



Winter 1995-1996

Help Needed

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PLANNING BOARD

by Creston Gaither

The Vienna Planning Board needs new blood! Alan Williams advises us that he must resign soon, due to scheduling conflicts (though he will try to stay on as an alternate), and all of us miss meetings now and then for various reasons. Any committee can benefit from new energy and expertise—Waine Whittier and I have been on the Board for more years than Franklin Roosevelt served as President!

The job description? The Planning Board administers and—subject to Town Meeting approval—revises the Town's land use ordinances (Subdivision, Shoreline, Zoning, etc.). Despite wide-spread misconceptions, the Board has no enforcement authority—the Code Enforcement Officer and/or the Courts have this responsibility.

The Board meets one night each month and—on average—makes one site visit a month. We'd appreciate good (though not perfect) attendance. There is no pay! If you're interested, call me at 293-2909, or Chairman Waine Whittier at 293-2072.

Vienna Pianist in National Contest

by Dan McGillvray
Special to the Kennebec Journal
November 14, 1995

VIENNA—At 83, Hazel Small is going national with her piano playing prowess. In a competition later this week in Harrisburg, Pa., she will perform *The Russian Song* while judges listen intently. Small's rendering of the old piece last June resulted in her being named official pianist for the Maine State Grange.

Now the former one-room school teacher is set to play the same song at a National Grange talent event that features finalists in several categories from throughout the United States.

"I started playing the piano when I was 5 years old. I had a brother and a sister that were all musical too," said Small.

Nearly everyone in this little town knows of her piano playing skills. Each Sunday at 9 a.m., Small works the keyboard at the North Vienna Methodist Church. After that service ends, she heads down the road several miles to the Vienna Baptist Church for another assignment that starts at 10:30 a.m.

"I came to Vienna in 1930 and I've played most of the time since then," says Small, who lives off the Cumner Road. Besides regular work at the two churches, she plays piano at nursing homes and at the Mill Stream Grange's two Friday night meetings each month.

The Emperor and the Hermit

From a story by Leo Tolstoy (1898-1910)

One day it occurred to a certain emperor that if he only knew the answers to three questions, he would never stray in any matter.

What is the best time to do each thing?

Who are the most important people to work with?

What is the most important thing to do at all times?

The emperor issued a decree throughout his kingdom announcing that whoever could answer the questions would receive a great reward. Many who read the decree made their way to the palace at once, each person with a different answer.

In reply to the first question, one person advised that the emperor make up a thorough time schedule, consecrating every hour, day, month, and year for certain tasks and then follow the schedule to the letter. Only then could he hope to do every task at the right time.

Another person replied that it was impossible to plan in advance and that the emperor should put all vain amusements aside and remain attentive to everything in order to know what to do at what time.

Someone else insisted that, by himself, the emperor could never hope to have all the foresight and competence necessary to decide when to do each and every task and what he really needed was to set up a Council of the Wise and then to act according to their advice.

Someone else said that certain matters required immediate decision and could not wait for consultation, but if he wanted to know in advance what was going to happen he should consult magicians and soothsayers.

The responses to the second question also lacked accord.

One person said that the emperor needed to place all his trust in administrators, another urged reliance on priests and monks, while others recommended physicians. Still others put their faith in warriors.

The third question drew a similar variety of answers. Some said science was the most important pursuit. Others insisted on religion. Yet others claimed the most important thing was military skill.

The emperor was not pleased with any of the answers, and no reward was given.

After several nights of reflection, the emperor resolved to visit a hermit who lived up on the mountain and was said to be an enlightened man. The emperor wished to find the hermit to ask him the three questions, though he knew the hermit never left the mountains and was known to receive only the poor, refusing to have anything to do with persons of wealth or power. So the emperor disguised himself as a simple peasant and ordered his attendants to wait for him at the foot of the mountain while he climbed the slope alone to seek the hermit.

Reaching the holy man's dwelling place, the emperor found the hermit digging a garden in front of his hut. When the hermit saw the stranger, he nodded his head in greeting and continued to dig. The labor was obviously hard on him. He was an old man, and each time he thrust his spade into the ground to turn the earth, he heaved heavily.

The emperor approached him and said, "I have come here to ask your help with three questions: When is the best time to do each thing? Who are the most important people to work with? What

is the most important thing to do at all times?"

The hermit listened attentively but only patted the emperor on the shoulder and continued digging. The emperor said, "You must be tired. Here, let me give you a hand with that." The hermit thanked him, handed the emperor the spade, and then sat down on the ground to rest.

After he had dug two rows, the emperor stopped and turned to the hermit and repeated his three questions. The hermit still did not answer, but instead stood up and pointed to the spade and said, "Why don't you rest now? I can take over again." But the emperor continued to dig. One hour passed, then two. Finally the sun began to set behind the mountain. The emperor put down the spade and said to the hermit, "I came here to ask if you could answer my three questions. But if you can't give me any answer, please let me know so that I can get on my way home."

The hermit lifted his head and asked the emperor, "Do you hear someone running over there?" The emperor turned his head. They both saw a man with a long white beard emerge from the woods. He ran wildly, pressing his hands against a bloody wound in his stomach. The man ran toward the emperor before falling unconscious to the ground, where he lay groaning. Opening the man's clothing, the emperor and hermit saw that the man had received a deep gash. The emperor cleaned the wound thoroughly and then used his own shirt to bandage it, but the blood completely soaked it within minutes. He rinsed the shirt out and bandaged the wound a second time and continued to do so until the flow of blood had stopped.

At last the wounded man regained consciousness and asked for a drink of water. The emperor ran down to the stream and brought back a jug of fresh water. Meanwhile, the sun had disappeared and the night air had begun to turn cold. The hermit gave the emperor a hand in carrying the man into the hut where they laid him down on the hermit's bed. The man closed his eyes and lay quietly. The emperor was worn out from a long day of climbing the mountain and digging the garden. Leaning against the doorway, he fell asleep. When he rose, the sun had already risen over the mountain. For a moment he forgot where he was and what he had come here for. He looked over to the bed and saw the wounded man also looking around him in confusion. When he saw the emperor, he stared at him intently and then said in a faint whisper, "Please forgive me."

"But what have you done that I should forgive you?" the emperor asked.

"You do not know me, your majesty, but I know you. I was your sworn enemy, and I had vowed to take vengeance on you, for during the last war you killed my brother and seized my property. When I learned that you were coming alone to the mountain to meet the hermit, I resolved to surprise you on your way back and kill you. But after waiting a long time there was still no sign of you, and so I left my ambush in order to seek you out. But instead of finding you, I came across your attendants, who recognized me, giving me this wound. Luckily, I escaped and ran here. If I hadn't met you I would surely be dead by now. I had intended to kill you, but instead you saved my life! I am ashamed and grateful beyond words. If I live, I vow to be your servant for the rest of my life, and I will bid my children and grandchildren to do the same. Please grant me your forgiveness."

The emperor was overjoyed to see that he was so easily reconciled with a former enemy. He not only forgave the man but promised to return all the man's property and to spend his until he was

Continued on page 3

Continued from Page 1

Libby Harville, a Grange member, said the music helps set the tone at those meetings. "When Hazel is not there you know it right away. A lot of what the grange does is done to music so when Hazel is not there, it's dreadful," she said.

Harville explained that Small's playing ability is well-known among regulars, and is occasionally noted by guests.

"There was the story about a guy who came to the grange and said he could never understand why there are so many keys on a piano. After hearing Hazel play, he said he understood because she uses them all," Harville recalled.

Born at home in the Somerset County town of Cambridge, Small arrived in Vienna 65 years ago to teach at the Sevey School and the North Vienna School on Route 41. Along the way, she met dairy farmer Clarence Bean, and in 1934 they married.

Even with the job, and raising five children, Small always managed to squeeze in time at the keyboard and take lessons.

"I've got a Gulbransen piano that I bought new in 1937. It still works beautiful and I still practice every day," she said. Small enjoys church hymns and older, traditional songs like those played at grange meetings. New music is too loud, she said.

Small's first husband died in 1987, and about 18 months ago she married trombone-playing Chester Small of Norridgewock. The couple, who lead an active lifestyle, are looking forward to the drive to Harrisburg.

P.S. Sadly, Hazel did not win the contest, but she said she had felt happy to be there competing with so many talented people.

Continued from page 2

completely healed. After ordering his attendants to take the man home, the emperor returned to see the hermit. Before returning to the palace the emperor wanted to repeat his three questions one last time. He found the hermit sowing seeds in the earth they had dug the day before.

The hermit stood up and looked at the emperor. "But your questions have already been answered."

"How's that?" the emperor asked, puzzled.

"Yesterday, if you had not taken pity on my age and given me a hand with digging these beds, you would have been attacked by that man on your way home. Then you would have deeply regretted not staying with me. Therefore the most important time was the time you were digging in the beds, the most important person was myself, and the most important pursuit was to help me."

"Later, when the wounded man ran up here, the most important time was the time you spent dressing his wound, for if you had not cared for him he would have died and you would have lost the chance to be reconciled with him. Likewise, he was the most important person, and the most important pursuit was taking care of his wound."

"Remember that there is only one important time and that is now. The present moment is the only time over which we have dominion. The most important person is always the person you are with, who is right before you, for who knows if you will have dealings with any other person in the future? The most important pursuit is making the person standing at your side happy, for that alone is the pursuit of life."

(Contributed by a reader.)

SELECTMEN'S HIGHLIGHTS

The Selectmen have signed a Tax Anticipation Note with People's Heritage for \$160,000, at 4.25% interest.

The Ambulance Service is now called *Lifestar*; the same people will be responding as before.

The SAD #9 school budget appropriation for Vienna for July '95 - June '96 is \$266,190; an increase of \$39,414.

Ablaze in the News

by Phil Pillsbury

This year sure has gone by fast, and the Department's records show that fires have been at a minimum. Most of our fire calls have been for mutual aid to other towns.

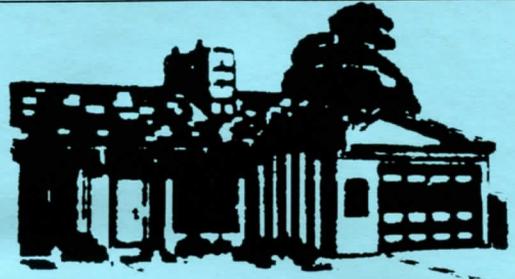
Back in October, the fire-fighters cleaned chimneys for residents of the town and raised around \$700.00. In past years this work has helped in keeping winter chimney fires at a minimum.

Our annual Hunters' Supper went very well and there was plenty of delicious food. Thanks to all who donated food, supplies and help to make it all possible.

The Department has purchased a new generator and a forestry pump. This equipment will upgrade and improve what is already being used or in need of repair.

During the Christmas season lights decorate many trees and homes. Please play it safe and remember to check for wear on the wires or for bulbs that overheat. It's a good idea not to leave the lights on if you're going to be away from home for long periods of time, or when you're asleep; keeping the tree well watered is important too.

That's all for now; we hope everyone enjoys a safe and happy holiday season.



VIENNA GARAGE DOORS & ELECTRIC OPERATORS, INC.

SOLD - INSTALLED - REPAIRED
OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE

RT. 41 BOX 766
VIENNA, MAINE

293-2910
1-800-750-1616

JIM GAJARSKI

Vienna Voices

P.O. Box 35

Vienna, Maine 04360