

HEADING FOR THE GREEN MOUNTAINS

I just wanted to comment on the letter from Judy Conn in the May/June 2011 edition. Her sentiments are mine exactly. I read the letter to my husband and he laughed, because her love of Vermont (and your beautiful magazine!) matches mine and it sounded like I wrote that letter! I could relate to her comment about dragging out her maps and literature to plan her next excursion to the Green Mountain State, which is exactly what I do each and every time (and we have been going to Vermont for 14 years!).

Here in New York, I buy mostly Vermont-made products in the supermarkets if I can get them. If not, I order them online! Although I do not have a Vermont-like “compound” such as hers, my home is also filled with many things “Vermont,” including an historic map replica, a Vermont Castings porcelain woodstove, empty glass maple syrup jugs from Burgess Sugarhouse, Vermont books, etc., etc. Even my cubicle at work is filled with various Vermont reminders (as is my computer desktop background!).

We also travel to Vermont at least twice per year to Smugglers Notch/Stowe, and I currently belong to the Vermont 251 Club and am making my way through all the state’s towns. We cover a lot of ground when we are in Vermont, that’s for sure! We’ll be up Memorial Day week and will be attending the Strolling of the Heifers parade and festival on the way back to New York. Believe it or not, attending that parade is on my bucket list! Love those cows!

Vermont for me is a “feeling.” When I am not there I am homesick. Maybe some day I can truly call it home.

MARY ANN PUMILIA
via e-mail

CROSSING BRIDGES UNDERCOVER

I was so glad to see your story on the Williamsville bridge (March/April VERMONT Magazine)! I remember, as a child, spending my summers at my grandparents’ house in South Newfane. Those were the days when the roads had no names and you could play in the street without a single car passing by for two or three hours at a time. I would ride my father’s rusty bicycle down the road, across the old bridge, and end up at Bush’s General Store for a soda and a rest on the front



Mail Box

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steps. I remember all the times riding in a car across the old bridge, sometimes having to wait your turn for three or more cars that were all crossing the bridge at the same time.

Most people, I think, have forgotten about the 2-year renovation and detour that took place back in 1979–81. The owner of the South Newfane General Store had T-shirts printed up that read “I survived the covered bridge detour.” But apart from that, and all the other history that went along with the old bridge, was the fact that it was the very first covered bridge I ever traveled across. It was Thanksgiving weekend, 1967. My parents had just adopted me on November 13. Back then, Massachusetts state law said you could not take an adopted child across the state line until they were 6 months old. My mother wanted her parents to see me, so they drove across the MA/VT border at 3 a.m., when they thought there would be no police, and my mother hid with me wrapped in her arms in the foot well of the passenger’s front seat all the way to the South Newfane home. They knew that they were ‘in the clear’ as soon as they got across the Williamsville Bridge.

I will miss that old bridge....

MARK FRENCH
Bedford, MA

ART DECO REVIVAL

I am a sculptor bringing life back to an old Art Deco movie theater in Springfield, Vermont. I thought that the subject would be of interest to readers.

Springfield was once a tool-manufacturing center that

was important enough to be a Nazi bomb target during World War II. But the city went into decline and became something of a ghost town. In 2007, Springfield, Vermont, competed with 13 other Springfields throughout the USA and won the official title of Home of the Simpsons. The small downtown movie theater hosted the world premiere of *The Simpsons Movie*. Later (July 2008), a fire devastated the theater, and as workers pulled off the brick façade around the entrance, they discovered an Art Deco sculptural relief in disrepair.

I was commissioned to recreate the sculptures in the Art Deco façade, one part of the \$3.5 million theater restoration, a joint effort of Housing Vermont and the Springfield Housing Authority. The sculpture project is masterminded by Alan Barr, who is well known in the architectural restoration field.

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