



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 2: NUMBER 7 AUGUST 1992



A Lawsuit About Housing

The Town of Cornwall, already under legal siege over zoning matters, faces yet another lawsuit. This was the advice of Peter Ebersol, of the Cornwall Housing Corp., to a meeting of the selectmen on July 20. The firm of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy told Ebersol that they are drawing up a suit to rescind the town's affordable housing regulations.

At the meeting, Ebersol said he had not seen the details of the suit. It was his understanding, however, that four Cornwall property owners were bringing the action partly on grounds that "the well-to-do are suffering discrimination at the hands of the less well-to-do." According to Ebersol, the suit, if successful, would essentially invalidate future projects of the Cornwall Housing Corp., though he did not think the seven lots already approved would be affected. Ebersol said it would be premature to speculate about possible legal defenses available to the town; as far as he knew, Ebersol said, there is no precedent for such an action. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said he would consult the Board of Finance about establishing a \$50,000 legal defense fund.

In other business before the selectmen, a public hearing on the proposed shooting ordinance was set for August 14

at 8 p.m. in the Town Hall. Copies can be obtained at the Town Office.

At a special town meeting held before the July 20 selectmen's meeting, the 20 citizens present unanimously approved budget transfers from 1991-92 line items. These transfers amounted to about \$45,000 to cover P&Z legal expenses, road improvement, and road materials.

— Charles Osborne & Scoville Soulé

Summer Finance

Gordon Ridgway brought an update for the five-year capital plan to the Board of Finance at its July 16 meeting. It called for expenditures of \$600,000 in the next two years on roads and bridges. Gordon continues to feel that roads and bridges should have priority over buildings. The state rates 36 miles of Cornwall's roads as poor or very poor. The updated plan will be presented to the town at an October meeting.

The board also discussed a shortfall of about \$28,000 in its allocation for the reassessment of town properties. It may be necessary to revise the budget by this amount at a town meeting.

Two major budget transfers were recommended to the next town meeting: \$5,732 for P&Z legal expenses and \$33,350, which was available from fiscal '92 surplus, to pay for road patching. — Ed Ferman

More Revenue?

At the request of the Board of Finance, our ad hoc group is exploring possible new sources of revenue. We're looking everywhere we can think of: property that perhaps shouldn't be tax-exempt, fees, grants, new ways to get returns on the town's assets.

We need all the help we can get. If you have any suggestions or know what other towns have done, or if you would like to volunteer your services, give any of us a call. Remember, we're interested in new sources of revenue, not ways to get more from the people who are bearing the burden now. — Hendon Chubb (672-6607, chair),

K.C. Baird, Ed Ferman, Peter Hammond, Bill Hurlburt, Lisa Lansing, Hunt Williams

Hayrides and Bubble Gum

Despite the weather's apparent determination to bolix the 4th of July ceremonies in our area, Cornwall's Park and Recreation Commission managed to sandwich a lively day of festivities between showers.

The fun started with two races, a five-mile run for experienced runners and a one-mile contest for beginners. This was followed by a parade of bicycles — many of them gaily decorated — and some ridden by masked children playing instruments.

(continued on page 2)

AUGUST 1992

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Get ready for the Cropwalk on Sept. 27. Contributions benefit area social services. Those interested call Marie Prentice (672-6261).				 FQ 5 FM 13 LQ 21 NM 28	1 Habitat tag sale 10-4 St. Mary's Church, Lakeville Poetry Reading 8pm Cadwell's Corner
2 Hymn Sing 7:30-9:30 pm N. Cornwall Church Successful schools talk 4pm Noble Horizons, Salisbury (p.3)	3 ††† Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall P&Z Housing Corp. hearing 8pm CCS	4 Inland Wetlands 8pm Town Hall*	5 West Cornwall Merchants Ass'n. 3pm Freshfields	6	7 Rose Algrant Show, Marvelwood Student Lounge, 4-8 (p.4)	8 Rose Algrant Show, Marvelwood Student Lounge, 10-5 (p.4) Moser artwork Corn. Hist. Soc. (p.4)
9 Rose Algrant Show, Marvelwood Student Lounge, 10-5 (p.4)	10 Plan. & Zoning 8pm Town Hall	11 Dem. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	12 Ecumenical Vespers 7pm Mohawk State Park Tower Rain date Aug. 26	13 Cornwall Housing Corp. 7:30pm UCC†	14 Shooting ordinance hearing 8pm Town Hall	15 Country Fair, St. Bridget's Church 9am-3pm (p.4)
16 Agricultural Advisory Comm. 7:30pm Firehouse	17 ††† Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall Lili Gross Bauer paintings Corn. Lib.	18	19 Ecumenical Vespers 7pm Trinity Camp W. Cornwall	20 CCS begins reg. of new pupils CCS 9-1 (p.4)	21 Deadline for mailing voter status cards (p.4)	22
23	24 Z.B. of Appeals 8pm Town Hall* Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	25	26 Child Center reg. 9-1 Parish House (p.4)	27	28	29 Agricultural Fair Village Green Hubbard Field 2-9 pm (see insert)
30	31 First day of schl. CCS, HVRHS & Child Center					

*Check time and place at Town Office. † United Church of Christ

(continued from page 1)

Many of the masks were from the personal collection of Leslie Elias, who led the parade. It was a "wonderful, wild scene," according to Karen Stevens, the chairperson of Park and Rec.

The games started at noon, and included a bubble gum blowing contest, a three-legged race, a relay race over an obstacle course (tires to crawl through and hay bales to leap over), a sack race, hayrides, an egg toss, an egg-in-spoon race, and a watermelon-eating contest. Music was supplied by the Jazz Ensemble, and food was provided by the VFW and the Cornwall Child Center.

Considering the chancy weather, Karen said, "it was a good crowd." And hardly wet at all.

— Barbara Klaw



Housing Corp Needs Names

The Cornwall Housing Corporation has once again been asked by the state Department of Housing to submit names and addresses of all those who are interested in rental units at Kugeman Village. Building is to begin this summer. All those who have not indicated their interest in one-, two-, or three-bedroom apartments, are asked to do so as soon as possible. Names may be sent to the CHC, Box 174, Cornwall, CT 06753, or may be phoned in to 672-6486.

Lottery applications for those who want to lease parcels of land have been mailed to interested parties. Others who wish to apply should call the number given above. Applicants will be interviewed by the screening committee before the drawing which will occur on September 18.

— Ken Keskinen



Catapult into the 21st Century

A blue ribbon, brain-storming committee has been formed, charged by the Region 1 Central Office to "develop programs that will catapult us, (i.e.: our schools) into the 21st century." This committee includes several Cornwallites with a keen interest in education: writer Jerome Doolittle, UConn Branch Director Adriane Lyon, and CCS Board member Dianne Heiny.

Some of the suggestions being discussed are a longer school day and year; the sharing of resources between public and private schools; teacher evaluation by students; increased expectations of students; the introduction of skilled trades learning; and cooperative learning between students of differing abilities.

Two future-oriented programs currently under way at Cornwall Consolidated are a well developed computer indoctrination for grades K-8 and a soon-to-be implemented distance-learning facility. Classes will be able not only to tune in on live

presentations of subject matter pertinent to their studies but to interact with the presenter during the program by phone.

Education ain't what it used to be; nor is it what it's going to be, evidently. Mr. Chips spins fitfully 'neath the sod.

— Scoville Soulé



News from CCS

Cornwall Consolidated School will open for the 1992 school year on Aug. 31 at 8:40 a.m. The first day will be a full session. Kindergarten classes will be held in the morning from 8:40 to 11:35.

Beginning Aug. 20, the school office will be open from 9 through 1 for the convenience of parents who have questions and for the registration of new pupils. Kindergarten orientation with bus ride will take place Wednesday, Aug. 26.

On July 9, the Cornwall Board of Education voted to accept the superintendent's recommendation to hire Andrew D. Nicsaji as a full-time math teacher and Cynthia J. Jerram as a part-time art teacher. Mr. Nicsaji will be teaching in the upper grades, including a high school level Algebra 1 class. His experience includes long-term substituting in a range of math courses, French courses, computer programming, teaching an SAT prep course, and tutoring one-on-one. Ms. Jerram will be teaching all grade levels. Her curriculum plans and portfolio are impressive. She is a career artist as well as having her certificate in art education.



— Lynn Cheney

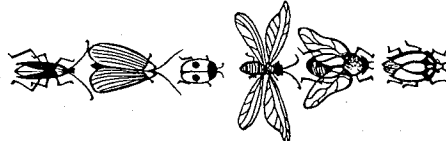
Marvelwood Delays Decision

After hearing reports of the faculty subcommittee studying the Cornwall/Marvelwood connection, the school's Board of Trustees has decided to defer any final decision regarding a change of location until next year.

The intensive study of Marvelwood's relationship to the town was prepared by the subcommittee headed by Maggie Cooley, a member of the board. It was clear that the subcommittee saw a significant relationship between the mission of the family-type school and its need to be associated with a small community such as Cornwall.

Further exploration of that relationship is necessary, says Mark Johnson, headmaster, to assess more thoroughly the impact on the town of possible expansion of the school, and to determine how the two can work more effectively together. A meeting is planned for later this summer.

— Ken Keskinen



Congratulations

Catherine Sarah Frances Scott
to James Pillsbury Resor
Jonathan Beardsley to Kimberly Adams

Welcome

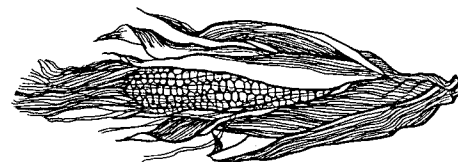
Alyssa Nicole Haddon
to Karen and John Haddon

Goodbye to a Friend

Julian A. Bouteiller

Land Transfers

Mark and Donna Caffee to Michael Moschen and Danielle Mailer, house on Popple Swamp Road.



Fender Benders Only

According to the 1990 census, there are 249 people over 65 in Cornwall, about 17% of the population. Income figures have not yet been released, but the census reports that 6.8% or about 15 people over 65 live below poverty levels. Living alone are 60 women and 20 men in what the census describes as "nonfam" households.

How do these mature to elderly people get about without public transport? The Motor Vehicle Bureau reports that 78 women and 95 men have drivers' licenses. Concern about oldsters at the wheel may be justified, but of 22 accidents reported in Cornwall for 1991, only three involved drivers 65 or older. In these accidents there were no injuries, only property damage.

Persons over 65 in need of help may turn to Jill Gibbons, the Municipal Agent for the Elderly (672-2703). — Clifton R. Read

Cornwall Emergency Medical Fund

Because of the strict confidentiality under which it operates, one of the least known organizations in the town of Cornwall is the Cornwall Medical Fund Committee.

This group had its origin in 1956 when a Cornwall child was stricken with leukemia, a disease whose treatment is very expensive. Several persons in town started a fund-raising drive to help out. Various town organizations then set up a bank of financial reserves to be drawn on when similar cases arose.

In the years since its inception, this fund has assisted many Cornwall residents. Any Cornwall person overburdened with medical expenses is advised to make an application for medical assistance to any of the officers or board members, who are: the Rev. Dr. Charles Russ, pres.; Richard Dakin, vice pres.; Patricia Preston, sec'y; Ellen Lorch, Ingrid Laigle, Joseph Lush, Jr., and Ernest Kenniston, board members.

— Pat Preston



Black Bear Won't Cave In

The Chronicle interviewed several Cornwallites for their reactions to the bear seeking an affordable cave for his berry business.

An Upper Town Street resident claimed there are no zoning regs for bears, and he or she should be denied a digging permit.

A spokesperson from Cream Hill Road took the position that while berry planting and picking are not noisy in and of themselves, the constant sound of berry trucks would present a problem.

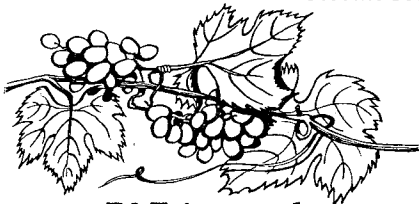
P&Z chairman Ginny Potter would say only, "Don't we have enough trouble already?"

Tim Prentice pointed out that there are several authentic caves in Cornwall dating back to the late 18th century and he hoped that they would be restored. "These caves are in some disrepair," he said, "but are structurally sound and esthetically beautiful."

Ken Keskinen of the Cornwall Housing Commission favored a series of caves which would enable young bears to stay on in Cornwall, thus enhancing the citizen diversity we cherish here. "We could work out a 99-year lease with buy-back options and a cap on profits at resale, or something."

The bear was not available for comment.

— Scoville Soulé



P&Z Approvals

During its July meeting, lasting only 55 minutes, the commission heard and approved the Ferman special permit application for a home occupation/publishing office.

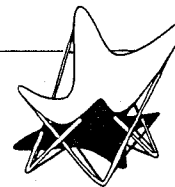
Also approved were the amended requirements for any special permit use. The hearing last month had raised some questions that the commission referred to both its planning consultant and its attorney. Attorney Thomas Byrne recommended the addition of one sentence: "The proposed use and proposed buildings and structures shall conform to the following standards ..." Otherwise, his opinion was that the commission could adopt the regulation, which includes a clarified list of requirements that control a use granted by a special permit. The commission made the changes to allow for greater authority to place limitations on dissimilar uses.

The application of John Nuese for a limited-use sawmill and other buildings was denied without prejudice as the information required was not complete.

— Ginny Potter



Letters to the Chronicle



SNATCHED FROM A WATERY GRAVE

For starters, I wish to thank those courageous souls who came to my rescue after I capsized in Cream Hill Lake and lay floundering in unfriendly waters.

It's true what they say, that your whole life passes before you at such times. But I thought it went faster. I had just gotten to the part when I was inducted into the army in 1942, and heard somebody say "cough," when Rudi Wolff threw me a rope and brought me back to the real world. He towed us in — me and the upturned canoe — while Bobbie and Spencer Klaw went after the paddle that had drifted a good distance away.

The laws of the sea (which I believe also apply to Cream Hill Lake) would give rights of salvage to Rudi, and entitle him to keep the canoe. This could have led to a sticky situation, given our long friendship. However, a nasty confrontation was averted when it was pointed out that the canoe already belonged to Rudi.

The case involving the Klaws, on the other hand, presents a serious problem. The question is: "Do Bobbie and Spencer have proprietary rights to Rudi's paddle?"

— Marc Simont

FROM YOUR COMMITTEE ON AGING

Do you know about the Gateway Adult Day Center next to and associated with Geer Memorial Health Center? It's an active and happy place where frail and/or disabled adults can spend the day; it's a place to meet new friends and old friends. There are musical and slide show programs, games, a hot lunch, a friendly and caring staff, and most important, socializing. Extra services available: podiatry, barber and hair dresser, dentistry, and physical therapy.

Transportation to and from home is provided and the daily fee may be covered by a state program. Call 824-7067 for more information.

— Jill Gibbons

"NOT-TOO-CYNICAL"

After 10 July '89 all of us who had been devastated by the TORNADO eagerly sought advice from all reputable sources. So it seemed very logical for Fred and me to stop when we spied Joe Lieberman's mobile office in the Torrington Parkade. The two preppy young men in the van seemed to know less about FEMA than we did. But they assured us we would hear from the senator. Well we did ... four months after the storm.

This quote from that letter clearly shows why we echo Ed Ferman's feelings: "For your information a letter of credit has been transferred from the Federal Emergency Management has been transferred [sic] to the Office of Civil Preparedness. It is now the responsibility of the agency with which you applied for relief assistance to process your claim."

Hmmmm!

— Judy Bronner

"THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY"

The P&Z hearing on Monday, Aug. 3, at 8 p.m. at CCS will consider the Cornwall Housing Corp. (CHC) request for a permit to lease under its affordable housing program the Town St. property which was given to it in November, 1991.

In order for affordable homes to be built in a variety of places in our community, P&Z established a regulation permitting CHC to lease suitable one-acre lots for housing in areas zoned for three and five acres. This regulation by P&Z has been contested by some Town St. neighbors who oppose the development of the donated land for this purpose. Other Town St. residents are strongly supportive of this plan.

Although our problem is a tiny speck in a huge national picture, affordable housing in our town is enormously important to us. For a healthy community we need a variety of people to live here and share their talents, expertise, and ideas.

In "thinking globally, acting locally" it would be wonderful if we could hear all points of view and find ways to address the concerns of all parties in the Town St. parcel dispute. The CHC has given many hours and much thought to this issue and has worked hard to balance the interests of neighbors and the need in our community for affordable housing.

I hope that many concerned citizens will come to the hearing on Monday and help our town to solve this issue with clarity and care.

— Anne Chamberlain

SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS

"The only exercise I get these days is jumping to conclusions." (Robert Benchley) AARP and the Taconic Learning Center are the thinking person's gym. We're here to help you avoid that intellectual "flab."

Our next offering is "How Some Schools Succeed." We all want our schools to be better. Jack Mahoney, principal of HVRHS, spent a year studying innovative schools across the country. Mr. Mahoney will report at our town-hall-like discussion. Bring your questions and ideas on Sunday, Aug. 2, at 4 p.m. to Noble Horizons auditorium, Salisbury.

— Bob Steck

HAPPY TORNADO PARTY

As the images and sounds of Tornado '89 have dimmed somewhat in memory, it was fitting to remember it together at the Blakeys' Tornado Party on July 11. Pat and Jerry and their family again opened their "corner restaurant" to us all to commemorate the unity, generosity, and devotion generated by so many volunteers in the aftermath of the storm. Party-goers enjoyed the chance to reminisce, swap tornado stories, see a video of the clean-up, share a hearty supper, and, most of all, celebrate the spirit of this town. Thank you, Blakeys.

— Peg Keskinen

Friends of Rose Art Show

Cornwall's creative talents will be on display at Marvelwood School on Friday, August 7, from 4 to 8 p.m., and August 8 and 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the first Friends of Rose Algrant's art show since Rose's death in June. More than 50 painters, sculptors, and craftspersons will exhibit. After expenses, the \$15 artist's entrance fee and the 15% commission on each sale will go, in accordance with Rose's wish, to the Volunteer Fire Dept. Ambulance Fund.

Records of previous exhibits are scanty, but what has become a Cornwall tradition began in 1959 when half a dozen artists were sketching Rose Algrant in Pilar Sureda's studio. Rose suggested an exhibit of their paintings of her. From that developed the concept of a community art show. According to notes left by Lewis Gannett, our historian's journalist father, Rose's home "gradually became a gathering place for artists and writers and, in time, a sort of Cornwall art gallery. On its walls hang more original Landecks than can be seen in any single New York gallery ... more early Thurbers than [hung anywhere but] in James Thurber's own home, and some remarkable hitherto unexhibited caricatures of Mr. Thurber by Marc Simont."

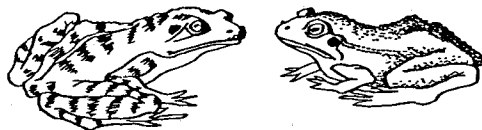
The first exhibit was in the Covered Bridge Shopping Center in West Cornwall and included nine artists. The thirty-two annual shows since then have grown in size and moved from place to place. Marc Simont and Arlington Yutzler were in the first exhibit and each of the succeeding ones. They will show again this year.

Rose's show has remained informal. Artists hang their own work and set their prices. The first "rule" of an art show that has few rules was for each participant to be a friend of Rose Algrant. Now invitations are sent to artists who live in Cornwall.

The annual exhibition gives artists who work alone a chance to see what their colleagues are doing — and the public an unusual opportunity to enjoy the wide sweep of art today, from abstract to academic, from landscapes to non-representational sculpture, from the funny to the intensely serious.

To make certain that Rose's show will be continued as she wished, and to manage the exhibition, a committee has been formed with Kelley Ireland as secretary.

— Clifton R. Read



Natators' Numbers Not 'Nuff

The Cornwall Swim Team, outnumbered rather than outswum, opened its season with a disappointing loss to Lakeville. The team is made up of five age groups between six and 18 and will be competing in three more meets, Aug. 4 and 6 and a championship meet on Aug. 11-12.

New members are encouraged (begged) to join the team. Practices are held on Mon., Wed., and Fri. at 3:30 p.m. at either Hammond Beach or the Cream Hill Lake Association. Practices include water games just for fun. There is also an annual picnic at the end of the season.

The team is coached by Hector Migliacci and Amy Boyne. For more information or to sign up, phone 672-6879 or 672-0132 respectively. Cornwall swim team needs You!

— Amy Boyne



Cornwall's Greens (concluded)

Today's green in Cornwall Village, a nearly 215-foot square, is the result of several accretions, not all of which have been documented, at least not by this writer. The First Church may have retained title to its initial site at the northeastern corner opposite today's library, after demolishing the 1790 meeting house that stood there following completion of the present Congregational Church in 1841. Beginning in the late 1790s various school buildings, including the Foreign Mission school, occupied the remaining portion of today's green abutting Bolton Hill Road, plus a short distance further. The First Church acquired this school property in 1870 preparatory to building on part of it the structure now belonging to St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church; and the United Church still owns the whole northwestern corner of the green in consequence of that purchase. But the origins of the entire southern portion of today's green has thus far escaped satisfactory documentation. So one may ask, is the green really the town's green? For years its whole area was crisscrossed by wagon tracks taking shortcuts from Pine Street to Bolton Hill Road, and leading to the store that, till a 1912 fire, was located adjacent to St. Peter's.

Who can add to these accounts? It would be interesting to have the whole story.

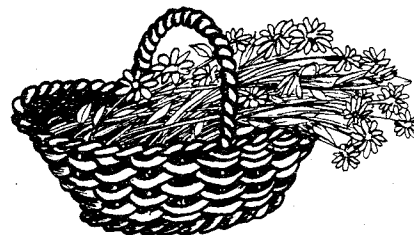
— Michael Gannett

Dreamy Summer at the Library

At the Cornwall Free Library, Naneen Bunnell's summery studies of mostly bottles, pots, jars, and flowers are appropriately soft and drowsy. Blue, pink, green, and yellow are her colors, with an occasional touch of charcoal for emphasis. Some wild-flowers in a meadow are aptly evocative of this hazy, lazy season.

The exhibit continues until Aug. 15.

— Brigitte Hanf



Events & Announcements

Moser Exhibit: In August the Cornwall Historical Society will hold an exhibit of artwork by James Henry Moser (1854-1913) belonging to Todd Aichele. Moser, whose wife was Martha Scoville of Cornwall, spent many summers here. The exhibit will be open Saturdays, Aug. 8 and 15, from 10 to 1; Sundays, Aug. 9 and 16, from 1 to 4; and Tuesdays, Aug. 11 and 18, from 10 to noon.

Church Fair: On Aug. 15, St. Bridget's will hold its Twentieth Annual Country Fair, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine, Routes 4 & 7, Cornwall Bridge. Baked goods, home-canned goods, attic treasures, and lunch will be available, in addition to a broad array of items offered by more than 20 dealers.

Child Center Changes: The Cornwall Child Center announces the appointment of Pamela Brehm as its new director and Melanie Ann (Telman) Royer as head teacher. They will both be at the Center to greet you on Aug. 26 for fall registration, and on Aug. 31, when school opens.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

PRESIDENT Tom Bevans

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