A Second Chance For Golf In The Blackstone Valley
by John LaPoint

For many years golf in the Blackstone Valley meant just one thing, the annual visit of the touring golf professionals to the Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton. From 1962 to 1998, with few exceptions, there were yearly visits by either the LPGA touring professionals or the PGA Tour, and sometimes both, to the big, expansive golf course carved out of the apple orchard just off Route 146 in Sutton. As their marketing slogan stated, it was the “Golf Capital of New England.” And hundreds of thousands of local spectators and regional tourists came to Sutton to see the golf stars and spend tourist dollars in the Valley’s local shops, restaurants, and hotels.

Now, those big tournaments are just a Pleasant (Valley) memory, caught in a time warp of a sports marketing economy that no longer applauds the efforts of individual entrepreneurs like Cuzzie Mingolla, his son, Ted, and his grandchildren. Today Pleasant Valley is a thriving private golf club, still the scene of many exciting, but continued on page 4

Noble Traditions, Strong Spirit
by Carol Masiello

Every school age child in the Blackstone Valley knows the importance of Native Americans to the heritage of our locale. Children eagerly dig in their backyards hoping to find an arrowhead or a shard of pottery from the long lost Indian inhabitants. Locals tell the stories of the “old Indian” who would come to town on parade day all dressed up in his “costume” and entertain the townpeople with his dances. The natives in the area are perceived as enigmas, not the “rock ’em, sock ’em” of the Wild West, but a silent presence with faint shadows of their existence coming to light here and there. Their culture is assumed to be long gone, just names on restaurants and lakeshore condominiums. But just who were these earliest people and do they still exist? Will their future be as vibrant and rich as their past? Let’s take a look at these people and see their past and dream about their future.

From the first Thanksgiving to King Philip’s War, the children here in the valley are taught the basic history and legends of our original inhabitants. The earliest people of the Blackstone Valley were the Nipmuc’s (fresh water people) and their name comes from the rivers, streams and lakes they lived along side of. Through their care and stewardship, the valley’s wild beauty and fertility remained pristine and welcoming for the colonial settlers. The Nipmuc’s footpaths, worn through generations of traveling, became the major connecting routes of the colonies. The cedar swamps they revered gave the raw materials for the shingles and clapboards to build early homes. The rivers that sustained them were the backbone of the industrial revolution. Local landmarks like Nipmuc Pond, Wauccanntuck Mill, Chocolug Pond and Quinsigamond College preserve names from their language. The Nipmuc name does not refer to a specific village or tribe, but to the natives that inhabited almost all of Central Massachusetts into Connecticut and Rhode Island. The area in the center of Worcester County through the Blackstone Valley was referred to as Nipet. Estimates place the pre-colonial settlement population between 3,000-10,000 natives living in approximately 40 villages. Archaeologists refer to the “territory” of the native people as a homeland and it included living areas, meeting areas, burial sites and memory piles (piles of stone and brush that marked important events or individuals). There could have been as many as six “home lands” within the nexus of Worcester County and these would have been traditional places that the people had used for generations to meet, gather food, and plant crops.

Nipmuc culture was beautiful in its simplicity and completeness. Simple is defined as having only one thing or element, and the single belief principle of the people was the foundation of all their actions. Their belief was that all life was interdependent; no one entity could dominate the others nor could it exist apart from the rest. The beaver, the blueberry bush, the salmon and the seasons, all had equal and important roles and none should be exploited. The authority of the village was placed in a sachem (man or woman) and a council. The lack of inter-tribal conflicts allowed for this straightforward form of authority; disputes and decisions were handled within the tribe. The Nipmucs stayed within their homeland traveling from site to site with the seasons while the Blackstone River ecosystem supported their agricultural and nutritional needs. From the rivers they fished the salmon, shad, herring and alewives and on the alluvial flood plains they planted their corn by the planting moon in April. Groups of Nipmuc’s would stay together in the spring for the fish runs and then they would disperse to their own individual farms; traveling by overland trails that led to fishing, hunting, planting and quarry sites. During the winter these farmsteads were abandoned and the people would go upland for hunting. Winter survival was more of a challenge for the inland tribes because they did not have a reliable winter food source like the coastal natives. Even with the harsh realities of survival, their numbers remained fairly steady over the generations, but all this was soon to change with the introduction of the English. The overland trails that were the backbone of the Nipmuc’s existence were what the colonists followed to settle into their homeland. The Nipmuc territory was well suited to colonial agriculture and animal husbandry, and the early settlers were impressed with the overall success of the Nipmuc villages. The natives were always kind and helpful to the new people, never turning away a hungry settler or denying them a warm place to sleep or a bowl of warm food.

When the first Puritan set foot on this soil, his manifest destiny was to set a “city on the hill” and help bring the Word of God to the native. The General Court passed an act for the “propagation of the Gospel among the Indians” and in 1649 a continued on page 10
Affordable Housing......A Challenge Throughout the Valley
by Susan Holden

The General Assembly finds there exists an acute shortage of affordable, accessible "...housing." R.I. Law and Moderate Housing Act

Massachusetts 40B legislation was created in 1969 to expedite a "comprehensive permit" process heard by a community's Zoning Board of Appeals to foster con- structability of affordable units. 25,000 units have been built since the law was enacted in Massachusetts. However, all analysts agree the need is as acute as it was in 1969. Twenty thousand units could expire in the next decade, according to John Belskis of the 40B Reform Group. The need is undeniable, especially as affluent houses spot the Valley landscape. Housing availability is closely related to successful economic development and the sustainability of core services within a community. Where will our children's young families move? Will we need to import local shopkeepers or firemen because they cannot afford to live in their own hometown? Will a company invest in its own hometown? Will a company invest in its own hometown? Will a company invest in its own hometown?

Rhode Island and Massachusetts have been reviewing their troubled affordable housing legislation. Rhode Island instituted a long moratorium earlier this year when vocal concerns arose after legislative changes in 2002 allowed for-profit developers to construct affordable housing projects. Massachusetts has been reworking regulatory changes since flaws became apparent with the New England Fund as appeals and denials piled up before the Department of Housing's (DHCD) Hearing Appeals Court (HAC). Some pos- itive changes have occurred with more upfront oversight for compatibility with Master Plans and smart growth initiatives. The long-standing issues of density over-whelming core services, such as schools and infrastructure, have become secondary as marginal land parcels under intense use begin to jeop- ardize irreplaceable historical or natural resources critical for future sus- tainability. But the easy tag of NIMBYism (Not In My Back Yard) has sometimes veiled real issues of unsustainability that have been exacerbated in some cases by less than sterling "expert studies" on criti-cal issues. Unfortunately, the Department of Housing and Community Development's Internal Review has largely放到短语在文章中的适当位置上，使得文本更加流畅。The Adams Road, Grafton 40B with a disturb- ing pattern of inaccuracies, changes, and density that conflict with forty years of Grafton's Master Planning as well as smart growth principles. The proponent's "experts" quantified the coldwater fishery, the Micou Brook, as not sustainable for native brook trout and therefore called pollution impacts a "mock" point in a beloved coldwater fishery and headwaters of the Micou watershed. Yet, the facts are very different, according to State offi-cials from the Department of Conservation and Recreation or Fisheries and Wildlife in official record. Local fishermen would argue. Decades long, consistent documen-tation and official planning reinforce the more recent April 20, 2004 native brook trout catch which should have dispensed with the lingering falsehoods, but were apparently ignored as the project moves forward through MEPA (Mass Env Protection Agency) stating that DEP will forward through MEPA (Mass Env Protection Agency). Unfortunately, this is not the way things go wrong. Isn’t that too late?

The Department of Recreation and Conservation Situation has fallen far short in the Master Planning expressed serious conflicts with Executive Order 385, the state's mandate for smart growth initiatives. But none of that has thus far mattered as the permits currently are being issued, is the area of Critical Environmental Concern as design-ated by the State in 2000. Taxpayers are paying $1.5 million for abutting land to preserve open space and limit develop-ment. Unfortunately, this is not a troubling case, though perhaps it indicates that an Area of Critical Environmental Concern doesn’t mean that much to the DHCD. Other Valley towns have faced environmental degradation by a few ques-tionable developers using the State law to over come local constraints that responsible professionals would never attempt. Certainly, a collaborative approach, seen more recently with the Local Initiaves Project (LIP) provides a much more successful platform for achieving affordable densities in more suitable infra-structures. Urban אילו making great strides. Blackstone Daily celebrates the diversity that weaves a rich fab-ric of life and heritage within the Blackstone Valley.

Blackstone Daily also provides an affordable, informative and attractive platform for small advertising budgets striving to reach the region to offer unique products and local customer service.

What’s in a Name?

Tis but Thy Name that is my Enemy.
What’s in a Name? that which we call a Rose,
By any other name would smell as sweet.

~Wm. Shakespeare

The verdict is still out as to whether Blackstone Daily could be called sweet. But Blackstone Daily truly is a daily,... online. Go to www.BlackstoneDaily.com, updated nearly every day with your non-profit events, news, press releases, Valley photos, history or story ideas. Welcome!
**Calendar of Events**

### June

#### 6

**200th Anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition**

Noon-5:00 p.m. “President Thomas Jefferson” will visit the Asa Waters Mansion to tell of his plans to send Meriwether Lewis on an unprecedented expedition through the Louisiana Territory to the Pacific Ocean. Asa Waters Mansion, 127 Elm St, Millbury. (508) 865-0855

#### 5-30

**Houston Area Fiber Artists Conference Show**

hosted by the historic Slater Mill site. The only show outside of Texas for this juried event of skilled craftspersons. Tues-Sun 10-5. 67 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 401-725-8638

#### 6-30

**Blackstone Valley Explorer American Heritage River Tours.**

A 49 passenger river tour boat cruise offers great scenery, history and educational narrated tours. Public tours Sunday every hour 1-4 p.m. Groups/student tours daily. Broad St & Madeira Ave, Central Falls 401-724-2200.

#### 10

**Thursday Night Walkabout**

- Discover the Blackstone Canal in Worcester with free tour and interpretation from a National Park Ranger. 6:30 p.m. Meet at intersection of Millbury Street and Cliff Street in Worcester. 401-782-0440.

#### 12

**Alternatives Valley Friendship Tour.**

Walk, jog, or paddle and help with those disabilities. 508-234-6232

#### 14

**BVO GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Pawtucket Country Club, Pawtucket, RI. 23rd Annual BVO Golf Tournament. The Blackstone Valley RI ARC is the national organization of and for people with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities and their families. 401-727-0150

#### 15-16

**Blackstone Valley Paddle Club.**

Every Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 6:15 start. 401-762-0440

#### 19

**37th Annual Antiques Show & Sale**

hosted by Grafton Historical Society’s grand fundraiser in lovely setting, Grafton Common. Rt 140 Common, Grafton. 50 dealers. 508-839-3500.

#### 23-25

**R.I. Rivers Day Celebration**

- Binding, boating, celebrating, awards - 8:30 to 4 p.m. Central Falls, R.I. 401-724-2200

#### 24

**Thursday Night Walkabout**

- NE Village. Explore a 1868 mill harnessing the river for energy. NPS Ranger Narrative. Starts at 6:30 Rt 140, North Grafton at Washington Mills. 401-762-0440

#### 27

**Great Canadian “On the Water” Demo Day**

at River Bend Farm, 287 Oak St, Uxbridge. 508-865-0010

**First Annual Outside Flea Market Under the Tent.**

Bosma’s Historic Hoop Barn, 508-278-6027

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### July

#### 2

**Neighborhood Nature On the Water**

at Green Hill Park 2-5 p.m. Audubon provides canoes, paddles, personal flotation vests and basic canoeing instructions. Free, must be able to swim, over 18 or acc by adult. Call Ellen Minichelli 401-753-6087, x 13.

#### 3-4

**Providence Jazz & Blues Festival.**


#### 5

**Chepachet’s Annual Ancients and Horribles Parade,**

11 a.m. Gloucester Main Street, RI.

#### 10

**Waters Farm Donkey & Mule Fun Show**

- Contact Deb Kovac: 508-765-9573 at historic Waters Farm, Waters Rd, Sutton.

#### 10-11

**Farmers Field Day**

- a look at modern farming technology, large fair with vendors and farmers. Bob DeBoer 508-865-3916.

#### 11

**Cape Verdean Festival**

celebrating the Cape Verdean independence from Portugal. Activities, food. Independence Park, Providence 401-222-4133

#### 12-14

**17th Triple A All-Star Game and Events.**

Showcase of tomorrow’s Major League stars with many exhibits and 7/14 All-Star game. McCoy Stadium, One Ben Mondor Way, Pawtucket, 401-724-7300.

#### 16-20

**Double Decker Bus to Tall Ships “Sail Rhode Island”**

Leave Woonsocket or Pawtucket riding aboard an English double decker bus to spend the day enjoying the International fleet of Tall Ships at Quonset Point. 401-724-2200 $35/$30.

#### 23-25

**Hot Air Balloon Festival**

at URI, North Kingston, Rte 138, R.I. (Beyond the Valley but absorbing fun!) 100 booths, hot air balloon rides, ultralites, kites, more. 401-783-1770

#### 24

**Celtic Festival**

- Second edition of smashing success last year.

**Enjoy the extraordinary panoramic view from the King Farm in Sutton and the wonderful talents of world-class Celtic performers. Tickets - $10-20. 1-800-841-0919**

**Ongoing:**

- Waterfire in Providence / Paddling Club / Summer Concerts

- Summer Walks / Art Gallery Night / Slater Mill

**Check out the much more extensive calendar online at www.BlackstoneDaily.com for latest updates! Send in your non-profit event anytime!**

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A Second Chance for Golf

somewhat more quiet afternoons of corporate members and public golf courses located in the Blackstone Valley communities of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. These include facilities at Grafton (MA) (Highfields Golf & Country Club), Sutton (MA) (Blackstone National Golf Club) and Burrillville, RI (Crystal Lake Golf Course). A fifth 18 hole course, Shining Rock in the Rockdale section of Northbridge, directly on the Upton / Northbridge town line, is expected to open for play in 2005. These five new courses, along with highly rated residential golf courses in Worcester (Green Hill) and Providence (Triggs) have given the Blackstone River Valley community something to be proud of. But the key components to the new facilities at the Cape Cod area has made several attempts to get just such an organization on the ground with somewhat limited success, in part because the golf courses and lodging facilities have generally been chock full during the high summer season. The key to creating an effective golf marketing organization in the Blackstone Valley would hinge upon something to get excited about, and more importantly, creating a critical mass of golf facilities to pull together and sell as a genuine destination golfer’s map.

Since the first nine holes of the now 18 hole award winning Blackstone Meadows in Uxbridge opened in 1992, there have been three additional new eighteen public golf courses opened in the Blackstone Valley communities of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. These include facilities at Grafton (MA) (Highfields Golf & Country Club), Sutton (MA) (Blackstone National Golf Club) and Burrillville, RI (Crystal Lake Golf Course) and the Grafton Economic Development Commission: 10 private clubs, including such golfing icons as Worcester Country Club, Whitinsville Golf Club, and Pawtucket and Kirkbrae Country Clubs in Rhode Island.

What’s driving all this development? Partly demographics, higher income, better educated households, residential development pressure moving westward off Route 495, and some just plain old good American entrepreneurship, individuals investing in and building golf courses. Significant sized tracks of land are still available in the Blackstone Valley for both stand alone golf courses and residential development, which are the key components to the new facilities at Grafton and Northbridge. By itself, there are not enough golfers living within the Blackstone Valley to support all these new courses. But the ability to draw golfers into the Blackstone Valley from high density population areas that are not all that well served by existing golf courses along Route 495 and, to a lesser extent, from Northern Rhode Island where there are even fewer public golf courses, is seen as the key to supporting this newly emerging Blackstone Valley golf sub-market.

And what of the future? It appears that the current course boom is just about over, with the completion of the Shining Rock Golf Club projected in 2005, and the plans to start of a permanent clubhouse at Highfields at Hiffelds later this year. There is still some market potential seen for additional golf courses, but not in the same density as at Grafton and Northbridge. The golf market looks to be taking something of a “breather” to see if it can stabilize play levels at these newer facilities in the face of an ever fluctuating economy, overseas concerns, and now rising energy costs. As Blackstone Valley business interests look to stimulate tourism activity in the region, one of the areas to look at may be the formation of a strong, united marketing collaborative between the golf industry and the lodging industry. Such a marketing group known as a DMO, or Destination Marketing Organization, is increasingly effective in areas around the country, but has never been successfully pulled together anywhere in the six New England States. The father of all golf.

DMO’s is the Myrtle Beach, South Carolina area, and it’s popular Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday packages. In recent years, smaller but equally successful marketing efforts in the greater Atlantic City, New Jersey area, and in Ocean City, Maryland, have both developed after a critical mass of new golf courses were built by both public and private entities. Golf marketing organizations range from the very creative to the not so good marketing. The Cape Cod area has made several attempts to get just such an organization on the ground with somewhat limited success, in part because both the golf courses and lodging facilities have generally been chock full during the high summer season. The key to creating an effective golf marketing organization in the Blackstone Valley would hinge upon something to get excited about, and more importantly, creating a critical mass of golf facilities to pull together and sell as a genuine destination golfer’s map.

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December 2, 2002, President Bush signed a bill to award the Korean Defense Service Medal to be awarded to all armed forces members who served from July 28, 1954 on. The medal was created to recognize those who served in the Korean peninsula each year since 1954. These troops that served in the Korean peninsula are UNITY, states New England Chapter Adjutant is John Durham. There are currently four chapters in Massachusetts and a New England chapter.

New Korean Veterans Group Seeks Members in Unifying Spirit

The purpose of the Korean Veterans of America is UNITY, states New England Chapter President Jeff Brodeur. Unity between Korean War veterans and those troops that served in the Korean peninsula and the DMZ each year since 1954. These post 1954 troops were the only U.S. military deployment facing hostile duty that never received a service medal award. On December 2, 2002, President Bush signed the National Defense Authorization Act for year 2003 which finally allows a Korea Defense Service Medal to be awarded to all armed forces members who served from July 28, 1954 on. The first annual meeting of the unified Korean Veterans of America was held on April 17, 2004 at the Charles F. Minney Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3329 in Millbury, Massachusetts. The new group has already attracted members from all New England states as well as California, Florida and throughout the Nation. The broader goal is to make this a national veterans group that finally offers membership to all Korean veterans, regardless of the date served. Besides Brodeur, the New England Chapter Vice President is Millbury’s Fran Elliott, and the N.E. Chapter Adjutant is John Durham. There are currently four chapters in Massachusetts and a New England chapter.

The Korean Veterans of America expect to participate in many ceremonies and host events and speakers during the year to share brotherhood and create a voice of unity. Les Peate, Vice Commander of the Korean Veterans of Canada will be the guest speaker at the next KVA meeting scheduled in Pittsfield, Massachusetts on April 17, 2004. Japan agree to unconditional surrender on August 14, 1945. Japan sign a formal surrender agreement on September 2, 1945.

WWII Memories

By Ellen Oronato

In life, there are significant events that can instantly and irreversibly alter world history or one’s personal life story. Some of these are captured in the history books and others merely fade away. Thanks to the vision of Northern Rhode Island’s Roger Petit and Gene Peloquin, part of the Valley’s diverse memories of WWII are being brought to the forefront of our minds. The sacrifice, the quiet heroes, the strong commitment and the sense of duty were barely questioned sixty years ago.

Please take a moment to learn about some of those “heroes and rememberers” who live among us. In Millbury, where 86 year old Larry Bird sits on his porch view- ing Singletary Lake or where Grafton’s Barbara Hazzard vividly recalls the collective war effort which wove itself into daily life whether a relative was overseas or not. Outside Worcester’s Shaw’s market was an 84 year old WWII vet, Peter Rondeau, still contributing as he stood collecting money in his military cap and medals. All proud of the collective effort, barely mentioning what they achieved individually as it was all about working together.

The May 30th Tribute to the Greatest Generation at the charming Stadium Theatre was a historical moment, one long past due and for many, never enjoyed. This followed the long-awaited dedication of the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. the day before. As many of these soliders know, life is not measured by days, but by the quality of times past knowing each did his/her best in their obligation to their beloved nation. Though dates are a bit foggy, the enduring memo- ries need to be passed on to those who are innocent and inexperienced.

Larry Bird, an active 86 year old Navy man was the skipper for a small boat off the USS Republic which cruised in the Pacific and faced four attacks. Three Japanese planes were shot down before dropping their bombs, but one made it through and shattered part of the ship. The most sad but joyful day, stated Bird, was when he skipped a boat to pick up a dozen sailors lingering for five days in August ocean waters after being bombed but surviving their sinking ship, the USS Louisiana. Though its Captain MacVay was court-martialed for 880 men dying in this historic tragedy, it was later deter- mined to be the Navy’s lack of communica- tion that failed to heed the enemy approaching. The magnificent USS Louisiana had just transported parts for the atomic bombs across the Pacific that later ended the war. Captain MacVay, was eventually found not guilty but he took his life shortly after the true ended feeling fully disgraced.

Bird had no com- plaints, though, and felt the experience served him well. He proudly hangs his Purple Heart off of his fireplace mantel. When he left for war, his bride filled in at Heald Machine in Worcester as did many women. He stopped working as soon as he returned home and replaced her at his old job.

A child at home remembers the frightening experience when her 34 year old father was called to war. The younger men had all been called up already. Her mother went to work and the young girl became “mom” to a younger sib- ling. The daily focus was towards the war - collecting metal and tin foil, saving every penny, praying for all. Then a few months later, a knock at the door at 2 a.m brought tears of joy and relief as her Dad was sent home because of a faulty knee from a childhood injury. Together, the family still prayed and focused on other's losses and hoped not to see any gold stars hang- ing in neighbor’s windows.

One day as she and her dad were sud- ing the car, the church bells began ringing and horns were honking. Everyone gath- ered in Webster for a full day of hugging and celebrating as one large family. The War had ended! An unforgettable moment that became a hallmark of Barbara Hazzard of Grafton.

Zeke Hammond of Hopedale remem- bers his twelve hours a day collecting bills as a medic. Peter Rondeau, now 84 of Worcester, recolled his memories of guarding Japanese POWs in China for over a year. He proudly still wears his cap and attends many military-related events throughout the region. Mary Menard of Northbridge remembers her Dad’s injured arm and shoulder as they lived in Grafton years later. Though he died at 55, he never complained about his serious injury which should have resulted in losing an arm, though he refused. His name was Charles Reardon and for many years, he ran an oil company in Grafton and was a great Dad, Mary affirmed.

Many other quiet heroes live among us with profound knowledge of the sacrifice that freedom sometimes demands. Many others have passed on without having their story told. Perhaps it was the humility and the sense of duty and responsibility that forever marks these heroes. May we keep these thoughts in mind as we casually dis- miss too many of the old among us. Look beyond the wrinkles and seek out the true treasure that they invested for America as the “Greatest Generation.”
Welcome to the Blackstone River Guide which will be a twelve part series exploring various access points to the Blackstone River. This guide is to help you with your adventure on the Blackstone River. This 44 mile long river extends from deep under the heart of Worcester, Massachusetts to the tidal flows of the Seekonk River in Providence, R.I. at the coast. There is magnificent scenery rivaling anything in the Northeast as well as history, peace and adventure to be found.

With each issue, we will present a short guide to a different section of the Blackstone River. These are excerpts from an upcoming guidebook. In each guided section, we will advise you of access, river conditions, obstacles and points of interest. It will also be GPS (Global Positioning System) compatible for those of you with this equipment.

There is some experience and caution required for the Blackstone River and its access. The sections will be rated from 1) Beginner - requiring little experience encompassing mostly flatwater paddling to 2) Intermediate - requiring experience in fast moving water and understanding of the river's obstacles to 3) Expert - requiring experience in whitewater, rescue equipment and good physical condition. The access may be listed as private or public. With public access, there will be parking on public property with access to the river. When a site is listed as private, you must respect the rights of the property owner. You should A) Ask permission to use their property and respect their right to deny it and B) Leave their property cleaner than when you arrived and C) Respect the rights of others who use the property for business. (Do not block access to parking spaces, loading docks or equipment that could be used while you are enjoying your trip.) Understand that they are allowing use of their property and if you should cause a problem, they might close the property to every Blackstone River enthusiast. Respect the river, respect the property and PADDLE SAFE!

We’ll start at Section 2, although there is a section in Worcester (to be discussed in another series).

Start: Rte 146, North Main Street, Millbury, MA - 42 degrees 12.088 N 071 degrees 45.954W

Access: Public at Bikeway Parking End: Riverlin Street, Millbury, MA 42 degrees 11.680 N 071 degrees 45.141W

Access: Private - Goretti’s Market and abutting roads

Length of Trip: Approximately 3 miles

Duration: 1 1/2 to 3 hours

Experience Required: Intermediate to Expert

Special Conditions: Rocky obstructed whitewater up to Level III, changes with water level. Extreme caution should be taken and boats portaged around whitewater section if conditions and/or experience level should warrant it.

Guide: This section of the river is one of my favorites. With 25 years (or more) of experience, I find this section a challenge for my skills. I have been known to run the whitewater section five times in a row carrying my boat back to the top of the rapids and starting again just for the fun of it! The key words here, though, are 25 years of experience and challenging. The whitewater here at high flow conditions are not for the timid or inexperienced. I recommend that you fully check out the rapids from shore before you decide if you will run them or portage around them. As always with whitewater, if you can see it, pull over and walk it before deciding if you can run it.

Your access is off the bikeway parking, just follow the bikeway north a few hundred feet and walk down through a slope to an easy put in. The quick moving water here advises you that adventure is ahead! Head south and you are quickly surrounded by nature. Civilization recedes and your soul expands as the surroundings tell you to relax. Fifteen to twenty minutes south, you will encounter your first section of Class II whitewater about 100 yards long. This will give you a taste of what’s to come. Pay attention because you will pass an historic nineteenth century mill on your left opposite a cemetery. During high flows in spring, I have seen hydraulics rising 6 feet or more. With granite outcappings and concrete abutments, expert skills are required with proper gear.

After the rapids under the bridge, it is an easy paddle. Pass under Providence Road (Rte 122) bridge and take out before the Riverlin Street bridge. You will be at or near Goretti’s Market (on your right). This locally owned store has plenty of prepared foods to take care of your after paddling hunger. You can also walk uptown to the many small restaurants thriving in this scenic community. PADDLE SAFE!

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On May 1-2, 2004, a special moment in time mesmerized a small crowd as Sutton’s 300th Anniversary created a magnificent living theatre from times past. The re-enactment of a battle from the Revolutionary War displayed loyalists, colonists, English, Germans, Indians emerging from the woods or strategically forging ahead by foot or by horse on the battlefield amidst smoking gunfire. The unforgettable, panoramic lesson in history was dramatically brought to life upon a scenic vista that was quite compatible with present day Sutton.

The tremendous effort by volunteers, including the coordination by Keith Downer and Catherine and Bob Elliot and almost 1000 soldiers, children and women from times past shed new light on the struggling forces of our heritage. The rows of tents, set upon a field on a grassy slope, provided weekend cover from the gentle rain after Saturday’s several hour battle ended. Cooking and every other detail mimicked the past. While it was lovely not to face crowds on Sutton’s Common or while watching the daily battles across the sprawling fields, it was a special event that perhaps deserved far more attention. Sutton 300 has many more events during the year, including a comprehensive collection of old Sutton history and artifacts presently on display at the Worcester Historical Museum, 30 Elm Street, Worcester.

Check out all of the Sutton 300 events at www.Sutton300.com
Udderly Moo-ving
by Carol Masisslo

Images of New England dairy farms on the byways of rural towns with their picturesque barns and silos can summon memories in almost all of us, memories usually of the happier times and places of our youth. Many “old timers” can remember the days of men and children who “peddled” milk house to house with a horse drawn cart or old Ford truck. The milk was in a large tin pail and the good wife would come out with her pail and the milk was laddied into it. A few remember being sent by their mother down to the dairy to get a pail of milk and then stopping to sip the sweet cream from the top before returning home. Unlucky boys were given the unpleasant chore of sneaking under the fence into the fields to collect the cow manure and bring it home in wagons for their parent’s gardens. Along with the local family peddler are remembered the neighboring family farms that sold directly to milk processors. No less quaint did dairy farmers on the other side and sharing the same philosophy and background, they insured that milk reached a wider market. Co-existing with the family farms were the hobby farms of the rich mill owners. These farms did not need to make money, profit was secondary; the thrill was in the owning. They imported herds of expensive breeds of cattle, and in one case, brought along a whole new culture that became implanted in the town’s landscape as surely as the cattle were.

All these combined to make for beautiful scenery, plenty of milk supplies and preservation of open space. Every where you looked there were fields of brown and white to get a pail of milk and then stopping to sip the delicious manure in its place to protest delayed government milk checks. Let’s look at an example in the Blackstone Valley of each type of dairy farm: hobby, wholesale and the family farm that sells its own milk. Each one is no longer in business and their stories are typical of all farms in the North East.

An Inside Look Into
Uxbridge’s Dairy Farms

Hobby Farm

In Uxbridge on the hundred-acre lot is where the hobby farm, Castle Hill Farm, was located. John C. Whitin owned a 70-acre lot on the Uxbridge/Whitinsville border and he had never been successfully used for farming because of the large stones dotting the field. This was not a major concern for Whitin because he had an empire to build and farming was low on his “to-do list.” One of the major problems facing a mill owner in this area was keeping his skilled workers so in 1875 during an economic depression in the textile industry, Whitin needed a way to use his skilled labor and got the farm on its way. He set his men to work removing the boulders and rocks from the Castle Hill land and these boulders were used to build a wall six feet high and almost as wide surrounding the entire hundred-acre farm. This wall survives till today, known as the “hundred acre wall” and is all that remains of the dairy. (Work on the wall continued from 1876-78 and cost Whitin a staggering $13,000.) The importance of the farm goes beyond that of a wall built to retain skilled workers, it also extends to the introduction of a heretofore-unknown ethnic group, the Dutch. After the land was cleared, the lot was used as a hobby farm for the farm’s registered herd of Jersey cattle. A case of tuberculosis wiped out the herd, so Mrs. Whitin, (who now ran the farm after her husband’s death in 1886), imported Holstein-Friesian cattle from the Netherlands. A Friesian man named John Bosma came with the herds to help get the cattle settled and get the farm on its way. Mr. Bosma liked the land and countryside so much he sent for family and gradually the group expanded with more Friesian Dutch coming over. By WW2, nearly 65% of the privately owned farms (not company) were in the hands of the Dutch farmers. When Mrs. Whitin died in 1919, the company took over the running of the farm and it was converted from a hobby showplace to a profitable business. (“The Whitin Machine Works Since 1831” by Thomas R. Navin)

Wholesale

Earl Parker ran a wholesale dairy farm that sold milk to the East Greenwich Dairy in Rhode Island. He is the quintessential Yankee farmer, stodic, proud and firmly rooted to the life and land he had chosen to raise his family. He believes this legislation has kept farms artistically afloat and this is why the farms eventually collapse. The decision to retire did not come easy for him, but the cost of running the farm, both financially and physically was becoming too much for Earl. He knew his children did not want to carry on the business nor did he want to see them get involved in what he felt to be a lost cause. Tears still come to the eyes of this proud farmer when he recalls the day he had to see his beloved cows leave his farm.

Family Farm

Hendrick Bosma came to a new world armed with just his wife and a desire to succeed. His legacy was a 100-year tradition of proud dairy farming and a rich cultural heritage that will go on longer after all the farms have come to an end. In 1904 Bosma purchased the old Mount Hope Farm on West Hartford Avenue. (Less than a mile from Castle Hill Farm) The Yankee had been farming on Williams Hill for 200 years but the children all had left and the people were old and could no longer work the land. Eager Friesians from Dutch came to the hill and purchased the farm and brought them back to life, turning fallow fields into green landscapes dotted with black and white Holsteins, the continued on page 12.
The spring breezes are once again freshening the landscape. Some of the fruit trees have started flowering, beginning an annual cycle which will result in the wonderful fresh fruit of summer. Newly plowed fields in the sunshine await the harrow and the planter and the crops that will grow on them. The apple trees show pink buds, which means that by Mother's Day weekend, they should be in full bloom. Spring is here in all its glory, and those of us who work in agriculture know that there are many long months to go before we'll get a good rest. But the rewards of working the land and growing food and flowers include the intangible as well as the tangible, and we draw as much comfort from the new life around us as the plants themselves. This is the exciting season of rebirth and hope for the future.

Spring is a time for stupendous gatherings and milestone events. Most everyone that completes a course of study from kindergarten to doctoral programs... graduates in the spring. Proms are held at the high school, and there are concerts and recitals to attend to celebrate a milestone in high school, and there are concerts and recitals to attend to celebrate a milestone in high school, and there are concerts and recitals to attend to celebrate the town's big year. Last year we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Drew Fruit. I learned of the date our trees went into the ground from Papa Black. Papa also helped Dad with the pruning, as he was very expert about trees. In fact, his ability to predict the bushels of fruit on each forty-foot apple tree was quite remarkable. In those days, pickers were paid piece work, meaning they got a certain amount for each bushel picked. Since all the trees held different crops each year, and since it was important for morale not to show favoritism, Papa had to assign the trees in an equitable manner. A picker might grumble if he were assigned a “light” tree, but Papa always made sure that the next tree had a good crop, and thus the assignments were balanced. He could predict the crop of each tree to within a bushel. I am still amazed by that feat.

There was a “Mama” Black, too. Her name was Viola [although everyone at the farm called her Mama]. She worked on the packing line, mainly taking out the “B-grade” apples. When there wasn’t packing to be done, Mama would have Papa take her fishing. They loved to go for horn pout, which they caught with long bamboo poles. Often after one of their fishing trips, Papa would stop by with a bucket of fish for our dinner. Dad would clean them and my mother would cook them in the oven, using a special recipe she had developed that made them taste pretty good [unless they had been caught in Lake Ripple, where the fish always tasted muddy!]

Papa Black stocked our pond with pout and gave us a couple of bamboo rods so we kids could learn the joys of fishing. I was always afraid of the horns on the fish, so secretly hoped not to catch any [and my hopes were generally realized.] It was fun to have something to do that involved being at the pond, and so we enjoyed fishing, even without much actual success. It’s fun to think back and remember how things used to be and who peopled our world years ago. That’s why anniversaries are important celebrations— they remind us of how we got HERE. But I’ve taken enough time away from the tasks at hand. There are still seeds to be started, seedlings to transplant and plants to be potted. It’s time for me to put aside the past and concentrate on the present, or I won’t have much to look forward to in the future. I’m greenhouse bound!

Looking for a chance to paddle on the waterways of the Blackstone Valley? Then join the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club. Each week from May through August the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club explores a different waterway in the Valley with Rangers from the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in conjunction with the Rhode Island Canoe and Kayak Association and the Great Canadian Canoe Company. Whether you are looking for a new river to conquer, or you always just wanted to give paddling a try, here’s your chance to discover what’s around the bend.

June 1-2 Stump Pond, Smithfield RI (training on June 1)
June 8-9 Route 16 to Route 122, Uxbridge MA
June 15-16 Plummer’s Landing to River Bend Farm, Northbridge MA
June 22-23 South Uxbridge Drive Inn to Blackstone Gorge, Uxbridge MA
June 29-30 River Island Park to Mansville, Woonsocket RI
July 6-7 Quinsigamond and Blackstone Rivers, Grafton MA (training on July 6)
July 13-14 Blackstone Gorge to Millville lock, Blackstone MA

July 20-21 Spring Lake, Burrillville RI
July 27-28 Josephine Dam, Middleboro MA
August 3-4 Hopedale Pond, Hopedale MA (training on August 3)
August 10-11 Valley Falls Pond, Cumberland RI
August 17-18 Manchaug Pond/Mumnford River, Sutton MA
August 24-25 Lincoln Woods, Lincoln, RI

The first Tuesday of June, July and August will be an introduction to paddling training session, where you can learn the basics of Canoe or Kayak paddling. There is no trip on those days. A limited number Canoe and Kayaks will be available to rent on Tuesday Evenings for $10 per person. For more information about boat rentals, please contact the Great Canadian Canoe and Kayak Company at (508) 865-0010. Boat reservations may be made no more than 7 days in advance. For more information about the club or directions to the meeting sites, please call the Heritage Corridor Commission Park Rangers (Kevin Klyberg) at (401) 762-0250, or log onto www.ricka.org.

Celebrating the Irish culture and heritage in the valley, Keown Orchards will host a Celtic music event on Saturday, July 24th.

**Celebrate Traditional Celtic Arts!**

Sat. July 24, 2004 at King Farm, Sutton, MA
10 AM – 8 PM

Delight in the wonderful talents of renowned artists. Enjoy Celtic music, culture and heritage. Full day of fun for all ages!

FOR TICKETS: 617-423-NEXT or visit www.nextticketing.com
Noble Traditions, Strong Spirit

corporation for the “promoting and propagating the Gospel” was formed in England. Well meaning Christians donated thousand of pounds to the effort of educating and advancing the condition of the natives in Massachusetts and New York. The Apostle to the Indians, John Eliot, was a religious missionary to the natives and he worked with the government to establish a commission to operate for the benefit of the Indians. Six thousand acres were given for the establishment of the Praying Villages under Eliot’s supervision, and Eliot used the funds donated in England to help establish schools in these villages. Eliot felt that by segregating the natives into Praying Villages, the Indians could formulate their own laws and culture. There would be no conflict between the colonists and the Indians over propriety of land ownership. Indians lived in English style homes, worshipped in English style churches and adopted a culture that punished adherence to the old “savage” ways. The natives were forbidden from selling any of the lands given to them by the General Court because the land, in the court’s opinion, was not theirs to sell. Eliot translated the Bible into the native tongue and found a preaching style that appealed to the heart and mind of the native. Eliot would open with prayer, then briefly preach upon the word此后，他会在教会中对会众进行辅导，直到他们能够自己祷告和敬拜上帝。He taught the natives the importance of hospitality to the Indians. In 1650 the first Praying Village in Natick was established and in 1654 Eliot petitioned the court to set aside eight square miles for the Hassanamesitt Praying Village. Hassanamesicut (Hassanamesitt) in Grafton, (meaning place of small race), was the third village built and only the second village to have a church, which was located on Keit Hill. In prior to King Philip’s War, seven smaller, landless Praying Villages were established and some of them were Manchuage (Manchuage), Waumun (Uxbridge), Pakak (Sharon) and Chabanakongkomun (Webster). Using respect and kindness, Eliot worked tirelessly all of his life to give the natives a fair hold in the new world being formed around them. Somewhere along the way, the government got so caught up in the conquering of the land and conflicts with the French; they lost sight of their goals of conversion and fair treatment of the natives.

While Eliot was preaching to the natives and establishing them as Christians, times were becoming contentious between the non-praying natives and the English. Valuable hunting, fishing, and agricultural lands were being bought up for ridiculous amounts of money with wasteland being left for the Indians. Settlers felt that any land that was not under cultivation by the native was available for the taking. The Indians through-out the Bay Colony were upspring at the unfair treatment they were receiving from the settlers and the cloud of war was on the horizon. In the beginning of King Philip’s War, settlers took in and protected the Praying Indians. The Minister of Mendon petitioned the court to allow the town to take the Indians from the Praying Village of Hassanamesico, and such “other文明 Indians that shall sojourn with that company”, and they may build a “fort near and continue this winter or longer”. But as the war marched on, the English settlers in the Bay Colony were so afraid of the natives that they abandoned their Christian Indian brethren. The Praying Indians fell victim to slaughter and violence from both the Indians that fought alongside Philip and the English. In 1675 the government disbanded all praying towns and confined the Indians to old villages and reservations, and a government appointed guardian was chosen. Large numbers of Christian Indians were restricted to Deer Isle in Boston Harbor and most of them died of starvation, disease and neglect. By the end of King Philip’s War, the number of Nipmuc’s in the area had dwindled to 4,000 and by 1680 almost all traces of their heritage disappeared. The war took a bloody toll on both English and Nipmuc, but the natives had no opportunity to re-build their lives.

After the war, the court had forbidden the Nipmucs from returning to the Nipnet lands so James Dudley and William Stoughton sent an expedition to investigate the Nipnet homeland and settle who had property title to the region. The Nipmucs assert-ed that Woamsip, who sold the homeland to the English, was not a rightful sachem and had no authority to sell the lands. For twenty pounds and a coat, the General Court allowed the Nipmucs to sell 1,000 square miles of Nipnet territory (most of central Worcester County) with five miles square retained for their reservation. For their efforts in securing the lands, Stoughton and Dudley get 1,000 acres of prime Nipnet land apiece and by 1681 the Nipmucs are a virtually landless people. In 1698 Nipmucs began to settle the eight square miles of Hassanamesett and establish a thriving reservation, but in 1704 the government, buckling under pressure from settlers, takes land to establish the townships of Sutton and Millbury. In 1728, the trustees again yield to pressure and sell 7,500 acres of Hassanamesett land with the proceeds of the sale to be put in an account in a Boston bank. The money was lost through the care and needs of the Nipmucs but during the 1800s, the money was embezzled and never returned. Under the guardianship of the government, whose job was to protect and ensure the welfare of the natives, the Grafton reservation was reduced to four acres and in 1869 the five miles square Dudley reservation was reduced to 26 acres. The Grafton three and a half acres have the honor of never being held by the white settler, they have always been Nipmuc homeland. After years of wayward guardianship, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1869 finally granted citizenship to the Nipmucs.

What has happened to the Nipmuc culture? What happened to the people who held faith with the Spirit of the land? Arrogance and ignorance prevented them from claiming the land and the heritage that was rightfully theirs. But as a phoenix rises, so, too are the Nipmucs working towards a long and exhausting quest for tribal status. Since the 1980s, the tribe has been pursing federal acknowledgement as a tribe with that long quest reaching back to the 1970s for State recognition. The exhaus-tive effort to trace lineage is expected to finally be determined in mid June 2004 by federal authorities.

The 350th Historic Commemoration of John Eliot’s Indian Praying Village

The May 14th 350th Commemoration of John Eliot’s Indian Praying Village at Hassanamesset (Grafton) was the culmination of a collaborative spirit between Nipmucs. The Trust for Public Land, Grafton residents Ken Crater, Roger Hohman, Heritage Corridor Rangers and many others bringing an inspirin and historic vision to fruition. This site and its history have “national significance” Grafton’s Ken Crater asserted. Mixed emotions could have scarred the day as lessons of the Nipmuc’s fate after King Philip’s War tell a very sad tale. Instead, Walter A. Vickers, Nipmuc Nation Tribal Council Chief Natuschman spoke of a new beginning and passed the peace pipe, or calumet, in a ceremony which included Grafton Boy Scouts. The Chief spoke of the humor, laughter, love, pain and tears we all share on this Mother Earth. Chief Vickers gave homage to the four directions, each having significance in the Nipmuc tradition.

National Park Service Ranger John McNiff portrayed the Reverend John Eliot, who on May 14, 1654, was granted...
Whether you arrive for dog training, doggie day care or boarding, when you pull up to the magnificent historic barn (known as the Samuel Fowler farm), you will sense your dog will be happy here. Nestled on 25 acres at 425 School Street in Northbridge, Paragon Dog Training Academy is founded on a philosophy as solid as the beams of the antique barn. Bob Clark, President of Paragon Dog Training Academy, will help you to dismiss your misconceptions about dog training and teach you the proper way to establish a connection with your pet. You will learn to have “mutual respect and trust toward your dog”.

You will be taught how dogs think and that prevention is the key to successful training. Bob is a dog lover and it is this love that gives him the resolve to ensure that every dog and owner will be happy. Years of watching the sad consequences of improper or non-existent training led Bob to dedicate himself to spreading the word about training. Growing up in Ashland, Massachusetts Bob realized early on that he enjoyed working with dogs and that he had a gift for training them. After being exposed to the philosophy of Dr. C.W. Meisterfeld, Bob left his life in the corporate world to embark in this business. Considering himself a “people trainer” Bob explains that dogs need guidance and direction, if given none they will either become neurotic or aggressive.

Training begins the moment you decide on adding a dog to your family. Training is not only for puppies. Bob can work with dogs any age. The first step is to bring yourself and your dog in for a free evaluation by Bob, (puppies around 10-12 weeks old), and Bob then sets up a personalized training plan for you and your pooch. You will not be handed over to an assistant. Bob personally handles the training. Sessions usually last for 10 weeks and there are “lifetime” refresher classes free of charge. You will find the same fundamental philosophy in the doggie day care program offered at Paragon Dog Training Academy. The dog’s day is scheduled with free play, rest time and structured play incorporated in the daily routine.

While he will not promise you your dog will be a pampered pooch, Bob Clark will promise you that your dog will be treated with respect and trust. This is the highest compliment he can pay your beloved pet. When you are headed for vacation, think of this great facility with its clean kennels and large open space available for dogs to roam in a protected space. Then, you’ll be able to fully enjoy your trip while resting assured that they’re enjoying their own special “time-off” at Bob Clark’s Paragon Kennels. It’s a winning situation all the way around!
Noble Traditions, Strong Spirit

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permission from the Massachusetts Colony for the formation of a Indian Praying Village which was called Hassanamesit. This was one of two “church status” villages in Massachusetts which housed Christianized Native Americans, where they lived adapting to English customs and religion. Native American drumming and vocals were performed by the outstanding Quabbin Lake Singers who live in Webster but perform throughout North America. Larry “Spotted Crow” Mann and his young sons entered and educated us to the rhythmic Nipmuc music. Bruce Corliss of the Nipmuc Tribal Council and Ken Crater of the Grafton Land Trust served as master of ceremonies. In February 2004, the 200 acre Hassanamesit site, off of Keith Hill Road in Grafton, was purchased for $2.1 million with a major fundraising effort initiated by GLT’s Ken Crater, but evolving into a partnership with the Trust for Public Land, The Massachusetts Historical Commission and Massachusetts Historical Commission. This site, called “…the most significant Native American site in New England today” (UMass Archeologist Dr. Stephen Mrozowski) is believed to contain the original site of the Meeting House and will be used for recreation and education after being transferred to the Town of Grafton with conservation and historical restrictions.

Other Hassanamesit Events

To this day, the Nipmucs retain the only Indian reservation, Hassanamisco Reservation, in Massachusetts with its three and a half acres on Brigham Hill Road in Grafton. On July 25, the 51st annual Native American Fair at the Nipmuc Brigham Hill reservation will be held from 10-4 p.m. This event celebrates the Indian culture with traditional dances, Indian food and the calumet peace pipe ceremony.

Udderly Moo-ving

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favorite milk cow of the Friesians. Bosma sponsored a young Dutch man named Louis Bangma and Bangma in 1924 purchased the farm from Bosma and named it the Farm White Farm. By the 1930’s the entire hill was dotted with Dutch farms and the competition was stiff for new business so Bangma (who had changed the name of the farm to Bangma’s Dairy) decided to go “down the hill” and look toward the Mendon/Milford area for his route. This area was the backbone of the business for decades. Lenny Bangma and his wife Kathy ran the farm for nine years till they sold their share to Lenny’s brother Donald four years ago. Donald tried admirably to make the farm continue but sadly the farm Bangma’s Dairy closed in 2003. Bangma’s was one of the few farms that milked, processed and sold their milk both by a retail store and home delivery. While Kathy and Lenny ran the farm they were able to see the business in the 1990’s grow to 120 cows and they were processing 20,000 qts. a week.

Kathy (who is a descendant of Hendrick Bosma) counted off the farms that all existed in a small radius on the hill. There was Baker’s, which later became Visser’s Dairy; Cnossens’, which later became Wasserman’s Maple View Dairy; Gilbert Bosma’s Farm; Van Der Zacht; Haringa; Hilcrest; Clover Hill Farm; and Grand View Dairy. She shared insights as to why the farms on the hill started disappearing one by one. All the farms existed in a small area and were competing against each other with each farm having to purchase and maintain expensive equipment, if the farmers had joined together and formed a cooperative it would have been cheaper for them to get their milk to market. Another contributing factor was that farms were sold too many times within families. You would have father leaving the farm to several sons and one had to buy the others out and this would repeat in each generation. Each time a brother had to be bought out, that lessened the value of the farm and you had to start all over again. Like Earl, Kathy’s face clouds with emotion when she thinks of the farm that was started 100 years ago by her ancestor, lying empty and silent. What the future holds for the farm is unknown, but what is known is that a way of life that has existed generation after generation has now come to an end.

I would like to thank all the dairy farmers everywhere who have provided service to all of us and have left all of us with wonderful memories. I want to thank them for all those cold mornings, hot afternoons and missed family events; their dedication to providing us with the best quality product available was not appreciated at the time but will be sorely missed in the future. But mostly I would like to thank Earl Parker and Kathy Bangma for their patience and wonderful insights into dairy farming. Their patience and graciousness will always be remembered.