

The most significant change has been in family life. With one or both parents working at home, latchkey kids have become rarer because someone is there when school lets out. There is more time for family activities, not to mention closer supervision and a strengthening of family ties. But even as things change, some things remain the same. Teens communicate with friends using e-mail, but are still tying up phone lines.

*Priscilla Palmer*

The year 2030 will see a Jaffrey that is a large suburb for the cities of Keene, Manchester, Gardner, and Fitchburg. The rapid and uncontrolled growth will threaten the lakes and Mount Monadnock as many developments and condominiums will be needed. The community will need several new schools, an expanded sewer system, and an improved water supply. The new residents will demand better roads, trash pickup, and many more municipal services.

Unfortunately, Route 202 will become a great “white way” of strip malls and many traffic lights. Jaffrey Center will be fighting to maintain its unique identity but will become an area for the wealthy only, as will the lakes in the area. High taxes will have caused the middle class to relocate, and only nonresidents of New Hampshire will be able to afford the burden.

Global warming will be underway with the maple and birch trees dying off as more temperate plants prevail. The winters will be milder and the summers much warmer. Air quality will be threatened, air conditioners will be routine, and snow plows will disappear.

*Marc Tieger*

I don't think that the Jaffrey of 2030 will be significantly different from the Jaffrey that we know today. It will not be an industrial or commercial center, nor will it be a bedroom community. There will, of course, be new commerce and new homes, but not to excess on either count. One area that may see growth, however, is the growing of our recreational offerings. Mount Monadnock continues to be popular with people of all ages from many areas. It is fortunate that our Mountain District is in place to protect against the commercialization of the mountain. The renaissance of the

Shattuck as a first-class golf facility will continue. The creation of high quality empty-nesting housing will create a new level of Jaffrey residents.

Jaffrey is Jaffrey. It is not where Thornton Wilder chose to write *Our Town* nor is it adjacent to Massachusetts and its highways. Some might call it a typical small New England town, and yet it is anything but typical. Jaffrey's biggest asset is neither the mountain, as some may think, nor the Old Meetinghouse or the Contoocook River. Its most precious asset is its people and their unceasing efforts on behalf of the town. One of the advantages of living here is the opportunity for all of us to be involved with town and community. Natives and longtime residents can work hand in hand with newcomers for community betterment. Those of us who have worked for the town and/or for one of the many service-oriented organizations that comprise our community are able to realize the sense of satisfaction that people have in knowing their efforts have helped make their community a special place.

*Richard Grodin*

Probably the only thing certain about a projection 30 years into the future is that it is bound to be wrong. This attempt to predict Jaffrey in the year 2030 is offered in the hope that what is written won't be so terribly wrong as to be laughable.

Although some improvements have occurred, the overall offerings and appearance of Jaffrey's downtown today aren't much different from what it was 30 years ago, and few signs emerge indicating that downtown will transform itself in the next several decades. All indicators aren't negative, however. Yes, the Jaffrey-Peterborough District Court will be built in Jaffrey, and it will provide a stimulus to commercial enterprise. And yes, Jaffrey's Mill on Main Street will, within the next decade, be rehabilitated to provide a home for specialty shops, some of them upscale. Jaffrey's retail community of the future will focus on the smaller specialty shops that can do a thriving business in the shadow of the megastores in the communities to the south and north. If economic pressures driving change in the commercial environment are strong enough, within the next 30 years Jaffrey's downtown sector will experience either major rehabilitation or, more likely, removal and rebuilding

of the structures housing much of its present retail activity.

Schools will change as both industry and commerce, and perhaps even post-secondary institutions, will demand greater rigor in what is taught and how it is taught in the public school. As educational objectives are redefined and the product of the public and private schools scrutinized, members of the educational establishment will be held accountable for both results and efficient use of funds. We foresee less tolerance for antisocial behavior as correlative to increased public scrutiny. In Jaffrey the private schools also must undergo change, and soon, if private schools are to be a significant presence in future decades. Consolidation of small, limited-enrollment schools, cooperation, utilization of home schooling, use of charters, all of these will become more prominent in the future.

Some private schools are either by-products or integral parts of religious institutions, which abound in Jaffrey. The next several decades will witness a continued trend toward the growth and importance of religion in people's lives. The question is whether parochial sectarianism will continue or whether these institutions will, through tolerance, accommodate some consolidation, as occurred during the previous century. I believe it will.

What are the major trends which will shape the lives of Jaffrey's citizens in the next century? Three factors: (1) technology and decentralization of industry, (2) the two-working-adult family, and (3) environmental concerns, the latter having the most profound effect on the thinking of Jaffrey's citizens.

Emphasis on protection and improvement of the local environment will result in both greater awareness and greater attention to everything that affects the ambient environment. Recycling will be mandatory, all commercial and industrial activity will be scrutinized for environmental impact, and public service paid, voluntary, and compulsory aimed at environmental protection and improvement will become universal within our town. Jaffrey will become a cleaner, neater, and more attractive place to live. Pride in the physical environment will emerge as a major characteristic of the town.

As New Hampshire business and industry's 1997 studies indicate, the traditional factors driving economic growth will give way to these advanced factors: education and training, work force pro-

ductivity, advanced telecommunications, and learning ethic. Jaffrey's people have traditionally exhibited great workforce productivity and a strong learning ethic. Jaffrey will act to preserve and enhance its attractiveness, using the recently authorized Heritage Commission to help guide and evaluate the community's efforts.

The two-working-adult family is a fact of life. Women will be equal partners in commerce, education, and industry, as well as in the home, and the house-husband will no longer be a phenomenon. The greatest impact of the two-worker family will involve the nurturing of children provided by child-care within the workplace, day care, and nursery school.

Social services have become prominent in the lives of Jaffrey people during the last two decades. It is evident that some sort of clearinghouse must emerge to achieve order and a better perspective on how society deals with future social problems.

Many small communities in New Hampshire have experienced conflict between those who want things to stay the same and the adherents of what they see as necessary progress. In Jaffrey the conflict between growth-oriented mind-sets and no-growth adherents has, over the past decade or so, tended to inhibit the kind of industrial and commercial development experienced by our neighboring communities. Population pressures from New Hampshire's eastern tier will spill over into the region to some extent, and more immediately, population and growth pressures from our neighbors to the north and south, Peterborough and Rindge, will impact Jaffrey, albeit more slowly.

Part of the cause for concern is Jaffrey's infrastructure. The town has some major deficiencies in water supply, treatment of sewage, and the congestion of two major highways intersecting the center of town. When the improvements at the routes 202-124 intersection were made, it was evident and predictable that the intersection would fail due to congestion in a very few years. Route 202, a major southwest-northeast artery, will have to be improved as it passes through both Peterborough and Jaffrey. The result: the next three decades will witness a major relocation of Route 202, by-passing the center of both towns.

Jaffrey will become more cosmopolitan and diversified as people of Asian, African, and Middle Eastern origin come to work and live here. Secondly, it will be much more mobile as rapid travel

throughout the globe for commerce, business, pleasure, and family become part of our routines.

Rapid electronic travel around the globe is already commonplace for businesses and for many families. Diversification of industry, the growth of small shops and professional establishments in our community, is already a way of life. Professionals don't have to live in the megalopolis in order to exercise their professions. Advances in fiber optics and other means of telecommunication will make virtual reality commonplace not just as an entertainment phenomenon as it is now. In the year 2030 many people will live where they want to live and work from their home environment.

But future Jaffrey inhabitants won't just sit in their chairs and interact electronically. On the contrary, improvements in understanding of the human body and its nurturing are already increasing awareness of the need for good diets, sensible living, and vigorous physical activity.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus" and yes, Jaffrey, it will be "A Wonderful Life."

*Philip Cournoyer*

Because the country is in the middle of the "New Millennial Renaissance," we are busy enjoying a proliferation of art and literature. The Internet has helped bring about this revival by providing the means for various artists to share their creativity. The technical advances of the last century allow us to share our work and ideas with no concern for boundary, distance, and time.

In Jaffrey we appreciate the art and literature exhibited through expanded programs at the Civic Center. We also view other exhibits around the country using videoconferencing. We can also see these works on the Internet.

An Arts Festival is being planned for late August. It will coincide with the 41st Festival of Fireworks. We will be seeing a display using a new technique never before attempted. Proceeds from this year's festival will be going to commission a sculpture in Carey Park.

The Technology Age has given us the tools to revive our appetite for artistic and intellectual activity.

*Paul St. Pierre*

I won't be around!

The old B & M railroad bed will be a recreational trail connecting Peterborough, Jaffrey, Rindge, and Winchendon for bikers, equestrians, snowmobilers, skiers, joggers. It will connect the downtown walkway with Children's Woods, Carey Park, the Contoocook Lake dam, and the new Jaffrey-Rindge Senior High School on the hill behind what is now the Melvin Taylor residence, formerly the Rufus Fenerty property on the Jaffrey-Rindge line.

There will be a park at the dam providing small boat and canoe access to the Contoocook marsh for fishing, hunting, and recreational boating à la "Cruising Down the River on a Sunday Afternoon," to the boat access near downtown Jaffrey.

The large pines in Children's Woods will have been logged off (or burned by lightning strikes), providing new growth for wildlife once more. Pheasant, turkey, grouse, deer, moose, an occasional bear, and blueberries will once again be present.

Jaffrey Airpark will be running a shuttle service by helicopter to the busy air terminals in Manchester and elsewhere.

The Conant High School/Jaffrey-Rindge Middle School on Stratton Road will be the newly renovated elementary and middle school complex. The present grade school will be a residence and recreational area for senior citizens.