New exhibit opens September 24!

Freaks, Radicals & Hippies

Counterculture in 1970s Vermont

Come explore the free-thinking, free-wheeling 1970s at the Vermont Historical Society’s new exhibit Freaks, Radicals and Hippies: Counterculture in 1970s Vermont opening September 24 at the Vermont History Center in Barre. Highlights of the exhibition include a partial Geodesic Dome, Video and Listening Stations showcasing stories and images from the era, and a ‘Peace Hand’ Puppet from Bread & Puppet Theater; as well as special presentations and drop-in craft activities at the grand opening. The exhibit caps off a two-year project by the VHS to collect memories, documents, and objects from this tumultuous decade to document the impact of counterculture in our state.

Freaks, radicals, and hippies were labels often used to categorize young people arriving in Vermont in the late 1960s and 1970s. Like all Americans, they were witnessing and experiencing enormous changes and disruptions in society, confronted for the first time in history with vivid television images of war, assassinations, riots, violence stemming from racism, poverty, and massive anti-government demonstrations. They reacted by rebelling against the established order and became part of what is called the counterculture movement.

continued on page 5—
Like many people these days I put a lot of miles on my car – my commute to work, visiting folks in every corner of the state, and ferrying my children to innumerable clubs, sports, and activities. Invariably I am more focused on the destination than the journey; repeatedly flying by fascinating historical sites and incredible examples of our material culture. For the past couple of months Vermont Historical Society has been working on a project with the local ABC/Fox affiliate (Channel 22 and 44) that forces us to slow down and take a closer look at the great roadside stories this state has to tell.

Using the state historic markers (you know, the green and gold cast signs at the side of the road you can’t possibly read at cruising speed) as our guide. We are meeting local experts, uncovering untold stories, and geeking out over cool objects and our historical landscape. So far we have visited sites as diverse as the last resting place of a 10,000-year-old whale to the first French settlement in Vermont to Burlington’s earliest professional ballpark. We’re hoping that this series will help you to slow down and enjoy this rich resource our state offers. Check out the series every Thursday morning on ABC 22 from 5-7 and Fox 44 from 7-9 – the program runs again during the Friday evening news on both stations as time allows. You can also find a link to all the stories from our website and via social media.

Speaking of slowing life down a little and enjoying compelling stories, I am so very excited for the debut of our exhibit, Freaks, Radicals, & Hippies: Counterculture in 1970s Vermont. Three-years-in-the-making, this exhibit and attendant programming brings together research, first-person interviews, material culture, and the indescribable ethos of the time into a compelling conversation on our past, present, and future.

I look forward to seeing you “on the road” as we explore Vermont’s stories or here in our galleries as you enjoy our latest exhibitions.
Grinding whole grains was essential in a time before whole wheat flour was widely available.

Food & Fellowship

If one single unifying theme could connect the entirety of the counterculture experience in 1970s Vermont, it would be food.

Whether Vermonters arrived to the state, looking to escape the proscribed way of life of previous generations, or whether they lived here for many generations, they all experimented with new ways of growing, preparing, and experiencing food.

Food buyers’ cooperatives formed to buy brown rice, yogurt, and tofu in bulk. New and old farmers alike reached back to the traditions of previous generations to grow crops without using modern chemicals. Businesses were founded to facilitate the trucking, selling, and production of new food products.

The Mad Brook Farm community in East Charleston was primarily one of crafters and artists. They supported themselves by making and selling fine leather products at a storefront in Hartford, Connecticut, and fostered several dancers of international renown. Their mountaintop acreage was wet and not suited to large-scale agriculture, but they still connected over food. Their shared kitchen and meals were the occasion for community gathering, and responsibilities for gathering and cooking food were shared – and sometimes a point of argument.

Mad Brook Farm welcomed VHS Curator Jackie Calder and Public Program Coordinator Amanda Gustin to their beautiful land, today shared among original and new members as a collective trust. They prepared a generous and delicious potluck lunch, and recollected their memories and experiences, agreeing to be taped at a roundtable conversation for nearly four hours. They opened their home and their hearts to us, and helped us to understand key concepts for our overall project.

Community members also loaned or donated a number of objects to support the upcoming exhibit Freaks, Radicals, and Hippies: Counterculture in 1970s Vermont. Among them were several excellent examples of the leather work that they were widely known for, including bags and a leather fringed jacket, an exquisitely crafted chair handmade by famed furniture maker Peter Murray, photographs, posters, and a Hobart food mill.

The motorized mill, pictured right is a large and unwieldy piece of equipment that would have been used to process...
Explore the Country (and Beyond!) With Your VHS Membership

VHS recently became a member of the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association. NARM is one of the largest reciprocal membership programs in the world with members in the United States, Bermuda, Canada, El Salvador and Mexico!

VHS Members at the Associate Level and above can get free or discounted admission at over 842 arts, cultural, and historical institutions along with botanical gardens, children’s museums, science and technology centers and more that offer their individual NARM qualified members reciprocal benefits.

Check out all the great locations you could visit at narmassociation.org. Join VHS at the Associate Level or higher when you renew your membership to have access to these benefits, or contact Tori Hart at tori.hart@vermonthistory.org, (802) 479-8516 to upgrade your current membership.

---

Your Story, Your Legacy, Their Future.

Naming the Vermont Historical Society as a beneficiary in your will or investments won’t affect your lifestyle today, and makes a tremendous impact on our work and service to future generations.

To learn more about the many creative gifting solutions, contact:

Kristin J. Dodge
Director of Development
(802) 479-8525
kristin.dodge@vermonthistory.org

---

VHS Annual Report

In our continued efforts to reduce costs and waste, the 2016 VHS Annual Report will be available as a PDF on our website in the near future.

If you would like a printed copy instead, please contact Diane Campbell at diane.campbell@vermonthistory.org; (802) 479-8503

---

VHS Annual Report

In our continued efforts to reduce costs and waste, the 2016 VHS Annual Report will be available as a PDF on our website in the near future.

If you would like a printed copy instead, please contact Diane Campbell at diane.campbell@vermonthistory.org; (802) 479-8503

---
Freaks, Radicals and Hippies...
Continued from page 1

Many people believe that the influx of new people ruined the state forever. Others believe that the state was saved by these newcomers, who brought invigorating ideas, politics, and social mores to a state that had been in serious decline. What we know for sure is that the state was changed forever as the baby boomers, from Vermont and from away, exerted their political, cultural and social influence for the next generation. “We’ve met some amazingly generous people, heard some great stories, and we’re looking forward to sharing what we’ve learned from them and uncovered during our research,” says VHS Curator Jackie Calder. The counterculture archive created as part of this project, which includes oral histories, artwork, objects, photographs, and documents, will be accessible to researchers as part of the permanent collection of the Vermont Historical Society.

Hobart Grain Mill
Continued from page 3

Mad Brook Farm members shared their memories and experiences, agreeing to be taped as a roundtable conversation. Thank you Mad Brook Farm!

whole grains into flour for bread baking. Whole grains and breadmaking were enormously important symbolic concepts of the time. Whole grains gained popularity for their nutrition and unaltered natural qualities, and grinding them from their original state could be a meditative, if lengthy, process. It was essential in a time before whole wheat flour was widely available. Baking bread from its component ingredients was a daily chore at many communities across Vermont.

At some point, someone painted over the industrial patina of the grain mill with beautiful flowered designs – on its red background, flower petals in yellow surrounding a blue heart. The mill has seen a lot of use over the years, and it is stained dark in its crevices and cracks. It’s also incredibly heavy, weighing close to 75 pounds and requiring several VHS staffers to move it from one location to another.

This Hobart grain mill, and other objects, photographs, posters, and documents collected as part of the 1970s project, help us to keep a tangible link with a not-too-distant past that is rapidly disappearing. Though the impact of the 1970s is present with us every day in Vermont – in food coops, in locavore trends, in advancements in social justice, and in the changed population and way of life – it’s these clear links that the Vermont Historical Society is collecting so we can continue telling our story.
Comings & Goings

WELCOME TO:
- Matt Johnson who joined us as Print Media & Public Relations Coordinator
- New board members Helene Lang, Donald Miller, Jim Reardon, and Karen Steele

GOODBYE TO:
- Julie Nelson, former Marketing & Community Relations Coordinator, who is now pursuing independent work
- Nik Ligett and Mary Catherine Shea, our summer Library interns, who did outstanding work cataloging archival materials from the Barre History Collection
- Tucker Foltz, a summer Curatorial intern, who helped us both at Vermont History Expo and in cataloging and researching for the Vermont 1970s Project
- Departing board members Anne Bugbee, Frank Bryan and Virginia Coolidge

Best of luck to Nik and Mary Catherine (shown here with Librarian Paul Carnahan, left)!

Welcome to the VHS, Matt!

Pokémon Invade VHS!

Yes! You like your Vermont History...and we’re saving trees.

Thank you for viewing your journal online.

vermonthistory.org/VHJ

Please contact Diane Campbell if you have any questions:
diane.campbell@vermonthistory.org

You may have heard about the new augmented reality game sweeping the world called Pokémon Go. In the game, players “catch” fanciful creatures with names such as Charizard and Jigglypuff. These creatures can pop-up almost anywhere, including the Vermont History Museum. We’ve had fun finding them around the exhibits and out on the lawn. We even set a “lure” to attract more creatures. If you (or someone you know) is a Pokémon player, make sure you stop by both the Museum and History Center to collect a Pidgey or two.
Volunteer Spotlight

Sally Herring

Sally Herring is one of many dedicated volunteers at the Vermont Historical Society. When the museum was closed for Bennington Battle Day, she missed her regular Tuesday shift, so Sally came to the museum on Wednesday instead.

Volunteering at the VHS was one of Sally’s goals when she retired from Union Mutual in 2014. Since then, she has been a front-desk volunteer at the museum, usually covering both the morning and afternoon shifts on Tuesdays. In addition to selling tickets and merchandise, Sally excels at customer service and making the visitors feel welcome. She’s always happy to engage in conversations, answer questions and provide directions to other attractions. When asked about her volunteer service, Sally said “I love it here! I like meeting the people that come in and having the chance to connect with them and hear their stories.” During quiet moments, Sally is also happy to work on special projects like updating mailing lists and creating logs of audio recordings from the 1970s forums.

Sally lives in Berlin with her husband, Michael. She also enjoys riding her horse, taking classes at Studio Place Arts, and visiting other museums and historic sites.

We appreciate Sally’s support as both a dedicated volunteer and a VHS member. Like so many of our volunteers, her enthusiasm, knowledge of history, and genuine interest in visitors helps extend the reach of the Vermont Historical Society.
Mystery Photo

Member David Blow identified last issue’s mystery photograph for us. It is the Kennedy/Westervelt house on the southwest corner of Summit and Maple Streets in Burlington. The house had an addition built onto the west side not long after this photograph was taken. The building is now owned and occupied by Champlain College.

Do you recognize this?

This issue’s mystery photo comes to us from the Albisetti Papers in the Barre History Collection. This scene may be in Barre, or it may be elsewhere.

If you recognize the street, please contact VHS Librarian Paul Carnahan at (802) 479-8508 or paul.carnahan@vermonthistory.org