



The Intelligencer

The Falmouth High School Intel

Established 1948

Oral Histories Preserve Tales of Falmouth Past *FHS Independent Study Students Record Elders' Recollections of Bygone Era Program Slated To Debut February 9th at Falmouth High School*

By Saer McCliment
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

The ground upon which we walk every day used to be devoid of concrete and glass and bubblegum wrappers. In the past, it was used as fields for cattle to graze and fertile soil in which to grow food. Nowhere is an exception; New York City, Los Angeles, everywhere you now see buildings and developments there used to be bare land. Including in Falmouth.

Falmouth High School History teacher Mr. Darrell Morey and English teacher Mr. Tom McManamon collaboratively put together an Oral History class as an independent study wherein interested students explored Falmouth's past as

they created oral histories of lifelong Falmouth residents. The idea was to find out how it used to be in Falmouth back in the day, how it has changed and what instigated that change. The students met once a week, on Thursday afternoons, and conducted research on an individual who had lived in Falmouth all his or her life. Then, using Flip cameras, the students conducted interviews with the individual to use in a final, filmed production that will be aired in public for the first time Wednesday, February 9 from 5-7 p.m. at the high school.

This project was one part of a collaborative effort between these teachers, as well as FHS Art teacher Mrs. Jane Baker and Graphics teacher Mr. John Holladay, Falmouth's 300 Committee

and the Falmouth Education Foundation, which provided funding to help the group celebrate the open space and landscapes of Falmouth. The oral history film, as well as paintings, drawings, and posters by FHS students will be exhibited at the school and celebrated in the opening reception.

The students who took the class are Emily Botelho, Ryan Davis, Aoife Callinan, Jack Trowbridge, Maddie Edgar, Sonya McHugh, and Ricky Moore. Students met every other week on Thursday afternoon from the beginning of the schoolyear, then met each Thursday afternoon after school in recent months, working hard to put together the final project. They used editing equipment at the school and received help

from Video teacher Mr. David McNeill.

Member of the Oral History class Emily Botelho thinks that "it is important for anyone to inquire more about something they are interested in, but to do it beyond books and the Internet." And they did just that as each student contributed a five-minute-long video consisting of depictions of the land and interviews with their subjects who remember the land as it used to be.

Emily interviewed her grandmother, Naomi Botelho of Waquoit, noting that "I completed an interview with my grandmother who had grown up in Falmouth and worked on several different farms in town," she said. "The video consists of small clips from my interview with my grandmother as well as

various pictures of the lands specified in the interview."

While the process of learning how to conduct interviews was valuable in and of itself, so was the focus on Falmouth. "The most important thing I learned from all of this is to not only be more observant of my surroundings, but truly take them in so that I can remember them," Emily recently said. "It is incredible just how much Falmouth has changed. I've read multiple books that have discussed and provided pictures with what the town looked like in years past. However, hearing and learning about the lands from personal experience had a much larger impact."

To prepare for their debut, the class spent several hours a week preparing and receiving instruction

from Mr. MacNeill, but they also took trips to the National Public Radio station in Woods Hole to speak with people whose jobs depend on their ability to shape oral histories. "This Land is Your Land," is expected to be around 40 to 45 minutes long, "interspersing interviews with some artwork and footage of the conservation of lands," says Mr. Morey.

"I can't emphasize how much Mrs. Baker, especially, helped," said Mr. Morey. "But also Mr. McNeill, the folks from WCAI in Woods Hole, the Falmouth Educator's Foundation and 300 Committee all need to be thanked for giving out students such an interesting educational opportunity."

Falmouth High School Junior Finds Exotic Adventure in India *Trip Reinforces His Gratitude for the Benefits of Life in the U.S.A.*

By Nicholas Lineaweaver
Staff Writer

Falmouth High School student Ansel Rothstein-Dowden took a unique trip to northern India for a week in January, exploring a diverse culture and distinctly different experience than American life. Ansel's trip lasted 11 days, and was focused around visiting his brother, Zachary Rothstein-Dowden, a Falmouth Academy graduate. Zachary now attends Banares Hindi University on a study-abroad program, where he studies Hindi and Sanskrit. Ansel wanted to take the trip to expand his knowledge of Indian religious art and history.

Despite his enthusiasm to broaden his inter-

national education, Ansel's trip did not quite reach his expectations. While Ansel recognized the fascinating differences in culture and social habits, he was far less complimentary of the distasteful sanitation conditions and driving standards. He recounted that the country was riddled with garbage and sanitation issues, as well as severe overpopulation as "there is trash all over the streets", and "people all over the streets". Ansel recognized this as a vast contrast from Cape Cod living, saying "the cultures are world apart". Food quality was an issue and posed a threat to health, as did the reckless drivers, "People paid no regard to the rules of the road and I mean that quite literally". Luckily,

Ansel survived his adventurous trip, and has since thankfully since rejoined us on American soil.

Although Ansel was adamant about the less-favorable aspects of his trip, he did acknowledge that much of the trip was enjoyable and enlightening. Ansel enjoyed the food, although the fresh produce could not be consumed, and bottled water was the only available beverage. He also enjoyed Indian television, which he was forced to become familiar with due to being sick for a portion of his trip. Ansel described Indian television as involving "cricket", "silly commercials", and an extended marathon of "Mega Piranha". He was also complimentary of the New Delhi Metro, that

city's public-transportation system, citing that it was "superior to that of Boston".

The highlight was undoubtedly his family's journey to the Hanuman's temple, that of the monkey god, which he described as his "favorite part of the trip". Monkeys are already prominent in the

streets of India, Ansel said, but particularly in this tem-



ple, "In it there are hundreds of monkeys running around,

playing with each other and being mischievous. The baby monkeys were about 10 inches tall and excruciatingly cute". His trip to the temple also included an excited monkey attacking Ansel's older brother.

Ansel states that he will avoid another trip to India "if [he] can help it", and would not recommend fellow FHS students take the trip unless they can afford to stay in the more accommodating parts of the country, or do not mind the minimalistic style of living. The various downfalls of the trip were lined by one underlying benefit: Ansel's ability to "learn about the world, regardless of [his] comfort zone".

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