5 after Judge Leary heard the case.

The 29th annual Easter Monday ball of St. Mary's Temperance society scored a very great social and financial success. It was held at Hibernian hall, Monday evening, and was very largely attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The hall was transformed into a springtime symphony of green and white, the very effective and pleasing decorations being the work of the American Decorating company. Much taste and originality was displayed in the decorating and everyone who entered the hall remarked on the charming result.

In response to Governor Guild's appeal to the people for contributions to the Russian famine sufferers, an opportunity for such offerings was given at the Congregational church last Sunday.

April 1, 1908

The small boys have diligently been trying to collect maple syrup from all the trees in the vicinity, regardless whether the trees happen to be maple or not. The enterprising lads get little but their fun for their pains.

The Board of Health again have posted notices stating that all closets must be connected with the sewer, where there is a sewer. The town not having accepted the provisions of the year 1895, relative to plumbing and the inspection of plumbing, the state authorities are after the local board of health, and they say it will not much longer be able to dodge the subject.

There was an acetylene gas plant at South Deerfield to light the village. It was owned by a partnership of a dozen or so men, and managed by John H. Ockington, the former proprietor of the Valley house. There was a leak in the tank Saturday evening. An investigation by the light of a lantern caused an explosion, killing the three investigators, John H. Ockington, Leon G. Beaman and James B. Stoddard.

The explosion was terrific, and the small building in which the plant was operated was blown to kindling wood. The windows in all the surrounding buildings were shattered and the village was shook to its foundations.

A W Esleeck, of the Esleeck Mfg Co, has given the Carnegie library a gift that is a decidedly valuable acquisition. It is a complete set of Bancroft's historical works in 42 volumes. These reference books will be greatly appreciated by the patrons of the library.

March 31, 1909

The ice in the river went out Sunday, and yesterday stray logs and driftwood were floating down. The annual log drive this year is said to be 80,000,000 feet, the largest that has ever been sent down. After this year the logs must be rafted so as not to impede navigation to the extent that log drives have in other years.

The deed has passed for the transfer from the Montague grange association to the Montague grange of a new building recently erected. The building has cost \$1500 and has a seating capacity of 150, with dining room of the same capacity. It is lighted by electricity.

A company is being organized in Greenfield to run motor cars to Turners Falls and Northfield. A.L. Wilson has sold a Buick car to seat 12, for \$1500, and an American sight seeing car to seat 16 to 20, for

\$3000, to these parties, and the cars are being built.

Miss Shea of Fourth street will hold her opening of Spring millinery at her parlors, Thursday and Friday, and invites all ladies to call and inspect the new styles.

Alpheus Moore of Montague celebrated his 90th birthday Friday, the twenty-sixth. He had quite a number of callers and was presented with fruit and flowers. He gets out of doors some when the weather will permit.

William Sauter of Fourth street, delivery clerk at W. H. Sweeney's market, had the misfortune to have his right hand caught in an electric bone cutter last Thursday. The hand was badly mangled before the power could be shut off.

Fred S. Dudley, aged 25, who was kicked in the face by a horse in George H. Goddard's barn in Montague, February 23 died yesterday morning at the Farren hospital where he was taken at the time of the accident. The case was a serious one from the beginning, but hopes were entertained for his recovery.

Jesse Powers, the young man who in a fit of despondency jumped from the steeple of the church at Wendell Center, is now at the hospital in Greenfield, and at last accounts was doing as well as could be expected. The wonder is that he is alive to-day.

Edward I. Cassidy, who was superintendent of the Keith paper mill, was Monday night presented with a sterling silver loving cup and a pin of the order of Elks at his home on Prospect street by employees of the mill, who desired to express their respect and esteem for Mr. Cassidy, who recently resigned his position.

Some slick articles in the thieving line are quite busy in town lately, and access is gained by false keys or stolen keys. The library building was entered the other night with a stolen or skeleton key and all the small change stolen, which however did not amount to a dollar. A hair brush belonging to Miss Barside, the librarian, was taken in lieu of cash to help slick up the slick thief.

The village has a number of pool rooms where youngsters play pool at a cent a cue, and then put up tickets to play for. The officers say frankly that these pool rooms are the worst hell holes in the village and should be suppressed.

John Early, chef at a hotel at the Arkansas hot springs, has sent a fine specimen of a centipede to Louis Murphy.

Reporter Office telephone number is 45-2.

April 6, 1910

The splendid weather of the past few weeks seems too good to be true, and is compensation enough for the severe, long winter which we leave behind without regrets.

The maple sugar makers have taken in their sap buckets and stored them for another year, having had a short but very sweet sugar season.


The village streets certainly present a vastly improved appearance after their thorough spring cleaning, and every decent minded citizen ought to do his best to keep them as clean and attractive as possible. If every resident would make a vow not to throw any papers, tin cans, or other rubbish into the streets or where children will get a hold of them and carry such eyesores into public sight, our town would present a decidedly more attractive appearance than is usually the case at present.

A number of Riverside people

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have secured large quantities of valuable lumber which the recent high water brought down the river.

The St. John the Baptist society is to have the tract of land bought last winter of B.N. Farren on K, T, and Fifth streets, surveyed and divided into building lots. The society will retain one of the lots for a new hall in case it shall decide to build.

E.L. Bartlett and Elmer Hart of Montague City have had their houses wired for electricity.

George Starbuck & Sons now have their new auto truck in constant use in their business. It saves such an immense amount of time in transporting men and tools and materials to and from the different jobs, that it will soon pay for itself in time saved, alone, to say nothing of the convenience and promptness with which work, no matter where, can now be attended to.

Frank Better, an employee in the Millers Falls company's shop, had his thumb cut off by a circular saw last week.

Mrs. Mary Bitzer of Fourth street is confined to her bed by illness.

Chief Manning and other officers made a search for liquor at Michael Siano's on Deerfield street in Greenfield Monday morning and found a gallon and a half of whiskey and 18 bottles of beer. At the stone crusher in East Deerfield, Deputy Sheriff Bridges and officers from Deerfield made a raid on a shack and got three kegs of beer.

Any quantity of merchandise has been missed from freight cars on the R & M line for several months, and the detectives have been unable to locate the stolen goods, or the artists who have been on the work.

Finally, occasion for revenge came up, and a reputed interested party squealed on the same other parties. The detectives then got wise and pulled in a couple of East Deerfield railroad men. They pleaded not guilty, and the case was continued one week.

One of the leaks gave information that a junk dealer, Julius Blassberg, who keeps his cart in the alley between Second and Third streets, this village, had been "given the goods to dispose of."

The detectives came over Monday, and found in his possession a piece of cloth said to have passed through the railroad men's hands. The officers took the goods and the body of Julius to await a hearing.

Tickets for the lantern slide lecture on Venezuela to be given at the opera house, April 13, will be on sale at Colle's drug store, Monday,

Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

Some day there will be an accident from motorcycles in this town, and then the stable door will be locked as usual. Young men own numbers of the machines in town right now, and they break the law right on the face and eyes of the policemen and constables every day. To see a street car going at a good job passed by a motor cycle with such a speed as to make the car look as though it were standing still, is no unusual thing.

April 5, 1911

March made a theatrical exit, retiring from the field amid a display of rain, lightning, thunder and hail, to say nothing of the gale.

If snow in the spring is the poor man's fertilizer, what a bumping crop we'll all have this autumn. Several inches of snow last night made a winter scene that was a peach, if winter scenes are what charm us now. On the surrounding mountains, the fall was quite heavy. In a few days the warming sun which we are promised will make the trout brooks busy.

The water mains were all flushed last week necessitating the reduction of the pressure somewhat. It is expected that this will improve the taste of the water, which has been a little "off" of late.

Fred Barnes of Riverside has ordered a 16-foot steel launch, which he expects to have in a few weeks. This will make another notable addition to the fleet on the river this summer. Canoes galore will also be launched as soon as conditions are favorable.

Wendell recorded only two births last year, the lowest record for 50 years. There were three marriages and eight deaths. Wendell has a population of only 500.

A new piano has been put into the quarters of the St. Jean Baptiste society in the Allen block.

Stephen S. Taft of Springfield has been appointed special master in the suit of the Connecticut Valley street railway company against the local union of the amalgamated association of street railway employees and the striking members of the union.

Arthur W. Proctor, one of the selectmen of the town of Northfield, was arrested at his home in Northfield, Monday, upon the complaint of State Detective Maj. McKay charging him with the larceny of \$2500 of the money of the town. He was unable to furnish bail and went to jail.

The method which is alleged to have been employed has been to draw town orders for



A train wreck in Millers Falls, east of the station across from the paper mill, circa 1900. From the Adrian Savage collection, courtesy Carnegie Library digital archives.

amounts greater than were required for the payment of bills and to deposit these upon his own account.

An agent of the State Board of Agriculture has been in Gill recently instructing the local tree warden, Arthur E. Tuttle, to the methods of discovering and dealing with the brown tail moths. Up to date about 60 nests have been found in Gill on trees near the Mount Hermon school and in trees on land owned by Arthur A. Chapin and Ernest C. Atherton.

Thirty candidates reported for the base ball team, Monday. Before they went out for a light practice, Mr. Cushman gave them a short talk about the game.

A mild case of scarlet fever has appeared at South End, the victim being a four-year-old child of Mrs. Annie Pacek.

The concert which the Turners Falls Choral society was to have given in Millers Falls tomorrow evening has had to be given up, owing to a misunderstanding as to date, so that no hall was available for the entertainment.

Millinery openings have absorbed the attention of the ladies the past week despite the noticeable and deplorable absence of even a suspicion of ethereal mildness.

April 3, 1912

The open season on trout commenced Monday, but local fishermen have not yet got busy.

The large steam shovel shipped from Chicago by the Bates & Rogers Construction Company, to be used in the construction work for the Turners Falls Co, was received Monday after considerable delay and difficulty encountered in transportation. It was too large to pass through the Hoosac tunnel, so it was shipped by way of Bellows Falls. It was too heavy for the old Montague City bridge, so it was taken over the New York, New Haven & Hartford road.

On account of the low bridge at the South End it has been found necessary to cut off some of the lower portion to make a clearing underneath, for delivery to the destination.

Mrs. Frank Brown of Montague City, who was so terribly burned about two weeks ago, by the explosion of a can of kerosene which she was using in building her kitchen fire at her home, succumbed to her injuries at the Farren hospital, Monday morning. Mrs. Brown suffered greatly before death came to her release. She was an attractive young woman of pleasing personality, and her early death under such sad circumstances is to be regretted.

In Hibernian hall, Saturday evening, April 13th, Tinker's Marimbaphone band and novelty dance orchestra of Newport, New Hampshire, will perform. This is the only orchestra in America featuring Deagan organ chimes, Giant steel marimbaphone and electrical Swiss bells.

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MARCH 31, 2016



In August 1887, according to the Turners Falls Reporter, George Fournier moved his blacksmith's shop to the property of J.P. Morgan on K Street. This photograph (left) from the digital archive of the Carnegie Library is identified as "Fornier Bros. Blacksmith K St." and dated to around 1888. Morgan's former lot is the one pictured above – both buildings from the 1888 photograph have been replaced with more recent construction.

April 2, 1913

On Friday, a flow of 11 feet and six inches was going over the Turners Falls dam, a record which has never been recorded before. This tremendous volume of water going over the dam made a spectacle which was worth travelling miles to see.

Great quantities of driftwood and rubbish of all kinds were carried down the dam here, and on Thursday a sizable one-story barn went over on the way to the Sound.

During the flood there were many symptoms of a wood famine in town, many people reporting a shortage. Telephone message directed hither and thither brought up answers such as these: "gave up selling," "have none," "wood shed surrounded by water," etc.

The construction work on the canal of the Turners Falls company is showing much progress, and the company expects to be operating its No. 1 power plant at its full capacity of 7000 horse-power very soon. Plans are also made and contracts will soon be let for power plant No. 2 with a capacity of 40,000 horse-power more.

The second of the highway bridges which are to be constructed by the company over the canal at Fifth and Sixth streets will soon be underway, and it will be opened to traffic in a month or six weeks. The one at Fifth street is a handsome and substantial one.

A large number of new automobiles are to be owned in town this season. Wm. E.L. West, Treasurer Albert R. Smith and Walter J. Rist are among the most recent purchasers of cars.

George M. Moltenbrey, inspector of milk, has been notified by the state board of health of unsanitary conditions existing in several of the dairies in Gill and Montague, from which milk and cream is sold in town.

B.M. Field, Leverett's leading citizen, and well known throughout Franklin county, celebrated his 75th birthday Sunday. Mr. Field has been postmaster of Leverett and proprietor of the village store for the past half-century.

James A. Gunn returned last Wednesday from an enjoyable visit to the Bermudas.

It looked for a time as though Turners Falls would have to go without band concerts this summer, because of the decreased appropriation for the purpose made at the last annual town meeting, the sum of \$400 voted by the town not being sufficient to give the musicians enough to keep their whistles wet.

The band heretofore has received \$500 from the town, and even that insured each member only a nominal sum for his services, so the organization could not see that they were called to donate their services for the pure love of the thing and refused to give the concerts at the cut rate.

Happily, however, the calamity of no concerts has been averted, and

we shall have the joyous opportunity of listening to the band as heretofore, this summer, for a paper has been circulated among the business people of Turners Falls, and sufficient has been subscribed to insure enough money for the band.

The postponed case of John and Antoni Sonerski of Millers Falls, charged with assaulting Joseph Kosick on the Montague road on March 12, was heard in the district court Monday. The defendants were found guilty and each paid a fine of \$20.

There was evidence to show that Kosick had trouble with John Sonerski's wife at the mill at Millers Falls, and later the two brothers waited in the highway for the plaintiff, knocked him down and pounded him with stones.

The masquerade party to be held at the Masonic lodge rooms on Friday evening promises to be one of the most enjoyable entertainments of the season, and a large attendance is a foregone conclusion. Everybody wants to see the famous ox dance, which will be one of the features of the evening.

April 1, 1914

The playground committee of the Board of Trade organized Tuesday with Norman P. Farwell, chairman and Jos Harlow, secretary. This committee will be a busy one this year as it is probable that a lease will be obtained from the Turners Falls Company of land at the lower end of Second street that can be covered with soil and made suitable for a ball field and playground, such as the town needs. Soil for finishing the land could be obtained from the excavation of the new canal and can be moved at least expense this coming summer.

Franklin Webster Hance, only son of George Hance, who is in the hardware business in California, has acquired a half interest in the F.I. Webster Company, and will close up his business on the coast and come here by the first of June. Young Mr. Hance and wife are both enthusiastic motorists, and they think of coming across the continent in their own car.

E.J. Pratt has been confined to the house by boils, but is out again.

Firemen were called to the lock-up on Miles street in Millers Falls at 2:30 o'clock the other morning for a blaze that caused but little damage. James Hall, a prisoner, felt cold in the night and made an attempt to warm the place by burning his sweater in the cell.

The very next case of "highway robbery" was reported by Thomas F. Lapean, who works in the railroad shops at East Deerfield, who claimed that while walking from Montague City to East Deerfield, Saturday night, he was attacked and robbed by two men answering the description of the Turners Falls "desperadoes."

He claimed that the two men held him up at the point of a pistol and that the big fellow went through his

clothes, taking from his hip pocket three \$10 gold certificates, but leaving his wife's gold watch. Lapean claimed he had saved the money to purchase a new suit of clothes.

"Loughlin's Comedy Dogs" at the Lawler theatre, Greenfield, tomorrow and Friday afternoon and evening, have created more favorable comment than any other dog act that has ever been in this vicinity. Besides being clever animals, they are funny beyond description. Their efforts to hold their places on a revolving platform brought down the house at Monday evening's performance.

March 31, 1915

The selectmen have placed an order for 8000 gallons of oil which will be applied this spring upon the various macadam roads of the town. The application of oil to Avenue A last year was a great improvement, and the use of the oil will tend to still greater general improvement of the roads.

Turners Falls has lost one of its most prominent citizens and veteran merchants through the death of Myron B. Allen, who died at his home on Prospect street last Wednesday night, after a long and distressing illness. Mr. Allen was but 58 years of age, but for nearly 40 years he had been a resident of Turners Falls and identified in many ways with community life and interests.

He was well known by every man, woman and child in town, and his passing marks the removal of one more of the early residents who actively figured in the days when Turners Falls was beginning to be.

Frank Gerald, who has charge of repairing the State highways in this section, will begin resurfacing the road from Eleventh street to Montague City as soon as the frost leaves the ground.

Frank E. Briggs, who has been the efficient postmaster at Turners Falls for the past 20 years, leaves Uncle Sam's employ to-day. Mr. Briggs has bought a half interest in the Corner bookstore and in the

trucking business of Fred C. Haigis & Co., and will begin his new business career very soon.

Last Wednesday morning at about 2 o'clock an alarm of fire was sounded for a fire in the house, barn and shop of Frank Cross. A bucket brigade was formed and the canal being close by, the houses around were saved.

If there had been a wind immense damage would have been done and it would have been impossible to have checked the fire. Mr. Cross and daughter Louise lost nearly everything, but he plans to rebuild on the same location. There was insurance.

Michael Derinzo, aged 37, an Italian employee of the Fred T. Ley company, contractors, who are building the new power-house at Montague City, was struck in the head with a heavy timber Monday morning, receiving injuries from which he died. He leaves a widow and four children in Italy and one brother and two sisters in Turners Falls.

The Woman's Club of Turners Falls voted, at their last meeting, to endorse Senate Bill No. 78 which makes it illegal to sell milk produced under filthy conditions and House Bill No. 1340 which provides for the enforcement of Senate Bill No. 78. Miss Marion O'Keefe of Avenue A, daughter of Landlord M.J. O'Keefe, received a gold medal last week at the Greenfield Commercial school, for speed and accuracy.

A local lodge of the Sons of St. George is being organized among the British people and enough names have been secured to apply for a charter.

Mrs. N.P. Farrell of High street, regent of the Dorothy Quincy Hancock chapter, D.A.R. of Greenfield, attended the state meeting of the order in Boston last week. Her daughter Annette accompanied her to the Hub.

An electric Orgoblow has been installed in the Congregational church to replace the water motor which has been in use so many years to pump the bellows of the pipe organ. The

Orgoblow is a fan blower run by electricity and is a vast improvement over the old method.

Andrew Schulda, whose case was continued from last week, was before the district court Friday, charged with larceny of brass from the International Paper Co. He was found guilty but on the recommendation of State Agent Palmer he was released, on condition that he go to work, a definite promise of steady work having been given Schulda by the Holbrook Cabot and Rollins Construction Co.

Max Baker was also before the court, charged with receiving stolen property, the said stolen property consisting of the brass which Schulda had taken, and which had been found in Baker's barn.

The Turners Falls high school basket ball team lost the second and deciding game in the series with the Pittsfield High school, by one point, at Hibernian hall, Friday night, the score being 26 to 25 in favor of Pittsfield.

April 5, 1916

The passing of the log drive ends another chapter in Connecticut river history. New difficulties have conspired to end a custom of half a century. The building of power plants has added to the expense of drawing the logs and the logs have interfered with the rights of motor boat owners who have been after the lumber companies like a lot of hornets.

Hereafter the logs will be sawed into lumber near the forests around the headwaters of the Connecticut, and will be shipped from various points by rail. Once the logs went as far as Hartford, which at that time was the center of the New England lumber industry. Latterly, the logs have been stopped at Mt. Tom, a short distance below Northampton.

The F.I. Webster company sent 1000 pounds of dynamite to Shelburne Falls Saturday to blow up the ice jams near that place. Ralph Smith was pilot of the touchy stuff.

The jury in the Superior Court last



The Millers Falls Fire and Water district, laying pipe on the Millers River, circa 1910. From the Adrian Savage collection at the Carnegie Library.

week returned a verdict for \$1500 in the suit of Miss Myrtle L. Jones of Gill against Prof. B. George Wilkins, a magnetic healer, with a sanitarium in Wilmington, Vt. Miss Jones sued for \$10,000 alleging that she was injured while taking a vapor bath at the Wilkins institution.

Since Saturday, April 1, the curfew sounds at nine o'clock nightly instead of eight o'clock as has been the case all winter. The youngsters are rejoicing at the change.

The Turners Falls Board of Trade will hold their second annual ladies' night in High school hall, on Wednesday evening at eight o'clock. Dr. Clarence E. Rice of Springfield will deliver a travel lecture, illustrated with colored stereopticon views, on "Portland, Maine, to Portland, Oregon, thence to Japan, via the Canadian Pacific."

Turners Falls Aerie of Eagles have voted to buy a talking machine for use in their club rooms.

April 4, 1917

Sap hasn't been running any too well it is said, but what they do get is reported to be extra sweet, so far.

At the special meeting of the Turners Falls Fire District, held in the town hall, Thursday evening, Daniel F. Daly was elected moderator. There was a large attendance, and much interest was manifested in the business on hand, the matter of replacing or renewing the equipment at the pumping station in Lake Pleasant. Engineer Pelletier of Springfield reported on the co-operative cost of steam and electric equipment at the pumping station, and also on increasing the storage capacity of the reservoir.

John Girard of the Gem market of L street has a new Ford delivery car.

Clarence W. Allen and Arthur J. Lamoreaux of this place have joined Co. L. The company now has 136 members.

Troop 1 of the Boy Scouts took a hike, Saturday, through Montague City, over the mountain to Greenfield and return, a distance of

about five miles.

In the event of actual war with Germany, the Young Men's Christian Association is prepared to establish work with the utmost promptness. In all camps where National Guardsmen or volunteer troops may be mobilized, buildings will be erected and facilities provided to best meet the needs of the troops.

The boys of Franklin County are being trained to co-operate as messengers, guards, and substitutes for the men in store and factory, and on the farm.

The *Gazette* being considerably over 100 years old, must be suffering from a lapse of memory of the more recent of local happenings, so common in those of advanced years. It says that Turners Falls did its part in the civil war in sending soldiers to the front.

It has slipped the *Gazette's* memory that during the period of the civil war, Turners Falls as a civic entity was not crowding the surrounding municipalities off the map. In 1861, Turners Falls, with no municipal boundaries, consisted of two houses, and a derelict boatmen's hotel, its occupation gone with the disuse of the navigation canal.

There are no steam mills in operation in Wendell. Harry Hackett, who has been located in the eastern part of the town for a year or more, got through and moved into North New Salem on another one of the Diamond Match Company's lots.

Rev. L.G. Spooner, while driving to his home late Monday night, was run into on Deerfield street, by an automobile headed toward Greenfield, and his horse was so severely injured that it had to be killed. The police are investigating. The driver of the automobile kept right on his way after the accident.

Chief of Police D.F. Ripley with Deputy Sheriffs C.A. Davis, M.J. Carroll and Officers Thaler, Callahan, Moreau, Redding, Griffin and Maynard, made a raid on several places at South End Saturday night, and seized considerable liquor and



The Millers Falls Company, as seen looking east from the bridge, circa 1912.

beer which was confiscated.

Blassberg Brothers of X street, who collect papers, rubbers and junk, which is always unearthed in great amounts at housecleaning time, will relieve housekeepers of all this stuff, at prevailing prices, upon notice to call.

Miss Annie March, whose marriage to Merriam Partenheimer takes place soon, was given a shower at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Argy on High street last week by her fellow-employees in the Turners Falls cotton mills.

The warrior's degree will be worked on a class of candidates by Samoset tribe of Red Men tomorrow night.

Members of the Greenfield electric social club and Turners Falls power and electric company social club held a chess tournament in the latter's club rooms, Tuesday evening. Refreshments were served after the tournament.

April 3, 1918

The Connecticut river is now clear of ice up to White River Junction, Vt. The ice started going out Saturday and by Sunday, the river was clear to the Vernon dam.

The electric cars ran into Montague Center, Wednesday, March 27th, for the first time since December.

F. Martineau & Sons, the contractors, have bought of the Taft estate the three two-tenement houses and the three-tenement brick block on L street, formerly owned by the late George Hartley, and still known as the "Hartley houses."

During the month of March, the following articles were sent from the Turners Falls branch of the Red Cross: 44 sweaters; 58 pair socks; 3 helmets; 6 pair wristlets; 4 pair hospital socks; 4766 gauze dressings; 2437 2x2 wipes; 29 T bandages; 83 triangular bandages; 41 pajama suits; 14 hospital shirts; 2 packages tuberculosis wipes; and 3 comfort pillows.

Posters for the third Liberty loan are much in evidence and are very striking. They have a more war-like note, most of them, than the former ones.

The members of troop 1 of the Boy Scouts entitled to medals for selling Liberty bonds will receive them in public at the Opera house Friday night, Scoutmaster L.E. Varet making the presentation.

Misses Hazel Hall, Anna Sullivan, Katherine Grimes, Ida Saulner and Alida Brosseau conducted a very successful food sale at the

Rist store, Saturday, for the benefit of Co. L, now at the front in France. The young women cleared \$665, and could have made more money, but the supply of food gave out.

The St. Cecile Society will hold a military whist party in their hall this evening.

April 2, 1919

The weather man went on a rampage last Friday, with the result that we had a combination of the worst weather we have had this winter, and by evening a good sized blizzard was in full swing. It took considerable courage and more breath to go out on such a night, and yet there was a fair sized audience at Hibernian hall, to attend the meeting on behalf of Armenian relief.

The speaker, General Asgapatian, was for many years in the military and diplomatic service of Persia, being for some time aide de camp to the Shah of Persia, and was raised to the rank of Major-General. He is a very highly educated, cultured Armenian, and a splendid example of his race.

Contrary to expectations, he made no attempt to send cold chills down the spines of his audience by a detailed recital of the atrocities to which the Armenians and the unfortunate peoples in the near east have been subjected by the Turks, but he wisely chose to inform his hearers on little known phases of the history, nature, and accomplishments of the Armenian people and told why it was that they are subjected to such atrocious treatment by the Musselmans.

About 100 cords of wood have been secured from the trees cut down along the river bank above the narrows, this winter, and have been piled near the vicinity of the Keith spring. The grove now looks very bare and strange.

Henry E. Beaumier, chairman of the selectmen, had received a communication from the state board of health regarding the scarcity of physicians in town, informing him that the district health officer would be sent here at once to investigate the matter and that some means would be found to help the situation.

The first drowning accident of the season occurred last Wednesday afternoon shortly before five o'clock, when Bolek Caston, a six-year-old Polish boy, was drowned. The little fellow, with two mates was playing on the river bank, about 300 feet above the dam, where the power company has a little wharf for the use of their boats. He fell off the bank and into the water and

as the current here is very swift, he was evidently carried through the headgates and drowned.

The boy's hat was found at Montague City but the body had not been recovered at last accounts.

Corporal Park M. Williams of Fourth street, who recently received his discharge from the service after recovery from severe wounds, received a citation Wednesday.

Alonso Atherton, aged 83, of Bernardston, was instantly killed Monday morning at the Greenfield end of the lower suspension bridge. He was on his way home and as he drove upon the bridge his horse, which was very mettlesome, started on a run.

On making the turn at the west end of the bridge, Mr. Atherton was seen to fall from the wagon by William Croft, superintendent of the Elseeck manufacturing company. When the hay had been removed and Mr. Atherton picked up, he was dead. He was a former resident of Gill and came to Turners Falls frequently to sell butter and eggs.

Corporal Earl D. Scott of Greenfield, son of Creston Scott of Woodleigh Avenue, is reported in the casualty list as killed in action.

Andrew Galonki of G street was struck by an automobile late Saturday night at the corner of Seventh street and Avenue A. He was picked up unconscious and taken to the Farnen hospital. Dr. Charron found that he escaped with only bruises and a severe shaking up. The driver, it is said, sounded his horn and Galonki stopped and then unexpectedly darted in front of the car.

Joseph Bertrang of X street has arrived home after receiving his discharge from the navy. He was attached to the tanker Henry and had some exciting experiences, including an attack by a submarine.

Members of the Peskeompskut club, and ladies, enjoyed a delightful and varied social evening last Thursday. There was music by the Goodwin colored jazz band of Amherst, followed by a special moving picture feature at the Opera house, after which refreshments, card playing, dancing and sociability at the club rooms concluded an evening of rare pleasure for all.


J. T. Miner's pool room on Avenue A was entered last Wednesday night, apparently by boys, and about \$5 in pennies stolen.

A debate between speakers from the Orange high school and Turners Falls high school has been arranged to be held in Turners Falls on April 10. The subject to be discussed is "The provisions of the covenant adopted



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An automobile coexisting with the electric streetcar, probably around 1920, looking southwest toward the Crocker building on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

by the peace conference at Paris should be ratified by the United States.”

An epidemic of roller skating has broken out among the young people of Marshall, High and adjacent streets, and all the youngsters of the section are whizzing, or falling over the sidewalks, according to their skill or inexperience.

March 31, 1920

The ice and snow are fast disappearing from the main thoroughfares and the Avenue is dry for the greater part. More automobiles are appearing every day.

The ice in the Connecticut river went out Sunday afternoon without causing any damage in this vicinity. The Turners Falls Power & Electric Co. had been preparing for the break-up and took all possible means to prevent a too rapid rise of the water. Never before, as far as anyone remembers, has it been possible to cross the river on the ice, for so long a period as this year.

The John Russell Cutlery company factory has taken out the last water wheel having completed the system of electrification from the

power plant at Montague City.

Work on the new building for the Crocker National bank is now progressing rapidly, the plasterers having finished their work and the painters and finishers bustling along with theirs.

The store front of Stephen Drago & Co. on the Avenue has been repainted.

The community was shocked, Friday, to hear of the sudden death of Elmer T. Hart, a well known resident of Montague City, and a leader in Odd Fellowship and Masonic circles, especially the former. Mr. Hart was 57 years old, and though he was known to have a heart trouble he attended to his business and seemed in his usual health until Friday morning when he was suddenly stricken and died within a few hours.

Mr. Hart had been a travelling salesman for the Montague City Rod Co. for about 20 years, covering the western territory.

The jitneys have come out of their enforced winter retirement and resumed business yesterday morning.

April 6, 1921

A strike of painters and carpenters

against a reduction in wages, began last week, and is affecting local jobs. Work on all is at a standstill.

A free public demonstration of cooking by electricity will be given next Tuesday afternoon at the McCullough battery shop on Main street, and all interested Millers Falls, Lake Pleasant and Montague people are invited. An expert from the Edison Electric Appliance Co. of Boston will be in charge and the actual process of cooking in an electric range will be fully demonstrated.

The Hotel Vladish is to be rechristened and will be known as the Turners Falls Inn.

Contractor F. Martineau & Sons are to build five new houses on O street and 17th street, anticipating a demand for these houses when the Montague Machine Co’s new shop is completed. More men will be employed at the new plant, and it is thought these new houses will then be needed.

Blassberg Bros have applied to the selectmen for a permit to erect and maintain a gasoline storage tank and pump on the northwest side of Second street on land owned by Wm. Davenport. Napoleon Girard has pe-

titioned the Selectmen for a permit to build a three-car garage on the rear of his lot at 98 Third street. Public hearings on these petitions will be given at the Selectmen’s rooms on Tuesday evening.

Albert and Herman Bosback of Holyoke were severely injured, Sunday, while motorcycling on the Montague City road and were taken to the Farren hospital. The accident occurred when the motorcyclists attempted to pass an automobile but found too late that there wasn’t quite room enough.

Tony Belski was fined \$30 in the district court, Monday, by Judge Leary, after being found guilty of breaking down a fence on the property of his neighbor, Andrew Krenzel of N street. The two men had a dispute, recently, and the fence seems to have been the worst sufferer.

The Turners Falls library broke all records for the circulation of books last month, when a total of 4475 books, the largest number in the library’s history, were taken out. This number is 800 more than the previous high water mark for any one month.

Prof. F.B. Loomis of the department of geology at Amherst college, gave an illustrated lecture on “Finding the ancestors of the horse,” at the Brotherhood meeting, Monday evening at Montague.

April 5, 1922

Frank J. Aldrich, postmaster at Pike, N.H., and who years ago was a former valued employee of the REPORTER, has sent the editor the sweetest and most acceptable spring-time greeting possible, a can of Simon Pure maple syrup. There is no finer produced by maples anywhere than in the section where he is located. Mr. Aldrich is an occasional visitor in Turners Falls and still recalls with pleasure the early days here.

A varied collection of smocks and middies made by the pupils in the sewing classes of the public schools, now on display in the Boston store window, is exciting much favorable comment.

Frank Goldfarb, president and manager of the Harvard Pickle Works, was found guilty of arson, Thursday, after a lengthy trial. The South Deerfield plant of the compa-

ny was destroyed last November, and Goldfarb was indicted, on a charge of setting fire to the building.

Robbers got into Fournier’s drug store and both railway depots Thursday night. No arrests as yet. The drug store was a heavy loser, about \$150 worth of fountain pens and \$12 in change was taken. A panel was smashed in a back door, the thief putting his hand through and opening the door. About 40 pens were taken from the smashed case. The thief was evidently not a cigarette fiend; he took none.

Entrance to both depots was made through unlocked doors. Aside from a few stamps stolen from the New Haven depot, there was no other loss. A man’s footsteps, nearly obliterated by the snow which had fallen through the night, were shown leading from the Boston and Maine depot.

At the first ukulele instruction class held at Harugari hall, seventy-five interested ladies and gentlemen were present. Mr. Nolan gave notice that the group would meet again tonight, at which time those having other string instruments may also appear.

T.F. Harrington of Montague has a piece of hardtack which he brought back from his service in the Civil war. He also has a knife, fork and spoon which he carried and used all the time he was in the army.

The Conway electric passenger and freight railway, running from South River, near Bardwell’s on the Deerfield river, to Conway, seven miles, has gone into the hands of the junk man.

When it started, some 25 years ago, Conway people were jubilant, as it gave them good connection with two trunk lines running east and west, and much was hoped for it in the development of that enterprising factory town away up in the hills, where money and fame had been made in the production of cottons and woolens; but the auto came and hit a bad blow, and then the old established factories paid the penalty of isolation from labor, and went the way of so many factories with power on mountain streams.

Two years ago the road stopped, like grandfather’s clock, never to go again.



Spring Time is
Buying Time
Read The Ads

Turners Falls Herald

Spring Time is
Buying Time
Read The Ads

VOLUME 1 — NUMBER 18

TURNERS FALLS, MASS., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1941

COPY FIVE CENTS

April 2, 1941

Driving around the valley during the week-end, we passed many newly-ploughed fields, and the smell of fresh earth was in the air, mingled with other early-spring scents.

There were four Turners Falls men, three from Gill, and one from

Montague center among the 15 classified as 1-A, available for immediate service, by the Montague district draft board at its meeting last week. A total of 72 men were classified.

The Turners Falls airport soon may boast of the first air travelers’ “tourist camp,” according to plans announced today by Don Hood of the Hood Air Craft Sales. Hood said he and George Galipeau, airport co-managers, plan to rebuild cabins on their property for overnight accommodation of flyers landing at the local field.

Other plans include building of two lounges, one for men and one for women, on the second floor of the house, and a restaurant at the field, to be furnished with kitchen equipment from the house.

The town of Montague industrial payroll was increased approximately \$300 last week by the ten per cent raise, plus time and a half for overtime, given to more than 150

employees of the Kendall mills.

Sixty members of the painters’ union, local 884 AFL struck for a 10 cent an hour wage increase yesterday morning, and returned to work less than two hours later, having compromised on a five-cent increase.

Oily rags ignited by spontaneous combustion set fire to the floor of the Farren Memorial hospital workshop yesterday morning at about 3 o’clock. Quick action by the night watchman and the Turners Falls fire department prevented what might have been a disastrous blaze.

Miss Velma Beaubien, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Beaubien of Park street, is ill at home with scarlet fever.

A poolroom license and permit to sell confectionery on Sunday was given to Verney White of 56 Fourth street.

Walter Kuniski of 98 Fifth street sustained a slight scalp wound Sunday afternoon when his car turned

over on route 5 near the Deerhead in Deerfield Sunday.

About 100 friends gave a surprise party for Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nadeau at St. Jean’s hall, Third street Monday night in honor of the couple’s marriage last Thursday.

A mild epidemic believed to be chicken pox appeared here this week, with 12 children reported absent from one Central street school room yesterday.

The American house bowling alleys closed this week, and will remain closed during the summer.

This season would seem to be a good time for all of us to take stock of “housecleaning” that needs attention. Since Turners Falls is one of the Pioneer valley communities, it may expect a share of tourists, although perhaps not a proportionate share, as we no longer are on a main highway route.

Little things such as clean streets, neat store fronts, well-kept lawns, and freshly-painted trim

houses are more important in creating a favorable impression of a town than all the fine phrases of advertising copywriters, for these little things indicate that townspeople are anxious to make their community attractive not only for themselves, but for strangers, too.

There are vacant lots on the Avenue which are only plots where weeds and poison ivy thrive. Most of us pass these vacant stretches so often we fail to think of them as other than natural, yet we have heard strangers remark on the “unfinished” look of the avenue.

A good community project for this spring would be to allot a section of the avenue to each civic organization, and conduct a contest to see which could do the best job of beautifying.

April Fool’s day is past, but they continue to bomb cities and kill women and children in Europe and Asia.



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THOREAU COMES TO TOWN

for a night at the Shea / Page 9



34 MILLION FRIENDS

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 3, 2003



2005: Montague acquires the Strathmore mill complex, formerly Keith Paper.

PETER MILLER PHOTO

April 3, 2003

Bob Mahler, for ten years the principal of the Gill Elementary School, and Anna Garbiel, for 22 years the principal of the Montague Center School, have been given notices of non-renewal of their contracts.

At a Tuesday afternoon meeting, members of the personnel subcommittee of the Gill-Montague school committee and superintendent Brenda Finn defended their decision regarding the veteran administrators' contracts as a necessary move brought on by fiscal constraints, and nothing more, in front of a distraught crowd of parents and teachers, and the two principals themselves.

The search for a new town coordinator in Wendell is on again, as Donna Walters recently submitted a letter of resignation several weeks after starting the job. Walters cited lack of office equipment and furniture as her reason for leaving. She said she feels awkward asking the towns for extensive investments in this tight budget time, and does not have the tools required for performing the job.

The Turners Falls High/Great Falls Middle School renovation and addition project came in \$5 million under budget. Resident engineer Roy Niedbala had high praise for the general contractor, Aquadro & Cerrito of Northampton.

"This is a nice firm to work with," Niedbala said. "they try to do things right. I do have to keep an eye on some of the subs, but that's my job. Mostly, it's minor things. All in all, I have to say the job is going very ell, but we've still got a ways to go with the change orders and all."

The rumor mill has been working overtime in Turners Falls. There's the story that Davenport Trucking of Greenfield decided to show up one morning to move the fire hydrant from in front of the Colle Opera House to in front of Jay K's Liquors without telling either the water department or the fire chief.

"None of that is true," Michael Brown of the water department said. "We've been in contact with the renovators of the Colle discussing this for the past six months. They're a very cooperative company. We've worked with them in the past on the Crocker Building and other places they've rehabbed, and they've been very good about doing just what we ask them to do."

April 1, 2004

After more than a century of talking and planning, the one-mile Route 2 relocation of the winding roller-coaster section of highway passing by the Erving Industries paper mill has begun. Dino Pallos is superintendent for the general contractor, E.T. & L. Corp of Stowe, MA subcontracted clearing to T. Jepson and Son of Sterling, MA, who are off to a fast start.

The straightened, flatter section of road has a completion date of 2005. After the bypass is finished, the old convoluted section of highway, site of numerous traffic accidents, will become the property of Erving Industries.

"The relocation will make it safer for trucks entering and exiting the mill," Morris Housen said. "It will also make it safer for our employees crossing the road from the parking lot to the mill. It's dangerous."

Jepson's clearing operation is strictly mechanized. A TimerJack feller-buncher saws tress off at the stump as the machine hugs them with hydraulically actuated metal arms. In seconds the machine severs trees, and then bunches them into neat piles.

After stacking a number of piles, a John Deere skidder swaps in. It skids bunches of full length trees to an ETR log saw, which cuts the tress into logs in just seconds. Logs are sorted into stacks by species: black oak, red pine, and white pine. Tree limbs and tops go into a Mor Bark whole-tree chipper.

The Montague selectboard weighed in on the issue of the proposed uprate in power production at 32-year-old Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, VT. On a motion by selectboard member Allen Ross, the board called on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to undertake an independent safety review of the plant.

In a letter drafted by Ross, the board told NRC chairman Nils Diaz, "The Montague selectboard is responsible for the health and safety of its citizens. Montague is located 20 miles from the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant and would potentially be affected by hazards resulting from it.

"We urge that an independent safety assessment be undertaken prior to a proposed 20% increase in energy producing capacity."

March 31, 2005

Town meeting authorized the selectboard to sign a purchase and sale agreement for the Strathmore complex, the 134-year-old, 250,000-square-foot former Keith paper mill. Part of the agreement was a stipulation allowing four months for the town to conduct a feasibility study before completing the purchase. If the results of the study are discouraging, the selectboard may withdraw from the purchase and sale agreement with no penalty.

After forming a citizen advisory committee to guide the process, drafting a request for proposals, and interning five candidates for the role of consultant, the town settled on Boston-based Finegold Alexander.

The team is expected to come up with an analysis of the market potential for reuse of the mill, an evaluation of the structural integrity of the vast complex, a plan for improving parking and access to the Strathmore, and an estimate of what partial or complete demolition of the site would cost should redevelopment plans fail.

They've been given an eight-week timeline to complete the tasks.

The future of the former Mariamante property on Main Road in Gill is still uncertain, but the town should decide what type of development in wants before a determination is made of the need for archaeological studies. According to Professor Mitchell Mulholland, director of the Archaeological Services Department at UMass-Amherst, it is uncertain whether any studies are even required.

At this point, it appears land can be developed without a detailed archaeological study if the town does not seek federal or state money for the project. However, Mulholland advised the town to consider doing an "intensive locational survey" to map out areas in need of protection from development.

March 30, 2006

Montague special town meeting approved feasibility studies for a new police station and a community center Thursday night. The community center would combine the main branches of the town library with the Gill-Montague senior center and programs of the parks and recreation department.

Discussion was preceded by a

PowerPoint presentation given by police chief Ray Zukowski, parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz, senior center director Bunny Caldwell, and library director Sue SanSoucie, detailing the drawbacks of the those departments' present facilities.

The measures did not pass without debate. David Jensen, Precinct 2, said, "Wow! We're studying this again. In my experience with these studies, there's been a reality check problem. Some of these studies – as worthy as they may be – once the study is completed, it so far exceeds our ability to pay for these projects it almost makes the study useless."

Stephen Cobb, a longtime resident of Avenue A, was arrested at the corporate headquarters of the Entergy Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant on Tuesday, along with nine others. "We celebrated the 27th anniversary

tion now turns to elections coming up for the Gill-Montague school district. The spotlight is on the issues of elementary school configuration, intra-district choice, and steadily rising school assessments to the towns.

The races are for two three-year seats in Montague and one three-year seat in Gill. Squaring off against incumbents Mary Kociela and Richard Colton are Kelly Gobiell, Steven Palso, and Joyce Phillips. In Gill, two candidates are vying for a three-year seat being vacated by Sue Henry: Sandy Brown and Heidi Engelhard. Linda Kuklewicz is running unopposed for a two-year seat in Montague being vacated by Deb Bourbeau.

Kuklewicz said she decided to run for the school committee because, "This is a time we have to decide whether we're going to have buildings or teachers. We cannot af-



DAVID DETMOLD PHOTO

2006: Tuva's Alash plays the Shea Theater.

of the meltdown at Three Mile Island by doing a three-mile walk from the Brattleboro town common up to the offices of Entergy," said Cobb, who cooks at a local food coop.

Ten people, including a number of Franklin County residents, were arrested for disorderly conduct and trespassing, and released with a summons to appear in Brattleboro District Court on May 9.

The musical group Alash filled the Shea Theater with sounds not often heard in these parts, presenting an enticing introduction to *khoomei*, or throat-singing. The band hails from the Republic of Tuva, a republic in south central Siberia, bordering Russia and Mongolia.

April 5, 2007

The construction project on Main Road in Gill is grinding on. F&J Construction, of Ludlow, installed a bypass culvert to temporarily divert the brook south of Upingill Farm to enable them to excavate, remove the old culvert, and install a new one.

The construction company chose to do the work in the winter so they did not have to post a turtle guard as the job specifications required. The culvert is being specially designed to suit the area's extensive turtle population, so they do not try to cross the road and get run over.

With nominating papers in, atten-

ford to have both. I'm going to go with our teachers."

For the last twelve years, voters in Gill have always seen one of three names – Phil Maddern, Ann Banash, or Lee Stevens – at the top of the town ballot. These three have served on the selectboard for that long. But this year Maddern, who has been selectman for 15 years, the longest of the three, has been recuperating at home from an illness since December and absent from selectboard meetings since then. He has decided not to run again.

This May, the town will see a new name on the top of the ballot: Nancy Griswold, who has come forward to run for the three-year seat Maddern is vacating.

April 3, 2008

In the middle of a Montague selectboard meeting, Frank Abbondanzio made the surprise announcement that the former Strathmore Mill owner Jerry Jones had tried hoodwink the town this week by filing a quitclaim deed on April 1 with the Registry of Deeds on the Strathmore Mill, which he has apparently tried to sell to a New York speculator named James Bent for the sum of \$1.

Bent, operating under the colorful business moniker of Fabulous Investment Opportunities, with an address listed as Canal Street in

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Turners Falls, had announced his intent some months ago to purchase and raze the mill for salvage materials.

Abbondanzio's announcement was greeted with a mix of shock and incredulity by the boards.

The Gill-Montague school committee voted 6 to 3 to shut down options for maintaining the Montague Center School as an expanded K-5 district elementary school or a Horace Mann in-district charter school. The votes came after heated debate among the committee, and impassioned pleas from community members to allow the process of exploring alternative proposal to go forward.

The decision to reject the proposals effectively ends a three-month gambit by which the school committee voted on December 11 to allow community groups to form in support of keeping either Montague Center or Hillcrest Elementary open, under alternative governance structures or configurations, and to bring in detailed proposals for how their plans would work.

No proposals came forward regarding Hillcrest, which will remain at least for next year to serve as an early childhood education center for Montague pre-K and kindergarten students.

Brick House Americorps volunteer Ruth Nervig came before the Montague selectboard with Eva Licata, co-owner of Seth and Eva's eclectic Avenue A merchandise and music store, with a plan to (once again) renovate the Turners Falls skate park, and get it ready for use by summer.

The park, which has been locked down and disused for most of the last five years, was brought entirely back to working condition just as the first snow began to fall last year. Soon buried under the snow, the newly resurfaced wooden ramps warped over the winter, rendering them unfit for skateboards and BMX bikes.

April 2, 2009

The Gill selectboard, facing tough budget options, is planning to put an article on the annual town meeting warrant this May taking the voters to declare the Riverside Municipal Building and the 1.5 acres of land it sits on surplus property. A positive vote would clear the way for the selectboard to explore the possibility of selling the property, which is assessed at \$480,200.

The building still houses a school on part of the first floor: the Four Winds School, a small private middle school, leases classroom space from the town for a little more than \$10,000 a year, a figure close to what administrative assistant Tracy Rogers estimates the town spends to heat and maintain the building.

"Are you going to go to college?" asked retiring selectboard chairman Allen Ross on Monday night of one

of the candidates running to take his place. This is not a question candidates for public office are typically posed, but in this case it seemed fair.

Sitting across from the conference table from Ross was Joshua Gammon, a senior at Turners Falls High School, who was been accepted at Tulane University in New Orleans and Emory University in Atlanta, among other places.

Asked if he could solve the school and town budget problem, Gammon replied coolly that his time stated as the student council representative to the school committee and as president of the student council gave him a unique perspective on the budget problem. "I can see it both ways," said Gammon. "I think it's solvable."

April 1, 2010

Thirty or more business owners, residents, and town officials gathered in the Montague selectboard meeting room Wednesday afternoon for a meeting with Mass Department of Transportation engineers and district highway director Al Stegeman to work on a plan for signage to import traffic flow during the upcoming four-year reconstruction of the Gill-Montague Bridge.

Nancy Griswold is running for a second term on the Gill selectboard. The Oak Street resident, who also serves on the board of assessors, said she decided to run again because the town is in a tough financial position, and "there are some things I'd like to see through."

Randy Crochier of Munns Ferry Road is also running for the three-year seat. Crochier, who has worked at the Farren Care Center in Montague City for the last five years, has served on Gill's board of health for many years.

Chris Boutwell (D) has entered the three-way race for a three-year seat on the Montague selectboard. Also in the running for the seat being left open by Patricia Pruitt are Rachel Roy (R) and Margaret Pyfrom (D).

Last month, the Massachusetts Senate unanimously approved a school nutrition bill, following similar legislation in the House, to ban high-calorie sodas, salty or sugary snacks, and deep fat fried foods; set nutritional standards for all food sold in schools; incorporate more fresh fruits and vegetables; and encourage schools to buy local produce.

But Jim Loynd, director of food services for the Gill-Montague Regional School District said the new regulation will have very little impact on the GMRSD, because those guidelines have already been largely implemented in the four kitchens under his supervision.

March 31, 2011

About 20 people got together in town hall to try to revive the moribund Montague agricultural com-

mission, and to consider ways to boost local food production, support local farmers and growers, and continue the effort to preserve agricultural land in town.

Wendell shrank dramatically in population according to the 2010 U.S. Census data released last week – 14% – more than any other of the 26 towns in Franklin County, which as a whole lost 0.2% of its population compared to the 2000 census.

The Gill-Montague Regional School District will lose \$1,083,945 in school choice sending tuition in the coming fiscal year. Fifty-six percent of that loss will be offset by students who choice into the GMRSD, bringing \$607,414 with them. The anticipated school-choice deficit for Gill-Montague district is the highest net loss since the school choice program began 14 years ago.

At a continuation of the Greenfield planning board's deliberation on a special permit for Peruzzi Properties of Fairfield, CT to construct a 135,000-square-foot combined discount retailer and grocery store on the former Mackin gravel pit on the French King Highway, vice chair Linda Smith questioned whether the proposed development would comply with corridor overlay district guidelines.

Like the sparrows retiring to Capistrano, people flocked to Sirum Equipment's annual John Deere Appreciation Day from all over New England.



2011: Montague's agricultural commission is revived.

April 5, 2012

Montague's parks and recreation department announced with great fanfare this week that the long-awaited groundbreaking for phase I of the Unity Park improvement project will begin Monday, April 9.

Phase I improvements will include a new playground, refurbished landscaping, and repaved parking near the field house, which will once again be the year-round home for the department.

For ten years, Fran Hemond has been delighting *Montague Reporter* readers with her vivid accounts of scenes from Cold Brook Farm in Montague Center. Among many observations, she answers the questions, "who has breakfast with me?" at the bird feeder, and "who is paddling about on the pond?"

A wide variety of birds have landed at Cold Brook Farm over the years to attend Hemond's "Breakfast Club."

There was graveside parking only at the Wendell Free Library's world premiere of Doug Dawson's short film, *Donna and Alia Go Scrapping*, on Sunday, March 25. Dawson introduced the film by admitting he had only scripted the first scene, and added happily that with actors capable enough to design their own roles, he was more of a director and a consultant than a writer and director.

The crowd roared with laughter, they so enjoyed the show.

Sirum Equipment's annual open house was again a huge success, with folks flocking in like the sparrows to Capistrano.

April 4, 2013

The wave of theft that has plagued downtown businesses in Turners Falls this winter has now spread to affect service providers as well. The Brick House was broken into and burglarized. Among the items stolen from the teen center were several staff laptops, bass guitars, a MIDI keyboard, an audio mixer, and a bass amplifier.

According to Brick House director of operations Jared Libby, "the equipment from the recording studio – stuff teen participants use regularly – hurts more than the laptops, because that impacts our ability to provide programs and services. The missing mixing board means we can't have music shows."

In its written statement, the organization describes the loss as "particularly difficult, since the theft of musical instruments and sound gear means a direct impact on our youth participants, who used this equipment daily."

On Saturday, people filled Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls to see the Pothole Pictures screening of *Bully*, the 2012 documentary about one of the most important education and social issues of our time.

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WATER DEPARTMENT
WILL BEGIN READING
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JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

2007: A culvert for turtles, in Gill.

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV:
April 3 through 9

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Folks are out and about as beautiful spring weather continues to descend upon us.

For the coming week, tune into local meeting broadcasts including the Montague selectboard meeting on Monday at 7 p.m. and the finance committee meeting on Wednesday at 6 p.m. Stay tuned also for the broadband meeting, Gill select-board meeting, and Gill-Montague school committee meeting.

This week, check out our new 30-minute video, *What’s going on? 3/21/16*. A social experiment following pedestrians as they

pass by the corner of Avenue A & Third Street, we explore their answers when posed with the question, “What’s going on?” This segment is available online and on the TV schedule.

So, what’s going on in your world? Got something that others would like to see? Get in touch to learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We’d love to work with you!

Senior Center Activities
APRIL 4 to 8

GILL and MONTAGUE

Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the Center is closed.

Tues, Wed & Thurs Noon Lunch M, W 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

Monday 4/4

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 4/5

9:30 a.m. NO Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Special Program “Haverston Mills Town Meeting”

Wednesday 4/6

9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 4/7

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 4/8 Reflexology Appts.

1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at

(413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 4/4

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

11 a.m. Manicure appointments

Tuesday 4/5

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

11:30 Homemade Lunch (rsvp)

12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Wednesday 4/6

8 a.m. Volunteers to build Garden

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

9:30 a.m. Blood pressure Clinic

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs

1-3 p.m. Veterans Services

Thursday 4/7

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic

8:45 a.m. Aerobics (fast moving)

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Pick-up

12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring

Friday 4/8

9 a.m. Quilting

9:30 To Market (rsvp), Bowling

11:30 a.m. Pizza, Salad & Dessert

12:30 p.m. Painting; Family Tree

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us. Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

Information
Kiosk Planned
for Third and A

TURNERS FALLS – RiverCulture is raising money to renovate the information kiosk near the corner of Avenue A and 3rd Street. The goal is to create a visible and attractive location to present information about downtown businesses, restaurants, events, and outdoor recreation in Turners Falls.

With the opening of new restaurants, entertainment at the Shea Theater, and a packed skatepark, Turners Falls is seeing more first time visitors than ever. A kiosk would serve an important function directing visitors to our many resources. Improvements to the kiosk will include:

- Wood (with plexiglass) doors on both sides of the kiosk to keep posted material dry and attractive.
- Cork or an alternative material inside the kiosk to pin notices.
- Rack card holders in both displays for maps, menus, and business fliers.
- Small lights in the display areas to view information after dusk. Lights will be solar powered.
- Signage on the short sides of the kiosk that identify the structure as containing information.

It is estimated that the project will cost between \$900 and \$1200, and renovations will start in early April. Donations will pay for woodworking, materials and installation costs.

RiverCulture is accepting donations by check made out to Turners Falls RiverCulture c/o Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

If you are interested in volunteering or have a question, call Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture director, at (413) 835-1390 or riverculture@gmail.com.

Artists:
Design a Poster for
the Farmers Market!

MONTAGUE – The Great Falls Farmers Market is seeking entries for a Poster Contest for the 2016 Market season. Design a colorful, eye catching poster and win a 50 dollar prize, as well as have your artwork displayed all over town all summer long! Only original art work designed for 8 1/2 by 11 inch reproduction will be accepted. Judging will be by members of the Montague Agricultural Commission.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
MUST BE ON THE POSTER:

Great Falls Farmers Market 2 – 6 p.m.
Wednesday May through October Rain or Shine.
Avenue A Turners Falls near the Discovery Center.
SNAP, WIC, and Senior Coupons accepted

Submission deadline is April 18. Send hard copy to: Donna Francis, 130 Meadow Road, Montague, MA 01351. Digital entries to greatfallfarmersmarketurners@gmail.com. Questions call Donna at (413) 687-1288.

“Altered Books” Show

EASTHAMPTON – Curated by Montague artist **John Landino**, the “Altered Books” exhibit will feature a retrospective of 30 years of his welded book sculptures, the “Iron Bound Series.”

He has also invited local and national artist to exhibit their book arts pieces. The first of these events will be a preview of several Rotating Books Projects with participants of these three groups – two from Turners Falls and one from Easthampton – on Wednesday evening, April 6, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The series of handmade books were created over a one-year time period. The results are 36 beautiful one-of-a-kind books, each with a unique theme chosen by a partici-

pant. Members of the group added a page with their interpretation of the theme to each book every month.

Information will be available for people looking to join next year’s project or start your own.

“Altered Books” will hold an opening reception on April 9, and there will be other events on Wednesdays in April as part of Easthampton City Arts initiative “Book Arts Wednesdays” including book readings, video art, live music, a group artist talk, a participatory public book sculpture project and exhibiting artists.

For more information, contact John Landino experimentalhuman@gmail.com (413) 588-8308

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Window Inserts; High Cost of Cheap
Fashion; Low Cost of Cheap Books

MONTAGUE – There’s lots going on at the libraries this month. At the Carnegie this Saturday, April 2, there will be a used book sale from 10 until 2 p.m.

Hardcovers, DVDs, and audio books will be \$1 each. Paperbacks, 25 cents. Buy more than one hardcover by the same author, and get half off your purchase. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries.

A previously scheduled talk by Ed Gregory at the Library on the Fall River Dam on Saturday April 2 has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled soon.

The library is pleased to present a free workshop by Coop Power on making inexpensive window inserts for all Montague residents at the

Millers Fall Library on Thursday, April 7, from 2 to 5 p.m. Participants will learn how to make the inserts by crafting some for the leaky library windows, thereby helping us to save money on energy bills.

Anyone and everyone can make these energy saving improvements: no tools or special skills are needed, and all the materials are provided. “Winserts” reduce drafts by up to 50% per window, so the savings are very real. The Millers Library is at 23 Bridge Street.

The Turners Falls Genealogy Club will hold its next session on Thursday, April 7, from 6 to 7:45 p.m. at the Carnegie Library. This informal group discusses local genealogy and is facilitated by Sarah Campbell. It meets the first Thursday of each

month. For more information call 863-3214.

On Saturday, April 9 at 2 p.m. there will be a book discussion at the Carnegie led by Linda Hickman. The book under discussion is *Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion* by Elizabeth Cline. This easy to read, non-fiction book brings up many fascinating aspects of our increasingly inexpensive clothes, including many of the hidden costs.

Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk, pick one up today and join in! Also sponsored by the Friends.

For more information, or to be on the mailing list for events like these, please call 863-3214.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 10:30 a.m.

ONE MONDAY EACH MONTH

Wagon Wheel, Gill: *Wagon Wheel Word*. First week of each month. Monthly poetry reading, often with special guest poets. 6 p.m.

Carnegie Library: *Outside the Lines!* Last Monday of each month. Adult Coloring Group. Supplies provided. 6:30 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: Crafts and activities for children of all ages. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children with Mez, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*. Live acoustic guitar. 7 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. All musicians, comedians, and magicians are welcome! 8 p.m.

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EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*. Stories and hands-on arts & crafts. 10 a.m. to noon.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m.

EXHIBITS:

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls:



What happens when you combine a love of traditional American and Irish folk music with Mexo-Americana as David Wax Museum musical group has done? Well, NPR calls them "pure, irresistible joy". With a 2010 breakout performance at the Newport Folk Festival, they have gone on to play with The Avett Brothers, The Carolina Chocolate Drops, Buena Vista Social Club, and more. And now they are coming to Turners Falls on Saturday, April 2 to play at the Shea Theater with fellow act Darlingside, presented by Signature Sounds. The fun begins at 7:30 p.m.

Winter. Over 60 works of art created by more than 30 artists.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Vintage Powerhouse—Cabot Station: A One Hundred Year Retrospective*. This exhibit features historical photographs dating from the early 1900s that tell the story of the construction of the new concrete dam at Turners Falls, new power station and power canal expansion. At the time of its construction, Cabot Station was the largest hydroelectric facility east of Niagara Falls. Opening reception for this exhibit is 4/9, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Through 5/28.

Loot, Turners Falls: *Zuihitsu: paintings by Greta Svalberg*. *Zuihitsu* is derived from two Kanji characters meaning "to follow" and "brush." Through 5/8.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *On the Cusp*. Exhibit of Natasha Henna's photographic art begins on 3/31 running through 5/7. Closing artist's reception at the Nook on 5/7, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Montague Center: *From Darkness Into Light/ A Spring Exhibit*. Recent works by gallery members of this collaborative. Artists' recep-

tion is on Saturday 4/2, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Show runs until May 30.

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *"Transformation" A Group Show*. Featuring the work of member artists in paintings, fiber art, jewelry, photography, wood, pottery and more. Through 4/25.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Great Falls Farmer's Market in Turners Falls is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Poster Contest to design an eye-catching poster for the 2016 Farmer's Market. Deadline is April 18 for submissions. Questions: ask Donna Francis at (413) 687-1277 or email at greatfallsfarmersmarkettturners@gmail.com

Slate Roof Press, a member-

run collaborative, invites submissions to its annual poetry chapbook contest. The winner receives \$500, and will have his/her chapbook published by Slate Roof. Winners make a 3-year commitment to the press. May 15 deadline. For full contest guidelines, visit www.slateroofpress.com.

Silverthorne Theater Co., Greenfield: Sponsoring a competition to select a new play by a local playwright of color for possible production during the 2017 season. The deadline for submissions is 9/1. Complete information about the contest may be found at www.silverthornetheater.org/new-play-competition2.html

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

Swift River School, New Salem: *The Friends of The New Salem Public Library is presenting Weird Massachusetts featuring Jeff Boulanger*. Exploring the unexplained with a multi-media lecture, Q&A, and book signing; Boulanger uncovers the best kept secrets from all over the Bay State. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Hill & Friends*. Original Americana. 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Mamma's Marmalade with Pinedrop & Izy Cofey*. Bluegrass from Amherst, string band music from Brattleboro and folk music from Northampton. High energy and soulfulness. 8 p.m. \$

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. Free Rock 'n Roll show. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Four Rivers Charter Public School Annual Variety Show*. 7 p.m. \$

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Stolen Rhodes*. Americana Rock. With special guest *Chelsea Berry*, singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *The Pistoleros*. 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. Reggae Fantastico! 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *History Underwater* with Annette Spaulding who presents her underwater discoveries including a Native American petroglyph. The Nolumbeka Project will also discuss the Native American history in the region. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Signature Sounds presents Darlingside & David Wax Museum*. (see photo this page) Two outstanding acts. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Village Hill Trio*. High bandwidth jazz. 8 p.m.

Ashfield Lakehouse, Ashfield: *Zydeco Connection*. 8:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Melanie & the Blue Shots*. Incredible blues singer and a great band. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Turn It Loose*. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Amanda Rogers*. Singer/songwriter. 2 p.m.

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: *Bunwinkies, Omeed Goadarzi, and U.L.B.* Opening for Joel Paxton art exhibit. 5 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lazy Bones*. Old-time jazz, blues and more! 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Collected Poets Series featuring poets Anne Love Woodhull and Jane Yolen*. 7 p.m.

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *Lydia Lunch & Weasel Walter,*

Other Mother, and Do Not Forsake Me O My Darling. 7 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*. '60s & '70s Gold. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Friends of the Center presents its monthly coffeehouse with: *Windbourne*. Internationally acclaimed folk band; mostly a capella. Donations.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Lonesome Brothers*. Hick Rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*. Hypno Boogie Blues. 9 p.m.

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MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

2015: Gill-Montague school committee members discussed providing additional transportation for students in winter months.

for use of the pipeline ended March 28, company spokesman Richard Wheatley could not say whether enough gas shippers and buyers had submitted bids for the season to be considered successful.

The big issue at the March 31 Montague selectboard meeting was a parking ban on the north side of Seventh Street in Turners Falls.

A look back over the last nine years shows that Gill's assessments for membership in the Franklin Regional Transit Authority has remained fairly constant, despite the loss of the only two fixed bus routes that have served the town over that time period.

Although it's unlikely that we'll be shoveling snow for a while, one thing is certain: The Massachusetts Department of Transportation will not be out on the Turners Falls-Gill bridge with snow shovels come next winter.

According to DOT spokesman Bao Lang, "MassDOT policies do not currently include provisions for removal of snow from the majority of sidewalks that extend along highways and bridges that fall under our jurisdiction."

The Alvah Stone at the Montague Bookmill is open, and will be serving dinner six days a week beginning at 4 p.m. Located in a newly

renovated space that is somehow rustic, sophisticated, and cozy, the new restaurant features authentic American food sources from local farms when possible.

April 2, 2015

The current director of Montague's assessing department, Barbara Miller, has resigned. The board of assessors has recommended a replacement, W. David Zagorski. However, the Montague selectboard at its Monday meeting put the appointment on hold due to concerns about the selection process and the qualifications of the appointee.

The selectboard and finance committee approved a regular town operating budget of \$8,373,806 for the upcoming fiscal year. It also approved assessments for the regional school districts, the budget of the Water Pollution Control Facility, and a variety of special articles, mainly capital projects. Total spending endorsed by the committee exceeded \$21,000,000.

Although the bulk of these expenditures are finances by property taxes, the WPCF and airport budgets are funded primarily from user fees, and significant portion of the special-article pending will be reimbursed by the state.

Pews lined the walls of Swift

River Studios, in the nave of the former Saint Anne's church, last Sunday as producer David Horgan and a team of interns shot a music video for the New England-based band Earthbound.

The J Street building houses FastLights, a lighting grip rental house that provides gear for such reality television programs as *Wicked Tuna* of Gloucester, *Kitchen Nightmares*, and *Bar Rescue*. FastLights has been owned and operated for about 20 years by John Ancil, though the ownership of the church building is currently subject of dispute.

At the Gill-Montague school committee meeting on March 24, members continued a discussion about providing additional transportation for students in the winter months. With the very cold temperatures and large quantity of snow built up on sidewalks this winter, there was concern over students deemed close enough to walk to school under state guidelines, but facing weather conditions that perhaps put them at risk.

March 31, 2016

Wendell's conservation commission reported last Wednesday that designers of a proposed 2-megawatt solar generating plant off Wendell Depot Road will appeal, in superior court, the conditions the con com set for the project. Selectboard member Dan Keller said he regretted that development, but noted that such situations are why the town retains a law firm.

Wendell's library trustees have proposed a raise for librarian Rosie Heidkamp. They cited Heidkamp's extraordinary work and dedication. Selectboard chair Christine Heard acknowledged that, but said that many town employees work well beyond their pay level, and that pay raises should be made with a coherent view of the whole town.

Erving highway department employee Dana Moore, Jr. met with that town's selectboard Monday to express concern with the slow progress of home rule legislation regarding his enhanced retirement package in the state legislature. Se-

lectboard chair William Bembury promised to follow up.

The board reviewed the \$94,000 proposal from Milone & MacBroom for services associated with the design, bidding and construction consulting for the proposed public park at the former Usher plant, on the banks of the Millers River. They also expressed concerns about the plant reuse committee's handling of the work for the state grant that would fund the construction, and plan to attend the committee's April 5 meeting.

Montague residents Margaret Socquet and Marie Putala donated \$1,596 last weekend to the Montague Police Department. The two had been selling raffle tickets since February to help defray the cost of a new K-9 cruiser.

Chief Dodge will meet with the public over coffee, juice and donuts this Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m.

at the Turners Falls branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank.

At its March 28 meeting the Montague selectboard approved a new contract between the town and its local access television provider, Montague Community Cable Incorporated. The old contract expired several years ago, but approval was delayed by controversy, conflict, and resignations on the town's cable advisory committee.

The board also approved a five-page annual town meeting warrant that included a \$50,000 appropriation to fund legal opposition to a natural gas pipeline, as well as an appropriation to again study the cost of demolishing the Strathmore paper mill complex.

Montague's winter overnight parking ban is over, as of Friday, April 1.

It is just about spring.



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