GoofyNews

‘Stone Face’ just a chip off the old mountain

By Liz Premo
ATLANTIC NEWS STAFF WRITER

HAMPTON — The Old Man of the Mountain is alive and well and stone-faced at Hampton Beach.

Well, almost.

New Hampshire’s most venerated tourist attraction and enduring symbol for all that is the Granite State may have crumbled and slid down into the depths of Franconia Notch almost two years ago.

But take heart: A reasonable facsimile of the state’s beloved icon can be found on Richard Esposito’s kitchen table — chipped right into the spot where the table top and its accompanying leaf form a seam in the polished wooden door.

Sure, some may make money on eBay by selling grilled cheese sandwiches with accompanying leaf form a cent [of them] to many people over the last several months, just to see if they can guess what he sees.

They can, and they do. Ninety percent of them guess it right away,” Esposito reports.

And what about the others who, at first, don’t quite have a keen eye for the Stone guy?

“Once you tell people what it is they say, ‘Oh yeah!’ says Esposito.

The self-described New Hampshireite and Hampton Beach resident is a veteran of many a visit to Franconia Notch State Park, where hundreds of thousands of people have traveled to marvel at the chiseled rock formation that unfortunately met its unexpected demise on May 3, 2003.

Like so many countless others, Esposito mourned the Great Stone Face’s untimely passing.

“I’ve been there many times,” he says. “I was sadly disappointed when it fell off” the side of Profile Mountain.

So it’s no wonder that a random, recognizably-shaped chip in the surface of a decade-old kitchen table struck a chord with one of the Old Man’s biggest fans. Forever stamped on beating hearts and immortalized in poetry, postcards, the state hearts and immortalized in poetry, postcards, the state

Esposito hastened to capture the image in a photograph, which he has shown to a great many people over the last several months, just to see if they can see what he sees.

Then, on May 3, 2003, the day the Old Man died, Esposito took of a familiar-looking profile he discovered in a 1-1/2” chip on the surface of his kitchen table. (Inset) A closer look at the silhouette.

— Atlantc News Photo by Liz Premo/ Courtesy Photo

FACE TO FACE — Richard Esposito displays the photograph he took of a familiar-looking profile he discovered in a 1-1/2” chip on the surface of his kitchen table. (Inset) A closer look at the silhouette.

— Atlantc News Photo by Liz Premo/ Courtesy Photo

in a Hampton Beach home.

New Hampshire’s Old Man of the Mountain may certainly lives on.

(.Editor’s Note: Seventy pages of conversations, thoughts, photographs and memories regarding New Hampshire’s Old Man of the Mountain may be found at www.nhstateparks.org/ParkPages/OldMan/OldManScrapbook1.html.)
many, you could be executed for listening to a foreign radio broadcast. Is the ACLU trying to prevent Mr. McConnell from tuning in to his favorite televangelist? I think not.

I would — no, I wouldn’t, actually — understand how Mr. McConnell drew his conclusion and justified calling the ACLU “Nazis.” I would also — this time I would — like to know if Mr. McConnell is also one of those who believe our civil and political discourse has been coarsened and, if so, he’s had any hand in it.

Carl S. Gurtman York

As a school board member I know that students learn why the filibuster was designed. Dissent has its place and Americans love to debate issues.

Our children need to know that in America, there is still a place where dissent will be heard; no political power is absolute; and the voices of the minority will not be silenced.

I urge our Senators to stand up and protect our democracy by opposing the power grab. Don’t change what worked for over 200 years — keep the filibuster!

Susan Kepner Hampton

As I grew up and talking endlessly. A lot of hot air, people stand

This time of dynamic transformation for the organization as we focus on creating positive community impact where it’s most needed,” Rau noted. “I look forward to getting to know and work with our many experienced community partners and dedicated volunteers in the weeks and months ahead.”

Sarah DeSantis joins the United Way of the Greater Seacoast as assistant director of the Volunteer Action Center, with primary responsibility for coordinating the Day of Caring event scheduled for September 14, 2005 (beginning in 2006, both a Spring and Fall Day of Caring will be offered in the Seacoast area.) DeSantis’s background includes seven years experience in project management.

Most recently, she planned trade shows and corporate meetings as an event marketing coordinator for a leading global information technology company in Rhode Island. A native of Virginia, she earned her bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Virginia. She currently volunteers at the Manchester Animal Shelter and lives in New Hampshire.

“I am excited to join a strong mission-based organization, specifically in a role where I will contribute to the Volunteer Action Center’s ongoing initiatives in the community,” DeSantis commented.

United Way of the Greater Seacoast is a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to rally resources to address the community’s most pressing needs. Through collaboration, outreach and funding support for over 100 health and human service programs, the United Way of the Greater Seacoast seeks to deliver positive community impact in three key areas: promoting self-sufficient individuals and families, improving health and well-being, and supporting strong and safe communities.

United Way of the Greater Seacoast serves 45 communities in Strafford and Rockingham Counties, as well as Kittery and Eliot, Maine. Their Volunteer Action Center provides listings of more than 450 volunteer opportunities with hundreds of non-profit agencies throughout the region. For more information, visit www.uwgs.org.

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