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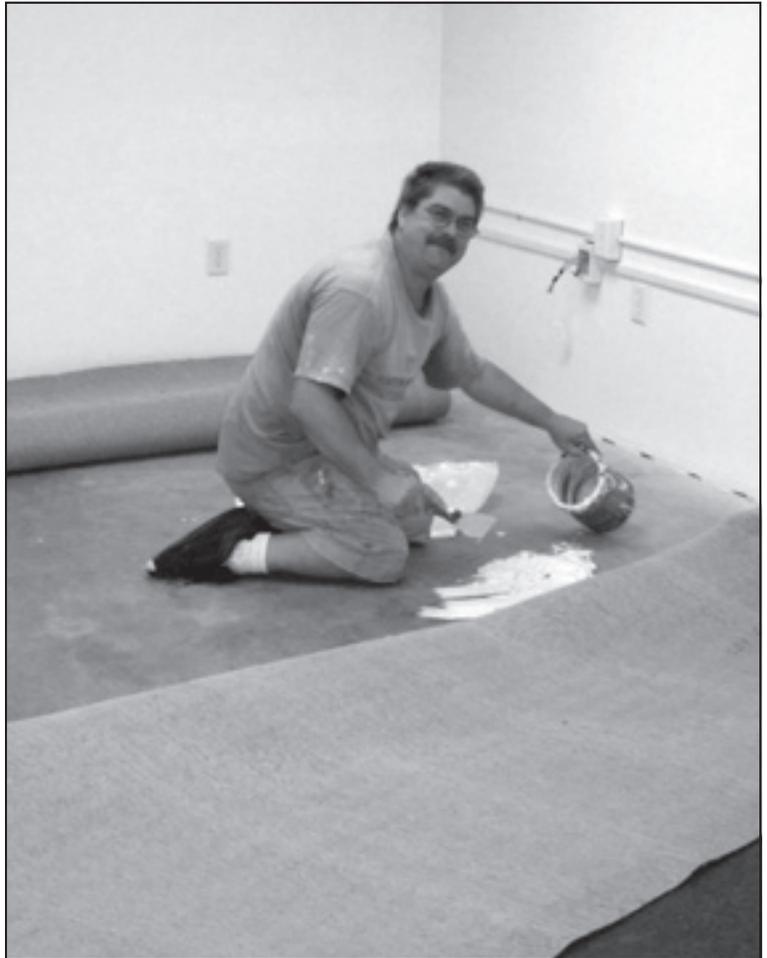


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Dan Labonte of Mr Steam and Sons glued down carpeting in the new office space for *The Andover Beacon* in the basement of the Town Hall. Lloyd Perreault and Tom Adams had already run electric, phone, and network wiring for the space, and Penney and Eric Allen and John Bridgmon had painted the walls a sunny yellow. Plans are to start moving into the space as soon as the August issue is in the mail. Staff photo: Charlie Darling

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## Corrections and an Addendum

In the *Beacon's* July article about the 1959 crash on Andover Plains of a KC-97 Stratotanker in which seven airmen perished, we mistyped Bob Peters' mother's name in the caption of the photo of the crash scene from the July 23, 1959 *Manchester Union Leader*. The caption should have said that it was a photo that Hazel Peters had saved.

We also misquoted Lloyd Perreault about the cause of the accident. The article should have said "A turbine dropped, severing the fuel line. The plane circled many times, dumping fuel as it went."

We regret the errors.

### Addendum

Since publication of that article, the *Beacon* has obtained the final report of the Air Force Investigating Team through indirect channels. The report turned up a number of troubling irregularities in the maintenance of the plane and some unresolved material failures.

The report cites the primary cause of the accident as "material failure, in that #4 turbine wheel failed, resulting in fire in the vicinity of #4 engine."

Contributing factors were "maintenance and supervisory error, in that on 17 June 1959 two burned turbo oil lines were replaced on this aircraft, the source of this burning was not corrected. Then the left external fuel tank failed to release normally. Also, the fuel selector valves were not set in accordance with any recommended setting described in [the maintenance manual]."

The report also said that "evidence indicates an unsuccessful attempt was made by crew members to abandon the aircraft." It goes on to say, "The escape hatch had been modified, and it was neither marked properly, nor was the crew trained on its operation."

The Stratotanker was headed to a re-fueling rendezvous near Laconia when it crashed, killing all on board. Directly after the rendezvous, the plane was to have flown to Olmstead Air Force Base in Pennsylvania to undergo repairs.

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