

Courier-Standard-Enterprise

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CANAJOHARIE-FORT PLAIN-ST. JOHNSVILLE, N.Y. USPS 087980

75 CENTS

Many attend Memorial Day ceremonies



By JOSHUA THOMAS
C-S-E Editor

St. Johnsville's Memorial Day parade kicked off under an overcast, but gradually brightening sky Monday morning, passing through the packed downtown area around 9:45 a.m., and concluding at Soldiers and Sailors Park, where living and deceased veterans were honored with speeches and song.

Leading St. Johnsville's annual Memorial Day Parade was a massive group of marching veterans from battles including (as denoted by American Legion Post 168-created signs) World War II, and the Korean War and Vietnam War, followed by vehicles containing more veterans, residents, businesses, departments, officials, groups and OESJ middle and high

school marching bands.

Speakers at the event in the park included MRML Director Dawn Lamphere and Senator George Amedore. The event also featured musical performances from the OESJ Elementary Choir, who performed "America the Beautiful," and then backed local entertainer Walt Brown, who led the crowd in a sing-along of "Proud to be an American."

After a performance of "God Bless America" by Grace Yeziarski, Senator George Amedore, who walked in the parade beside Montgomery County Executive Matthew Ossenfort, spoke first, stating, "the reason we're here this morning is for the respect and honor we need to give to those who truly believed in the motto

Veterans march down Main Street during Monday's St. Johnsville Memorial Day parade.

Joshua Thomas

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Former county historian Anita Smith dies at 90

By JOSHUA THOMAS
C-S-E Editor

ST. JOHNSVILLE — A lifelong village resident, the matriarch of a large, loving family, and a friend to everyone, Anita Smith spent her life promoting the community she loved and sharing her vast knowledge of its history and heritage.

Smith, who celebrated her 90th birthday in November, died last Wednesday afternoon peacefully, yet unexpectedly.

Smith, who lived in her current home in the village for 60-plus years, was many things. Her list of professional accomplishments aside, she was a ball of energy, a legendary cook, a lover of history, the oldest of six siblings, and a woman with a warm, funny demeanor, who

was always quick with a smile.

She and her husband, Fred Smith, owned Smith's Market in St. Johnsville and were retail merchants for more than 30 years, also having owned Caponera Liquor Store, which they purchased in 1974.

In 1977 she was appointed Montgomery County historian and archivist, a position in which she served for seven years. She is a former member of the New York State County Historian Organization, where she held the offices of vice president and president.

In her presidential year, she proposed a "Leave a Legacy" theme and asked all historians to write a brief history of their municipalities and donate it to their local schools. She was then

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Joshua Thomas

St. Johnsville village board member Margaret DiGiacomo (right) reads Anita Smith a proclamation declaring Nov. 22, 2014, as "Anita Smith Day" in the village.

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Canajoharie on canvas

Visiting artists use local scenes as their subjects

By JOSHUA THOMAS
C-S-E Editor

CANAJOHARIE — Two artists, Joe Paquet and John Cosby, of St. Paul, Minnesota and San Clemente, California respectively, recently spent ten days in the local area painting historical sites, buildings and neighborhoods from Little Falls to Canajoharie.

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Joshua Thomas

Artist Joe Paquet shows one of his paintings of Mill Street.

Art from page 1

The paintings are part of a larger project titled Rust and Roadsides, which aims to document remnants of the great industrial generation along the rust belt.

The journey to Canajoharie is the duo's fifth trip in as many years, at which point the idea formed when the painters discussed how time was potentially running out to document the quickly-disappearing American industrial landscape.

The trip has so far brought the artists to a variety of locations in numerous states, including Bethlehem and Allentown in Pennsylvania, and Buffalo, Albany and Troy.

In Little Falls and Canajoharie, the men "found everything we were aiming for," according to Paquet, who noted that paintings were created in Canajoharie in a variety of locations, including Mill Street, White Park and country farmland.

It took about two sessions — morning and afternoon — to finish each painting to about 90 percent. Cosby explained that "the detail and finesse goes on in the studio," though, "all the truth happens in the field."

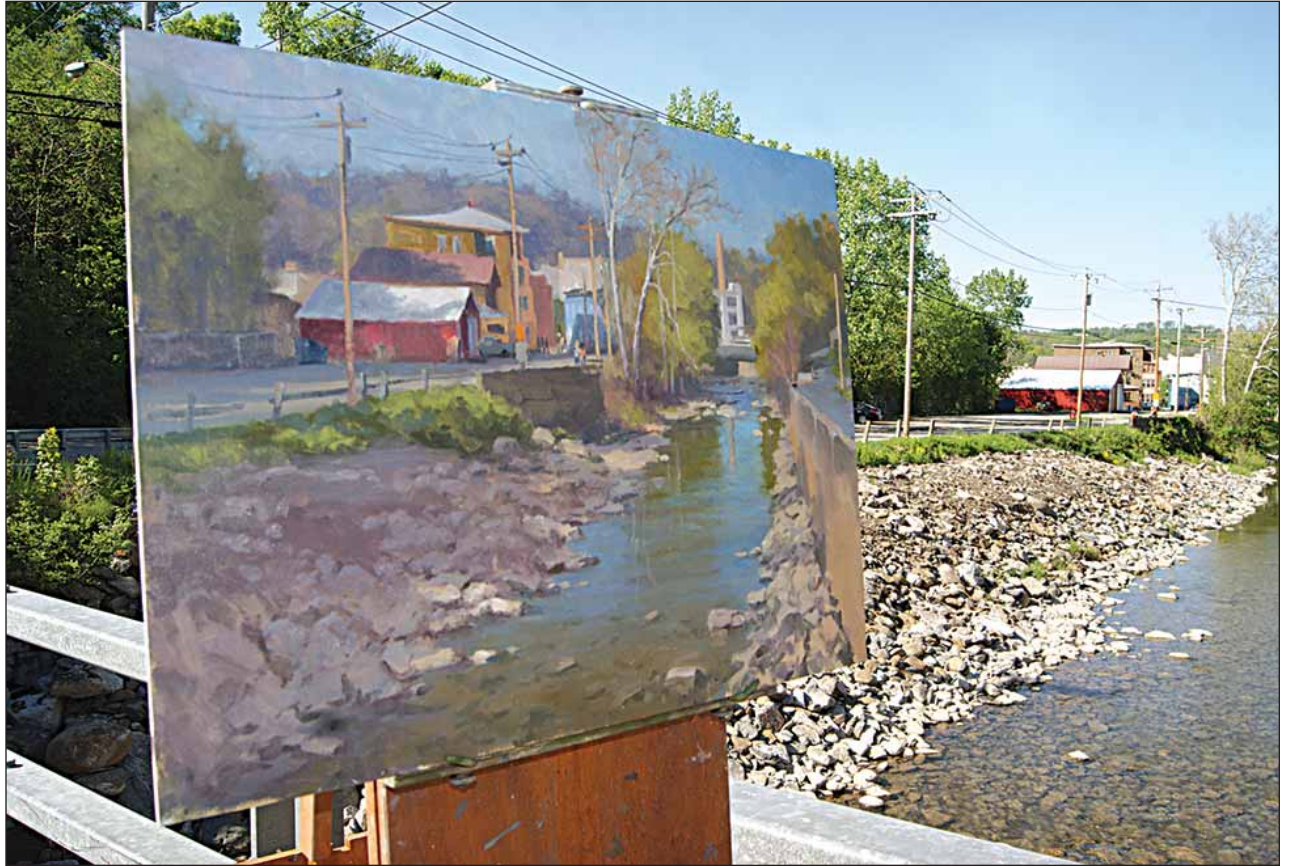
Paquet noted that surroundings, and even the people they met along the way, formed the paintings. He said, "The sound of water informs the painting. Every sense you have that you engage informs the painting."

Local people and their stories have also informed the pieces.

"We got great interaction," Paquet explained, with both painters agreeing that this trip introduced them to some of the nicest people they've met in their five years of travel. The people here, they said, are warm and engaging, and are always willing to share personal experiences.

Cosby stated that the "open hearts" along the way have made the biggest impression, adding that he's incredibly appreciative of, "the way they welcome us into their homes with dinners, and they want to tell us about their favorite places."

"To gain that kind of access into peoples' lives," he said, is invaluable.



Joshua Thomas

A painting of Mill Street by John Cosby as part of Rust and Roadsides.

Paquet stated of Canajoharie, "We're amazed by how many people who live here love this town." Cosby pointed out that with a lot of places they've visited, this hasn't been the case. Many places are ashamed of their dilapidated historical buildings, ready to tear them down in the name of promoting revitalization.

One of the biggest challenges they've faced has been weather. Paquet explained,

"We got eaten alive on our last trip to Lake Erie," during which the painters were blessed with two days of sun, and many days of freezing shards of ice gusting off the lake in massive winds. Heavy winds, he explained, can turn an easel into a flailing, bug attracting sail.

Once Paquet and Cosby have acquired enough pieces, they will curate a show down to about 30 paintings a piece, comprising rail, shipping, coal, steel, grain, mills, transportation, and bars and restaurants.

They hope to eventually show the pieces — an American document — in the Smithsonian Institute, or for the show to travel through a circuit of museums that like to display representational work.

Paquet and Cosby hope to have the pieces on display in about three years, their next step being to curate and market the show, while also seeking out potential sources of funding.



PETS OF THE WEEK

Photos submitted

LYDIE AND LOUIE

Lydie, left, is a 7- to 9-year-old female Shepherd mix, white with black markings and black flecks in her coat. She was found on Brookmans Corner Road on May 19. She was running with another dog, a female Black Lab mix. Lydie is sweet and gentle, very easygoing.

Louie, right, is a 7-week-old male. He was found in a yard on Route 162, town of Root. He's irresistible.

If anyone is interested in adopting either Lydie or Louie, please call the shelter or visit their website: ayresanimalshelter.com.






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Arkell Hall

Adult Home
Resident
Garage &
Bake Sale

Saturday,
June 6th
9am - 2pm

Arkell Center
Community Room
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Canajoharie, NY
(Across from Basset
Healthcare)

- RAIN OR SHINE -