



Sullivan Community Newsletter

Vol. 33 No. 3

Sullivan, NH

Nov. – Dec. 2013

PANCAKE BREAKFAST Nelson School Nov. 2

On November 2nd, the 5/6 class will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser at Nelson School from 8 am -11 am. This fundraiser is for the sixth grade trip that is taken in June of each year. When students arrive at Nelson School for their kindergarten year, they host a pancake breakfast. The monies raised are saved for the trip. Each year from K-6 a breakfast is held. Call the school at 847-3408 if you have any questions.

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR Nov. 9, 2013

The Friends of the Sullivan Library are hosting their annual Country Christmas Craft Fair at the Sullivan Congregational Church on Nov. 9th between 9 am and 2 pm.

Featured items will include: crafts, used books, berry bowls, vegetable, pickles, maple syrup and more! There will also be a raffle for a handmade quilt.

A luncheon of homemade soups, sandwiches and desserts will be served between 11 am and 1 pm. Beverages will also be available.

SANTA DAY IN SULLIVAN - Dec. 7

Santa is visiting Sullivan on Saturday, December 7* from 1 to 3 pm in the Sullivan Town Hall, Centre Street. Visit with Sullivan's own Santa Claus, here on a special trip just to see you! You can have your picture taken with Santa - free.

Do your holiday shopping – gifts only 25¢ each! There will be lots of gift items for you to choose from for family and friends. Select gifts and have the elves wrap them, or wrap your own at the gift wrap table. Come and join the holiday fun!! Sponsored by the Friends of the Sullivan Library.

*Snow date is December 14, same time and place.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER Dec. 14 – Town Hall

The Sullivan Recreation Committee will be hosting their annual Christmas Dinner again this year. The date is December 14th at the town hall, with dinner from 6 pm -7 pm and the visit from Santa will follow at 7 pm - 8 pm. All Sullivan residents are invited to attend. Each family is asked to bring a food item to the potluck. All children that will be attending need to be registered by December 1st. There cannot be any late registrations due to Santa's visit. The committee will be mailing a form to each resident to provide the necessary information. We are looking forward to another memorable night of fun. Questions? Call 355-6667.

SELECTMEN TO RESUME WEEKLY MEETINGS

The Sullivan Selectmen will resume weekly meetings on Nov. 4th at 6:30 pm. Please call to get on the agenda ahead of time! Closed Veteran's Day. Selectmen – 847-3316.

"Library Footnotes"

Library changing hours - Autumn is a time of colorful changes in New England. The library has a much less dramatic change coming up in November, but after 21 years of the same schedule, it's a big change for us. Beginning November 1, we will be closed on Wednesday evenings. Sullivan has undergone some big changes in the past several years and the way our community uses the library has changed as well.

Our new hours are:

Monday 1-6

Thursday 9-2, 6-8

Saturday 9-12

Would you prefer using the current Saturday hours, or Sunday 10-1? Let a trustee know.

Some things haven't changed.

The **Friends of the Library** still meet the first Thursday of the month at 7:15 p.m. The Annual Craft Fair is November 9 and Santa Day is December 7.

The **Third Thursday Book Group** meets at 7 pm the third Thursday of the month and folks are welcome to join one discussion or all of them. Extra copies are available to borrow from the library, even if you aren't able to join the discussion. The title for November 21 is *Operation Mincemeat: How a Dead Man and a Bizarre Plan Fooled the Nazis and Assured an Allied Victory* by Ben Macintyre. Copies are available in print and CD at the library and this title is also available at [NH Downloadable Books](#) in audio format.

International Game Day will be celebrated at the library on Nov. 16 from 9 am to 12 noon. There will be an assortment of games for all ages, including computer games.

Peter and Jeanne Jeffries of the Walpole Historical Society have been conducting monthly **genealogy workshops** on Mondays at 2 p.m. The next workshop is Monday, January 13. It does not matter if you are just beginning exploring your family or are an experienced researcher that has hit a wall in your search, the Jeffries have been involved with genealogy for 35 years and can help.

Upcoming dates

November 1 New hours take effect

November 7 Friends of the Library

November 9 Craft Fair

November 11 Closed – Veterans' Day

November 14 The trustees will NOT meet in November

November 21 Third Thursday Book Group

November 28-30 Closed – Thanksgiving

December 7 Friends of the Library Meeting and Santa Day

December 12 Trustees meeting

December 19 Third Thursday Book Group

Another thing that has not changed is the support the library receives from the community. I'd like to give a special thank you to the following people for their gifts of time, money, books and magazines: Becky Cummings, Cliff Dempster, Judy Grant, John Hoffman, Peter & Jeanne Jeffries, Dorothy Miles, Mary Parker, Steven Parker, Donna Philbrick, Chris & Gaynelle Pratt, Chip & Kathy Woodbury, Ginny Yawarski and our anonymous givers.

Have a lovely holiday season. If you have a Facebook account, my gift to you is

[I'm from Sullivan, NH, and I remember when....](#) or type in www.facebook.com/groups/ImFromSullivan .

Denise McFarland,

Librarian

From the Archives

by Chris Pratt

As noted in the last article, electrical power generation and transmission had become widespread in Cheshire County by 1920. However pockets without it—including Sullivan—continued to exist. In 1926, the high voltage line that runs across the southern part of town was constructed, but that line connected Keene with Hillsborough and did not provide for local usage. Also, in that year the Keene Gas and Electric Company merged with four other power companies to form the Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH). This merger joined the grid in Cheshire County with a system that extended from Belknap county and the Merrimack Valley to the Seacoast Region. While this was an improvement, it still left a large part of the state without electricity and wiring the “pockets” would prove difficult.

PSNH was controlled by the New England Public Service Company (NEPSCO) which was controlled by Middle West Utilities. This was the main holding company of a man named Samuel Insull who had built a huge corporation that owned electric lines, provided electrical distribution, and operated several interurban street car lines. As a part of the huge company, PSHN had access to capital which helped them to acquire more of the local power companies and expand the grid. The relationship with NEPSCO provided access to large generating facilities in Maine and elsewhere to assure an abundant, reliable flow of electricity to its customers.

This progress was all well and good, but the “pockets” continued to exist. On the whole, electric companies were reluctant to expand into rural areas fearing that there weren’t enough customers to justify the investment. While studies going back to 1923 demonstrated that it was possible to get a return on investment in rural electrification, large companies such as the Insull group continued to insist on an incremental approach and expanded into rural towns as the economics justified. PSHN’s growth was slow and steady as it added a hundred miles or so of new lines each year during the 1930s. The growth connected urban areas, but also included rural areas. By 1937, some 65% of New Hampshire’s rural population had electricity—one of the highest rates in the nation. However, PSHN usually chose rural areas that were close to high concentrations of population such as village centers rather than the farms surrounding them.

This had a profound effect on towns like Sullivan. Since 1900 there had been a widening gap between rural and urban America that accelerated in the “roaring” 1920s. While income levels in urban areas had been expanding, rural America had stagnated. The collapse of commodity prices after World War I had sent rural America into a depression. The availability of electricity was often the difference between being able to make a living at farming and poverty. Electricity provided labor saving devices for the home as well as things like pumps for indoor plumbing and water heaters. More importantly it improved productivity. Farmers in 20th century northern New England had turned to dairying rather than commodity production (vegetables, potatoes, winter squash, etc.) whose return was not worth the labor. At the beginning of the century farms in towns like Sullivan could compete, but as the electrically powered automatic milking machine came into use in areas that had power, the herds in places like Sullivan remained small. Thus, electrically powered dairy farms could expand their markets while those still relying on hand milking barely stayed in business. As the generation of 19th century farmers like the Hubbard Brothers or Mason Nims died, they were not replaced by young farmers. This was one of the reasons our town reached its lowest population count of 192 in 1930.

Then the Great Depression began. The collapse of the stock market in 1929 was the beginning of the end for Sam Insull’s electric empire. Fortunately for PSHN, they had followed a conservative acquisition of debt and were not tied significantly to Insull through stock swaps and loans. PSHN was able to sell off its big money losers—the street car system and the gas companies—and expand its “home service” branch which sold electric appliances. However, there remained little incentive to expand service beyond population centers.

As Congress considered and passed a number of measures to deal with the economic crisis, the issue of rural poverty was addressed in a number of ways. The greatest step was probably the Rural Electrification Act which allowed for the establishment of electric co-ops and provided loans and grants. Co-ops would seek out subscribers for the service and, using subsidies, provide installation and loans to purchase electric appliances and machinery.

In New Hampshire, the State Grange went to work to bring the co-op concept to reality. While New Hampshire had the nation's highest percentage of farms with electricity, the Grange determined that eliminating the "pockets" would bring New Hampshire agriculture to a new age. They were hindered by an obscure law that prohibited such co-ops in the state. The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) rejected the initial request. In June 1939, the law was repealed and the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) set its first pole in Lempster in December.

PSNH now had competition and began stringing lines to cut off NHEC. For example, in 1939 PSNH strung lines to Stoddard Center which made the rest of the town uneconomical for NHEC. This pattern soon developed where ever NHEC began to make plans for expansion.

In early 1941, NHEC began developing plans for Sullivan. PSNH responded by wiring the eastern portion of town including East Sullivan, Valley Road and Old Concord Road. This set off a debate in town as NHEC's petition for wiring arrived. One faction wanted to wait and see if PSNH would expand to the rest of town while another saw the NHEC plan as the best way to wire up the entire community. PSNH was widely viewed as a better company since it had a reputation for reliable service. In the end, it was decided that wiring up the town as a whole was a better idea and NHEC's proposal was approved in December 1941—two months after PSNH completed its project. Public Service would remain the main provider of electricity in the east part of town. NHEC continued to expand its lines from 11.8 miles in 1946 to 16.42 miles in 1971. In 1971 PSNH purchased NHEC's operations in Gilsum and Sullivan.

Electricity probably came too late to affect agricultural development in Sullivan. However it led to a better standard of living for those who had survived the depression. It also provided an enticement to new citizens seeking the quiet of rural life but with all of the conveniences of the modern world. The old farms began to take on a new life as homes for the machinists, factory workers and professionals who began moving here after World War II. This would open a new chapter in our history.

"The Rest of the Story"

Probably the best history of PSNH's early years is Fifty years of Service : A History of Public Service Company of New Hampshire written in 1976 by Everett B. Sackett. Mr. Sackett contributed an unpublished manuscript of his research to the Historical Society of Cheshire County which contains very detailed histories of the PSNH predecessors such as Keene Gas & Electric. This is located in the HSCC's library.

NHEC's history can be found at its website http://nhec.com/coop_history.php. A more detailed history was written by Seth Wheeler for the Moultonborough Historical Society website <http://www.moultonboroghhistory.org/MHS%20Articles%20&%20Tidbits/Articles/Elec%20Co-op.htm>.

Another detail emerged from my research for this article. For many years Leslie Goodnow operated a water powered turning mill using a dam constructed on Otter Brook south of East Sullivan village. Mr. Goodnow died in 1917 and his widow Martha conveyed the mill to the Farrar Brothers. The brothers operated a wood working company in Troy that made parts for toys. They probably removed the machinery from the Goodnow Mill and shipped it to Troy. They sold the mill site to an intermediary who sold it to the Ashuelot Gas and Electric Company in February 1924. Ashuelot Gas and Electric was a subsidiary of Keene Gas and Electric and their interest must have been the hydroelectric capacity of the site. Indeed they had acquired a number of old dam sites throughout the county for such purposes. It is interesting to speculate if the dam site could have generated enough power to have at least provided electricity to East Sullivan that it would have brought power much earlier. However, that did not happen. PSNH acquired the site through the big merger in 1926. The dam probably washed out in one of the great floods of the 1920s and 1930s although PSNH continued to own the site until 1963.

Public Notice.

The Sullivan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meetings on November (**NO MEETING**), December 12 and January 9 at 7 PM at the library. The purpose of the meetings will be to formally receive any donations, hear reports, and conduct any business related to the administration of the library. As always, the public is welcome.

~Expressions of Gratitude from Angel Wing Farm~

Steve and Carol Sullivan wish to extend a heartfelt thank you for your support and friendship. You have been an important part in the success of our inaugural season at the Angel Wing Farm stand. It has been our pleasure to provide you with farm fresh, organically grown produce. We enjoyed meeting you and getting to know you better throughout the summer and fall. We are beginning to plan for the 2014 season and are looking forward to opening the farm stand next spring.

Follow us at <http://sullivancsa.wordpress.com/>

NOTES FROM THE ENERGY COMMITTEE

At its meeting September 30, the Sullivan Energy Committee learned from Tom Scherpa ways to create a dwelling that reduces energy usage.

Tom reviewed the complicated process of choosing a town within 20 minutes of Keene, finding a general contractor who would be sympathetic to the Scherpas' concerns for sustainability, choosing a heating option, finding ways to enhance passive solar exposure, insulating the house to keep heat in, making sure electrical fixtures would be compatible with LEED light bulbs and more! He showed pictures of the house under construction, including the placement of 8" thick insulated panels and the construction of the two 400 foot wells for geothermal heating system. Tom has additional energy-saving projects in mind, including a solar hot water system. The committee was delighted when Tom agreed to join them.

Two members of the committee attended a presentation by Cameron Wake, research associate professor with the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans and Space at the University of New Hampshire. This was held at the Southwest Region Planning Commission on October 15. He showed graph after graph describing the trend toward warmer temperatures (at the same time as atmospheric CO₂ has risen above 400 degrees F, 50 degrees higher than the danger point of 350 degrees). He concluded that by 2050, if we "continue to kick the can down the road," we'll have 55 days a year of above 90 degree temperatures, more pests and weeds resistant to herbicides and pesticides and warmer oceans unfriendly to edible fish and eroding heavily inhabited coastlines. Not only do we need to plan adaptations to these extreme changes, but we need to convert quickly to alternative fuels that reduce carbon emissions that contribute to this warming. He suggested reading of the US National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, which recommends such steps to avoid extreme changes.

Energy Committee members read "Local Energy Solutions E-News" every month. It is full of suggestions for energy saving, workshops and examples from other towns. Temple has done much to save energy consumption (and dollars!) in its town. Interested persons can hear Bev Edwards, who has led energy-saving actions in Temple for several years, at the last presentation on Climate Change and Sustainability at the Harris Center on December 12. For more ideas, go to www.nhenergy.org. Under Resources, check on their e-newsletter and subscribe!

To join the Sullivan Energy Committee, call Ann Sweet @ 847-3463.

QUILTING/SEWING GROUP INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM!

The Sullivan Sew and Sews have resumed their weekly get-togethers from 6:30 pm to 8 pm in the basement of the Sullivan Congregational Church. Entrance is at ground level at the rear of the building. It's a great chance to learn to quilt, work on whatever project you may have (knitting, crocheting, clothing repair, etc.) and meet new people. There are always extra sewing machines and people there who can help, if need be. Questions? Call Mary Hull at 847-9718 or stop by the Town Clerk's office.

Check out the up-to-date news on Sullivan's website – www.ci.sullivan.nh.us

NELSON SCHOOL NEWS

On Oct. 24th Nelson School held their Book Pal Celebration for those who participated in the community book read of Pollyanna. On that evening the book pals got to meet one another, celebrated the book and enjoyed refreshments together.

The school has received final approval from the New Hampshire State Department of Education for five Blizzard Bag/On-Line Learning Days this year. The State's requirement for participation is high and for the day to be counted as a school day they must reach that level of student participation. As the days occur, please remember that this is a team effort and the goal is a 100 percent participation rate. It would be an excruciatingly difficult phone call to make informing families that did participate that some families chose not to participate and therefore the day will have to be made up by everyone. Please do not let your child be the one that does not participate.

Coming Events:

Nov. 26th - Sullivan family members of students at Nelson School are invited to join them for their Thanksgiving Feast. The time will be announced through the school newsletter.

Dec. 18th – A Holiday Sing-a-long will be held at the school in the multi-purpose room. Again, time will be announced in the school newsletter.

Contra Dance in Nelson NH on Saturday November 9

The Monadnock Folklore Society presents the Nelson Second Saturday Contra Dance on November 9th, featuring Mary DesRosiers with Howie Burson, Sally Rogers and Jeff Warner.

Dancing begins at 8:00 PM, with a short workshop beforehand. Beginners and singles are welcome and all dances are taught throughout the evening. Admission is \$8 or \$6 for students and seniors.

The dance takes place at the historic Town Hall in Nelson, NH. For more information call 603-762-0235 or visit www.monadnockfolk.org. The Monadnock Folklore Society has presented contra dances and concerts of traditional music since 1982.

Contra Dance in Peterborough NH on Saturday November 2nd

The Monadnock Folklore Society presents the Peterborough, NH First Saturday Contra Dance on Nov. 2nd at 8 pm, featuring Rebecca Lay calling with "The Free Raisins" at the Peterborough Town House.

Caller Rebecca Lay lives in Brattleboro, VT, where she operates Ten Speed Farm

The dancing begins at 8:00 PM, with an optional introductory workshop beforehand. Admission is \$10 or \$7 for students and seniors. For more information call 603-762-0235 or visit www.monadnockfolk.org.

SANTA DAY IN SULLIVAN



Santa is visiting Sullivan on Saturday, December 7*, 2013 from 1 to 3 pm in the Sullivan Town Hall, Centre Street. Visit with Sullivan's own Santa Claus, here on a special trip just to see you! You can have your picture taken with Santa - free. Do your holiday shopping – gifts only 25¢ each! There will be lots of gift items for you to choose from for family and friends. Select gifts and have the elves wrap them, or wrap your own at the gift wrap table. Come and join the holiday fun!! Sponsored by the Friends of the Sullivan Library.

*Snow date is December 14, same time and place.

SULLIVAN CHURCH NEWS

Can you hear the bell ringing? Yes, we have a wonderful bell in Sullivan that rings every Sunday morning at 9:30 am. The rope is pulled and it resonates a wonderful tone to call everyone to "Come, Come" to worship and for fellowship together at the Sullivan Church. Won't you answer the call and come and join us?

We welcome folks from any faith background and are currently hosting many new guest ministers as we are in a time of change. New folks are always welcome and what a good way to meet Sullivan neighbors.

The Sullivan Church was dedicated in December of 1848 and the bell was purchased in 1860. It rings weekly to call all to services and traditionally also for weddings and funerals. What a joy to have such a treasure in our midst. One of the lucky things our forefathers left for us to enjoy and use.

Many events will be happening soon at the church ...the library craft sale and luncheon, a Thanksgiving service, a holiday cookie swap and of course a beautiful traditional Christmas Eve service filled with holiday music, caroling and scripture. The luminaries always are special as they light the way that special night.

As a faith community we are here to assist folks in any way possible...we support a food pantry and visits as needed. Please contact us if you have a need.

"Come, Come Join Us!"

Libby Beede, Head Deacon Sullivan UCC

Coming Events at the Church:

Sundays – Services begin at 9:30 am.

Nov. 9 – Country Christmas Craft Fair sponsored by The Friends of the Sullivan Library. 9 am – 2 pm

Nov. 24 – Traditional service of Thanksgiving. 9:30 am. Thanksgiving baskets will be delivered after church that day. If you know of any family in need, please call Barbara Livengood (352-7449) or Libby Beede (847-3269).

Dec. 24 - The traditional family Christmas Eve Service with special music, reading of the Lessons and the singing of familiar Christmas Carols. The service closes with candlelight singing of "Silent Night". Refreshments are enjoyed in Friendship Hall following the service. All are invited. 7 pm

Guest pastors for November & December:

Nov. 3 – Eric & Sara Marean from Nelson

Nov. 10 - Ivy Merrill from Keene

Nov. 17 – Eric & Sara Marean

Nov. 24 - Nancy Wood, Chaplain at Dartmouth Hitchcock in Keene (Thanksgiving service)

Dec. 1 - Nancy Wood

Dec. 8 - Ivy Merrill

Dec. 15 – lay support, John Hoffman

Dec. 22 – Eric & Sara Marean

Dec. 24 - Nancy Wood (Christmas Eve Candlelight Service)

Dec. 29 - lay support, Gaynelle Pratt

Worship services will be held in Friendship Hall during the winter months, beginning in January.

Food Pantry

The food pantry is an on-going effort by those who attend the Sullivan Church and interested residents. Baskets of non-perishable food are given out to folks in need throughout the year on a timely basis. If you know of any family in need, please call Barbara Livengood (352-7449) or Libby Beede (847-3269). Donations can also be left at the Town Hall or Library. Thank you to all who have been helping us support this!

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year ahead.

SULLIVAN WEBSITE

<http://ci.sullivan.nh.us/>

Be sure to check out the Sullivan web page for coming events, department minutes, times of meetings, town officers & how to contact them as well as much more. Keep informed!

The **Sullivan Newsletter** is also on line via a link on the Sullivan web page. Don't want to type in the websites mentioned in the newsletter? Go to the town website, then newsletter and just click on them.

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Church rentals - Chip & Kathy Woodbury 357-3445

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Sullivan Newsletter is published 6 times a year. It is mailed free of charge to Sullivan residents and interested landowners/taxpayers. Subscriptions are \$5 a year for non-taxpayers. Classifieds are \$10 a year, \$2.50 per issue or \$45 per page. Mail to PO Box 110; Sullivan, NH 03445 or drop it off at the town hall with town clerk Mary Hull or administrative assistant. **Deadline for the next newsletter is 20 December.** News items may be left in the Sullivan Library Book Box, mailed to PO Box 110 Sullivan 03445 (labeled Newsletter) or e-mailed (preferred method) to: bcummings@myfairpoint.net .

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