



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 1: NUMBER 7 AUGUST 1991



Dakin & Hurlburt Head Ticket

A large Republican turnout nominated the following slate: For First Selectman, Richard B. Dakin. For Selectman, William Hurlburt. For Town Clerk, Barbara C. Dakin. For Treasurer, Klaus W. Edler. For Tax Collector, Helen Migliacci. For Board of Finance, (full term) Thalia H. Scoville; (vacancy) Carol S. Lugar; (alternate) Kenneth C. Baird. For Board of Education, (full term) Katherine E. Gannett; (vacancy) Lorraine W. Whitney. For Board of Tax Review, (full term) M. Jean Pond; (vacancy) John E. Forster. For Planning and Zoning Commission, (full term) William S. Lyon; (full term) Vera Dineen. For Zoning Board of Appeals, (vacancy) Ruth C. Ohmen. For Park and Rec, Pauline M. Hayes; Ingrid J. Laigle.

The positions for the Board of Education were actively contested by four candidates. There was strong emphasis on the importance of having a balanced board that would fully represent all of the town while encouraging a sound education. The issue of the ever-growing regional budget was also central to the winners' remarks. Other contests were for Selectman and Treasurer. - *Ralph Gold*

Dem's Raucous Caucus

At their caucus on July 22nd, Cornwall Democrats with enthusiastic cheers and applause selected the following as their candidates for municipal offices: First Selectman, Gordon Ridgway; Selectman, David Williamson. For Tax Collector, Rita Quinn. For Town Treasurer, Pat Bramley. For the Board of Finance (six-year term), Hendon Chubb and Peter Hammond; for the four-year term, Charles Osborne; for alternate, Evie Piker. For the Board of Education, Nancy Calhoun (full term), and for the four-year term, Pat Blakey. For the Board of Tax Review, Phyllis Wojan (four-year term), and Richard Bramley, two-year term. For the Planning and Zoning Commission, Jim Whiteside and Doc Simont. For The Zoning Board of Appeals, Anne Chamberlain and Phyllis Nauts (six-year term) and City Lansing (two-year term). For Park and Rec, Alice Cadwell, Leslie Elias, Philla Osborne, and Mark Pastre. The caucus also endorsed Barbara Dakin, Republican, for town clerk.

The caucus unanimously and thunderously approved a special resolution commending Governor Weicker's tax-reform plan and urging all Democratic and

Republican legislators to support the governor with their votes. - *Ken Keskinen*

Days with Dogs - and Cats

What Are Dog Days? Dog Days are the sultry part of summer when Sirius, the Dog Star, rises at the same time as the sun, a period when dogs are liable to go mad, or at least pant a lot.

Seems a time for a piece about the Little Guild of St. Francis. We hope cats won't mind, but there are no "cat days."

The new animal home, with an attached residence for the full-time managers, Valerie and James Lennie, was built in 1989. The facility can accommodate 15 dogs and 20 cats in their own quarters, with special areas for puppies and kittens. The design of the shelter conforms to all state and local requirements regarding space, cleanliness, and professional care. In spite of initial concern about noise, soundproofing fences and plantings have proved to be successful in limiting noise.

Dogs are brought in to the shelter from the local pound. Their average stay ranges from 15 days to 30. The Guild's policy of keeping animals until a home is

(continued on page 2)

AUGUST 1991

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Golfers: Plan ahead. The Cornwall open will be held on Sunday, Sept. 22 at the South Egremont course. All-inclusive cost (cart, food, etc.), \$45.00		 LQ 3 NM 9 FQ 17 FM 25		1 Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	2	3 CCS tag sale 9am - 2pm W. Cornwall Firehouse (see page 4) Library book sale 9am - 1pm (Cont. on 10th)
4 Community soccer 11am Sundays (see page 4) Hubbard Field Softball 6pm Sundays	5	6 Inland Wetlands 8pm Town Hall	7	8 Cornwall Housing Corp. 7:30pm First Church	9	10 Last days Yutzler show 1-4pm Hist. Society & Simont show 9am-1pm Library (see page 4)
11 11am 6pm	12 Plan. & Zoning 8pm Town Hall	13 M.I. Cake photo collages, Library 9am-1pm Dem. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	14 Rep. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	15 Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	16	17 Library book sale 9am - 1pm Poetry & singing 8pm Cadwell's Corner
18 11am 6pm	19 Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall	20 Registration of new pupils starts CCS, (see page 4)	21	22	23 Rose Algrant show 4pm-8pm Marvelwood Schl. (see page 4)	24 Algrant show 10am - 6pm Marvelwood Cornwall Library book sale 9am - 1pm
25 11am Algrant show 10am - 6pm Marvelwood 6pm	26 Z.B. of Appeals 8pm Town Hall if necessary	27	28	29 Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	30	31 Cornwall Library book sale 9am - 1pm

(continued from page 1)

found means that some animals may stay for many months, even years.

"Ours is a twenty-four-hour day," said Valerie. "We even get calls at night if some new owner needs advice."

My own visit before the official opening time of 10 a.m. interrupted Jim and Valerie at work, cleaning cages and hosing down halls and runs.

When asked what they liked most about their work, Valerie said that finding good homes for the animals was their job, and that having done so, calling the new owners after a few days to discover that the animals were happy and doing well was a source of satisfaction.

On the other hand, when asked what was the least satisfying aspect of their work, Jim replied, with a touch of anger, that "too many new dog owners are hurting animals because they expect immediate understanding and obedience. Dogs need to be taught, not through punishment, but through positive reinforcement, patiently carried out." He advises new dog owners to get help from professional dog trainers.

Jim and Valerie have added a new service to their caretaking, a bulletin board with notices of pets wanted or to be given away, or pets lost, so that people and pets can be brought together. "We're match-makers," said Valerie.

A visit to the Little Guild shelter may find you with a match. The shelter hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays to Sundays.

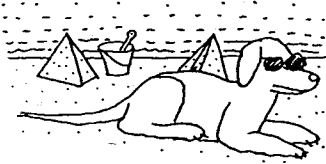


- Ken Keskinen

Selectman Wrestle with Noise

The hottest item on the agenda of the July 15th Selectmen's meeting was a request by Jim Rokos, Director of Health for the Torrington Area Health District, that the town pay for legal action to stop logging at a site on Popple Swamp Road because of noise pollution. Selectman Gordon Ridgway cited an opinion by the Commissioner of Agriculture that logging is an agricultural pursuit and therefore exempt from noise pollution regulations. First Selectman Dick Dakin reported that the town counsel believes that noise regulations apply. Rokos asked whose opinion would convince the town to act, and Selectman Steve Hedden said that if the Attorney General ruled in favor of the Health District, the town would have no choice. The selectmen took no action.

The dispute is an example of the kind of no-win situation that can arise in a town like Cornwall. At least twice in the past, Montgomery Hare logged timber from land on Popple Swamp Road, loading the logs from an abandoned town gravel pit. This spring his logger, Bill Fitch, set up his loading platform in the same gravel pit. Since the last logging, Chris Gyorsok and Jane Giddens-Jones had built houses near



enough to the loading site so that they were disturbed by the noise of loading. After finding that logging was going to last longer than they had been led to believe, they asked Fitch to move his loading platform. He experimented with an alternative site, but found that it required loading everything twice. Hare has said he would dearly like to provide another site, but there is none available.

Giddens-Jones and Gyorsok then complained to the Health District, which found that the loading created noise pollution, and asked Fitch to move the loading elsewhere. Hare and Fitch, citing the Commissioner of Agriculture's opinion, refused. Rokos confirmed with his department that logging is industrial and therefore covered by pollution regulations, so he asked the town to take action.

The Torrington Area Health District sets noise standards for commercial operations, but Robert Beers, Cornwall's current representative to the Torrington Area Health District, reports that "the state regulations say that there's no limit to the noise that may emanate from a farming operation."

Logger Larry Stevens says, "If you're in an area with a lot of neighbors, maybe you don't work early in the morning or late at night, but you should be able to work a normal workday."

A forester with the Department of Environmental Protection says, "Logging is considered a part of agriculture, but another state statute gives towns the right to say that it's not. I think it's up to the legislature or the courts to decide which is which."

The matter is unresolved for the time being, but it raises an important philosophical and political question: How do we balance the traditional uses of land in the town with the different needs of newer residents? -Hendon Chubb & Ken Keskinen

P&Z Limits Convenience Store

The P & Z continued its discussion with applicant Jeffrey Yates and his attorney Peter Ebersol concerning the change of use of Ingvertsen's Automotive to a convenience store, with the continued use of two apartments and gas sale. A detailed memo from planning consultant Tom McGowan, suggesting additional information and modifications, was addressed point by point. Several more revisions were requested on the site plan, which will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The site plan is to describe operations and limitations as fully as possible. It would



then be on file as the legal requirement for all future uses of the property. The plan requires that the building be white, with no canopy, no outside vending machines or lighted window signs, and with sign space not to exceed 25 square feet. Existing vegetation is to be kept. The hours will be from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. These and other limitations will ensure that the future use will be less non-conforming than the auto repair and sales currently allowed.

In other business, members overruled present and participating mosquitos by unanimously approving requests for three screened porches.

- Virginia Potter

Sidewalks for Bride Walks

- a note from the past

Marriages in Cornwall are so rare that we are not surprised when nearly everyone in the county labors under the delusion that we are a colony of Shakers . . . It is a fact, the truth of which is self-evident, that in country villages all courtships begin on the sidewalks . . . and an advanced stage is reached before they are transferred to the back parlor. But in villages where the pavements are not sufficiently broad or long the advanced stage is never reached, and after a brief and unhappy existence such places are blotted from the face of the earth . . .

The sidewalks of Cornwall are short, few, and far between, and not a marriage has occurred in our village in half a century unless the bridegroom was the owner of a horse and carriage . . . All this emphatically points to the necessity of having pavements all over the village at once, or in fifty years there will be no village to pave.

-The Cornwall Star, August, 1880

Marriages

Anne Soulé to Merritt Wheeler, IV
Hilary Langer to Ronald Laigle, Jr.
Diane Scott to Robert Cuthbert

Goodbye to a Friend

Mary Walker

Welcome

Stephanie Rose
to Christine & Gary Guilman



MBC Master Plan

The Municipal Building Committee, after much discussion, has agreed to recommend the following tentative master plan for town buildings: the library is to have the entire library building for its use; the town offices given over to the child center; the gym used as a civic center; and the future town hall, either a new one or the renovated Rumsey Hall, is to be on the present Rumsey Hall site. The committee is continuing to investigate a third option - making a town hall out of the gymna-

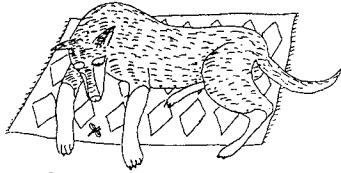
sium by adding a wing to the north side.

The architectural firm that the town hires will look into all these possibilities. When we have information on these options, we will have a town informational meeting to share the findings.

We have interviewed 10 architects who have studied our town buildings and have shared their expertise with us over the past six weeks. At our August 1 meeting, we will begin the architect-selection process.

Please share your ideas with us in person or by letter.

- Rita Quinn



The Brown Corner

The first summer I had a real garden in Cornwall it never seemed to rain and it was as hot as it ever gets here. We had not dug our well yet, and any water I needed for anything had to be carried. So I learned all I could about drought and plants, and this is my advice for people with limited water resources.

Water deeply or not at all. Shallow watering which only leaves the top of the soil wet encourages roots to grow toward the surface and makes the plants susceptible to drought and winter kill.

Water newly planted trees and shrubs at least every week or they will die.

Water newly planted perennials if they need it. Next, water any other small trees and shrubs that need it. Many plants wilt on a hot windy day, but if they still look sad the next morning, they need help. Remember that the roots are out *beyond* the drip line on established plants.

If you still have enough water for flower and vegetable gardens, a soaker hose is best because no water is wasted. Sprinklers look pretty but water is lost in the air. Watering wands are a 3'-4' extension of the hose which allows you to aim directly at the bases of the plants. Or just take off the spray nozzle and get in there and water near the ground.

If you can't water the established perennials, they probably won't die anyway. Let them go dormant in their own way. Don't trim or deadhead or fertilize. They may not look good this year, but they will survive. Some come from prairies and love drought. You can soak just the plants that need it. Soapy dish water or other "gray water" is fine for plants.

Always mulch, mulch, mulch. It is amazing how much moister the soil stays.

Don't water lawns, they will come back.

And then there's the modern rain dance. Wax your car, go on vacation leaving your windows open, or leave valuable objects outside. I'm hoping that the printing of this article is good for at least 3" of rain.

- Anne Bevans



Letters to the Chronicle



P.O.'d ABOUT P.O. P.R.

Have you noticed those 8-foot long yellow bow-tie "Thank You - Welcome Home" banners in our Cornwall post offices? Every postmaster in the country was sent one (along with similar bumper stickers and Desert Storm lapel pins) with specific instructions as to where it should be placed. (And it had better be there when the inspector comes around!) How much is this costing - at a time when postal employees are having their hours cut back? Now, I welcome our troops home as fervently as anyone, but enough already. Returnees from all our wars combined never got such a welcome. But what really bothers me is that I suspect my tax dollars are being used not so much to welcome home the troops as to keep alive in the public's mind Mr. Bush's "successful little war" for his own political purposes. Does this bother anyone else?

- George Kittle

OF SAWMILLS AND SUBURBS

As I write this letter, the sawmill issue is yet to be decided. I hope that our zoning regulations will be interpreted in a libertarian manner because the real question is not about sawmills and borders, but about the future of our town. Those who oppose the sawmill seem to be more concerned about the resale value of their property than keeping Cornwall a viable, living and breathing rural community where a Yankee yeoman farmer can make a living with his or her hands. I observed early on during my time in New England (I moved here almost 25 years ago) that native Yankees appreciated newcomers who took their time in learning and making a commitment to the way of life that has made New England such a fine place to live.

The essence of that way of life is working the land and invention - a meeting of mind, body, and spirit leavened with creativity and a profound respect for the simple gifts the Shakers sang of. The question now before us is whether we will become a bedroom community for the upper crust who are offended by the sounds and smells of rural life.

Such newcomers, no matter how long they have lived here, have little patience with the sweet smell of manure spread as an organic fertilizer (although they might well choose organic produce so long as it is grown somewhere else, sparing their olfactory sensitivity). The sound of hunters in the hills conjures images of gang violence they sought to escape. Likewise with the broad-shouldered counterpoint of a sawmill. But such mills are a part of our history.

The very quality of life, the rural Yankee land- and farm-based economy that brought these people here is now threatened. Where once neighbors worked out their

problems face to face, lawyers, lawsuits, and government now pass for communication. Long before zoning, folks simply used their land as they saw fit, and if the neighbors had a problem, they worked it out without the interference of bureaucrats.

There is plenty of room for compromise here if only people will talk to each other and exercise a little consideration, compassion, a respect for history and a sense of place. I came here for the rural surroundings, and I'd like to keep Cornwall that way because I have come to love the rural sounds and smells. In time, things will change in the face of that inexorable growth that passes for progress, but there is no need to rush headlong into suburbia. May the Good Lord protect us from becoming Westchester or Fairfield County. If the silent symphony of the woods and fields, rivers and hills must be broken, let it be by the sounds of men and women working the land, and not by the boom-boxes and skateboards on concrete that fill the suffering ears of our suburban brethren.

Gibran wrote that "work is love made visible." Work can also be love made audible. Let us rejoice in the cacophony of creation as it murmurs and shouts through the Litchfield Hills.

- Monte Dunn

NO EXPENSE MEANT

I am most embarrassed by my letter sent last spring to the Cornwall Chronicle. Nothing in it was meant to cause great expense or consternation to those people owning land along our public roads. Had I been thinking more clearly, the letter would not have been sent. For the record, several trees were down on our property but we were thankfully spared major devastation.

- Ezra Mager

THANKS, HELPERS

I would like to thank the people who took time out to help get the Hammond Beach going this year. New sand from the Hurlburts was brought in by Denny Frost. The Heaneys, Quinns, Brackens, Cadwells, and Peter Russ helped reinstall the docks and revitalize the ladders. Many people in town are now enjoying the benefits of this work as well as the generosity of Roxana Hammond, and of Lynne and Bill Fox, who built the beachhouse last year. I would also like to thank Evelyn Gelerter, beach director, for tolerating the spare-time pace of volunteer workers.

-Gordon Ridgway



Events & Announcements

Cornwall Properties to Be Revaluated:

Data collectors from the revaluation firm of Cole-Layer-Trumbull began measuring and inspecting Cornwall properties on July 23. This is the first step in the process of arriving at new values for the October 1, 1992, Grand List. The "measurers and listers" will work Tuesdays through Saturdays and they expect to cover most of the town within three weeks. Their work is basically an inventory of taxable and non-taxable property in Cornwall.

School News: CCS will open for the year on September 3, with a full session from 8:40 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. Kindergarten classes will meet from 8:40 to 11:40 a.m. Letters will be mailed to all families with school children, giving opening-day information, including transportation routes and the school calendar for the year.

Beginning August 20, the school office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the convenience of parents who have questions and for the registration of new pupils. The office will be closed on Labor Day, September 2.

The school will hold a tag sale of surplus classroom furniture (student desks and chairs in all sizes) on Saturday, August 3, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the West Cornwall Firehouse. Proceeds will benefit the school PTO and the Cornwall Fire Department.

Cornwall Calendar: The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department is preparing the Cornwall birthday calendar this summer. Order blanks and envelopes may be found at local stores and post offices. Calendars cost \$4.00 each. Purchasers may enter as many family birthdays as they wish at no extra cost. Anniversary announcements are 50 cents for each listing. Mail your checks and order blanks to the Fire Department by September 8th.

DEAR READERS

If you've recently sent us a contribution, many thanks!

If you've been intending to send us a contribution, now's the time to do it!

We also welcome your comments, letters, and articles. So drop us a line, give us a call, send us a check. Thanks again!

THE CORNWALL CHRONICLE
P.O. BOX 246, WEST CORNWALL, CT 06796

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CITY/ST/ZIP _____



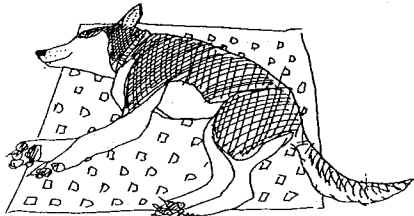
Soccer is Back! During the week of July 15th, Cornwall hosted the USA Soccer School of Excellence, a soccer camp attended by about 15 children. The week ended with a children-parents' game which was won by the children, 4-3.

Cornwall soccer was started in the sixties by Marc Simont and Hans Wolf. The current generation plans to continue this tradition on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. at Hubbard Field in Cornwall Village. All are welcome - girls, boys, parents, grandparents, guests.

Dutch Yutzler's Cornwall: Persons familiar with Arlington Yutzler's paintings may think they know what to expect from "Cornwall Faces and Places, 1930s and 1940s," at the Cornwall Historical Society. But the heightened emotional impact of these works, when seen as part of a larger group of Yutzler's paintings, may come as a gratifying surprise.

The artist's "places" include views of the "West Cornwall Chapel and River Road," of "Widow Murphy's House, Tarradiddle Lane, West Cornwall," and of the interior of the "Methodist Episcopal Church, Cornwall Center (now gone)." Most of the paintings, however, are of Cornwall people, many of them of Dutch's parents' generation. Here are paintings of Grandma Beeman, Effie Whitney, George Dibble, Mrs. Rod Ives, "Goulash" Jurith (Dutch never knew his real first name), and Grandpa William Oliver, whose striking portrait, on view at other times in the Cornwall library, shows him with his granddaughter Betsy, working at his blacksmith's forge on River Road in West Cornwall.

Some of the paintings are individual studio portraits. But the centerpieces of the exhibition are the more complex and ambitious group portraits, in which Dutch worked his studies of people into realistic but imagined settings: a church supper, a meeting of the Ladies Aid Society, a funeral, and an auction - at which viewers with long memories will be able to spot the artist's father in the back row.



THE CORNWALL ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 128, WEST CORNWALL, CT 06796

Sorry
we're
late!

CORNWALL RESIDENT

These serious, often seemingly abstracted people are rendered with love and respect, and without a trace of sentimentality. They were the elders of the village half a century ago as they appeared to a young painter intent on honestly recording the life and look of his community. The paintings are, of course, particularly haunting and evocative for those of us at least peripherally a part of that community, which had the good fortune to have a painter like Dutch at the center of its life.

It is good to know that Dutch has generously bequeathed these paintings to the Town of Cornwall, and that they will some day hang in the community's churches and public buildings. In the meantime, they will remain on view at the Historical Society through August 10, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, and on Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

-Barbara & Spencer Klaw

Housing Survey: The town will be conducting a local survey of residents to develop detailed housing and community information. The survey will provide data for use by the town and organizations applying for grants and preparing long-range plans to meet the needs of townspeople. The information will be computerized so it can be updated periodically.

All residents who receive the survey form are asked to complete it promptly and return it to the town office. All personal information will be kept confidential.

Ladies Only: Marc Simont's show at the Cornwall Library has a special appeal. In addition to its charm, wit, and dexterity, it will remind you of the greater range of Marc's work - insightful portraits, sprightly illustrations, fantastic sculptures, and cartoons with bite and humor. This show is "ladies only." Don't miss it!

- Tom Bevans

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