



In memory of the Thabault and Carpentier families, the Winooski Historical Society received a \$1,500 contribution from the Carpentier Realty Co., Inc.

Carpentier Realty Co., Inc. was formed as a Corporation, under the laws of the State of Vermont in 1960, to own and manage real estate formerly owned by the Thabault and Carpentier families in the City of Winooski. The Company recently sold its last piece of property in Winooski. In recognition and gratitude for all that the City of Winooski has done for the family over generations, the Shareholders and Directors of the Corporation donated some of the proceeds to benefit the Citizens of Winooski.

The Winooski Historical Society appreciates the contribution and will, as requested, maintain the City's rich heritage for future generations.



Last November, Hilda Danaher recounted her story of being a World War 11 Army Nurse and what that meant to her as a young girl from Vermont. Since her presentation, Hilda was asked to address, via computer technology, the 7th grade Middle School in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. A second interview was presented to the Assembly and school Principal of the Middle School. Recently, Hilda was interviewed on Channel 3, and was on a Panel sharing her experiences at the Women Veterans History Month in Montpelier.



Winooski Historical Society
Champlain Mill
20 Winooski Falls Way
Suite 42
Winooski, VT 05404

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Remember Birthdays are good for you, the more you have the longer you live.

You may be only one person in the world, but to someone out there you may also be the world.

When you find yourself making the same mistake again, remember, some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

You can learn a lot from a box of crayons, some are sharp, some are dull, some are pretty, some have weird name and they are all different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

Keep all your words soft and sweet, remembering that some day you may end up having to eat them.

If in life you lend someone \$20.00 and you never see that person again, maybe it was worth it.

In life you don't always have to be #1, keep in mind that it's the 2nd mouse that gets the cheese.



OFFICERS

Rita Martel
President

Mary Ellen Fitzgerald
Vice President

Jean DeVarney
Secretary

Leslie Turner
Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to the public.

Annual Dues are:
 \$7 (Individual)
 \$10 (Family)
 \$5 (student or 65+)

See reverse for application

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Closed Sunday
& major holidays

CONTACT US

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Winooski Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2011

DUFRESNE'S SERVICE STATION ~ by Al Blondin



Photo courtesy of Paul Dufresne

Mr. Regis Dufresne, along with his parents and siblings, moved to Winooski, VT in 1905 from No. Adams, Mass. Prior to that, the family along with his parents lived in St. Sabine of Quebec. Their first residence in Winooski was at 30 Lafountain Street in 1905. Regis Dufresne married Dorilda Couture on the 28th of July, 1925. Regis Dufresne built their first family home at 26 Lafountain Street. Regis and Dorilda Dufresne had four children. Theresa was born in 1926, Mary Ann in 1928, Paul was born in 1929, and Cecile was born in 1932.

Regis Dufresne, along with his brother Joseph, purchased the property at 145 Main Street from the estate auction of Mrs. Montgomery in 1933. The property was then used as rental property while negotiations were on going with the Gulf Oil Company, and plans were drawn up for a gas filling station at this location. Regis along with his wife and family moved to 145 Main Street in the spring of 1938.

In 1937, Regis Dufresne, sought permission from the City of Winooski to cut out curbs and gutters on his property at 145 Main Street for the purpose of allowing access to the property, and where the proposed gas filling station was intended to open up. There was some opposition to this construction from several of the neighbors. A special meeting of the City Council was held on 28 May, 1937 to discuss this impending construction, as Mr. Dufresne wanted to hear the opposition from the neighbors. Issues of diminishing property values, safety of the children, while passing this location on their way to both School and Church, along with issues of increased noise and fire safety were brought up. Several neighbors had signed a petition in opposition of this impending construction. Mayor Kelty also voiced his opposition to the construction of a gas filling station on this property. After all were heard, the issue was tabled. Another Meeting was to be held on the 1 June, 1937.

On the next Meeting of 1 June, 1937, Mr. Dufresne stated that he was neither asking for nor seeking any favors from the Council, but only sought his rights to use the property as he saw fit. In further discussions, on that day Mr. Dufresne was asked if he might be able to provide the Council with a blueprint of his intentions for the proposed gas filling station. Mr. Dufresne said he would have copies of the proposed gas filling station as provided by the Gulf Oil Company available to the Council by next Tuesday or Thursday. Mr. Dufresne further stated that it was his intention to put a gas filling station on his property, and that he believed he had the right to do so.

The next City Council meeting on 7 June 1937 saw the Council voting 3 to 2 in favor of Mr. Dufresne with Councilmen Leo Contois, Elias Poirier, and Armand Brault voting in favor, and Councilmen Albert Gravel and Major Kelty voting against it. Mayor Kelty then vetoed the vote, but the Members of the City Council overrode his veto. By the time of the next Council Meeting on 5 July 1937, Mr. Dufresne, with blueprints in hand, had already started construction. He had cut curbs and gutters allowing access to his property.

Continued on next page

The case was later heard in Court, and ruled by Judge Cowles in favor of Mr. Dufresne, stating that the City had no zoning law against gas filling stations and further, no restrictions against gas filling stations existed.



Photo courtesy of Paul Dufresne

The house was reconstructed to make an office of the original bay windows areas. With the bay window removed, a door was added. Two plate glass windows were installed on both sides of the door to make up the Office and Store area, One Bay Garage was added to the North side of the house. The Gas Filling Station was opened in Sept. of 1937. By the 1940's, Paul was working at the Station with his father; gas was now selling 7 gallons for a dollar. By 1944, Mrs. Dufresne had opened a portion of the house to tourist by day or week. By the spring of 1946, a second bay was added on to the Station and the term Gas Service Station came to be; replacing the term of "gas filling stations". In 1947, Mr. Dufresne had purchased his first fuel delivery truck, and was now entering into home fuel oil delivery business. The first truck had 1000 gallons capacity for fuel oil. Mr. Dufresne was one of the first in the area to offer ticket meter service in delivery to his customers. By the fall of 1947, Mr. Dufresne had added a second truck to his Fleet. This

newest truck was used only for the delivery of kerosene. Kerosene was in heavy demand at this time. Kerosene was delivered to the home while smaller purchase of about 5 to 10 gallons was available directly at the Station. Mr. Dufresne, always kept up with the latest in delivered meter service, and two years later, had his trucks equipped with a meter that not only registered in gallons and tenths, but also, automatically figured the price in. Meters were checked periodically by the state of Vermont for accuracy. In 1970, the fleet of fuel delivery trucks in the Dufresne fleet had risen to 4 trucks.

Regis Dufresne turned over the everyday operation of the business to his son Paul in 1952. Mr. Dufresne remained very active in the business until the mid to late 60's, when declining health saw him spending less time at the Station. Mr. Dufresne passed away in 1975. Paul Dufresne continued to operate the business until 1985 when he sold the family business to his two sons Ray and Richard Dufresne. Ray and Richard Dufresne both had attended Mechanical Auto Trade School and, along with the experience gained working with their father, were now ready to take over as owners of the Dufresne's Service Station.

Many residents of Winooski, having grown up in the area, can relate to the number of times they have availed themselves of the soda and chocolate bars sold at the station; along with the number of times they had, also, availed themselves of the free tire patching service offered to the area children of a free hot tire patch for their deflated bicycle tires. Mr. Dufresne maintained a policy of patching the tires on these children's bicycles free of charge. Many of these children later became customers of the ServiceStation along with almost everyone who had signed the original petitions to stop the construction of the gas filling station. Mr. Dufresne, along with his good business practice and reputation for honesty, won them all over through the years of his operating this Station, and contrary to the original belief of the petitioners, there were never any accidents or fires attributed to the filling stations.

In 1991, the building did suffer a loss by fire due to a wiring problem. It was determined that a squirrel had made its presence known in the area of the electrical circuit breaker box; causing a fire that destroyed much of the building. The building was then sold to Wesco Oil, and has been under their direction since then.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, May 15, 2011 - 2:00 P.M.

Winooski Senior Center



Speaker: Al Blondin

Topic: Part II, narrated video tour through many of the covered bridges throughout Vermont.

Tuesday, June 21, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.

Mill Museum at Champlain Mill



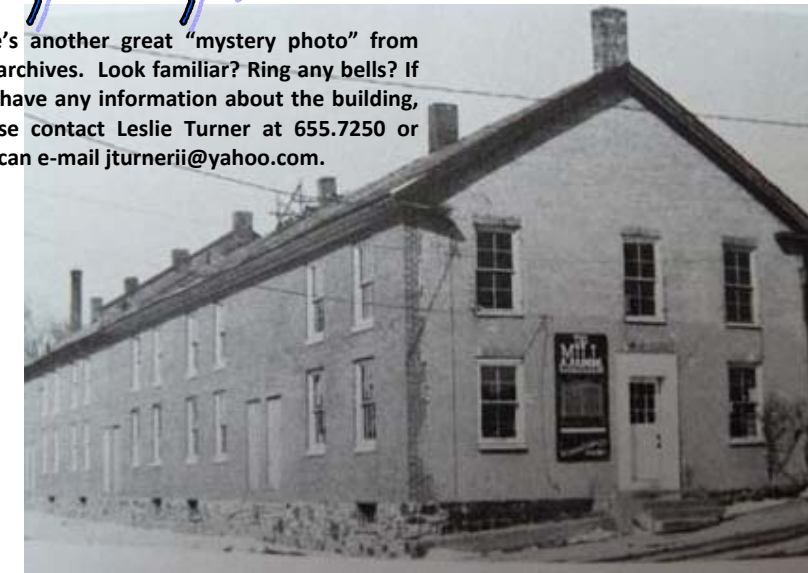
Speaker: Willard Randall, a distinguished Scholar in History and Professor at Champlain

College, also nominated for the Pulitzer Prize six times.

Topic: "Ethan Allen's Love Affair with the Winooski Valley"

Mystery Photo

Here's another great "mystery photo" from our archives. Look familiar? Ring any bells? If you have any information about the building, please contact Leslie Turner at 655.7250 or you can e-mail jturnerii@yahoo.com.



Do you have any old Winooski photos (buildings, street scenes, portraits) that you'd like to donate or share (we can scan a copy) with the Historical Society? Contact: Leslie Turner at 802.655.7250 or jturnerii@yahoo.com

Mystery Photo Revealed!



The Mystery Photo in our Winter edition of the newsletter was the Elm Street School. It was located on the Corner of Elm Street and Malletts Bay Avenue

The area just west of Malletts Bay Ave saw much growth in the time after 1860, and housing began to become more affordable with Mr. Francis LeClair putting up many Brick homes in the area known as The Flats. Many



of the families moving into these houses had several children, and this put a stress on the local school situation. Mr. LeClair owned much of the land in the area and in 1886, sold this piece of land to the Village of Winooski for \$300.00. The Village then set out and built the schoolhouse here on the corner of Elm Street and Malletts Bay Ave. Because of its location many people also referred to it as the Malletts Bay School.

The school held classes for students in grades one through six. The school continued here for another fifty years, and from 1936 till 1939, it served as a local Canning Factory. In 1939, it was sold to the American Legion Post # 32. ~ by Al Blondin

Winooski Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Amount _____

E-mail _____ Date _____

Annual dues \$7 (individual), \$10 (family), or \$5 (student and 65+) are payable to:

**Winooski Historical Society
c/o Leslie Turner
119 Bellevue St.
Winooski, VT 05404**

Please note: Any question regarding your membership call Leslie (802.655.7250)