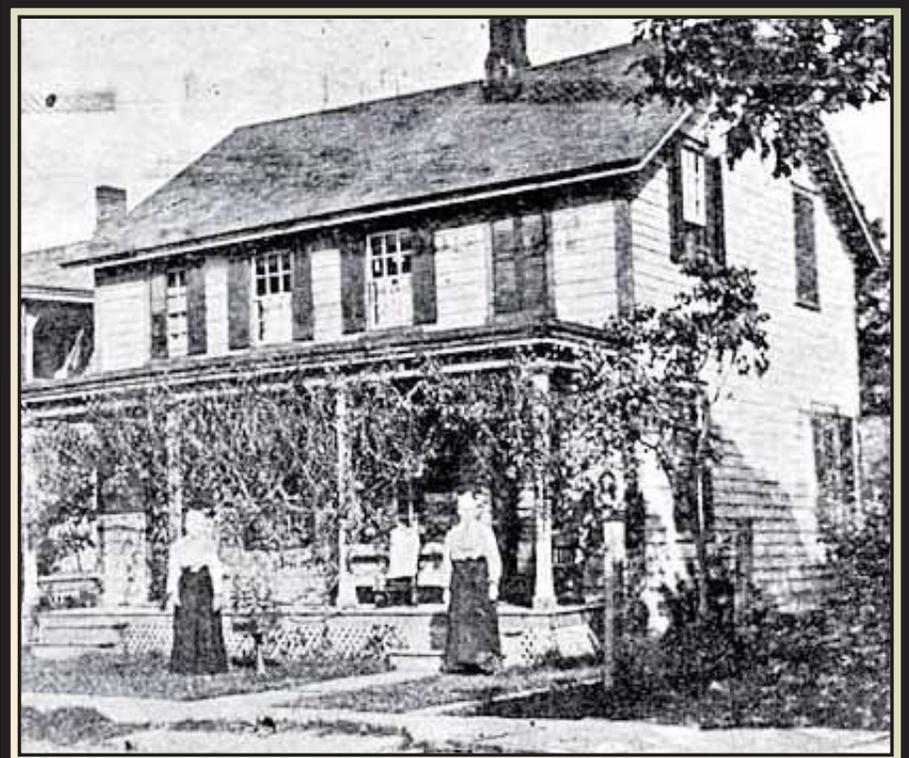


That Was Then, This Is Now

The home in this 1909 postcard was located on Main Street, Margaretville. It belonged to Jennie H. Searles. Miss Searles lived here with Miss Lydia A. King, shown in the picture. Miss Searles was born in Prattsville April 17, 1858. In her youth she traveled about the country with a singing group that was led by her father. After her stint in the group she came to Margaretville and became a typesetter, composing at the *Catskill Mountain News* in 1904. Back then the paper was set by hand. She wrote articles and local news for other papers in the county as well. Jennie Searles died in Kingston May 2, 1949 at age of 91.

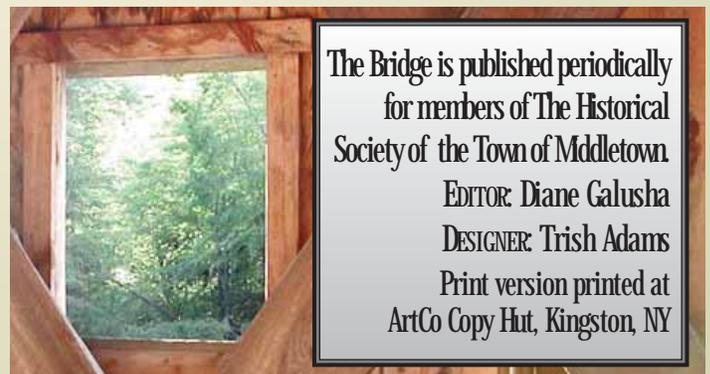
She sold her home in 1945 to Douglas Kelly who tore it down and in 1948 replaced it with the masonry building pictured, constructed by Carl Van Keuren. It housed the International Harvester dealership, and farm equipment and supply business that had been started in 1890 by Doug Kelly's father, Hiram B. Kelly, in Arkville. The younger Kelly operated the business, and the Railway Express agency, from the early 1930s until



his death in 1963. Doug and Ina Sanford Kelly's son Donald, who had joined the firm in the 1950s, ran it as Kelly Power Machinery Co. until he sold it to Everett Herrick in 1973, ending the 80-year-old family enterprise.

Today this building houses the office of Dr. Seth Blocker, chiropractor, and has apartments upstairs.

Postcard, story and photo by Roger Davis.



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5TH Annual Living History Tour at Halcott Cemetery

Seven men and women, and one little girl, will tell their stories at the 5th Annual Living History Cemetery Tour Saturday, June 18 at the Halcott Cemetery on Bouton Road, Halcott (not to be confused with Halcottsville!)

Reserve a tour time by calling Jane Miller at 845-586-4736. Tours start every 20 minutes starting at 4 p.m., with the last tour departing at 6. Admission is \$15; children under 15 are free. Rain date is June 19.

Featured this year:

Farmer, entrepreneur and long-time Halcott Town Clerk **Marshall Bouton**, portrayed by Michael Fairbairn

William and Sarah Johnson, farmers and ancestors of many Johnsons in the area today, played by John Bernhardt and Agnes Laub;

Rev. John Peter VanValkenburgh, first pastor of the Halcott Methodist Church, played by Kent Brown

Warren Scudder, a Roxbury Anti-Rent War leader who spent his last years in Halcott, played by Erwin Karl

Ellen Bellows, who witnessed her mother's fiery death as a child, played by Sydney Asher

Mary Bloomburgh Griffin, whose son and husband died in the Civil War, portrayed by Peg DiBenedetto

Marion Moseman, a young patriot who enlisted for service in World War I but became a victim of the flu pandemic at training camp, portrayed by Cedric Taylor.



Pepacton gravestone rehab underway

A project to clean, repair, re-set or replace 300 gravestones that were relocated from cemeteries in the Pepacton and Cannonsville Reservoir basins got underway this spring. Marianne Greenfield of Gravestone Cleaning Service in Delhi contracted with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection to do the work at the Pepacton Cemetery (above) where 1,000 unclaimed bodies, removed from 21 cemeteries, were reinterred in the 1950s on the former Ken Sprague farm which was claimed by the city for that purpose. A total of 4,521 deceased were reinterred. At the time, families were given the opportunity and some funds to reinter relatives from burial grounds like the Old Arena Cemetery, pictured on the opposite page, to a location of their choosing. The remains of those whose families did not come forward were reinterred in Pepacton Cemetery, which is on NYC Road #1 in the Town of Colchester.

Marshall Bouton (whose farm is pictured below) was a man with a passion for steam. Here's a crew on the Bouton's Halcott farm using a steam thresher at left, with the horses who'd just hauled in the harvested grain at right. Marshall will be portrayed by Michael Fairbairn in the cemetery tour.

HSM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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This 1939 photograph of the Old Arena Cemetery had this description on the back: Looking from southeast corner of Arena Cemetery on road near Lily Pond ½ mile east of Arena along left side of East Branch Delaware River.

Notification (right) that was posted in public places advising families to claim loved ones from cemeteries in the Towns of Colchester and Andes. Middletown cemeteries in the Pepacton Reservoir zone, like the Arena Cemetery pictured, were subsequently removed as well.

REMOVAL OF BODIES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to formal notice of the Corporation Counsel of The City of New York, the undersigned intends to remove all the remains, all the monuments and all the distinguishing marks from the cemeteries or burial places located in the Town of Colchester, County of Delaware, New York, known as the Cat Hollow Burying Ground, the Edgett Cemetery, the Shaver Burying Ground, the Sickler Burying Ground and the Flynn Burying Ground, and from the cemeteries or burial places located in the Town of Andes, County of Delaware, New York, known as the Shavertown Cemetery, the Union Grove Cemetery and the Weaver Burying Ground.

Please take further notice that any and all persons legally entitled to direct as to the disposition of the above may remove the same to any other cemetery or burial place within the same or an adjoining county within sixty days after May 1, 1953, if they so elect, upon informing John C. Buhrendorf, Division Engineer, at the office of the Board of Water Supply, Main Street, Downsville, New York, in writing, of the cemetery or burial place in which said remains are to be reinterred and to which the monuments and other distinguishing marks are to be moved.

Upon the satisfactory removal of said remains and the said monuments and other distinguishing marks, the Board of Water Supply proposes to make the following allowances to be paid to the person or persons legally entitled to direct as to the disposition of the above upon the presentation to the Board of Water Supply proper vouchers for payment:

For the removal of the remains, refilling the grave, purchase of new lot and reinterment in a new grave	\$65.00 per grave
For the removal and resetting of an ordinary headstone or footstone	8.00 per stone
For the removal and resetting of a monument containing more than one-quarter of a cubic yard	70.00 per cubic yard

Play "Sentimental Journey" for Me



The Dela-Teers, a band formed by sax player Dr. Gilbert Palen, played for special events and dances throughout the area in the 1940s and '50s. This photo from Bud Barnes' collection was taken in 1951-52, before Russ Cariot joined the group in 1953. Russ, who played trumpet, provided the names of the folks pictured. Front, l. to r., Larry Gilmore, Doris Myers (Cariot), Tom Trowbridge, Charlie Holdridge, John Constable, Gil Palen, Bud Barnes. Back Bob Holiday, unidentified, Chan Polley (bass), two unidentified, and trombonist Dick Whitney.

Emma Frances Henderson Fuller Keeney (1855-1942) was born in New York City and was raised among an extended family of women. At age 12, she was sent to Bethlehem, PA to attend the Moravian Female Seminary, a prestigious parochial school where equality of the sexes was the guiding educational principle.

Emma's first marriage ended in divorce. In 1886 she married Eugene Wyllys Keeney. They lived in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn where he ran E.W. Keeney's Dry Goods store. In 1892 they purchased a 200-acre farm on what is now Southside Road near Margaretville. Emma and their three children lived at Meadowbrook Farm while Eugene ran the store in Brooklyn with his son Mervin. Eugene died in 1898, leaving Emma a widowed mom with a farm to run. She expanded the operation, which included a busy summer boarding house.

Emma became an activist for women's suffrage on the local, county and state levels. President of the Margaretville Equal Suffrage Club, she hosted monthly meetings of the club, and established a lending library in L. D. Bishop's Margaretville

market on suffrage topics. She spoke at the 1914 Delaware County women's suffrage conference, and served as a delegate to the New York State convention in Ithaca that year. At the 1915 election which included a proposition allowing women in NYS the right to vote, Emma and Mrs. C. H. Fuller served as the first female poll watchers in Middletown. The proposition failed in Middletown (556 no to 345 yes), and statewide. But New York women responded to the loss with petitions and pressure and women in NYS were granted the right to vote in 1917.

The 19th amendment to the US Constitution was adopted by Congress in 1919 and ratified by the states in 1920 giving women the right to vote nationwide.

With the help of daughter Jesse McGahie, Emma ran the 30-room boarding house and farm until 1937. She died in 1942 and is buried with her husband in Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn.

Thanks to Lloyd Roland and to Mitchell Vanderveer for contributing Keeney family information and photographs.



Emma Keeney and children Gladys, Wyllys, Jesse and Howard



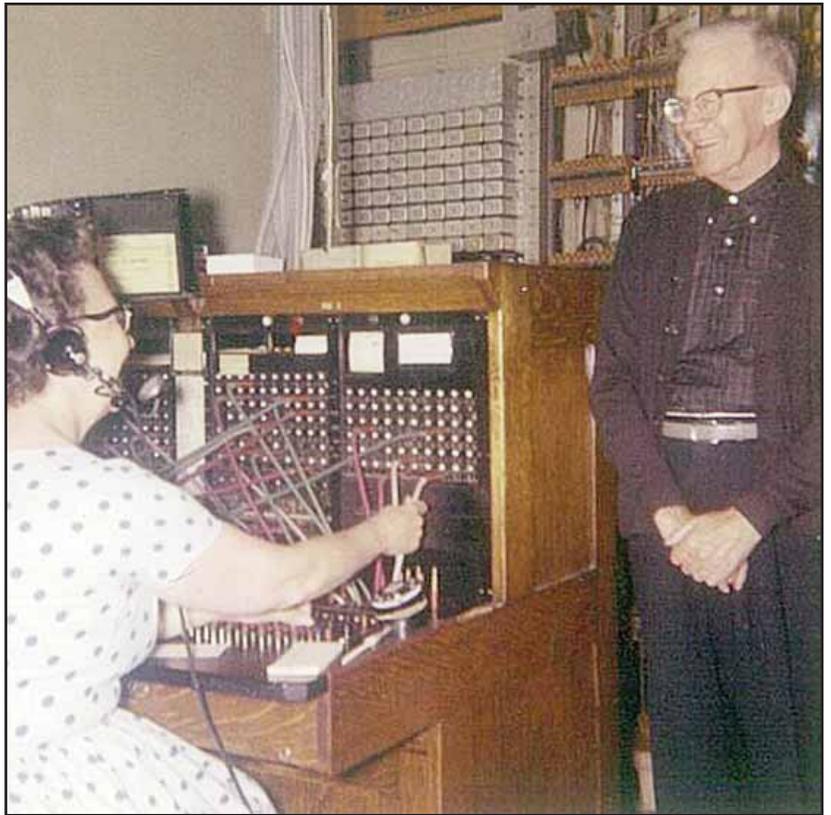
Vicki Schoell and Agnes Freas flank Connie Jeffers as Emma Keeney as they lead a band of suffragists from Fairview Library to the tea at Stick in the Mud. Below left, Lizzie Douglas, proprietor of Stick in the Mud, provided a bounteous spread for the tea. Below right, Emma Keeney exhorts tea-goers to sign the petition urging New York's legislators to amend the state's constitution allowing women the vote.



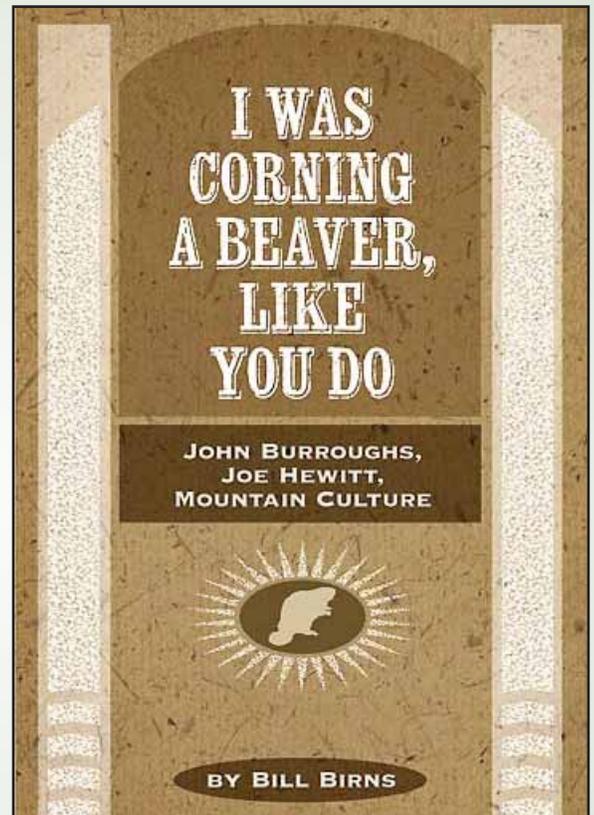


Celebrating 100 Years

HSM and the Margaretville Telephone Company teamed up on June 4 to present an illustrated history of the family-held firm which is marking its 100th anniversary this year. The Headwaters History Days program featured a display of artifacts and a special cake in tribute to the milestone. Operator Marguerite Sanford is shown here with MTC owner Sheldon Birdsall. A history of the company will appear in the next Bridge.



Joe Hewitt, Catskills Character



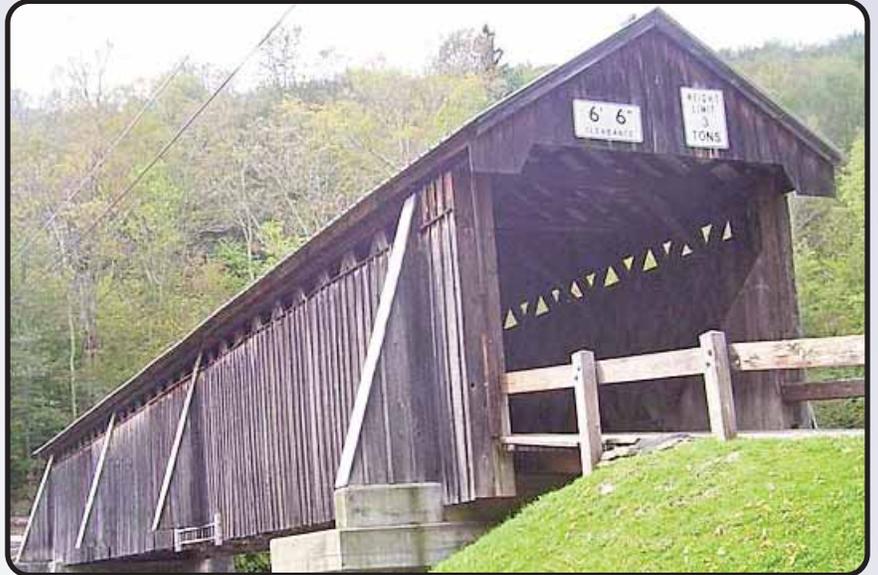
It was Joe Hewitt Day at Roxbury's Woodchuck Lodge May 14, and 75 people came out to celebrate the release of a new book by Bill Birns, "I Was Corning a Beaver Like You Do": John Burroughs, Joe Hewitt, Mountain Culture." The book tells, mostly in Joe's words, about his upbringing on a Denver farm that welcomed tourists, his escapades as a State Trooper, his feelings about nature and the bees he keeps in New Kingston, and his memories of family, and of Catskills characters (much like himself, actually). Bill read from the book (available at local outlets), and Joe told a couple of his famous stories. Ask him the one about the porcupine eggs . . .

Completed in 1865, the Beaverkill Covered Bridge, today part of the Beaverkill State Campground near Livingston Manor, Sullivan County, was built by Scottish and Irish laborers under the direction of John Davidson assisted by his brother Thomas.

John Davidson is my great-great-uncle, Thomas, my great-great-grandfather, and they were among the first settlers of the Beaverkill Valley; Thomas was nick-named "River-Rat" for his early life adventures riding timber rafts on the Delaware River bringing necessary goods from the metropolitan area into upstate New York and vice versa with the fruits of the 'wild.'

Thomas' son, my great-grandfather Jay, was the owner of Trout Valley Farm, completed in 1892, once located just across the bridge on Craigie Claire, about ¾ of a mile from the turn off Beaverkill Road. The Davidsons were of Scottish descent and Trout Valley Farm eventually included a nine-hole golf course completed in 1901, the first in Sullivan County, catering to fly-fishing enthusiasts and New York City dwellers escaping the heat of summer.

The Beaverkill Covered Bridge, whose ownership was taken over by the county in 1961, is 118 feet long. A story connected to it includes the clash of my tee-totaling Scotch Presbyterian ancestors and the workers who helped in the bridge's construction. The Davidsons rules included no golf or fishing until after church services on Sunday, and no drink-



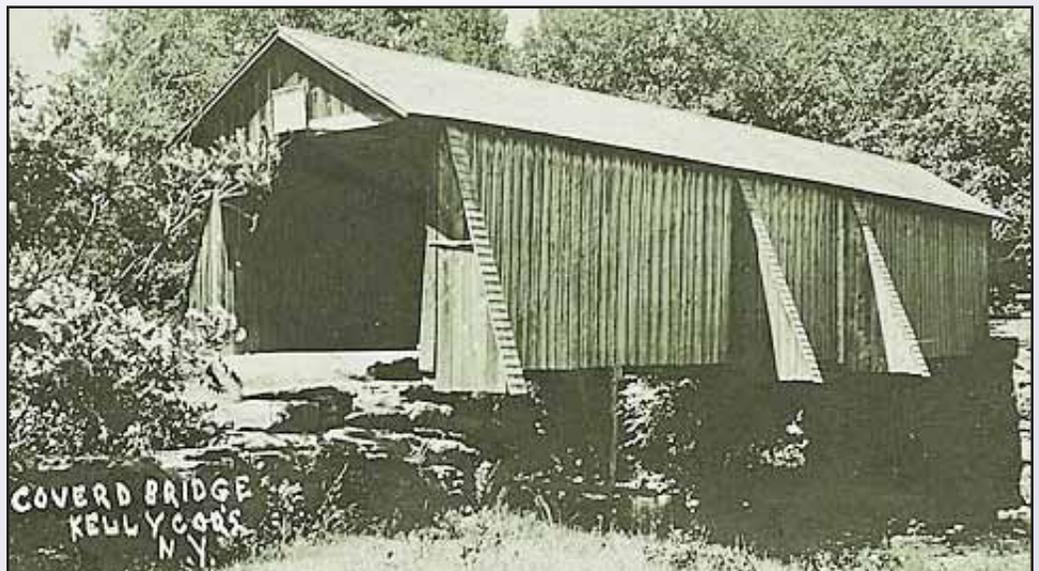
ing on the job. As the tale goes, John Davidson showed up unexpectedly when his crew had stopped to take a few nips from a jug of whiskey. They quickly improvised, hiding the offending jug into a stone abutment just in the process of being finished.

The bridge was repaired in 1961 and again in 1991, when Douglas firs were shipped from California to replace timbers of a size that had once been available locally but were harvested out in the 1800s. Whether the jug was recovered in '61, or '91, no one's telling. If not, perhaps the crew that is currently repairing the bridge once again, will find the stash!

Marjorie Miller

We've Got Covered Bridges Covered!

This photo of the Kelly Corners Covered Bridge is one of many digital images of local spans graciously provided to HSM recently by Todd R. Clark, a member of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. We hope to make them available on our website in the near future. Another resource for covered bridge images and information is the new Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center at the Oxford Memorial Library in Chenango County where some 20,000 photographs and postcards are stored. To visit the Resource Center or to inquire about its contents, contact Trish Kane, 607-674-9656; bobtrish68@frontiernet.net.



The Kelly Corners bridge crossed the East Branch on East Hubbell Hill Road. It was replaced by a steel span and the old timbers were acquired by the Izaak Walton League to build a bridge to their picnic grounds on the James Stoutenburgh farm in the Denver Valley, according to the *Catskill*

Mountain News August 17, 1934. Items from the HSM collection related to Kelly Corners and Halcottsville are on view this season at the HSM hall and can be seen during regular programming there.

Masons Now History in Margaretville

Margaretville Masonic Lodge #389 has vacated its home of more than 100 years at the request of the current building owner. The 42-member organization is in the process of merging with Lodges in Walton and Delhi, ending two centuries of Masonic presence in Middletown. This postcard image was taken sometime after the Lodge purchased the building in 1908 from George M. Parker who had a feed store there. The mansard roof was raised by contractor James Coulter to allow for a 14-foot ceiling on the third floor where the Lodge held its meetings and ceremonies. The cast iron roof railing was added with the words "Masonic Hall" in raised letters. The group, which had met in various rented quarters around town for decades, met for the first time in its history in its own home in August, 1909. In subsequent years, it rented the first floor of the building to enterprises ranging from jewelry, clothing and grocery stores, to the post office, hospital thrift shop, Episcopal Church, miniature bowling and various professional offices.

Several years ago the Lodge sold the building which then housed the 'E-Center' business incubator. The Lodge remained a tenant until its final meeting November 12, 2015. Future plans for the structure are unknown.



THE 49¢ POST

THE 49¢ POST is an exclusive feature for members who receive *The Bridge* via e-mail. Because your newsletter requires no postage or label, you get an "extra"!

Betty Sherwood shared this unidentified magazine clipping showing the candidates for 1964 Rheingold Girl on a campaign stop in Margaretville during the Bicentennial celebration of 1963. That's quite a crowd on the village ballfield (this was before the A&P was built -- Smith's service station can be seen across Bridge Street in the background). The woman on the right, Celeste Yarnall, collected the most votes during the campaign, when people in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New England voted in stores, taverns, restaurants and other places for their favorite wholesome young woman. The Rheingold Girl was a brilliantly conceived marketing campaign for Rheingold Beer from 1941-1964. The candidates' visit was a highlight of the summer in Margaretville for several years. This 1963 stop was the last, as changing beer tastes—and public sentiment—called a halt to the custom.

WILL THE REAL MISS RHEINGOLD STAND OUT?

By David L. Goodrich



On the campaign trail in Margaretville, N.Y., the six finalists smile determinedly. From the left, the Misses Julia, Bellardt, Hughes, Rice, Kates and Yarnall.