FRANK BRYAN is famil-
ly remembered as an
author (Real Vermonters
Don’t Milk Cows, The
Vermont Papers, Politi-
ces in Rural States,
Teacher Politics in
Rural Vermont, and
The Vermont Edition
Book One), a teacher
(associate professor of
politics science at the
University of Ver-
mont), and a speaker,
but his most impor-
tant role in Vermont
now and in the future
is this: he is a scholar
and a guardian of the
state’s unique demo-
cratic system. By viewing Vermont’s his-
tory and politics with a loving but anal-
alytical eye, Bryan encourages the hope
that Vermont’s roots and traditions
won’t go the way of steam trains and
nickel beer. In addition to his academic
pursuits, Frank Bryan has farmed,
logged, quarried, and raised and worked
(ess). On the subject
of “real” Vermonters,
he says: “I’m very sensi-
tive about this. It was
conceived in Ver-
mont, brought to
born in New Hamp-
shire [in 1941] and
spent my first three
cays there.” Since
then, except for time
spent at the Univer-
sity of Connecticut get-
ing his doctorate and
two years of teaching
in Montana, Bryan
has stayed in Ver-
mont. “I’m seen as
being anti-flatlander,
but I’m really not. A lot of them come
here for good reasons. They have an
appreciation for time, the land, and
work.”

—D.B.T.