



Rockland Metro Magazine

"The Buzz"

Issue 263, April 8, 2022, Rockland, Maine



On cable channel 7,
MaineCoast.tv & Roku

The Old School
Fellowship Education

At the Hop

by Phil Crossman

Whenever I can listen and do whatever else I'm doing simultaneously, I tune in to At the Hop on WERU, Saturday afternoons. Host Rick Foster's regard for the music and for those of us he supposes are listening, his ironic consideration of the mood and the music, are perfectly conducive. As you might suspect—those of you not already in the know—the show features music from the 50's and 60's, those memorable years when I struggled to come to grips with my awkward teenage self, with my insecurities, with my inability to dance without hurting someone—certainly her, sometimes both of us—or play basketball—sometimes them, always me—when, in fact, those were what I wanted more than anything to do and do well.

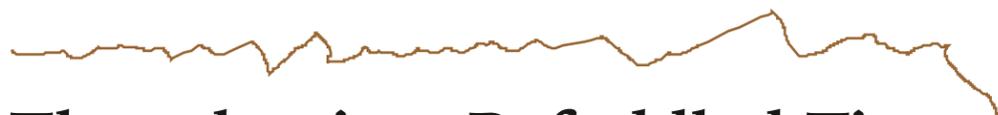
I wanted to stroll confidently into the old town hall, which doubled as the gym, during those Friday night Record Hops and bask in the warm anticipation of all those girls who were trying to appear nonchalant while secretly hoping I would sweep them off their feet, to jitterbug, twist, watusi or maybe—be still my heart—even hold them tight, waltz. I wanted to dance like my classmate Joe White. Instead I lingered in the shadows near the entrance trying to screw up the courage to ask just once, just one of them, to dance, at some point during the long night.

I wanted to dribble, sure-footed and confident, downcourt while opposing players, double-teaming me, tried in vain to keep up, then leap gracefully through the air and stuff the ball in the basket. I wanted to play like Larry Hopkins. Instead, while eliciting oohs and aahs from strangers when I first came on court, towering over my five team-mates and over the opposing team, it soon became apparent that I, the tallest boy on the court, was the only second-string player in our six man team.

Clearly, I was equipped to do those things, to be that kid. I was only fourteen but six very long feet tall. The problem, though, manifest in my inability to even walk upright safely, let alone dance or play basketball, was that twelve short months earlier, in 1957, I'd been only five feet tall and growing a foot in a year, through no choice of my own, was a struggle, one I could do nothing about except go along for the ride. Apparently a message traveling effectively five feet from head to toe was routine but traveling six feet between the same extremities was like calling to the moon. It was a rough ride.

At The Hop stirs all sorts of things within me, certainly melancholy, but mustn't there be something else? I mean, melancholy is very close to sadness, and sadness is undeniably manifest off and on during those few hours between three and five o'clock as I remember watching other guys do well what I couldn't do at all. But if all I got out of it was sadness, does it seem likely I'd listen? No, surely I'd opt out, find something else to do—but I don't. It's irresistible. If I'm in my shop I'm nearly always singing along—singing well I'm told by those who recognize my condition for what it is and are concerned. If I'm driving, it's with volume up and windows down, while Buddy Holly sings That'll be the Day, or Peggy Sue. Sometimes though, during those rides, I should really pull over and get a hold of myself for the sake of others as when Johnny Tillotson sings Without You.

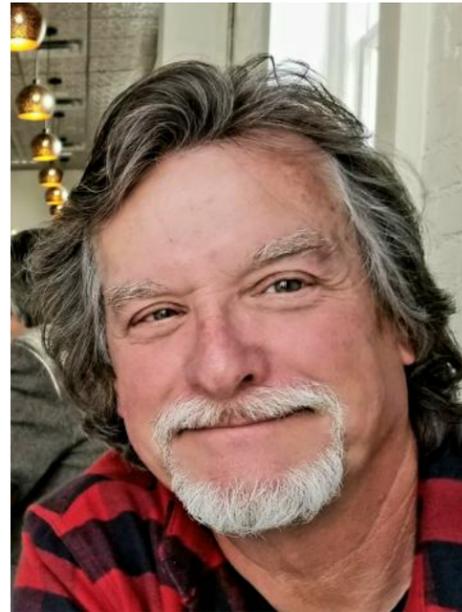
I've heard it said that melancholy is not a good thing for someone my age but I'm only vulnerable on Saturdays between three and five. The rest of the week I'm fine.



Thoughts in a Befuddled Time

by Glen Birbeck

I experienced an earthquake in Ecuador a couple of years ago. It occurred in Peru, next door, a couple hundred miles to the south. I felt that morning as the earth moved under me that everything was in question. I feel that now keeping up with (don't say obsessing, please) the news. Too much like a Tom Clancy military porn novel. I am aware also of the fracturing of the news sources. The USA media is strong anti Russian as I am. The Australians have a offbeat take. The Indians are playing the middle, Russia being a big arms source. China is the wild card. This is where, in geo political poker you show your strength. Well here in front of me I have enough made in China flat screens to pay for an aircraft carrier, in part. China is now the bigger of the Sino-Russian pair. It is China the west will need to deal with in terms of power, economic and military. Europe is heating with Russian gas. We are looking at screens made in China being driven by computer chips made in China. For economic reasons integrated circuits are made in Asia, mostly China. We can no more easily get along without billion transistor microcomputers than we can without oil. The USA has that sort of exposure in an interconnected world experiencing an earthquake, a tectonic change in the relationship among the players for power. The feds are going to fund a semiconductor fab (a fabrication plant). They cost billion\$ of bucks but we got to have our computers, cell phones tablets even cars! If you can ignore all this God bless you, you are so lucky. I can see now why old people turn to gardening.



Kyle Swan

WRFR DJ

by Ron Staschak

What can I say about Kyle Swan? I am so glad to know Kyle. The community of Rockland should appreciate him. Like all the djs from WRFR that I have encountered, he is a positive influence. His show, the Vinyl Hour - every Sunday evening from 8 to 10, is great. While relaxing to Kyle's soothing voice, you will hear amazing music that is new to you.

What do you at the radio station?

I spin a program on Sunday evenings from 8-10pm called The Vinyl Hour. I play vinyl records exclusively. I have a vinyl record collection in the thousands. Some very old and all different types of genres, from Rock, Pop, Blues, Jazz, Country, Bluegrass and more. Every Sunday is a different genre.

How long have you been volunteering?

I have been broadcasting continuously for fifteen years, beginning in 2007.

Why did you decide to volunteer?

I started collecting vinyl records years ago. A DJ who is no longer with WRFR convinced this fairly shy guy to do a program and share my collection.

Other than the show you host, what is your favorite show?

Two programs come to mind - The Jazz program on Monday evenings from 7-9pm called "Professor Bop", hosted by Ronald Van Heeswijk, and "The Late Night Groove" with Bruce Swan, that follows my program on Sunday nights from 10-12pm.

Is there a question I should have asked you?

Yes - What have I learned and enjoyed after 15 years doing community radio? Appreciation for many types of music other than just Rock n Roll (Jazz, Big Bands, Blues, etc), the fun of putting a radio program together each week, the opportunity to be engaged with my community, as I share my love of music with my audience every Sunday evening.

Of all the records you own, which is your favorite? most sentimental? record that your friends would be shocked to know that you own? record that you are shocked you own?

Many records I can call my favorites, but one that first comes to mind is the group Tower of Power and their album "Back to Oakland" with a picture of the Oakland Bay Bridge on the cover. Lenny Williams on vocals. Amazing sound and memories of a short stint in the Bay Area. Possibly one of the most sentimental ones is Richie Havens album "Stonehenge" Introduced to me in Coconut Grove, FL. when it first came out in 1970.

Albums that are seldom spoken about, maybe "S'Wonderful" 4 Giants of Swing. with Joe Venuti on violin, Eldon Shambling on guitar, Curley Chalker on Slide, Jethro Burns on mandolin. Great album !!! Joe Venuti who brought the violin back into Jazz. Amazing musician. Another album often overlooked - Joe Venuti and Tony Ramano "Never before, never again" Tony playing Eddie Lang's old G5 Gibson guitar that was given to Joe by Johnny's widow.

Collector album ???

Martin Denny's album. Exotic Vol. 3 mix of music and animal sounds standing by to spin when Eva. So many to spin with so little time. G5 - Too much news on CNN. Another favorite album: The Atkins String Company "The Night Atlanta Burned With Chet Atkins and 3 others. Wonderful music some refer to as Classical country.



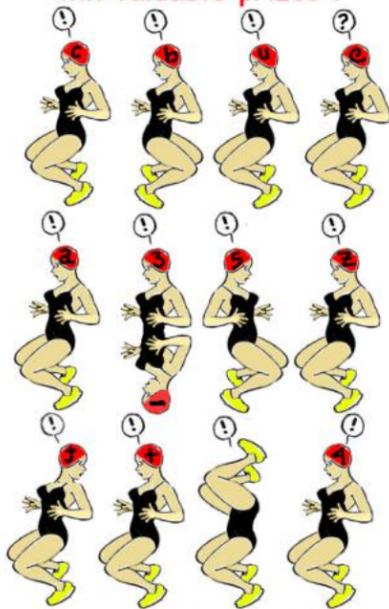
Have All, or Have Nothing

an opinion by Steve Carroll

On a recent visit to Los Angeles I traveled through the "skid-row section" of the city and saw the homeless encampments that are scattered throughout. I learned that LAPD do their best to corral the homeless population within a certain section of downtown so as not to disturb the affluent population of the city. It was so upsetting to me to see this kind of extreme poverty existing within the richest nation in the world. Right now so many Americans are struggling to meet basic expenses and keep food on the table. Skyrocketing inflation is robbing the middle class as they fight to feed their families, pay utility bills and put gasoline in their cars. Democrats and Republicans in Washington have turned their backs on average citizens while funneling billions to foreign countries and allowing open borders to millions of illegal immigrants. We cut off access to American oil while begging corrupt countries like Saudi Arabia for theirs. Where is our outrage and why are we doing little to stop this injustice? President Biden shuts down the XL Pipeline that could make our country energy independent and terminates oil leases to American oil companies while buying Russian oil at over \$100 a barrel - all in a effort, it seems, to promote his environmental agenda and to sell electric cars to the American public. So many Americans ask the Question "What about us?" While we try to "Save the World" who is saving us? Gasoline at over \$6 a gallon, electric prices up 83%, food prices soaring and home prices beyond the reach of most Americans. Corruption has now reached the highest levels in Government and we must all realize we are really no different than Russia and many other countries that continue to feed the war machine while their citizen go hungry It's time to speak up America. If we are to "Make America Great Again" we must take it back from those who only seek personal gain. America is a county "of the people, for the people and by the people" and if want our country back we must take it from those who have stolen it from us. We must act now before it is too late. Contact your representatives. Vote on election day and participate in the process. This is our country, let's not give it away.



Solve the puzzle
win valuable prizes!



clue: not Quen Victoria's Gilly



Join the Metro Show
Wednesdays
from 5 to 6 pm

The Metro show is a discussion on WRFR radio and MaineCoast TV of topics of importance to our community, be they local or global. We have been experimenting lately with an open Zoom format, The Zoom link is posted at wrfr.org look for the link under: programs/shows/Rockland Metro. **Please join us as a listener, viewer, caller, or Zoom participant.**

Become a WRFR Sponsor

Sponsoring your local all-volunteer radio station is community service, public relations, and advertising - all for just \$360 a year. We will record a 20-second announcement describing your business or organization and letting our listeners know how to find you. Your message will play at least once a day, every day of the year. To learn more, email Amie Daniels: sponsorwrfr@gmail.com.

WRFR and The Buzz are supported by these local business sponsors. Please give them your custom!

19th Edition • American Legion Post 1 • Apache Boat Works • The Apprenticeshop • Astrology with Ananur • Bartlett Woods • Bay Chamber Concerts & Music School • Bay Chiropractic • Blues Festival • Botany Maine • Brio Promotions • Brooks Trap Mill • Bufflehead Sailing Charters • Burpee, Carpenter & Hutchins Funeral Home • Cafe Miranda • Camden Conference • Camden Harbor Cruises • Camden National Bank • Camden Opera House • C'est la Vie Consignment • Chartrand Imports • Courier Publications • Cemetary Dance Publications • Dead River Company • Dowling Walsh Gallery • Eastern Tire • Eric Gabrielsen • First National Bank • Frantz Furniture • The Free Press • Genuine Automotive • Gilman Electrical Company • The Good Tern Co-op & Café • The Grasshopper Shop • Guini Ridge Farm • Hello Hello Books • Home Kitchen Cafe • Jensen's Pharmacy • Jess's Market • K & P Speed Shop • Knox Village Soup • Luce Spirits • Maine Street Meats • Maine Coast TV • Maritime Energy • Mountainside Services • Mid-Knight Auto • Monhegan Boat Line • OUT Maine • Peaceful Passage • Pen Bay Pilot • Pen Bay Medical Center • Red Bird Acupuncture • Robbins Construction • Rock City Employee Cooperative • Rockland Family Dentistry • Rockland Savings Bank • Sammy's Deluxe • Samoset Resort • Schooner Bay Printing • Side Country Sports • Southend Grocery • State of Maine Cheese • Strand Theatre • Swan Restorations • Suzuki's Sushi Bar • Tea Printers • Toshie Ichiyanagi Tesler, CPA • Viking Lumber • Wayfinder School • Well and Good Natural Medicine • Willow Bake Shop • The Zack Shack

Get *The Buzz* at these Rockand locations: Good Tern Co-op • Dunkin' Donuts • Jensen's Pharmacy • Rock City Cafe • Southend Grocery

The Buzz is composed and printed by the Fellows of The Old School at the WRFR studios, 20 Gay Street, Rockland. Email: wrfr93.3@gmail.com

WEEK ONE HUNDRED-EIGHT

COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

by Phyllis Merriam

A friend, who was waiting in line at the Rockland post office, witnessed a male customer removing his court-ordered ankle monitor with his bolt cutter and tried to mail the monitor to the sheriff's department. Police were notified. You never know what you'll see at the post office on what started as an ordinary day.

Speaking of law enforcement, Rockland PD is announcing the sponsorship of a free BOLAWRAP 150 demonstration May 26 at 9 am in Rockland's council chambers to include the public, city councilors, and afterward, a five-hour training limited to law enforcement. Bola is a Spanish word for a lariat with heavy balls attached and used by Argentinian cowboys to entangle and subdue cattle. This is where Elwood Norris, the developer of the BOLAWRAP 150, got his idea to manufacture this device for law enforcement, which is being used with police enthusiasm around the country.

The BOLAWRAP CEO says, "Our product is specifically designed for people suffering mental health issues."

The cartridge, worn on an officer's tool belt, shoots an 8-foot Kevlar tether that has heavy metal hooks attached. These hooks can pierce the skin and the tether risks entangling the person's neck resulting in asphyxiation.

This device would be used as a method to subdue "people experiencing mental health crises or other causes of violence and take them into custody." "Other causes of violence", appears to reveal Rockland PD underlying biases toward mental illness and claims this device "can immobilize a person with no pain involved; allow law enforcement to take a person into custody without causing injuries to the person or to law enforcement." The Rockland Police Department "is looking for new and effective ways to address mental health issues while reducing the force required to address these issues." As a clinical social worker, I have yet to meet a law enforcement officer who has the advanced mental health education, training and expertise to address mental health crises. The mere presence of law enforcement can escalate the crisis. Mental health should not be a policing issue and should not be a substitute for a functioning mental health system. These BOLOWRAPs cost \$1,000 per cartridge and about \$60 for the Kevlar tether. The Rockland PD would be spending \$12,720 to arm 12 officers. That money would be better spent developing trusting, collaborative working relationships with the existing trained mental health crisis response teams and persons experiencing mental health crises would be the safer.

Satellite imaging, first hand ground accounts and videos show horrific evidence of Ukrainian civilians tortured, raped, bound and killed by Putin's army after they destroyed Kyiv's suburbs of Irpin and Bucha. Multiple entities are gathering evidence of war crimes. Wars of aggression (attacking another country without provocation) are war crimes in and of themselves. UN representatives and EU officials say they "can understand President Zelenskyy's frustration." Unless your democratic country has been attacked without provocation, your citizens fleeing for safety, fired upon, brutalized and killed and your cities and towns laid waste, there is no understanding. Every day I hesitate to see what the news brings of Ukraine and brave Ukrainians. When first elected, Zelenskyy looked buoyant. Now he has aged with the anxiety of trying his best to protect his country and its citizens. His brow looks permanently furrowed from the discovery of so many children killed by Putin's Army. Slava Ukraini

