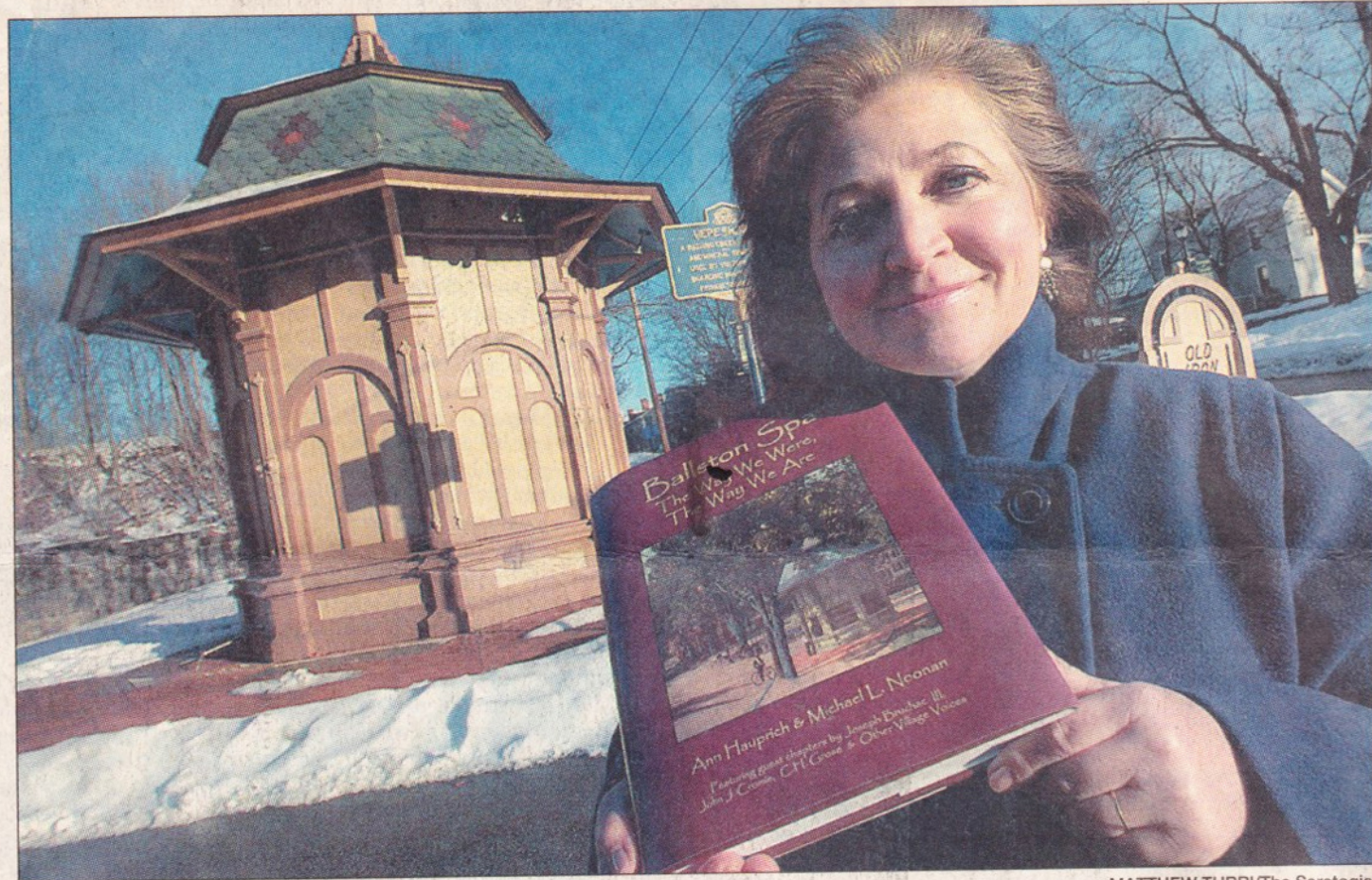


Chronicling Ballston Spa

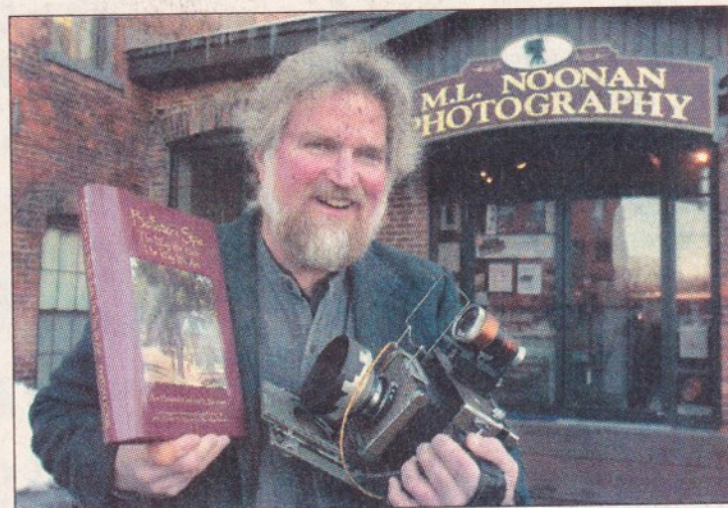


MATTHEW TURRI/The Saratogian

ABOVE: Ann Hauprich, co-author of "Ballston Spa: The Way We Were, The Way We Are," stands in front of the Old Iron Spring in Ballston Spa Friday afternoon. **BELOW:** Photographer Michael Noonan, co-author of the book, hand-colored a turn-of-the-century post card by Ballston Spa photographer J.S. Wooley for the cover of the new book.

Ballston Spa, cover to cover

New book captures the history of this unique village



ED BURKE/The Saratogian

By PAUL POST
The Saratogian

BALLSTON SPA — Like most small-town kids, Ann Hauprich couldn't wait to get out and see the world.

After 18 years of living abroad, she came back home and discovered a wealth of fascinating attractions she'd previously overlooked.

For the past year, Hauprich and photographer Michael Noonan have collaborated on a project that's captured many of the village's most interesting people and places in a new book, "Ballston Spa:

The Way We Were, The Way We Are."

"I was trying to find some fresh, previously unpublished stories," she said. "I wish I could have had 1,000 pages."

Ballston Spa celebrated its bicentennial in 2007. In addition to the village's best-known figures and sites, from Abner Doubleday to the Old Chocolate Factory, Hauprich spent countless hours interviewing ordinary folks who, in many cases, are the most valuable repositories of rich, local history.

Please see **BOOK**, Page 8A

LOCAL | NATION

BOOK: Includes 650 pictures

Continued from 1A

"Once Ann started interviewing people, they opened up their family photo albums to her," Noonan said. "We had so many photographs, we probably could have had two volumes."

Their 374-page hard cover book has 650 pictures, of which 500 are from personal collections. Noonan, a well-known commercial photographer, took the rest of the photos.

The cover depicts the Old Iron Spring on Front Street the way it looked about 100 years ago. Noonan enlarged and hand-colored an old black-and-white photo taken by J.S. Wooley, one of the area's premier postcard photographers of the early 20th century.

"It's the most comprehensive book about Ballston Spa ever written," Noonan said.

Hauprich, a former newspaper reporter, editor and magazine publisher, took out a personal loan to live on while she worked on the book, which she also self-financed.

She pays tribute to local history consultant Chris Morley, who provided invaluable assistance, and Nancy Reynolds Rooney, the late sister of famed CBS commentator Andy Rooney.

"She was a walking history book," Hauprich said. "Her family used to own Brookside (Museum)."

As a youngster, Andy Rooney made frequent trips to Ballston Spa to visit his grandparents, so

it was only fitting that Hauprich dedicate a chapter to the Rooney family's local legacy. He, in turn, has lavished praise on her writing.

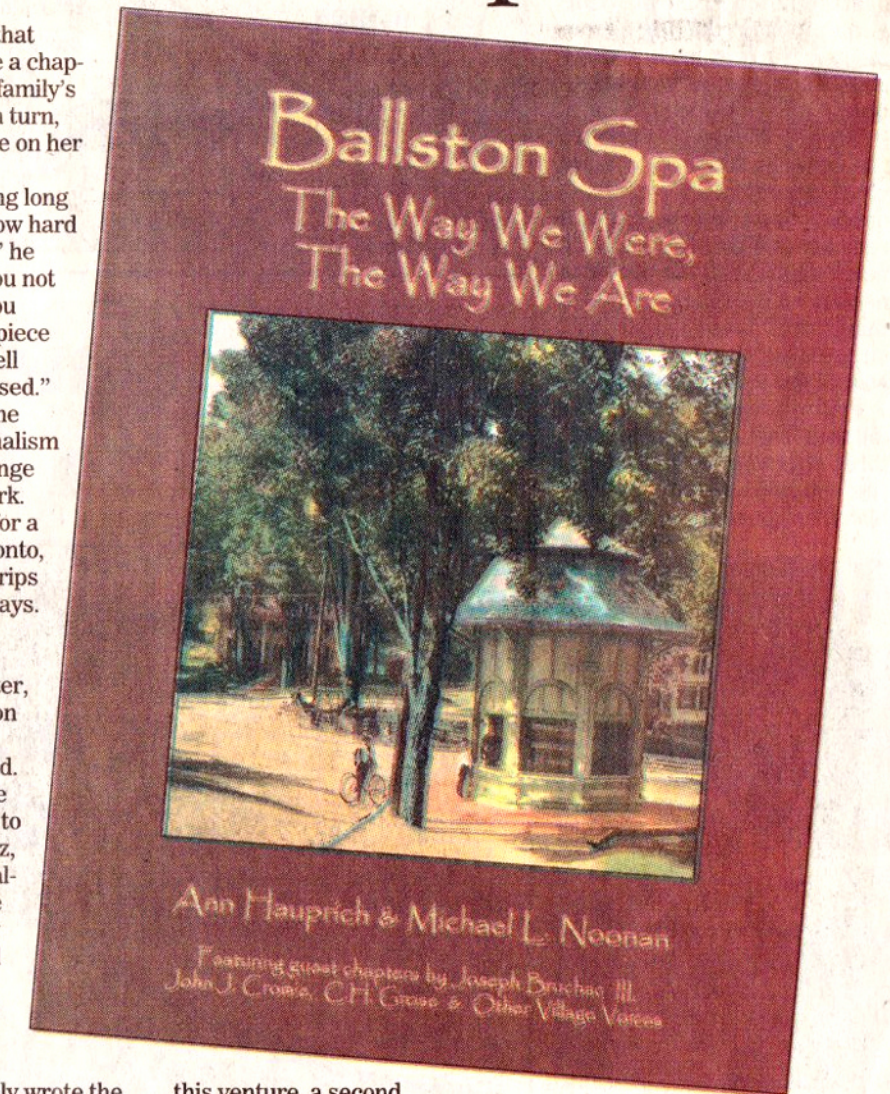
"I've been writing long enough to know how hard it is to get it right," he told Hauprich. "You not only got it right, you wrote it well. The piece is exceptionally well done. I am impressed."

Hauprich became interested in journalism as a Rotary exchange student in Denmark. She later worked for a newspaper in Toronto, but always made trips home for the holidays.

"Every time I'd come home for Christmas or Easter, I'd see that Ballston Spa was really changing," she said. "It wasn't this little town with nothing to do. I thought, 'Geez, Ballston Spa is really the kind of place I'd like to raise my children.' I started looking at the village again, taking a different look at it."

Hauprich not only wrote the book, but did all of the layout on her home computer.

"The hardest part for me was the technical aspect," she said. Depending on the success of



this venture, a second book might be in the works. Copies are available at Brookside Museum, the National Bottle Museum and Noonan's photography studio in the Old

Chocolate Factory building. For information, contact Ann Hauprich, 885-3214, or e-mail annhau4@aol.com.