



Three Danbury heroes from Hippy Hill are pictured here with the young ones who symbolize what they fought to protect. The Danbury Grange Fair parade theme of Heroes and Superheroes drew a number of participating veterans from as far back as World War II, many of whom are from the Vietnam era. Pictured: Alex Van Guilder (Vietnam vet), Kendall Hoy, Willie Wentworth (World War II vet), Eduardo de Felice (Vietnam vet), and Elizabeth Wentworth. Caption: Mary Fanelli. Photo: Lindsey Schust

Danbury Grange Fair A Big Success

By Mary Fanelli
Danbury Grange

Sunshine and enthusiasm graced the day as fairgoers and participants of the 98th annual Danbury Grange Fair celebrated the parade theme, Heroes and Superheroes. At 11 AM, a long line of parade participants led by our local veterans marched from Restful Road through the center of Danbury and past the Danbury Grange Hall as spectators clapped and cheered along the way.

Many unique floats, vintage motorcycles and cars, and enthusiastic bicyclists followed by fire trucks from Danbury, Andover, and Alexandria kept the crowds entertained and satisfied many a sweet tooth with candy thrown along the parade route.

Early birds were rewarded with their pick of "attic treasures" that filled the American Legion Hall starting at 8 AM, and at 9 AM, vendors filled the parking lot across the street and adjacent to the Legion Hall sporting all kinds of wares from books to baked goods.

Coffee and donuts were served in the Danbury Grange Hall, and handcrafted items were on display along with items readied for the Dutch and live auctions that took place later in the day. Outside in front of the Hall, two tables were set up with 50 items offered in a Silent Auction that ended after the live auction that evening.

Over in the firehouse, the bounty of many gardens was on display, and prizes were awarded for vegetables, flowers, and canned produce.

A perennial favorite, The Lyme Town Band, entertained the crowd with familiar tunes after the parade while fairgoers satisfied their appetites with hamburgers, hot dogs, and other delicious fare offered by the Danbury Grange and the Andover Lions Club.

At 12:30 PM, the fun-filled bed races were held, and several teams competed for top place, the competition being so fierce that a couple of re-runs were held to determine the blue ribbon winners.

Independence Park was the site of a tight contest of horseshoes, another annual highlight of the fair that attracts many people cheering for their favorite teams and players. Alan Brownell, Dennis Phelps, and Mark Phelps organized the event.

To cap off the day, a delicious ham and bean supper was served followed by the music of Cardigan Mountain Tradition, a bluegrass band whose music has filled the Danbury Grange Hall for many a year. At 8:30 PM, a live auction with favorite auctioneer Doug Windsor provided many people with bargains galore.

All in all, the day was most successful, thanks to the many volunteers and supporters who give their time, monetary support, and talent each year.

New Hampshire Circle Of Home And Family

By Judy Perreault
NHCHF

After what seemed like a very short summer, the Halcyon Seekers resumed their monthly meeting schedule in September. We enjoyed a delicious lunch of dainty sandwiches, chips and pickles, and a decadent chocolate trifle.

The view of Highland Lake from the Baker's porch is superb. A lone heron drifted by against an ocean of blue. A warm, sunny fall day was not an indication of the cold weather ahead.

Led by Pat Baker, one-room schoolhouses were our program. Many of our group attended one of these bygone schools and had stories to share.

At first, the teachers were mainly men, but with the advent of the Civil War and a shortage of males, women began to be seen in the classroom. Of course, they were paid less than men and were held to strict rules of behavior. They could not marry, loiter downtown, travel beyond the city limits, or wear bright clothing. They had to wear at least two petticoats and dresses two inches above the ankle and had to be home from 8 PM to 6 AM.

A typical school day began at 9 AM and ended at 4 PM, with one hour for lunch and two 15-minute recesses. At first, school was four months a year, as children were needed to work on the farm, but was later extended to six months.

Early schools were simple one-room buildings with an attached wood shed and two privies. There was no electricity or running water, and it was heated by a pot-bellied stove. Desks were slabs of wood attached to the wall, with wooden benches for seating. These were later replaced with individual desks with attached chairs.

Blackboards were actually boards painted black. Windows were placed high to discourage looking out the window and not paying attention to schoolwork.

Water was brought daily to the school in a bucket, and everyone used a common dipper to drink. Lunch was brought in berry pails or baskets. Sometimes soup or stew was provided

for all by a parent.

All ages and grade levels were taught in the one room, with older students often helping the younger ones.

Subjects taught were reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, spelling, history, geography, public speaking, and religious studies. One of the main reasons to learn to read was to study the Bible.

How much of each subject was taught depended on the teacher's knowledge. Requirements for a teacher were pretty simple in the early years. In the mid 1800s, the first Massachusetts "Normal School" was established where they taught the art of teaching to conform with certain "norms."

As time went by, schools were centralized, and one-room schoolhouses disappeared from the landscape.

Many have been preserved and are open to the public. A prime example is the Tucker Mountain School in East Andover.

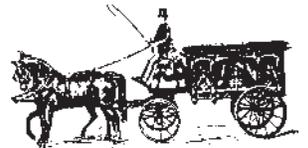
Our next meeting will be program planning, where we will set up our meetings for the coming year. There are some very interesting new subjects to explore.

If you are interested in joining our group or want more information, call 735-5493.

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