

Williston/Essex Tour



Sept 28, 2002

This photo pretty much captures the weather for today's tour.

First stop was **Hannaford's Williston** [Nature's Place section]

I was anticipating a quick 'look-see' type of visit but it turned out to be a bit of a triage.

Turns out that Alan Livingstone left back in July; a nice employee brought me to meet the new Natures Place Manager. His name is John. A real young guy who used to sell

beer. He was very nice and receptive to learning about us and about the rotation number. The guy that Cari talks to is Ryan. I met him, too. A short wrestler type. He was very nice, too and I thanked him for taking out time to give the on-hands to Cari. I also showed him the rotation number. I would have taken pictures but they were all in a bustling mode and I didn't want to interrupt that. Ryan said they had received some of our coffee yesterday and I offered to stock it.

Next stop: **Sweet Clover Market**

Ellen wasn't in but I re-met Ray, who worked at City Market the same time I did. He remembered me! And I met Susan, a super nice woman who was stocking. Ray, it turns out, is a coffee connoisseur similar to Chris at City Market. Ray, like Chris, LOVES our French Country the best. In a past life he worked at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters and he said they spent time with him teaching him to discern different blends and such. He brews our coffee for the customers. . . **99¢ a cup!** So I had my first coffee tasting experience. I tried the French Country and the Village Decaf. I was so pleased with myself for remembering to ask him how long he lets it stand in the airpot. He said one hour, and then he changes it out. So that's good. I snapped a photo of

Ray and then picked out a sweet treat for the road.



Price Chopper Essex

Off Route 15

I walked into the store with one of our displays slung over one shoulder and my backpack over the other. Because they had moved the location of our display I ended up wandering around the aisles. It didn't occur to me how silly this must have looked to others until two older stockers clearly and loudly expressed how amused they were! We all laughed about it.

This is Dave. Super, super nice guy. It turns out that our display was moved from the Organic Oblivion Corner of the store to a corner lot by the baked goods! A better piece of real estate I think. Dave was receptive to the new, shorter display, and also to the rotation dates on the bag. He used to be over at the Shelburne Road store but a move "up the PC ladder" brought him to this one.



I only had to switch out a few bags of coffee. They could have used more Mild $\frac{1}{2}$ # and Tres but I didn't have enough surplus with me.

During the 5 minutes it took me to run to the van and get the new coffee someone[s] snatched a Tres and a Decaf off the display! Yeah!

And to top off my visit, as I was carrying the old display out of the store a little 3-year old boy in front of me saw me coming and quickly stood as if he was holding the door open for me [it was an automatic door!]. I about melted. He was so adorable I could've eaten him. Dark-skinned with huge brown eyes. His mother smiled back at him. I wanted to thank him so when I got to the van I dug up a FRIEND sticker and ran over to his car and asked his mother if I could give it to him. She was pleased and said yes. He politely and shyly said 'thank you'. His name was Amin.

Last stop was Hannaford's on Shelburne Road

It was around noon when I arrived as I was supposed to deliver coffee here so I needed to catch the Receiver before he left for the day at 2:00. I was famished at this point and came so close to getting my lunch at the Burger King next door! Really, I was at peace with the decision and looking forward to it. But then I met Shirley. This is Shirley. She and her friend were serving up samples for us famished shoppers: an energy bar of sorts, a stick of Orbit gum, and a provolone/salami/cheese/pickle sandwich. I ate it all up and went to the task of rescuing our display. Shirley told me that she's a Jehovah's Witness. I'm not sure why she told me but there you have it. Look closely so that you can see the perfectly-placed beret on her head. I loved this about her! She told me when I'm at the Middlebury Hannaford's that I'm to say 'hi' to her friend Kathy.



Driving thoughts:

I passed a car on Hwy 189 with a FRIEND sticker on their back window. I honked! And in a few moments we were side-by-side at the stoplights and I waved to him. I'm sure he thought I was nuts but I moved forward and hoped that he would see my FRIEND sticker, too. So I had this thought for the website that we should have an "I SPY" section where FRIENDS can write to us and tell us where they spied a fellow FRIEND.

Lily signing off