

VERMONT



HISTORY

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About the Cover Illustration

The VHS library recently acquired a collection of photographic images taken by Edward L. Gatchell in and around Canaan, Vermont, in 1946 and 1947. The collection consists of ten rolls of developed 35-mm film containing 222 images. In order to better view these images the VHS library staff and volunteers have scanned all of the negatives and saved them as digital files.

The Gatchell photos are a wonderful record of life and events in the northeastern most point of the state just after World War II. The collection includes photographs of a ten-man Bombardier snow machine used for moving men into the woods to inspect logging jobs. The photo on the front cover shows the snow machine parked in front of the Halfway Hotel in Hereford, Quebec, just over the Canadian border from Canaan. The collection also documents the ceremony for laying the cornerstone of the Canaan Memorial School in 1946 (photo below). The school was dedicated to the memory of the veterans of the recently



completed war and representatives of the armed services and dignitaries assembled in nearby Fletcher Park before laying the cornerstone.

In addition to these two photographs, the collection includes photos of other events: the collapse of a garage overhang onto a truck; a fire in a downtown block in nearby Colebrook, New Hampshire; another fire in an apartment house in the Beecher Falls section of Canaan; a family vacation spot at the Great Averill Pond; and photos of buses from Canada in front of the Gatchell's family business, the Northland Hotel. The collection includes but a few brief labels. Identification of the images has come through the assistance of the Canaan Historical Society and a teacher in Canaan.

This collection of family photographs provides surprising details about a community that is under-represented in the collections of the Vermont Historical Society during a period that is also under-documented. As such, it should be a useful record for researchers in the future.

— PAUL CARNAHAN, *Librarian*