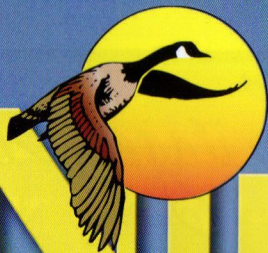


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MAGAZINE



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Dean Stetson as Billy B. Van, Jayna Hooper - author, and Sandy Alexander - pianist.

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES AWARD

On October 22, 2016, the Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire awarded Newport Historical Society with two awards. First, the Historical Research and Documentation Award was given for the research and writing of the "The Sunshine Peddler" book by Jayna Hooper; the book celebrates "Newport's Honorary Mayor" Billy B. Van and his many outstanding accomplishments that have borne continuous contributions to our American culture.

Beginning with a pile of unorganized newspaper clippings and miscellaneous items related to the life of former resident Billy B. Van -- an early 20th century local farmer, soap manufacturer, branding expert, vaudevillian, theater and film actor, and charitable man -- Hooper crafted an entertaining biography. Billy B. Van: Newport's Sunshine Peddler was published in August 2016, and is in its second printing.

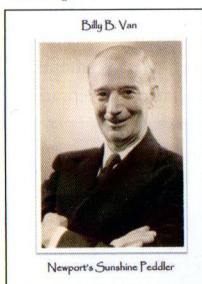
The text of this book was brought to life in a public presentation at the Newport Library Arts Center on August 9, 2016, by Jayna Hooper and Dean Stetson. The work was supported by both the Newport and Sunapee Historical Societies, which collaborated to share

information and artifacts of Van's life. The presentation also included a silent film starring Billy B. Van, filmed in the Georges Mills area c. 1916, named "The Lucky Hoodoo," with live piano accompaniment from Sandy Alexander, Sunapee Historical Society.

In the wake of an overwhelming community response, the Newport Historical Society has created a permanent exhibit space dedicated to the life work of Van. And, they are working with a N.H. film archivist, John Tariot of Hanover, N.H., to update Van's filmography on the popular film website IMDB (International Movie Database).

As a result of this effort, the Newport Historical Society was further rewarded with an award in the category of Public Programs.

"Thanks to the educational programs," remarked Jennifer Carroll, chair of the AHSNH Awards Committee and Director of Education at the Historical Society of Cheshire County in Keene, NH, "this project has been met with so much support from the community as a whole. Just as Van is recognized for the civic pride he instilled in the hearts of Newport residents in the 1930s (enough so that he was made Honorary Mayor of Newport by the town in 1942), we recognize the Historical Society's role in reviving that civic pride in the hearts of today's residents."



Copies of Billy B. Van: Newport's Sunshine Peddler by Jayna Huot Hooper are available at the Newport Historical Society, 20 Central St. Newport, NH 863-1294, or newportnhhistory.org.