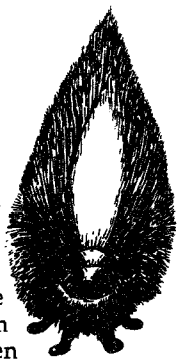


CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 6 : NUMBER 7 AUGUST 1996



The Ambulance Issue— Again

The lazy days of summer that lull most of us into a mañana frame of mind have not slowed down unfunded-mandate proponents in Hartford, according to First Selectman Gordon Ridgway. A subcommittee of the State Board of Health known as the Paramedic Task Force is busily pushing an unfunded plan that most people thought had a stake through its heart and had been put to rest. The plan calls for vast numbers of paid paramedics to be within a ten-minute response time for every man, woman, and child in Connecticut. Details are not spelled out. How much would the plan cost? Is this service desired or needed by small towns? Is the goal of border-to-border paramedics logistically realistic? What effect would such a plan have on existing volunteer ambulance services? Such questions are not addressed.

But the implications are clear, in the view of our selectmen: such a plan would challenge our current, much loved neighbor-helping-neighbor ambulance service (backed up by paramedics picked up en route to the hospital when needed). Gordon considers this issue to be the most potentially damaging one our town has faced in many years and urges all citizens of like mind to protest

the plan to the governor's office. Time is short since the plan could be implemented by the stroke of the Commissioner of Health and Addiction Services' pen—no vote of populace or even of the legislature required.

Our selectmen, emergency service volunteers themselves, are all adamantly opposed to the plan. So is our state representative, Andrew Roraback, who has carried our anti-unfunded-mandate torch to Hartford. In fact, it is difficult to find anyone who favors it other than segments of the Paramedic Task Force itself—and American Medical Response of Connecticut, the giant company that would presumably provide the required paramedics and supply the vehicles. But the plan seems to have a life of its own and could well become reality in the absence of a groundswell of grass-roots opposition.

If you have struggled through this bad news without ripping the page, there is another item from the selectmen that may put you back in vacation mode. Our troublesome deteriorating town bridges, built in the twenties and thirties, have been found to be repairable in most instances. The difference between repair and replace is the difference between thousands of dollars and hundreds of thousands. Feel a little better?

—Scoville D. Soule

Rummage Galore

How early do buyers have to get up to be first in line at the annual rummage sale at the United Church of Christ Parish House? Ask 15-year-old Ben Stones of Bethel, who arrived at 6 A.M. to get Ticket Number One. He was joined 15 minutes later by Bob and Mary Jane Coons of Harwinton, who were first in line in 1995 and in several previous years.

The annual rummage sale sponsored by the Woman's Society was held on July 20. The sale raised more than \$12,000 which will be used for scholarships and church work.

—Stephen Senzer

The Lowdown on Recycling

In the past year, Cornwall's Sanitary Transfer Station recycled over a quarter of its refuse workload of 940 tons, according to Lib Tobin Terrall, the town's recycling coordinator. Recycling accounted for 27.6 percent of the total volume of refuse. That's even more than New York City's 25 percent recycling target that Mayor Rudolph Giuliani says the city can't possibly achieve.

It's hard to figure out how much money the town saves by recycling, Lib admits. Partly, that's because the prices paid for recycled materials fluctuate so much. For ex-

(continued on page 2)

AUGUST 1996

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 August Art Show National Iron Bank Cornwall Bridge Jim Whiteside	2 Fran Chapell Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library (p.4)	3 Historical Society Tool Exhibit opens (p.4)
4	5  Bd. of Selectmen 8 P.M. Town Hall	6  Agric. Advis. Comm., 7:30 P.M. W.C. Firehouse Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Hall*	7 W. Cornwall Merchants Assoc. 10 A.M. Cadwell's <i>Grow with Books</i> Middle Reader Program 7 P.M. Library (p.4) Boy Scout Parent Meeting 7:30 P.M. UCC (p.4)	8 Cornwall Housing Corp. 4:30 P.M. Kugeman Village	9 Children's Show by Bob Markowitz 10:30 A.M. Library (p.4)	10 St. Bridget's Fair 9-2 (p.4) Cornwall Extras for Kids Square Dance 7 P.M. Cream Hill Lake Assoc. (p.4)
11	12 P&Z 8 P.M. Town Hall Art Show Jacolyn Mott, paintings 8/12-9/14 Library	13 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library Republican Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS	14  <i>Grow with Books</i> Middle Reader Program 7 P.M. Library (p.4)	15 Deadline for all September Chronicle copy.	16 Fran Chapell Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library (p.4) Rose Algrant Art Show Opening 5-8 Mohawk Ski Lodge (p.4)	17 Rose Algrant Art Show 10-5 Mohawk Ski Lodge (p.4) Cornwall Association 4 P.M. Town Hall
18 Rose Algrant Art Show 10-5 Mohawk Ski Lodge (p.4)	19  Bd. of Selectmen 8 P.M. Town Hall	20	21 <i>Grow with Books</i> Middle Reader Program 7 P.M. Library (p.4)	22 	23 Fran Chapell Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library (p.4) Grumbling Gryphons, <i>Myth of Persephone</i> , Sharon Stage (p.4)	24
25 Reunion/Old Home Sunday noon, North Cornwall Meeting House (p.4)	26 ZBA 8 P.M. Town Office*	27	28 	29	30	31

*Check time and place at Town Office

(continued from page 1)

ample, the New Jersey firm that converts our glossy paper and magazines into toilet tissue used to pay the town \$140 a ton. The price plummeted to \$10 in March and is now zero!

Glass prices vary, too. Right now it's \$22.50 per ton for white glass and \$10 for green, but nothing for brown. Metal cans and containers bring in a measly \$10 per ton. To get rid of some of these items, Cornwall even has to pay for trucking.

Larger metal objects, like old bikes or bed frames, get trucked away free, but with no recycling payment to the town.

Newspapers and cardboard are picked up by a contractor. The town pays him for trucking and gets a recycling credit. Over the past year, the credit has ranged from \$80 per ton down to zero. Right now, we get \$20 per ton.

Phone books get picked up for recycling. We pay nothing, receive nothing.

Cornwall's plastics are given to a school in Massachusetts. It doesn't pay us anything, but it trucks away all varieties of plastic, not just the ones that are easy to recycle.

Is recycling worth the bother? Absolutely, says Lib Terrall. First, we have to get rid of our refuse, one way or another. Second, recycling brings in some money and also avoids some of the substantial cost of trucking and disposal. In addition, recycling helps reduce the pressure on industry to use virgin raw material.

The bulk of Cornwall's refuse isn't suitable for recycling. Instead, it gets trucked to a Hartford incinerator where it's burned to produce energy. The left-over cinders are then buried. About ten percent of the town's refuse is construction wastes that must be carried to landfills. By state mandate, Cornwall no longer disposes of any refuse within the town borders, except for some wood and compost that gets burned.

—David A. Grossman



We Really Blew It This Time

Last month's article on the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department neglected to list its newly elected secretary, Sharon Esteland, and the reelected treasurer, Adam Fischer. Also, engineer Norman Waycott's name was misspelled.

And one non-correctional item: Treasurer Fischer said he is pleased to announce that the Fire Department's town-supported budget for 1996-7 is ten percent lower than last year. He says this is partly due to successful fund raising and partly to fiscally conservative planning.

—The Editors

It Takes a Village

Cornwall's fiscal resources are spread thin, but its wealth of experience and knowledge runs deep. The new Cornwall Consolidated School Volunteer Program intends to tap the town's riches in two ways: by cataloguing townspeople whose expertise CCS teachers can use to augment the teaching of numerous subjects, and by bringing parents and community members into the school on a regular basis to help children—and teachers—in need.

A town-wide survey will be mailed next month to scare up the history buffs, scientists, world travelers, writers, and anybody willing to share interesting experiences. One dad helped bring a primary grade study of the westward movement to life this spring when he spoke to kids about his experience as a *Life* magazine reporter-on-horseback tracking cattle rustlers in Wyoming.

Principal Bill Oros is also looking for volunteers willing to give a few hours a week to assist upper grade students in math, science, English, and social studies; help out in the first and second grade classrooms; direct youthful energy during indoor recesses; and read textbooks onto tape for learning-disabled children.

One obvious benefit of a volunteer program, say organizers Diane Goldstein and Jamie Monagan, is to help teachers cope with growing class sizes. Another is that "Cornwall is a town with a thousand stories," says Goldstein. "For kids to hear firsthand about military service, immigration, government, travel, or science adds a deeper dimension to their studies."

—Jamie Monagan

Replacement of Route 4 Cribs

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is planning to remove deteriorated concrete cribs—those log-like retaining walls—along Route 4 in Cornwall. Some will be eliminated and the slopes regraded to make the walls unnecessary. Where the steepness of the slope and soil conditions make such regrading impractical, the cribs will be replaced. DOT plans to improve drainage behind the new cribs to enable them to last longer.

DOT has completed the necessary soil surveys and is currently preparing preliminary plans. The Department expects to discuss these plans with town officials early in the fall. At that time DOT will get town officials' input on the designs, as well as on what kind of public involvement DOT should seek.

—Hanna Grossman

Be a Granger, Not a Stranger

Laughter echoes from the front hallway. There, Gatekeeper Henry McDonald chats with candidates for membership in Taghhannuck Grange No. 100.

Founded after the Civil War, the Grange was a union of farmers who banded together for social and educational purposes; and later, through cooperative political activity, to achieve better prices and equal rights with the encroaching railroads and the growing numbers of middlemen. "Granger laws"

helped establish the principle of public regulation of private utilities.

In its early days, Grange membership demanded a fierce fraternal spirit and strict secrecy guarded by passwords and symbolic signs, procedures which are still observed.

Taghhannuck Grange, located in Ellsworth on Cemetery Road, serves members from both Cornwall and Sharon. Members meet twice a month for lively literary programs under the guidance of Lecturer Arthur Lorch. Members also participate in a number of worthy causes, such as running the Grange Agricultural Fair and an annual rummage sale, distributing Christmas cookies to local shut-ins, supplying food for needy families, and maintaining two cemeteries.

The Grange has evolved into an open-membership service organization. Yet the richly symbolic ritual remains, reminding participants of their ties to the earth, to the seasons, and to each other.

So don't be a stranger, become a Granger! For more information call Ed Whitcomb at 672-6565 or Art Lorch at 672-6525.

—Deb Tyler



A Million Apologies

A point that is probably of more significance to the residents of Milford than Cornwall, the Millstone nuclear plants are in Waterford, not Milford. I got the mills, water, fords, and stones confused.

—Celia Senzer

Welcome

Angus Calhoun Gracey to
Caitlin and Dan Gracey

Good-bye to a Friend

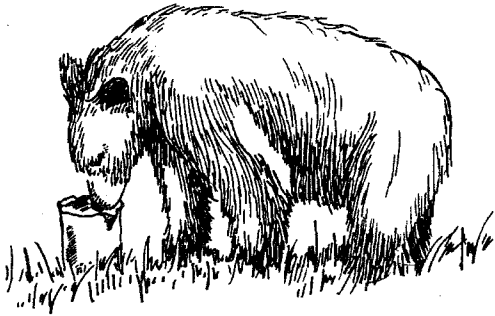
Rachmael Weinstock

Congratulations

Nancy Van Doren to Jack Zetkolic
Kempley Salerno to Charles Bryant
Karolene Hudock to Clay Carlson
Geoffrey Bronner to Kristen Patterson

Land Transfers

Fox Family Trust to Lawrence A. Klatzkin and Joanne E. Taylor, house and 17.9 acres on Sharon-Goshen Turnpike for \$710,000.
Robert T. MacDonald to Kevin M. Foley and Donna J. Silbert, house and 6.74 acres at 490 Town Street for \$438,000.
Town of Cornwall to Andrew T. Hingson, Rumsey Hall property and 2.19 acres on Bolton Hill Road for \$150,000.
Cornwall Limited Liability Co. to Patrick Hare and Margaret Anne Haske, 31 Pine Street (Thurber House) for \$200,000.
Marcia L. Calarco to Woodie J., Jr., and Laurel B. Cyr, 1.33 acres off Mansonville Road for \$15,000.



The Extras of Extras for Kids

Cornwall Extras for Kids was established in 1993 to enable more of Cornwall's children to participate in customary after-school and summer activities without financial constraints. It also planned to provide enriching experiences for all of Cornwall's children and youth.

According to the Rev. Scott Cady of the Extras board's subcommittee on grants, the program has provided funds to 11 children for such activities, often more than once. These funds have assisted four children to go to camp and five to take part in Choices, CCS's after-school activities program. Of these children, two took part in Fun and Games and one each in Arts and Crafts, Chess, and Violin. In addition, one youngster received help to attend Park and Rec. soccer school. High school students are also eligible for grants, and one was helped to rent the equipment needed to play on HVRHS's lacrosse team.

Programs supported by Extras to benefit larger groups of children have included a multi-cultural musical event for the entire grade school two years ago. Last year Extras underwrote the Grumbling Gryphons Theater Workshop in Cornwall as well as a trip to the ballet *Cinderella* at Torrington's Warner Theater for a large group of children. Extras has also sponsored a number of square dances open to all youngsters in the community.

—Hanna Grossman

The End of the Rainbows

On June 13, the State Department of Environmental Protection shocked the fisherman side of the local fishermen-v.-boaters controversy. It announced that, as of this fall, it will stop stocking rainbow trout in the Housatonic River. Rainbows are less tolerant of high water temperatures than the native brown trout, DEP argues. Thus, they are more likely to be involved in "fish kills" on hot summer days.

According to Lynn Werner, executive director of the nonprofit Housatonic Valley Association, DEP has also decided that, starting in 1998, it will require barbless hooks for fishing in the river.

Furthermore, whenever summer temperatures soar high enough, DEP will close the trout management area of the Housatonic and its tributaries in Cornwall. At such times, water releases from the Falls Village dam will also be cut. Boaters may be forced to wait until fall to make up lost days of river use.

DEP has also made other river manage-

Letters to the Chronicle

UPDATING CORNWALL'S PLAN

Connecticut law requires towns to review and update their development plans every ten years. Because Cornwall's last major review was in 1987, our plan must be updated next year.

As we begin to think about this process, it may be interesting to look at what other towns have done. In 1994, Litchfield used its decennial review to produce a very carefully thought-out "Vision Plan." It undertook an intensive town-wide effort with a 22-member steering committee, dozens of citizen discussion groups, and strong support from consultants. The year-long planning process cost over \$35,000, half from the town and half from a local foundation. (If you want to look at the final report on the Litchfield plan, there's a copy in the Cornwall Library.)

Cornwall is smaller than Litchfield, both in population and land area. But we're in the path of the same wave of urban development that's moving toward us from the south. Whether we want to welcome more development or want to ward it off, we need to plan carefully—or we could be overwhelmed.

The ten-year update gives Cornwall's P&Z Commission, the selectmen, and all the civic groups a timely opportunity to think about what kind of town we want to be. Let's take advantage of it!

—Will Calhoun

RUMOR QUASHED

Yes, Yes. I did see two rather large black bears but No, I wasn't chased by them! On Friday, July 12, I was taking a walk with our wee babe Sam when I came upon the two gorgeous creatures on the little bridge at the bottom of Dudleytown Road. It took me a minute to figure out what I was seeing and when I did I turned and burned rubber in the opposite direction. Okay, yes, when I did finally gather the courage to look back over my shoulder they had come up the road to where I had just stood but they then

ment recommendations to Connecticut Light and Power, operators of the river's dams. Ruth Malins, HVA's Resource Center director, says that many of these new DEP proposals are more stringent than those it had previously put forward. As yet, however, they are not binding on CL&P in its struggle to obtain license renewal from FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

—David A. Grossman

Goodfriend Gets it Right

You might say that good art photography rests on a tripod: what you choose to focus on, how you frame it in the camera's eye, where you shoot it from.

Sari Goodfriend gets it right in her exhibition titled *Here & There*, now at the Cornwall Library. She has included some fine cityscapes and architectural photography in the collection. But I'm partial to the Rocky Mountains and canyon country, so I give

made their way up into Will and Alexa Calhoun's frisbee field. So. No attack. Just a little curiosity on the part of all four of us.

—April Stevens

MEMORIAL DAY CARNIVAL PROCEEDS

The Chronicle's July feature on Cornwall's Memorial Day activities made no mention of the annual Carnival which occurs after the morning's exercises. The net proceeds of this event are divided equally between the two organizations which plan and run it—the Cornwall Child Center and the United Church of Christ.

This year the Child Center was able to add \$1,215 to the Stephen G. Frost Memorial Scholarship Fund, established in 1980 in memory of Steve. Since that time at least 45 families have benefited from the fund.

The \$1,215 share assigned to UCC will be distributed to various causes, most recently including the Christian Children's Fund for sponsorship of Jesse White Thunder, OWL's Kitchen, Torrington Community Soup Kitchen, and Operation Fuel.

Thus, as we enjoyed the food and fun of this holiday, we were also helping our neighbors.

—Barbara Gold

BIRD OF PASSAGE

Scarcely a brand of wildlife has gone unobserved in this town, so let me add this rather exotic sighting to the Cornwall list.

On July 9 at the junction of Routes 128 and 125 in the early afternoon, the traffic was halted by the leisurely passage of a peacock trailing his gorgeous tail across the road to the driveway of Cobble Hill Farm. (Jim Gold, who also stopped, will verify the sighting.)

On my way home I went up to the farm to check with Amanda Perkins if the peacock belonged there and had returned home; it was theirs and it was home. However, she anxiously asked if I knew anyone who had lost a black female Nubian goat. She had found one wandering at the bottom of the driveway, and had called around to see if she could find its owner. It is still unclaimed. Please spread the word.

—Julia Scott



highest accolades to Goodfriend's spectacular landscapes, such as *Grand Canyon*, *Dreamscape*, and *Nine Pipes Wildlife Refuge*.

Goodfriend's photographs will be on display through August 10.

—Alfred Bredenberg

A Glorious Fourth

It was a day for numbers: 12 pounds of hot dogs, two dozen small bikers, and, thanks to Cornwall's Park and Recreation Commission organizers, hundreds of good times.

The 12 pounds of hot dogs (and another 12 pounds of burgers) were served up by the VFW Post whose commander, Gus Haller, led a crew of eight volunteers. According to VFW member Bill Gagnier, business has been "outlandishly" good in recent years but nothing like what it was 20 years ago when the Post had more members and sold fireworks.

In the Intramunicipal Baseball Games, West Cornwall ground out a 20-12 extra-innings win over a tenacious Cornwall Bridge brigade, and followed it immediately with a 7-6 win over the smoothly functioning and talented Cornwall Village nine. Fine play came from all three teams, most notably among the younger players, trained in Little League, who outdid their elders in fielding and hitting most of the afternoon. In fact, the elders were pretty sore on Monday morning.

The bicycle parade drew about 25 entrants, each aboard a red, white, and blue two-wheeled example of the art of bike decoration. Winners were: Rosa Jurjevics, Nestor Bramley, Sophie Austin, Rebecca Sawicki, and J. J. Nelson. —Lisa Lansing

Rumsey Hall Sale Final

The transfer of Rumsey Hall was completed on July 2 with the Town of Cornwall receiving the preliminary payment—\$60,000 minus fees and costs—and Andrew Hingson taking over the property. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said that Hingson immediately started work on the gym and that the town celebrated "freedom from Rumsey" on the Fourth of July. —Hanna Grossman



Events & Announcements

Swing Your Corner and allemande left at the Cornwall Extras for Kids square dance on August 10, 7 to 10 P.M., at the Cream Hill Lake Association. Come early and bring a picnic. Everyone welcome, no previous experience necessary.

The Republican Town Committee will hold a meeting at 7:30 P.M. on August 13 at the Cornwall Consolidated School.

Old Home Sunday: After a lapse of some years, Cornwall's traditional Reunion/Old Home Sunday will be held on the grounds of the North Cornwall Meeting House on Sunday, August 25, at noon, rain or shine. This will revive a 100-year-old tradition of welcoming children who grew up in Cornwall, newcomers, and summer visitors, together with everyone in Cornwall—a time for fellowship and the gathering of the wider Cornwall community.

The event will include a potluck lunch under tents, entertainment for the children, and a musical program. Everyone is invited. Please bring a potluck dish—beverages will be provided. For information call 672-6840 or 672-6637.

The Cornwall Historical Society will offer an exhibit of tools, both ordinary and exotic, starting August 3. Viewers may examine not only a saw set and a tailor's square (which at least sound ordinary), but a bench dog, a stovepipe muller, a rope winder, and a shade leveler—among other less familiar utensils. Visitors will be challenged to guess the uses of some of the more esoteric tools. All are from the collection of Daniel Semel, who loaned them to the society. Hours are from 9 to 1 on Saturdays, and 9:30 to noon on Tuesdays.

The Cornwall Golf Associates will hold their annual Cornwall Open Tournament on Sunday, September 15, at the Copake Country Club with an 8 A.M. tee-off. Proceeds will go to the Dan Gracey Fund. A \$50 entrance fee will include 18 holes with cart, plus a luncheon. For details about entering, phone Ray Augustyn at 672-0295.

Absentee Ballots: College-bound electors who want to vote in the November presidential election should request an absentee ballot application now from the town clerk. Return it properly filled out and with your school mailing address, and a ballot will be sent to you when it is available.

A Boy Scout Parent Meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. August 7 in the Day Room at the United Church of Christ.

For Children at the Cornwall Library: On Friday, August 9, at 10:30 A.M. the Library will host Bob Markowitz, who will perform his original singalong story *Going to the Store*. His program is directed to four- to nine-year-olds, but all ages find it fun. Refreshments will conclude the morning.

The middle-reader Wednesday evening sessions *Grow with Books* and the preschooler story hours on Friday mornings will continue through August 21 and 23, respectively.

JP Bulletin: Between August 1 and November 1, 1996, any unaffiliated or minor-party elector may apply to the town clerk for appointment as a justice of the peace for a term starting January 6, 1997, and ending January 1, 2001. Should more than 14 people apply, a lottery will be held in November. Applications are available from the town clerk, Monday through Thursday, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

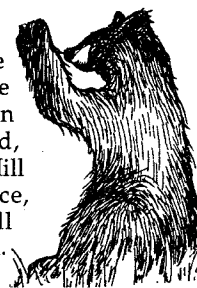
The Myth of Persephone will be presented by Cornwall's Grumbling Gryphons at the Sharon Stage on Friday, August 23, at 11 and 1. Children and parents are invited to come and be part of the show. The pre-performance workshop is at 9:30 A.M.

Leslie Elias has adapted the ancient Greek myth into a highly imaginative and entertaining show for children, with audience participation essential. The scenery and costumes were made by Cornwall's Ellen Moon. For further details contact Sharon Stage at (860) 364-1500.

The 37th Annual Rose Algrant Art Show opening will be on Friday, August 16, from 5 to 8, and the show will continue on Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 5. This year the show will be in the Mohawk Ski Lodge, thanks to the Ski Area, which is lending the building for the art show this year.

St. Bridget's 24th Annual Country Fair will be held on August 10 from 9 to 2 on the church grounds at the junction of Routes 4 and 7 in Cornwall Bridge. There will be a farmer's market, baked goods, attic treasures, and many dealers offering a variety of crafts and goods. Food will be available throughout the day.

Road Oiling Scheduled: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway announced that road oiling is scheduled at the end of August and beginning of September for the following roads: the southern half of Town Street, Cogswell Road, Lake Road, Hautboy Hill Road, Hurlburt Place, Bradford Road, Hall Road, and Johnson Road.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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