

HILLTOPPER

Ralph Perkins & Joan Ebbeson, editors
Ann Paulson & Jan Hostage, photographers
Fay Bronstein, Book Buzz

Send your news, views and photos to
rlphprkns@yahoo.com or cubby #1. Thank
you, Linda Downes, Karen Cooper, Barbara
Williams and J.L. Tonner, for your help
gathering Hilltop history information.

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, June 17, 10 a.m.

Cluster 1 Annual Meeting

Monday, June 7, 10 a.m.

Cluster 2 Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 23, 10 a.m.

Cluster 3 Annual Meeting

Friday, June 18, 10 a.m.

Cluster 4 Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 10, 10 a.m.

Cluster 5 Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 16, 10 a.m.

Cluster 6 Annual Meeting

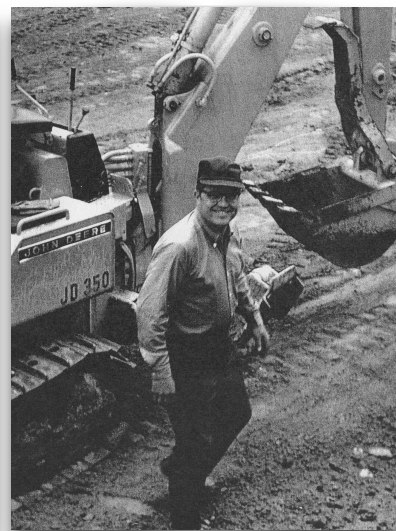
Tuesday, July 27 10 a.m.

HPCA Annual Meeting.

Saturday, July 31, starting 5 p.m.

ANNUAL SUMMER PARTY

Hilltop's annual summer party is a big
deal this year a 50th Anniversary
Party— See article at right.



Hilltop Turns Fifty!

Fifty years ago Brocklebank, the popular farm and tourist inn, had come down and Hilltop Place was going up. Developer "Rink" Mann (shown above) envisioned a community for people 45 and older with amenities including space for arts, crafts, gardening, entertaining and partying. NH's Vacationer magazine reported in its June 1971 issue that "15 units of this distinctive development near downtown New London and Lake Sunapee are up, with 9 being completed and ready for occupancy by July 1."

The site had recently missed selection as the location for the new Kearsarge Regional High School, and townspeople were not unanimous in welcoming Hilltop at first. According to the Argus Champion (12/12/1973), "There was some concern before the project was launched about what the impact of these older citizens would be on the life of New London." But the first 70 households at Hilltop Place were found to have added \$4,800,000 to the taxable property of the town, and residents were "using their experience and expertise in a variety of New London endeavors, enriching the life of the town."

That same year, the Board of Selectment chairperson noted that she had met some Hilltop residents and found them "delightful people, with good taste."

Celebration Time - Come On! Our House Committee has put together a gala event to celebrate Hilltop's 50th anniversary on Saturday, July 31. First, a mix and mingle happy hour beginning at 5 p.m., then a buffet meal catered by Appleseed's of Bradford. After dinner, enjoy The Nancy Tripp Quartet in concert. Watch for more details in the July Hilltopper.

Welcome, New Owners! Jerry and Maggie McCabe are in the process of gradually moving into Unit 96 from Amherst, NH.

Ralph's Field Notes: Who Needs Bait?

The first fish most people catch is the pumpkinseed. You may ask "What the heck is that?" Well, it's a little sunfish that's found in Hilltop's ponds and most other quiet waters in the Northeast. Although "whoppers" range up to the state record of just over a pound, most adults are 4 - 7 inches. It's very pretty, with a (usually) bright orange belly, blue-green and white alternating stripes radiating from the mouth, and faint bars running down from the top of its greenish back.

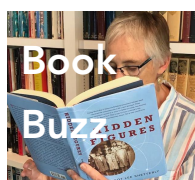
The first fish I ever got was a 4-inch "monster" from my aunt's dock. Years later, I saw my grandson do the very same thing - from the very same dock!

When we were little kids, the grown-ups told us that all those round, dinner plate-sized depressions in the water were the footprints of underwater space aliens. We later learned that they were pumpkinseed nests, and the fish weren't affectionately "kissing" our bare feet - they were frantically trying to get us off their eggs!

Joan and I like to canoe and kayak. After a few hundred trips all over the U.S. and Canada, we've come to call June the "Month of the Pumpkinseed Nest." Several sources on the subject claim these nests are in groups of 3 to 15, but we've seen long shorelines lined with up to 100. A nearby example of this is the ponds at Pillsbury State Park in Washington, NH.

Like most panfish (little fish you can eat) they taste great as fried fillets, descaled with crosswise pliers, and cut to leave all the bones behind. They themselves eat about any plant or animal that fits their mouths - and they aren't too choosy.

A childhood friend and I went fishing once at my family camp, which involved pedaling 3 miles, then rowing to the far end of the lake, then learning that



Book Buzz writer Fay Bronstein wants to hear about what you're reading and what you'd like to share about it. Please leave your contributions and comments in her cubby #36.

Eons ago my journalism professors started every class with one phrase: The facts, get the facts! Today this advice has special significance as we try to combat the distortions and falsehoods that menace our democracy. However, it takes time and tenacity to unearth the truth, as any professional journalist will tell you. Especially investigative journalists like Patrick Radden Keene, who spent four years researching Ireland's Civil War.

His book, Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland, is a compelling history of a bloody struggle that began in the 1970s and lasted three decades, taking 3500 lives in the process and bringing no long-term solutions.

The book opens with the disappearance of a young mother kidnapped from her home in 1972. Watch the children until I come back, she tells the oldest of her ten children - a prelude to the years of sectarian violence that takes over the lives of the Irish Republicans and the British militia.

Keene has produced probably the first accurate and complete history of Northern Ireland's Civil War in the style of a fast-paced murder mystery that rivets the reader from start to finish. *FB*



each of us thought the other had brought the worms. So there we were, stuck in a boat with all our useless fishing gear, thinking of going home. For no real reason, one of us dropped a bare hook and line into the water and caught a pumpkinseed! In the next hour, we caught 53 more, plus a pickerel that insisted on swallowing our bobber. So, what do you do with 54 dead fish? Our "herd" of barn cats took care of that.

Anyway, I urge you to give pumpkinseeds a try - maybe without bait, but I don't recommend it.

