

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor  
Gail M Cramer



*Happy Valentine's Day*

## SNOW STORM

Well it's February so we should expect snow-storms. Last week a huge "n'eastern" came up the coast. Predictions for our area were 10 to 16 inches. We were ready for it and some of us were excited. We haven't had a big storm in several years. We only got 6 or 7 inches...how disappointing!!! (at least some of us were)

Now let's look back to Main Street before we had vehicles to plow our streets. The snow was packed down with huge rollers drawn by horses. The packed snow was needed for the horse drawn sleighs.



1922 or 23



Town of Northampton plow about 1940

1905

I found this article in an old scrapbook this week. I thought it quite humorous. The old mill was the Knitting Mill on the corner of Division and Second. After the mill shut down it was used for plays, showing of movies, and basketball games.

"Old Maids' Convention," and the "Old Maid's Wooing," two popular and amusing entertainments, will be given next week Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, April 25 and 26, in the old mill, corner Division and Second streets. A company of good-looking old maids have completed arrangements for the convention and have selected some of their number to present the "Old Maid's Wooing." Prof. Makeover will be present and by his wonderful elixir, change the old maids into blushing buds of maidenhood. Many costumes as antique as the old maid will be displayed and worn by the delegates. Don't miss it. Admission, single ticket, adult, 20 cents; for the two entertainments, 35 cents; children under twelve, 15 cents. Pop corn, ice cream and peanuts will be sold at popular prices.



## I TOOK A LITTLE RIDE (1950)

Written in 2013

By Bill Crannell

It is the Fall of 1950 and I am in the last year of high school. ( I hope) I am driving in my 1929 Model A Ford, that I purchased for \$25.00 (no warranty). The problem is, I need gas and I do not have any or much money either. I have a 2 1/2 gallon can but it take 65 cents to fill it. If I can find the cash, I will purchase the gas and transfer it to the Model A, which is dry again.

I've come up with the money, so where do I go to get the fuel? Living here on Rte. 30 near Sacandaga Park (now Rte. 152), I can hoof it down to Abe Houseman's on Houseman Street or stop at old Bill Lair's station at the corner of Hampton Point Road, if he is open. The price is about 23 cents a gallon for regular. Do not think I ever put high test in the old girl for fear she'd hyperventilate.

Now just maybe Dad would let me take my can on the old Allis-Chambers tractor to Northville and save me carrying the gas on my bike or walking down to Houseman street for the fuel.

I'm off to the village of Northville with the tractor and the gas can plus 65 cents or so. As I drive into the village (after explaining to trouper Foster that I'm on an errand to get hay for my Dad), I pulled up Bridge Street to Elwin Tennant's Sunoco Station. The place is busy so I continue on to John Hotalings Mobil Station on Bridge and Second Street. His sign was 8 gallons for \$2.00, he will not appreciate my smaller purchase, so I continue on up to Van Every's Esso Station on Main St. The little tractor has plenty of gas in it, so I sight-see around the village a bit and let everyone see me driving the tractor. I can vision the old gas pump that was in front of what was Kested's Drug Store, long gone now, hmmm wonder if the tank is still in the ground.

Coming up Bridge Street the Skip Wilson's Sinclair Station at the corner of First Street was not built yet. I turn my rig toward south Main where Mert's Garage-Cities Service Station is located. *It also ran for many years by Al Boudreau. In turn he sold it to the Burlingame Brothers who sold it to present owner Richard Esler. It eventually sold Gulf gasoline and has always been a busy gas and repair garage. Mert's gas was a few cents high so didn't purchase any and turned to the north side of town. The Texaco Station next to the bank had not been built yet, so no gas there. I worked at that station 1957 -58 60 hrs a week for \$75.00/*

Turning onto Reed Street (corner of 2nd), Frank Catanzaro and Walt Weaver's Chevrolet garage had Sky Chief but the price was too high. I went on to Schyler's Feed and Grain on Reed Street, but the gas there was also too high. *(Later this was Morris' garage).*

Maurice Fountain had a store and old Tydol gas, didn't go there as I figured the gas would be high priced as he sold a smaller volume of products. I went down 3rd street to Van Aram's Ford Garage and Bob was busy with a customer at the pump, so back to Tennant's Sunoco. He had many grades of gas so I filled my can for 65 cents.

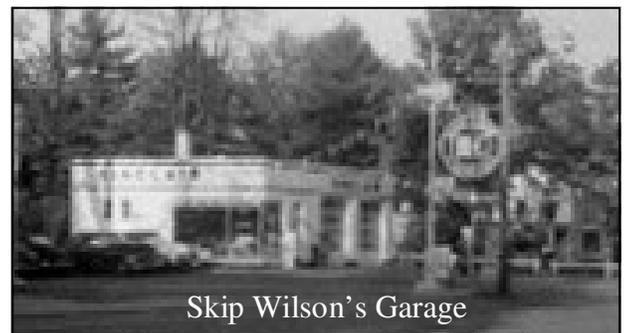
Well Model A, here we come for another cruise. I wonder how much gas I burned in the tractor getting 2 1/2 gallons of gas?



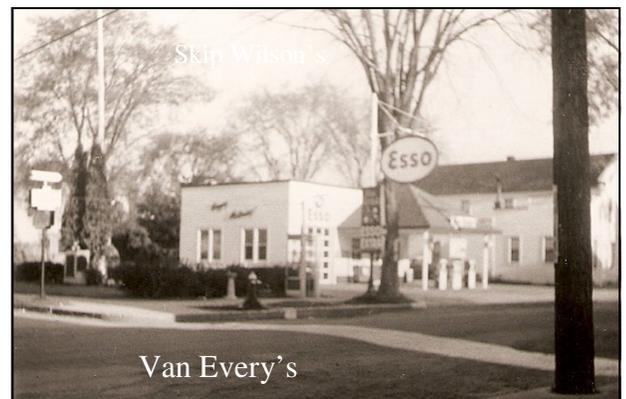
Mert's...Boudreau's...Burlingame's...Esler's



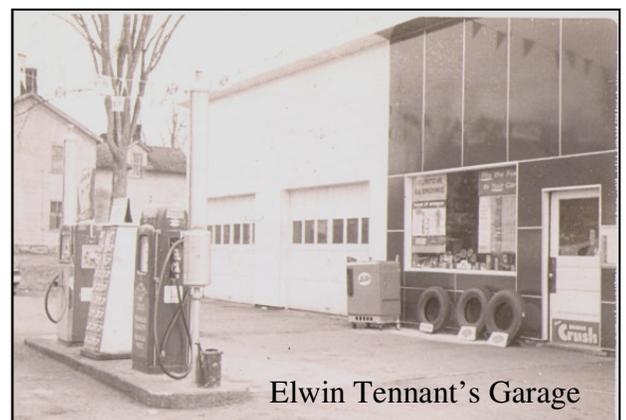
Schyler's.....Morris's



Skip Wilson's Garage



Van Every's



Elwin Tennant's Garage

## A Sunday Afternoon January 16, 1972

An un-named newspaper reporter was taking a ride through the village of Northville on a Sunday afternoon in January. The streets were relatively quiet, especially since village officers had just recently banned all snow mobile traffic in the village. The reporter drove up Bridge Street to Main, turned onto Division Street, First and Second Streets and finally returned to Bridge Street. As he was leaving the village, he came upon the most charming Sunday driver coming off the bridge that he's seen all day. The reporter rolled down his window and asked if he 'd pose for a picture. He had difficulty coming to a halt. He was Leon Burdette out for a Sunday spin in his pony carriage.....



Picture from the Leader Herald 1972

.....complete with four year old Buck and nine year old Rusty. The reporter got the camera quickly into position, Mr. Burdette had to dismount as the animals would not stand still. Leon told the reporter that he just might have trouble getting back in the wagon, but he made a running jump into the wagon as the ponies commenced trotting briskly. The reporter got back in the comparative warmth of the automobile and headed back across the Northville Bridge, with a nice picture and story for the newspaper.



Here's some hints

Jane Ferguson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Herbie Gifford \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dawn Fountain Wood \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sid Junquera \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clifford Canfield \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mary Tetreault \_\_\_\_\_  
 Beverly Harrington Goodrich \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jackie Sweet Junquera \_\_\_\_\_  
 Helen Brownell \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Williams \_\_\_\_\_  
 Virginia Lado \_\_\_\_\_

Can you identify any of these students?  
 NCS Class of 1948