A Waldo County profile

When Squidge Davis arrived in Monroe in 1971, she was a pioneer. Like many other refugees of the 1960s — veterans of Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam war activism — she helped launch a third social movement: back to the land. "I think we were the second new people that moved into Monroe," she says, recalling those early days, while standing amid samples of her work in the massive old barn that houses her pottery studio. "We moved here with another couple," she continues. He was a war resistor. Squidge, her then-husband Jay and their friends were lured to Waldo County by the ideals honored in towns called Unity, Freedom and Liberty. "They were of the group. In that first year, as she and Jay made the 19th century house a home, 100 other like-minded young people visited, many finding their own homes in Waldo County. Squidge built what she believes is the first pottery kiln in Waldo County. Today she teaches art part-time at Unity College, works with the Maine Arts Commission, and recently completed a master's degree in fine arts, but still treasures her time alone in her barn-studio that overlooks some of the 100 acres of field and forest which she owns. That space still figures largely in why she has come to love life in Waldo County.

"If people have space to really follow their own principles, they come into their own freedom, their own authenticity."

"The people who lived here already had values that were earth-based," she says. "I think the ratio of the human to the natural world is special here," she continues, trying to explain the state of mind that is Waldo County. "If people have space to really follow their own principles, they come into their own freedom, their own authenticity."

Brought to you by...

THE REPUBLICAN JOURNA