

THE TOWN CRIER

TOWN OF SEARSMONT

SUMMER 2014

SEARSMONT BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

A number of events are planned for people of all ages during Searsmont's Bicentennial Week: Saturday, August 2 – Friday, August 9, 2014. All events are free unless marked by a (\$) symbol.

BICENTENNIAL WEEK SCHEDULE

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

Robbins Lumber Open House and Lumber Mill Tour

1 pm.

53 Ghent Road

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Wear closed-toe shoes for safety – no flip-flops or sandals.

Thursday, August 7

“Searsmont Inspires” Art Exhibit Opening Reception

6 - 7 p.m.

Searsmont Town Library

Searsmont Community Building

37 Main Street South

Area artists’ work on display

History of Searsmont Slide Show

6 - 7 p.m.

Searsmont Town Library

Searsmont Community Building

37 Main Street South

Friday August 8

Searsmont Bicentennial Music Night

7- 10 pm

Ames Elementary School

165 New England Road

Rose and the Wayfaring Strangers and Depot Town

for more information call Rosey: 207-945-5432

Admission is free, but donations gladly accepted

Light refreshments during intermission

Upcoming Events

Bicentennial Week

August 2-9

Bicentennial Day

August 9

See event schedule on the back page

Transfer Station Summer

Hours

June/July/August

Wednesday 3-6 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Demo Debris Day

(Last one for the year)

Saturday, August 23

8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The Transfer Station is closed on Wednesday’s starting in September

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NEWS FROM THE NORTH END OF TOWN

“Kate” an entry in the diary of Over the Hill Farm

By David Marceau

Note from the author: I write this story in the middle of the night October 13, 2011 after tending to Kate and her adopted calf Calvin.

Put a star by this entry for it deserves special attention. The last few days have seen the kind of struggle that makes real character, a true love-hate relationship between all components of the equation.

We came home the night before last to see Kate (our Hereford cow) in labor. It appeared as if she were just getting started, but in reality she was giving up because the calf was stuck, not being able to descend the birth canal. I let her try for about 2 hours and couldn't see any progress, so I stuck my hand inside of her and felt two hooves. I moved them around, but got no reaction from the calf so I figured that the calf was dead. That is when I called Mike, the vet. After feeling around, he said “the calf is dead”. Then we tried several different ways to pull the calf out, but with no success. The only way to save Kate was to cut a portion of the calf's body off so that it would fit through the birth canal. So Mike used a rough wire to cut through the hip area of the calf. It took about an hour but I helped him cut through the calf and take the leg off. Then we pulled the rest of the calf out. Kate was exhausted but essentially unharmed. The calf was a very large bull. I cried and was very tired after our five-hour ordeal.

I decided to leave the calf with Kate for the night so that she could say her good bye. In the morning I call my workplace and told them what had happened. I said I would be a few hours late. I took the dead calf, brought it out into the woods, then, went to see my neighbor, Glen Mehuren of “Faith Full Venture Farm”. He gave me a Holstein bull-calf, who had been born during the night. I fed the bull-calf his mother's colostrum while still at Glen's farm. Then Zackary, the milk truck driver who had arrived during my visit, drove Glen's truck back to our farm while I held the calf in my lap. We managed to place the calf near Kate and watched for a while until I knew that Kate wouldn't totally reject the calf. Kate was lukewarm about the whole ordeal and the calf was pretty weak, so I didn't know whether the arrangement would work or not.

It's now been one night and two days. The calf is stronger, so I think that he can overcome Kate's reluctance to allow him to feed. I had to tie Kate up at first because she kept walking away, nudging the calf with her head. Finally, she did moo as the calf moved away, so I know Kate cares for the calf, even if reluctantly.

I see my struggle on many fronts. First, the loss of time, sleep and interference with responsibilities at work are hard to deal with. The money we lose is hard to justify, especially when we are finding it difficult to sustain our simple life style and to save for the future. It makes me think long and hard about whether we should have cattle at all because cattle are not necessary for our survival. To tell the truth we probably would be better off financially if we did not have cattle at all. A few years ago it seemed easier I think mostly because we had more energy. Having said this, I have learned that I love this farm and the cattle we have way too much at this point to give them up. Especially this cow (Kate). Kate has given me more love than I think I have given her. There is no denying the bond that we have and our beautiful relationship.

The second struggle is the cow/calf struggle for life. If I had not called the vet when I did Kate might have died. If I had decided to pull the calf out with my tractor or come-along, the vet said that I probably would have paralyzed the cow and we would have had to put her down. Also, it is a well-known fact that few cows live out their natural life, and our farm is no exception. When an animal is not productive, it is difficult to justify keeping it because of the enormous expense of feeding and caring for it. Kate took a long time to get bred after she produced her first calf (hence we had to deal with her calving in October rather than July like our other Hereford cow). So keeping her was not a complete no-brainer.

Knowing all of this, I called the vet and arranged an emergency visit when I knew we were in trouble. I told him that I thought that the calf inside the cow was dead. The vet asked rather nonchalantly “Is the cow a

good cow worth keeping?” Perhaps he was thinking of the expense of having him come out in the middle of the night. At any rate, I was surprised by the question. You see the cow would live until morning no matter what we did (but would be in considerably worse shape) and at that point the cow could be shipped for beef. But, if we wanted to save the cow for the long run, it was imperative that something be done that night. So, it was then that I realized Kate’s life was in my hands. I couldn’t think of anything else, but keeping her. I simply wasn’t ready to lose her now.

On the other hand, the calf (inside Kate) had been in a struggle of its own to survive. When I came home the bull we have was charging Kate in the stomach. I’m not sure whether Kate told the bull to do so (as is nature’s way) or if the bull was just being a SOB. Either way this was serious enough that it may have killed the calf, or maybe it was already dead. We will never really know. I do know that I had never seen a bull act like that to a cow before. We also know that there is no way that the calf would have come out by itself, and, left to nature’s way, both cow and calf would have died. The vet said that the calf had been dead for about 5 hours upon examining it after its removal.



Then, with very little time to mourn, in comes the new Holstein calf from Faithful Venture Farm and its struggle for life which now is in Kate’s and my hands. It was weak and cold when I picked it up from its mother and fed it a bottle. I don’t think that it could have survived without someone assisting it for its first meal at least. All the while its mother on Faithful Venture Farm is mourning the loss of her calf. I spoke to Glen and he said that the mother had not eaten any grain since I took her calf away.

Oh, and about that love-hate relationship I mentioned? How do you think Kate likes me for taking away her calf even though it was dead? And how do you think she likes the adopted calf taking precious milk away from her which was intended for her calf? How do you suppose she likes the bull we have now if she thinks it killed her calf, or, was trying to save her life? How do you think Kate feels about us relieving her pain and saving her life but cutting her calf into two pieces? How do you think my boss feels about getting a devoted employee with a manure smell on his shoes once in a while? How do you think we feel when we know the decisions we make related to our farm are costing us money that we would not have otherwise had to spend?

This entire process makes me think long and hard about what we do here and why we do what we do. I thank God for what he has given us and am happy here on the farm. Most of what we went through in the last few days we have been through before, so it is not new. What is new, are our financial struggles and the fact that we are older and not as resilient when it comes to lack of sleep and dealing with stress. I learned a lot about us, our neighbors, our purpose for being here and how willing we are to do the things we do on the farm. The challenge has made us stronger, for now. At some point I believe we will not be able to have cattle. That will be a sad day.

All of this also made me realize once again how unique we are in what we do. Our way of life is too much trouble, work and expense for most people, although they enjoy hearing the stories that come out of our struggles to survive.

Little did I know that during this long night my neighbors also were having their struggles. One of our close neighbors was in an ambulance for her last ride to the hospital. She had succumbed after many months of her losing battle with cancer. I am proud to say that because of our life style she too knew Kate and of our struggles on the farm, for we had brought Kate to visit her several times to remind her of her former farm life. During these visits I saw the joy that Kate brought her, as she has to me.

BURN BARRELS AND BURN PERMITS

It is summer, and the season for burning grass, slash, and other wood wastes. There are also burn barrels to be seen in the community, and some resident have been found to be burning household trash illegally, which can result in a fine from the Maine Forest Service. There are rules regarding burning and much household trash cannot be burned as it can create dangerous smoke and ash

Items that are illegal to burn include:

Plastic

Metals

Treated wood or

Rubber

Food wastes

other solid wastes

Styrofoam

Chemicals

A Burning permit is required for the following types of fires:

- Recreational campfires kindled when the ground is not covered by snow;
- Fires in conjunction with holiday and festive celebration, pursuant to Section 2(A)(5) of this rule;
- Burning for agricultural purposes which include but are not limited to open burning of blueberry fields, potato tops, hay fields and prescribed burning for timberland management.
- Out-of-door burning of wood wastes and painted and unpainted wood from demolition debris in the open. For purposes of this chapter, the term “wood wastes” means brush, stumps, lumber, bark, wood chips, shavings, slabs, edgings, slash, sawdust and wood from production rejects that are not mixed with other solid or liquid waste, and “lumber” means material that is entirely made of wood and is free from metal, plastics, coatings and chemical treatments.
- Open burning of leaves, brush, deadwood and tree cuttings accrued from normal property maintenance by the individual landowner or lessee of the land unless expressly prohibited by municipal ordinance.
- Burning on site for the disposal of wood wastes and painted and unpainted wood from construction and demolition debris generated from the clearing of any land or by the erection, modification, maintenance, demolition or construction of any highway, railroad, power line, communication line, pipeline, building or development.
- Burning of vegetative growth for hazardous abatement purposes, such as, but not limited to, the burning of grass fields.

The following types of fires are permissible without a permit so long as no nuisance is created:

- Residential use of outdoor grills and fireplaces for recreational purposes such as preparing food.
- Recreational campfires kindled when the ground is covered with snow or on frozen bodies of water.



Where do I get a burn permit?

Burn permits are issued at the Fraternity Village General Store at no cost, at the direction of the Fire Warden. They may also be obtained online, for a fee, at <http://www.maine.gov/informe/municipal/burn.htm>.

BICENTENNIAL DAY PARKING

PARKING WILL BE ON THE ROADSIDE IN SEARSMONT OR AT THE COME SPRING BUSINESS PARK BESIDE THE SEARSMONT METHODIST CHURCH.

A SHUTTLE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AUGUST 9TH FROM 3—10 P.M. TO TRANSPORT PEOPLE BETWEEN THE COME SPRING BUSINESS PARK PARKING LOT AND THE COMMUNITY BUILDING.

DISABLED INDIVIDUALS MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER. THERE WILL BE LIMITED HANDICAPPED PARKING AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER



TOWN OFFICE STAFFING

The Town Office will be short-staffed during the last few weeks of August, so there may be delays if you come into the office for services.

You may also use online services for motor vehicle re-registrations and IFW licenses. Links to these services can be found on our website: www.searsmont.com. Please call ahead if you want to obtain a vital record, as it may take some time to prepare using the new statewide online records system.

Thank you in advance for your patience.

BICENTENNIAL DAY SCHEDULE

Saturday August 9

All activities free except those with this symbol: (\$)

8:30 am Walk on Muzzy Ridge

Led by local historian Rosey Gerry
Meet at Searsmont Community Center

10 am – 2 p.m. Children’s Identification Program of Maine (CHIP)

Searsmont Community Center
Free child identification and safety program for families with children under the age of 12.
Presented by Mason’s Quantabacook Lodge of Searsmont

11 am Oak Grove Cemetery Tour

Meet at the cemetery on New England Road
Led by Bruce Brierley

11 am – 7 pm Hot Dog stand at the Community Center (\$)

Community Center
Sponsored by Quantabacook Masonic Lodge.

Children’s activities at Searsmont Community Center:

- 3 pm - 8 pm Children's Bounce House**
- 3 pm - 7 pm Face Painting**
- 5 pm - 7 pm Balloon Animals**

5 pm until food runs out: Pig Roast (\$)

Community Center
Sponsored by Searsmont Historical Society
Fee Charged - Advance reservation highly recommended.
Limited tickets at door. Pay at door with cash or check only.
\$12 for adults, \$6 for children.
Call Nancy 930-3664 or Karen 342-3427 or go online to
searsmontcelebration@gmail.com for reservations.

5 pm until food runs out: Lobster Feed (\$)

Community Center
Sponsored by Searsmont United Methodist Church
Fee Charged - Advance reservation highly recommended.
Limited tickets at door. Pay at door with cash or check only.
\$12 for adults, \$6 for extra lobster. Take-out available.
Call Nancy 930-3664 or Karen 342-3427 or go online to
searsmontcelebration@gmail.com for reservations.

6 pm: Barn Dance

Historical Society Barn
All are welcome
with music by Belfast Bay Fiddlers and the Searsmont Street Band.
Donations gratefully accepted.

9 pm: Grand Fireworks over Searsmont

Community Center/Town Center/Moody Mountain Road/Route 173
Free