

Steve Taylor To Speak On *The Great Sheep Boom*

By Gail Henry
Salisbury Free Library

The Great Sheep Boom and its Enduring Legacy on the New Hampshire Landscape will be the subject of a program at the Salisbury Free Library on Friday, May 6, at 7 PM. Presented by Steve Taylor of Meriden Village, the free event is made possible by a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council and a donation from the

Friends of the Salisbury Library.

In a brief 30-year period in the early 19th century, the New Hampshire countryside became home to hundreds of thousands of sheep. Production of wool was a lucrative business, generating fortunes and providing the only era of true agricultural prosperity in the state's history. It left behind a legacy of fine architecture and thousands of miles of rugged stone walls. Farm-

ers overcame enormous challenges to make sheep husbandry succeed, but outside forces doomed the industry, with social consequences that would last a century.

"We hope this event will be the first of a series," said Salisbury Town Librarian Mindy Flater. "We strongly believe the Salisbury Free Library can and should serve as a place for the community to gather and learn. We're very

grateful to the New Hampshire Humanities Council and delighted that the Friends of the Salisbury Library support this endeavor."

Steve Taylor is a lifelong student of the state's rural culture and served a quarter century as New Hampshire's Commissioner of Agriculture. He currently operates a dairy and maple farm.

More information: 648-2278 or SalisburyFreeLibrary@tds.net.

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50 YEARS AGO MAY 1961

May 1961
The J. J. Newberry Company on Central Street in Franklin, which started in town as an old-style "five and dime" variety store on October 27, 1926, has been completely enlarged and remodeled and will celebrate its grand re-opening on May 11 [1961] with 54 departments. The biggest merchandiser in the region, it will feature a new, low-cost parking area in the rear, as well as a 27-seat lunch counter and three booths.

Gone will be the old red and gold "5-10-25 J. J. Newberry Co." sign. The new facade will sport a vast expanse of gleaming turquoise paneling with overhead lighting. Executives from the 550-store chain surveyed the local area and decided that the community and its future prospects justified a major investment in rebuilding, re-equipping, and enlarging. The entire Kendrick Block was acquired to make it possible.

"The innovative concept of complete shops within the overall store framework was conceived to make for a more convenient and time-saving shopping experience for the customer," explained Blanche Martin, Franklin store manager. "These complete shops include apparel for all members of the family, home furnishings and housewares, photographic equipment, yard goods and draperies, toys, a modern pet shop,

outdoor recreational equipment and sporting goods, an infant shop, garden center, and much more.

"The store will also have available a new charge account plan, with monthly payments tailored to the buying needs of each individual customer, to make quick and easy shopping available without fuss or bother."

Blanche Martin is herself a bit of history. By 1943 she had already spent most of her working career with Newberry's as a cashier at the Central Street store. The shortage of manpower during World War II put the squeeze on the merchandising field, making staffing very difficult. When the management position in Franklin became available, Blanche simply asked for the job. She was hired on the spot and became one of only two female managers in the country for many years.

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Proctor Academy has started construction of a new \$226,000 Library-Science building.

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This month the Regal Theatre will be showing Walt Disney's new film, *Swiss Family Robinson*, actually filmed amid the splendor of the West Indies, as well as its *Absent-Minded Professor*; loads of laughs for young and old.

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The Andover Bowling League's 1961 season drew to a close with a banquet held at the Wimmisquam House on May 6. There were 60 members and guests present. Charles Wollmer was master of ceremonies.

The Banquet Committee presented original poems to each team. Shirley Currier presented individual awards of engraved bowling lapel pins to those receiving first place. Recipients were: Most improved, Irene Jewett. High Single String, Lynne Klotz: 133. High Three Strings, Thelma Currier. High Average String, Ruth Sleeper: 92.

Leah Sleeper, president of the League, presented the trophy to the champs, the Ten Pins. They also received individual engraved bracelets. Members of the team were: Linda Shampney, Barbara Gross, Shirley Currier, Jackie Rayno, and Thelma Currier, Captain. Second place went to Florence Shute's team, Super Shots. Third place went to Harriet Long's Goofers.


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