

the movers and shakers of greater Burlington, but also for common folks. The draw was more than just the food—and more than just politics. Stratty Lines would follow sports, community events and all the other headlines of the day.

Leahy said a visit to Burlington was incomplete without a stop at the Oasis to learn the latest. When he offered condolences to David Lines, “I said I loved going in there,” Leahy recounted. “I could learn more going in there by having breakfast.”

The Oasis remained a local institution until 2007, when the business was sold to become a New York-style delicatessen. The building now is home to El Cortijo.

Even in death, Lines sought to ensure people were properly fed. The Chittenden County Meals on Wheels, along with the Department of Veterans Affairs, are two organizations the family has suggested people make donations in Lines’ memory instead of sending flowers.

Lines was born in Greece, graduated from Burlington High in 1947 and served as a military policeman in the U.S. armed forces in Germany from 1951–53.

Leahy, Vermont’s senior senator and a former Chittenden County prosecutor, said lots of political debates were held in the 17-by-40-foot diner. He said Lines enjoyed hearing the hot-button topics of the day.

Lines was a gracious host, Leahy said, and always asked about his wife, Marcelle, and their children before anything else. Leahy said he believes he began frequenting the Oasis as a student at St. Michael’s College, where he graduated in 1961, but he became more of a regular following law school and returning to Vermont in the mid ’60s.

When he served as Chittenden County state’s attorney, Leahy said, he would sometimes run names of potential jurors past Lines.

“He’d say, ‘You might want to avoid that one,’ or ‘That would be a good one,’” Leahy said.

Lines was as popular with house-painters as he was with politicians. Alden Cadwell, 56, of Burlington said he always enjoyed his stops at the diner.

“Stratty was a big-hearted man with the biggest welcoming smile in Burlington,” Cadwell said. “He ran a diner that a regular patron came for the theater as much as the food.”

Cadwell said patrons got to hear cooks, waiters and other customers exchanging orders and quips.

“You did not leave the Oasis hungry or unentertained,” Cadwell said.

Former federal Judge Albert W. Coffrin often could be seen sitting on a revolving stool at the counter. Coffrin once confided to a Burlington Free Press reporter that the Oasis was among his favorite stops.

Lawyers, bankers, merchants, the clergy and others also frequented the Burlington landmark.

Leahy said he brought President Bill Clinton into the diner during a visit to Burlington on July 31, 1995, to speak at the National Governors Association convention in South Burlington.

After a picture-taking event that included Clinton, Leahy, Lines and then-Gov. Howard Dean outside the diner, the nation’s commander-in-chief stepped inside to enjoy lunch. The Oasis served up a hand-carved, overstuffed sandwich of fresh turkey on seeded rye, a Diet Coke and a slice of apple pie. “Thanks for a great lunch,” Clinton said when he departed.

“This was the highlight of my life, after the birth of my children,” Lines would say later—especially significant, he added, for the son of Greek immigrants who arrived in the country without a dime.

His parents opened the diner in 1954, and Lines, who worked briefly at General Electric, soon joined the family business.

Lines would later say proudly he picked up the tab for President Clinton’s meal.

“I don’t think he ever got over that,” Dean said Monday as he recalled the presidential visit.

“Stratty was an important guy. The ordinary person listened to him. He would rarely endorse somebody. He would say, ‘So and so was a good guy,’” the former Vermont governor said.

“He would be more blatant once he got to know you better. He was the best of the old guard. He was socially conservative and business conservative,” Dean said. “He was very much for the working class. It was a family business, and his kids were working in there. It was kind of cool.”

Clinton wasn’t the only brush with greatness for Lines.

A picture of him shaking hands with President Jimmy Carter also was displayed at the diner.

Vice President Walter Mondale stopped for pancakes shortly before the March 1980 primary. Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Al Gore, enjoyed a slice of apple pie and ice cream in July 1999. A few other celebrity customers included Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins, Lyle Lovett and Elliot Gould.

Lines was a longtime New York Yankees fan, but he said in 1977 that he converted to the Toronto Blue Jays after his veteran sportscasting friend Tom Cheek left WVMT-AM in Colchester and became the voice of the Blue Jays. Lines would visit Cheek during spring training and during the regular season.

Leahy said after he was elected to Congress, he would receive phone calls from the White House or from ambassadors and others while he was having breakfast at the Oasis. The ambassador from Russia called once.

A few days later, a political friend called the diner and, speaking with a put-on Russian accent, claimed to be a phone operator in Moscow. He confirmed with Lines that Leahy had taken the ambassador’s call. The prankster told Lines the politician’s call was made collect, and he owed \$437.84, and then he hung up.

“Stratty loved to tell the story to everyone about the calls,” Leahy said.

A celebration of Lines’ life is planned for 4–7 p.m. Thursday at the Corbin and Palmer Funeral Home in Essex Junction. A brief service is planned at the funeral home at 10 a.m. Friday followed by a private interment.

Survivors include three sons, Jon, Gary and David, all in the Burlington area, and daughter Maria in California.

#### HOLZER BOOK BINDERY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in this age of digital readers and electronic books, the fine craft of bookbinding may seem to some archaic. On the contrary: the fine skills, patience, and dedication required to mend the pages of some of our greatest treasures have become all the more critical to preserving printed books—for classics printed decades or centuries ago, to cookbooks or children’s books that have been in our families for generations.

At Holzer Book Bindery in Hinesburg, VT, Marianna Holzer, a third-generation bookbinder, is doing just that. Her shop is lined with leather bound books, many restored by her own hand, and hand operated cast-iron

presses that help her with her handcraft. Her clients range from towns and municipalities, to personal collectors, and extend far beyond the mountains of Vermont.

In 1960, her father, 30 years her mother’s senior, closed down his own bindery business in Boston to settle in Putney. Marianna was in high school when, years after her father passed away, her mother set up their own bindery in the basement. Here, Marianna learned the basics of bindery from her mother, using the storied tools of her father. After studying plant and soil science at the University of Vermont, Marianna found herself working at Four Seasons Garden Center in Williston before longing for something new. She ultimately returned to her bookbinding roots, joining a small bindery in Jericho before opening her own shop in 2008.

Marianna now works alongside her husband and folk musician, Rik Palieri, who assists her. Today, her challenges are even greater, as she battles multiple sclerosis. People send their books and heirlooms from around the country, seeking her dexterity and her expertise. For Marianna, it is her true love of preserving the past and the sentiment it brings others that makes her excel at her craft. She honors her family legacy by using her grandfather’s logo as her own.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article about this exceptional Vermonter who has dedicated her life to bringing joy to others by repairing those precious keepsakes we chose to pass on to our loved ones: “At Holzer Book Bindery, Repairing Old Volumes Is a Labor of Love.” [Seven Days, February 19, 2014]

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Seven Days, Feb. 19, 2014]

AT HOLZER BOOK BINDERY, REPAIRING OLD VOLUMES IS A LABOR OF LOVE

(By Ethan De Seife)

Any author who gets a publishing deal these days knows the importance of e-books: Many readers now opt for pixels over ink. At Holzer Book Bindery in Hinesburg, though, the book’s the thing. Owner Marianna Holzer, a third-generation bookbinder, appreciates books as objects. Her love for beautiful volumes and the increasingly rare craft of making them by hand is evident in her shop, located on the ground floor of her home. The place is filled with drawers of old metal typesetting letters, rolls of buckram and leather, and hand-operated, cast-iron book presses. Many of the hand tools that Holzer, 58, uses were inherited from her father, Albert, and grandfather, Ulrich, both of whom ran bookbinding shops in Boston. Both men were known not only for the high quality of their work, but for their personal investment in the books they repaired. Said Holzer, “My mom used to say that people would bring their books to have them bound at the Holzer Bindery, but they’d have to wait until everybody in the family had read the book before they got it back.”

As a child, hanging around her father’s shop, Holzer picked up many of the finer points of this specialized art. A career shift in the early 1980s brought her to Brown’s

River Bindery, an operation that started in Jericho, then moved to Essex. Holzer worked her way up to various supervisory positions within the company.

When Brown's was reorganized and folded into a larger bindery called Kofile, Holzer decided the time was right to set up her own business. As it happened, her mother had recently moved out of the downstairs apartment in Holzer's home. That freed up the cozy space that, in 2008, Holzer turned into her own bindery. To honor her family's craft legacy, she still uses the logo from her grandfather's shop.

Though Holzer can and does create entire bound volumes from scratch, most of her projects are repairs, often on the beloved literary heirlooms of private clients. She can fix torn pages or create new ones for old books, trimming new folios, stitching them into signatures and assembling them into custom bindings.

During Seven Days' visit to the bindery, Holzer was performing surgery on some old, careworn, hardback copies of two of L. Frank Baum's Oz novels. The client who'd brought them wanted to resuscitate the books for sentimental reasons, and they needed a great deal of attention. Nearly all of both books' pages were brittle, tattered and detached from their bindings, from which the glue had long since cracked and flaked off. Still, Holzer estimated the job would take her just a couple of days of mending, and only an hour or two to sew the pages back together.

Holzer has multiple sclerosis, which can make such detailed work difficult, so she's glad, she said, to have assistance from her husband, folk musician Rik Palieri. In between his concert tours, Palieri helps out on the larger binding orders, including the municipal records of a number of Vermont towns. (Holzer is reluctant to say which ones.)

Palieri professed admiration for the kind of beautiful, hand-bound books that Holzer Bindery produces. The couple has preserved and bound their own cherished keepsakes, such as an original program from one of Buffalo Bill's Wild West shows. Palieri's own daily journal is a huge, green, handcrafted volume that would look right at home on the shelves of a city planning office.

Repair jobs come into the bindery in what Holzer described as a "steady but not overwhelming supply." Every one is different, and, she said, without first inspecting the book, it's difficult to estimate the cost of the repairs. Prices per piece range from about \$100 to more than \$1,000.

"It will depend on what needs to be done, what the customer wants, if we are trying to save all the original material or make a new cover, and then that will depend on whether it is in leather or imitation leather," Holzer explained.

Demonstrating her craft to a visitor, Holzer smiled and laughed frequently. She took particular delight in the gold stamper, with which she embosses books' spines and covers with shiny letters and designs. With this device, Holzer can also turn strips of scrap leather into personalized bookmarks, mementos that she gives visitors to the bindery.

Holzer's shop—along with the handful of other small bookbinders scattered around the state—embodies the spirit of quality artisanship associated with Vermont. Case in point: Holzer mentioned a client from Houston, Texas, for whom she bound a memorial Bible. Its owner had found Holzer Bindery online and chosen the company specifically because of its Vermont location, she said; to him, this guaranteed careful craft.

Over cups of tea served beneath the cuckoo clock in her kitchen, Holzer talked with Seven Days about the fine art of fine books.

SEVEN DAYS: How did you get started in the bookbinding business?

MARIANNA HOLZER: My father was 70 when I was born—30 years older than my mother. I was pretty young when [his bindery] was still going in Boston. He closed the business in 1960, when he was 80, and moved to southern Vermont, to Putney. He passed away when I was 11, and my mom set up a little bindery later, when I was in high school, in the basement of our house. She taught me a few basic things.

I went to UVM, [where I] studied plant and soil science. I got a job at Four Seasons Garden Center [in Williston]. I kind of got sick of that, and found out that there was this small bindery [Brown's River Bindery] in Jericho, and went to see them. That's how it began.

SD: What are all these tools used for?

MH: The board shears are basically a huge paper cutter; the guillotine, which needs to be super-sharp, is for trimming the edges of a book's pages. I use a lot of mending tissue, which is a Japanese tissue used to fix rips and tears. The rounding or backing hammer—one of my father's tools—I use for rounding a book's spine. One of my favorite things to do is the gold stamping, which presses down on a thin piece of Mylar covered with 22-carat gold. That's how you decorate a binding, letter by letter.

SD: What services do you offer?

MH: One thing I do here is deacidify paper. Anything before the mid-1800s was printed on rag paper, which holds up quite well. Newer paper is made with wood pulp, and we didn't know until more recently how acidic it was. It gets really brittle and cracks when you turn the pages. So we can deacidify the paper, and it'll stop the progression of [the decay]—though it won't bring it back [to its original condition].

SD: Bookbinding is such a niche field. What challenges does your business face?

MH: It seems to me, in some ways, books are becoming more precious as people realize they have certain books that they want to preserve and pass on. Bibles are one thing. It's cheaper to buy a new one, but [the owner has] written all over it. Children's books—people have grown up with a book. And cookbooks! People have written in them, or they have their mother's cookbook. The newer versions they don't like as much.

These days, newer bindings are single sheets that are just glued in. When you open them up, they sometimes crack and fall apart. And those are kind of hard to fix, because they don't have enough of the margin that's necessary to drill the holes for stitching. Older books tend to be in better shape.

SD: How does having MS affect your work as a binder?

MH: I just get really tired sometimes. It's almost like I'm walking through mud or something. It's a big effort to do things. It's also dexterity, fine motor control.

SD: Are you concerned about the new all-in-one machines that can print a book from a digital file and then bind it?

MH: Not particularly. You see a book, and you never think what goes into making it. They [bind books] by machine nowadays. But if you want to repair a book, you can't do it by machine.

#### TRIBUTE TO REVEREND LEONARD ROBINSON

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I wish to speak about one of Wyoming's greatest World War II heroes, the Rev. Leonard Robinson. Leonard is a special man whose sacrifice speaks louder than his words.

In 1942, less than 1 year after shipping out from Fort Bliss, TX, Robinson found himself among 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers and civilians surrendered to the Imperial Japanese Army. He was one of the fortunate to survive the barbaric 65 mile, 5-day Bataan Death March. Those who were unable to keep up with the march were either beaten or shot by Japanese soldiers.

Robinson was held as a prisoner of war for almost 3½ years. He survived the Bataan Death March, disease, malnutrition, slave labor and torture through his faith in God. Both spiritually and physically, Reverend Robinson credits the Bible with saving his life during his time as a prisoner of war. It is through his faith that he persevered through one of the greatest atrocities committed against our soldiers.

As a prisoner of war, Leonard would often recite Psalm 23 to get him through his struggle. Rev. Leonard Robinson's life has been a journey of war, suffering, hope and peace. Leonard embraced faith in his darkest hours, showed a commitment to duty when all else was lost, and held dear to the memory of his brothers in arms who did not return. In his battered billfold, Leonard kept a roster of his unit and the names of the fallen soldiers. He is a living testament to the often overlooked sacrifices that make our men and women in uniform America's greatest treasure.

Today, Reverend Robinson is being honored at the Casper Area Chamber of Commerce "Hiring a Hero" luncheon. The event's goal is to promote veteran employment through recognizing our service men and women who have triumphed over adversity with a proven ability to overcome challenges and obstacles through strength and determination. I do not know of a better example than my friend and my surgical patient Rev. Leonard Robinson. He epitomizes the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform.

#### STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I have spoken on the floor of this body on a number of occasions about the impending retirement crisis facing this country. I know from my constituents that the dream of a secure retirement is growing fainter and fainter. In fact, the retirement income deficit—meaning, difference between what people have saved for retirement and what they should have at this point—is a staggering \$6.6 trillion and growing. Today, half of Americans have less than \$10,000 in savings, and only 14 percent are "very confident" they will have enough money for a comfortable retirement.

I am deeply concerned by these statistics. That is why, in 2013, I introduced legislation to tackle this challenge head on. My legislation, S. 567 the Strengthening Social Security Act