

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

Issue 106
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Editor
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DEC

Department of Environmental Conservation



MUSEUM

Exciting things are happening at our museum. New addition, paint job, new displays.

The museum was opened June 28. The addition is suppose to arrive July 4th. Much work to be done to transfer display cases into it, cleaning and rearranging the artifacts into the new addition.

New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is the regulatory agency for environmental issues in the State. Our mission is: To conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic .

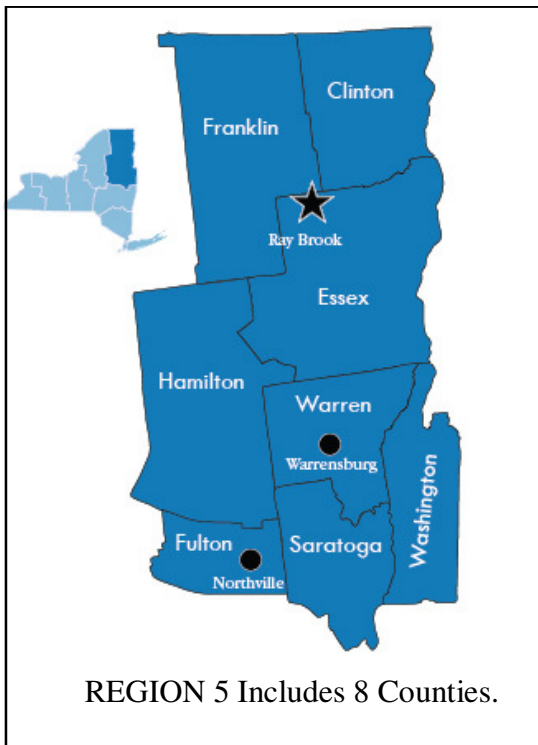
Copied from
www.dec.ny.gov

Records have not been found that states when the first office was established in the town of Northampton. The words on the truck say, Conservation Department, which was established in 1926. The truck is about 1926, so maybe we can determine that was the year it was established in our town. The office was on the corner of Division Street and North Main St. The building was torn down when the Grand Union was built.

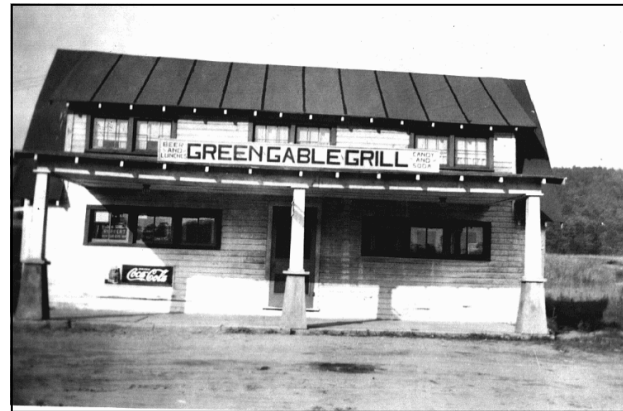
There are 9 DEC Districts in New York State. The Town of Northampton is in District 5.

1880: the first appointed officers to enforce game laws. 1885: Awareness of the need to protect the natural resources. At that time, State Legislator's established the Forest Preserve of NYS. 1911: it became, Conservation Commission. 1926: Conservation Department. 1970: Department of Environmental Conservation.(DEC)

Region 5 includes three-quarters of the Adirondack Park; over two million acres of Forest Preserve land; nearly half of a million acres of conservation easement lands, 62,700 acres of state forests lands, 6,900 acres of wildlife management lands, more than 3,400 lakes and ponds ranging in size from high altitude ponds of an acre or less to water bodies the size of Lake Champlain; 856 miles of Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers; over 530,000 year-round residents in 6 cities, 36 villages and 117 towns and millions of people that enjoy visiting and recreating in the Adirondack



Addendum To April 2019 Newsletter Re: Green Gable Grill By Jerry Wildermuth



My Mom and Dad, Herb and Ina Wildermuth purchased the Thompson property in 1958. I, Jerry, ran a restaurant in the old Green Gable Grill for one summer. I named it the "Mountain View Diner".

My sister, Carol and her husband, lived there in the upstairs apartment in June 1967 to winter, until the pipes froze up and broke.

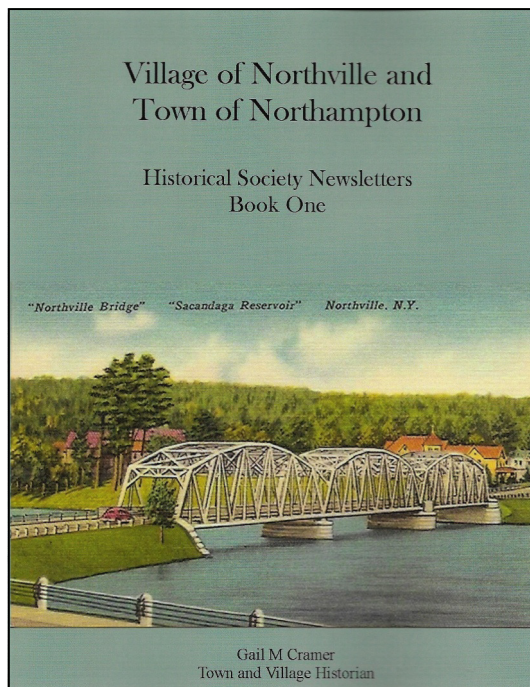
The old restaurant, dance hall, was torn down by Bruce Ginter. Can't remember the year.

In 1982, my Dad, Gerald Ginter and myself built a log cabin next door to the old Thompson house where our family had lived since 1958. Dad sold the house to Mark St Onge in 1985. The property was divided in half. St Onge is still the current owner where he and his wife Laurel live with their daughter Audra.

Carol and Skip had a trailer on the sight of the current log cabin from 1965 -67.

Jerry and my wife Bonny, had a trailer on the sight of the current log cabin in 1968. We only lived there 6 or 8 months before we moved to the village.

When my Dad died, he left the cabin to my sister Carol and myself. I sold my half of the estate to my sister. Carol and her husband are the currant owners.



Just published. The first 4 years of the NNHS newsletter in book form. Available at the Historians office or in the Town Clerks office. They may be for sale in other places later. The book is 8 1/2 by 11, and indexed. \$15.00. The next four years will be published in the next couple of months.





Rock-A-Byes

1957 - 62



Leslie Knowlton, nickname Elvis, on the guitar, Ernie Paul Gifford, Jr. on trumpet, Mike Alter on piano, Rick Ellsworth on drums and Frank Ostrander on guitar.

Of course having my big brother in a band was very exiting. We followed them around with my folks and Mike Alters folks.

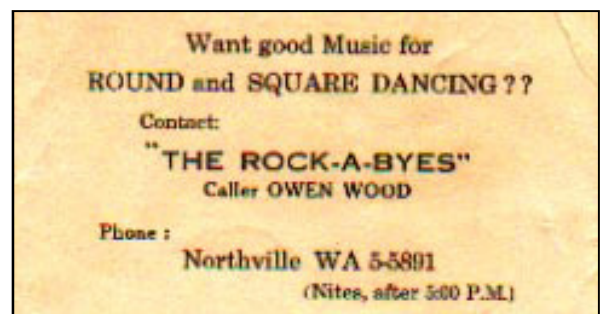
I don't remember a lot of it, but I do know that they we're given permission to play the Red Men's Hall on Reed Street as Harland Wheeler gave them the O. K. They played round and square dances on Saturday nights.

The above picture was taken at Susie Lou's for ice cream, after they played at a "Battle of Bands" at the Glove Theater .

Peter Toal (not pictured) was also in the band (Hawaiian Guitar) maybe at a different time.

Owen Wood was the square dance caller.

David Gifford, brother of Ernie Paul Gifford, Jr.



This is the story of the Rock-a-Byes and the Northville Youth Club as I remember it. I'm sure I've forgotten many details, but all members of the band have died except for me, so I'd better tell the story. *Mike Alter*

Somewhere around 1957 some of we N.C.S. students decided to form a band. The original members were Leslie "Elvis" Knowlton on electric guitar, Pete Toal on Hawaiian guitar, Ernie Paul Gifford on trumpet, Rick Ellsworth on drums and myself, Mike Alter on piano. A couple of years later, Frankie Ostrander joined the group on electric guitar. Our ages varied from 13 to 17. We were together for about 4 or 5 years and played many engagements. We tried to play all sorts of stuff from the 40's, 50's, and 60's music that young folks and older folks could enjoy (and we liked too). We played square dances also, and Owen "Woody" Wood was our caller and when he wasn't available, Jim Colson called.

A sample of our music would included the great "In the Mood", Blue Moon, My Blue Heaven, Rock Around the Clock, I Walk the Line, Venus Sleep Walk, Blue Suede Shoes, and jazzed the version of the school Alma Mater, we called "Sacandaga Rock", and anything that was popular at the time. We also played waltzes and polkas.

We had many different band jobs, some of which were: The Fireman's "hunters" dances held Saturday nights in the Wells old school gym, the Amsterdam High School Prom, Northville Doins dances where they blocked off the Main Street so that people could square dance. Lots of fun! We played after basketball games on Friday night at NCS. Heck, we even played for an Easter Sunrise Service at the Northville Methodist Church, played a fast version of "The Old Rugged Cross". Nobody in the band had any sort of transportation so my Dad and Mom (Dan and Nancy Alter) and Ruth and Ernie Gifford would cart we guys and all our equipment to each job, stay and listen, and dance, and then cart us home - Great parents.

Northville to me was an incredible place to grow up with very special people around us. The story of the Northville Youth Club will prove this fact. Growing up as teens, kids would sometimes complain that there was anything to do in Northville (really not true). So we Rock-a-Byes decided that we would try to form a Youth club so that we could hold dances on Sat. night. We had no money, no adult leadership and were just kids at the time. We looked for some place available, and the old Red Men's Hall on the corner of Reed and Third Street was not being used. We discussed our plans with Harlan Wheeler and Dr. Schwilk, (a retired dentist). And as unbelievable as it sounds, they said "If you guys get the place cleaned up, fix the furnace, get the water and power turned on, you can use it NO RENT. Incredible ! They gave us the key to the place and we went to work.

The Hall was filled with stuffed game, like deer and birds (all moldy). We moved all the stuff to the cellar and cleaned, painted the place and got an old piano moved in. Allen and Palmer came and fixed the furnace.

Joe Furman provided a Pepsi soda machine, Carlton Nellis loaned us a PA system every Sat. night and we had ourselves a Youth Club. We didn't have any money, so we charged, I think, 35 cents admission to the dances. We kids set up a checking account at the Northville Bank. I remember it took four signatures to sign a check!! I was the treasurer at the time and I remember that our checking balance ran between \$12. and \$40. But we somehow

paid all the fuel and electric bills etc. Mrs. Gladys Parr worked and ran the kitchen and made the great meat sauce for the hot dogs. She never took a penny for all her work. We had an account at Mosher's Grocery Store where we purchased mustard, ketchup, hamburg etc and they would honor our checks. Clarence Davison, our well respected and loved local cop, would swing by every Sat. night to make sure everything was ok. We had a rule, no alcohol or smoking on the premises. We didn't have to say "no drugs", because there weren't anything like that in that day, at least to my knowledge. Saturday nights were packed, local kids, kids from Wells, etc. One night I remember getting called to the cellar as the floor was bouncing so much we were afraid it would break and fall in. We got braces and reinforced it for the future dances. Normally had 125 to 150 kids a night which was really tight for a small dance hall.

I remember the Northville Rotary Club honored we young folks (ten of us) by taking us all to dinner at "Ted's Grill" We felt so special and honored. In the present day of liability and distrust, insurance etc I still am amazed at what the adult community allowed a group



of kid (no adults) to do. Maybe they did check on things but we never saw anyone from the building

ownership show up to check. The Youth Club ran for 2 or 3 years and band members graduated and went on to other things, so the Rock-a-Byes and Youth Club disbanded.