

Artistic Journeys: Happy birthday, Museum of the White Mountains!

By CYNTHIA MELENDY

In this winter of bone-jarring frost heaves and copious snow, we can really appreciate what it must have been like for our forbears to have “wintered out” in the North Country. Before the advent of the electrical grid, Internet, central heating and plumbing, life was very different for those who lived one hundred years ago. Often folks went long periods without any communication from anyone. With that in mind, I thought about the timelessness, and sheer enormity, of our mountains and resolved to head over to the Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth to gaze on the exhibitions before they close in early March, but a sore driving foot kept me at home.

What a joy to realize that the exhibition has now been digitized, as promised, and is available online. It is a great reminder for me of what I had seen before, but it won't be in the exhibition hall for long: it will end March 2. Now is the perfect time to take advantage of this exhibition “in the canvas” before it is struck forever, along with the fascinating artifacts which provide the three dimensional reality for the history of our beloved White Mountains. While online exhibits are great, there is no substitute for the life of the canvas in which you can see the brushstrokes, imagine the plein air composition, and the inspiration the artist experienced.

Also a few features of the Goldberg collection are on view, providing a rare glimpse of a group of paintings which are integral to our cultural history here in the White Mountains. They are not often shown in the White Mountains, sadly, so I have felt it my moral obligation to view them once again.

But onto the museum, and its rich story told through mapmakers, artists, geologist, inventors, photographers, and so many others. It provides unique collections-based, archival and digital learning resources to serve researchers, students, and the public. You will see that it houses, digitizes, and makes available historic archives and data including collections of art, rare photographs, postcards and books.

Its scope is truly interdisciplinary in a new, 21st century way. It is an institution taking a giant step toward becoming a trans disciplinary regional resource for those seeking to understand what the White Mountains have been about over the centuries.

It got its start from an extraordinary gift of history, art, and culture. Just a few months prior to his passing in February 2010, the late Daniel Noel, of Intervale, N.H. — life-long state resident, and White Mountains photographer and collector — gave to PSU a one-of-a-kind collection that he had been building for decades. The donated materials include thousands of archives and images, including rare glass-plate photographs, stereoscopic images, hotel ledgers, postcards, early and first edition books about the region, bird's-eye views and maps, framed Bartlett prints, paintings and

other miscellaneous items.

Subsequent to this gift, as is often the case, many other gifts have followed. The museum has acquired a collection of White Mountain art by women artists from Frances “Dolly” MacIntyre and also a collection of antiquities from the Balsams Grand Resort Hotel from Steve Barba, the former hotel general manager. MacIntyre's collection of art by women artists includes dramatic mountain vistas, pastoral valley scenes, rushing rivers and waterfalls and detailed renderings of the mountain flora by a variety of artists such as Maria a'Becket, Mary Porter Bigelow, Fidelia Bridges, M.E. Loring, Martha Hayes Safford, Susan Ricker Knox, Elizabeth Galbraith MacIntyre Jewell, Martha Safford, Emily Harris Selinger and Lizzie Stevens. MacIntyre is excited about the possibilities the MWM presents to the public. “I was looking for a place that would value it for what it is,” she said of the artwork. “It adds a new dimension to the art of the White Mountains and I felt that the museum would honor that and make it available to the public.” Barba worked for 48 years at The Balsams Grand Resort, which has long been regarded as one of America's finest vacation destinations. Founded in Dixville Notch in 1866 as the Dix House, The Balsams counts legendary American statesman Daniel Webster as one of its earliest owners. Barba collected many items over the years at the Balsams and said “I just know that this is going to be the perfect place for my gift to complement that and to further establish a base of authenticity this museum will have,” Barba said. “There are few things that we do in life that really deserve to be perpetuated, and I believe this is one of them.”

As we anticipate future changes to our resort community, these historical artifacts become even more significant, representing as they do a non-mass produced perspective on our heritage.

Just recently, a significant collection of White Mountains related books, maps and historical material was by John W. (Jack) and Anne H. Newton of South Natick, Massachusetts. The Newtons said they chose to donate the 6,000 volume collection to the MWM because the gift will allow the public to enjoy and understand the region's rich history. The Newtons said, “By placing our collection at PSU's Museum of the White Mountains, this resource will receive the curatorial attention it deserves and will now be available in perpetuity to scholars, researchers, students and interested members of the public. It is our hope that others will make similar donations in the future to augment the Museum's research resources and to keep the collection current.”

When you visit the inaugural exhibition of the Museum of the White Mountains in its last few days, you will be able to follow the early “explorers” discovery of the White Mountains, and how it was recorded and



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Candidate signup period 'very quiet'

CONWAY — It's been quiet on the sign-up front for town and school offices at Conway town Hall thus far this week. Only one person — Wendy Holmes — filed for office on Monday and Tuesday and she re-upped for another three-year term as trustee of the trust funds.

"It's been very quiet," Rhoda Quint, town clerk said, Tuesday. "I'm not sure why. In fact I'm rather surprised we haven't seen more people."

The filing period for candidates started last Wednesday and runs through this Friday, Feb. 28, at 5 p.m. at Conway Town Hall.

With Holmes filing, that brings the total to 12 people who have filed for town and school offices through the first five days of candidate sign-ups and eight of those are incumbents.

Among those incumbents are a pair of selectmen seeking reelection.

David Weathers, who is seeking a fifth term on the board of selectmen, filed on Wednesday, and on Thursday morning fellow incumbent Mary Carey Seavey signed up again, seeking a second three-year term.

Friday, a pair of incumbents filed for additional terms. Rick Breton signed up for three-year term on the Conway School Board while Maury McKinney is seeking a second term on the municipal budget committee.

Also on Thursday, budget committee member Steve Steiner signed up for a three-year seat on the planning board; Lucy Philbrick filed for a three-year term as library trustee; and Rebecca Oleson signed up for a two-year term as town moderator.

Voting for offices takes place at the Conway Community Building in Center Conway on April 8 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Four seats are opening up on the town's municip-

pal budget committee. There are four three-year terms (incumbents are Brian Charles, Bill Marvel, McKinney and Dick Pollock).

State law prohibits full-time employees of the town or the school system from serving on the budget committee.

Two seats are opening up on the board of library trustees (incumbents Sarah Charles and Judith Seddon).

A three-year term on the police commission is available (incumbent Rodney King filed Wednesday afternoon).

Candidates for police commission must be residents of the town of Conway for at least five years immediately preceding the date of their election and shall not hold nor be a candidate for any other political office of the town of Conway during their term on the commission.

There are two three-year seats on the planning board (Martha Tobin and Kevin Flannagan are the incumbents).

Other positions include:
One two-year term as town moderator (Thom Steele is the incumbent).

One three-year term as trustee of the trust funds (incumbent Holmes filed Monday).

One six-year term as supervisor of the checklist (incumbent Mary Cuthbertson filed Wednesday).

One three-year term as treasurer (Kevin Madden is the incumbent).

On Wednesday, current municipal budget committee chairman Joe Mosca filed for one of the three three-year seats opening up on the Conway School Board. The incumbents are Breton, Janine McLaughlan and John Skelton.

Other school positions include one-year terms for moderator (incumbent Doug Burnell), treasurer (incumbent Ted Sares, who filed on Wednesday) and clerk (incumbent Rhoda Quint is the incumbent).

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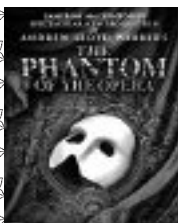


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MUSEUM from page 7

circulated throughout the region during its early days. The exhibition includes several sections: An explanation of what drew folks to the area in the early 18th century, which then proceeds to examining particular areas: Franconia Notch, the Northern Presidentials, the Summit of Mount Washington, Crawford Notch, The Conway Valley, and a display of Guidebooks and Souvenirs. You will see a group of paintings, cultural relics, and enthusiastic outpourings about our moun-

DOGS from page one

The dogs are bonded siblings. When it comes time for adoption, the shelter will try to keep the dogs together.

According to Moore, the owner said she had an "an acquaintance" bring the dogs to the shelter to surrender them. That person allegedly let the

dogs go and took off with the surrender fee that was supposed to be paid to the shelter to take the dogs.

This movement spawned an amazing artistic flowering never known before in the new America. Every new view, scene, waterfall and "discovery" by our European forbears was a delight recorded by artists now familiar to us, and by others who remain unknown. Many of these images are indelible in our memories as our heritage; many others await discovery. Bring your friends and family to discover and learn about them!



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