



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 7 : NUMBER 7 AUGUST 1997



But Will the State Listen?

Representative Andrew Roraback will attend the selectmen's meeting on Monday, August 4, to hear our town officials' and citizens' concerns about what First Selectman Gordon Ridgway calls the state's "general bad attitude" in its dealings with Cornwall and other small towns. Gordon cites a number of recent examples:

- A newly appointed official at the Department of Environmental Protection has reinterpreted DEP regulations and is threatening to fine the town \$25,000 a day if we don't stop burning wood at the dump. He concedes that the wood causes little pollution and that trucking it elsewhere will actually have a greater environmental impact as well as increase our recycling expense, but he says, "I have no choice."
- In the face of vocal opposition in town to the Department of Transportation's plan to spend \$1,445,000 to install new cribbing on a few hundred yards of Route 4, the DOT is not only going ahead with the planning but has actually budgeted \$50,000 more for the project.
- Although the state officially closed Mohawk State Forest a couple of years ago, pleading lack of funds, the state is now buying up more land. The state pays the town \$12,000 a year (which won't be increased for the new purchases) in lieu of taxes. Accord-

ing to our assessor, state land would bring in over \$40,000 if it were in private hands and taxed as forestry land.

• Pat Williams, the selectmen's clerk, submitted an application to the Department of Revenue Services to run the annual Cow Plop Raffle at the Agricultural Fair. Neither the form nor the event has changed, but department officials have come back four times, so far, asking for minor changes in the application form and the proposed raffle ticket—and each time withholding the permit.

Roraback is looking for our input so that he can work in the legislature to change the way the state deals with small towns. At the same meeting, Mohawk Ski Area will present its new five-year plan.

—Hendon Chubb

Maps, Maps, Maps!

Over 40 of them, of and about Cornwall, by Cornwallians, from kids to octogenarians, in a terrific show at the Cornwall Library organized by Tim Prentice, who contributed his own atlas of Cornwall. There are maps featuring frog and turtle ponds, great old ladies, cats, early settlers, historical conflicts, floods, visions of 2020, Cornwall subways, Poohville, theme parks, the Library, local road kill, and more.

An awards ceremony for the map project

will take place at noon on August 23 at the Cornwall Library. The judges will be Bob Terrall, chairman, David Cadwell, Ella Clark, and Lisa Lansing. Prizes will be awarded in several categories, including most colorful, most visionary, most imaginative, goofiest, and least reliable. The judges may decide that none of the 40 maps on display meet their exacting standards. Should this occur, a referendum will be held to elect a new panel of judges.

—Phyllis Nauts

Snake at the Lake

On several sultry days last month a three-foot-long eastern banded water snake basked at the edge of the boat ramp of the Cream Hill Lake Association. Bare-ankled boaters stepped gingerly around the reptile. Head lifeguard Jen Heiny had spotted other water snakes in the water, but happily these seemed shy and kept away from swimmers.

Nobody seemed to know what to do about the sun-bathing serpent until one day Skip Kosciusko arrived on a motorcycle wearing a leather jacket, leather gloves, and a backpack. When Skip grabbed the snake, it smeared the dock with a foul-smelling fluid. He rinsed the snake off and let the kids and grown-ups who had gathered around admire it, and showed them how to stroke its scales. He explained to the kids that people shouldn't kill water snakes since they aren't

(continued on page 2)

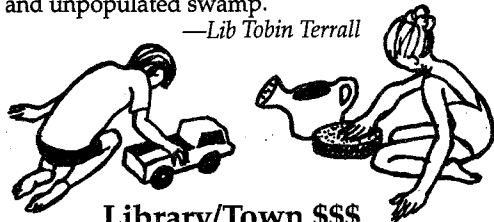
AUGUST 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Stretch Exercise Class: Monday from 8:30 to 9:30 A.M., Friday, 8:30 to 9:30 A.M., and Wednesday, 5 to 6:15 P.M. All in Town Hall (p.4)					 1 Corn. Library Art Show Cornwall Map Project through 8/23 (p.1) August Art Show, National Iron Bank, Cornwall Bridge Elizabeth Perry (p.4) Preschool Story Hr. 10 A.M. Lib.	2
3	 4 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	5 Inland Wet. 8 P.M. Town Hall	6 Middle Readers Program 6:45 P.M. Library Cub Scout Parents Meeting 7 P.M. UCC Day Room	7	 8 Preschool Story Hour 10 A.M. Library	9
10	 11 P&Z 8 P.M. Town Hall	 12 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	 13 Middle Readers Program 6:45 P.M. Library	14	 15 Deadline for Sept. Chronicle copy Preschool Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Rose Algrant Art Show Opening 5-8 P.M. Mohawk Ski Lodge (p.4)	16 Gannett Show opens Hist. Society (p.4) Rose Algrant Art Show 10 A.M.-5 P.M. Mohawk Ski Lodge (p.4) Cornwall Association 4 P.M. Town Hall
17 Rose Algrant Art Show 10 A.M.-5 P.M. Mohawk Ski Lodge (p.4)	 18	 19 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall	 20 Middle Readers Program 6:45 P.M. Library	 21 Cornwall Housing Corp. 4:30 P.M. Kugeman Village	 22	 23 Paint the Town Day (p.4) Cornwall Map Project Awards Ceremony noon Library (p.1) Library Readers Party 1-2:30 P.M. Town Hall (see July Chronicle, p.3)
24 Coltsfoot Chorus, 5 P.M. North Cornwall Church	 25 Corn. Library Art Show Erica Prud'homme 8/25-10/11 (p.4) ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall	26	 27 CCC Registration 10 A.M. to noon (p.4) Cornwall Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	28	 29	30
31						

(continued from page 1)

poisonous, and then put the snake in his backpack and carried it off to a large, quiet, and unpopulated swamp.

—Lib Tobin Terrall



Library/Town \$\$\$

July was filled with meetings about the Library/town offices' need for expansion. On July 11 the joint task force heard estimates for three plans from Gerald Ricard, the estimator hired by the Cornwall Association. Ricard provided figures for the different plans in a way permitting true comparisons to be made with consistent numbers based on square footage and national estimating codes. But he pointed out that the specific figures are preliminary estimates only, not actual costs, which have to be based on detailed engineering plans and architectural drawings. None of the estimates include any payments by one group to the other, nor do they include the cost of purchasing the Monroe-Bodkin building, architectural fees, or furnishings.

Option A, in which both the town offices and the Library remain in the present buildings, with expansion and a usable second floor, is estimated at \$1,610,020. Option B, in which the Library moves to Monroe-Bodkin and the Town expands in the present buildings, is estimated at \$246,982, consisting of the cost of the town offices expansion at \$91,388, and the library move at \$155,593. Option C, in which the Town moves to Monroe-Bodkin and the Library expands in the present buildings, is estimated at \$1,051,883, with the cost of the Library expansion estimated at \$825,408, and the Town move at \$226,474.

The following day Rick Wolkowitz explained his and Ben Gray's position as owners of Monroe-Bodkin to the task force and said that, as in all real estate transactions, a price for the property would be determined by an offer followed by negotiations. He also said that although a school is the most likely buyer of the three main Marvelwood buildings, if the Town and Library boards expressed enthusiasm for the purchase of Monroe-Bodkin, the owners would be willing to risk taking the building out of the school group (possibly making it less attractive to a school buyer). He also indicated that while he and Ben Gray are not in a position to give away the building, the price is flexible.

The next meeting of the task force, on July 18, was uneventful. The Ricard estimates were accepted as a guide to the comparative cost of the three options.

By the date of the meeting to be held on July 25 (too late to be reported in this issue of the *Chronicle*) the Library and the selectmen were to have chosen the plan which "best suits their purposes" and the amount each is "willing and able to pay the other party to vacate its presently occupied space." Prior to

the public informational hearing, likely to take place in September, the Cornwall Association will underwrite a mailing to give everyone in town all the available facts and figures, and a walk-through date will be set for Monroe-Bodkin. Following the hearing, the task force will recommend a single proposal to be presented to the town for a vote.

—Anne Baren

Please Watch Out For Kids!

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway is troubled because he has gotten several calls about kids who just missed being hit by cars or trucks. He is asking everyone to be careful: "Parents should know that highways are not playgrounds, and kids need a safe place to play other than town roads. But kids also use the roads for biking and walking. Motorists should be aware that the little travelers are everywhere now. They are often difficult to see because of their size and curves in the roads. Please drive slowly." —The Editors

Red Sox Finish On Top

Congratulations to the Cornwall Red Sox for winning the tri-town Little League championship. The league consists of seven teams from Cornwall, Kent and Sherman. The Red Sox finished the regular season in first place with a record of ten wins and two losses. The Red Sox beat the Kent Tigers in an exciting two-game championship series and brought the championship trophy home to Cornwall.

The team was led to victory by the strong pitching arms of Dan Hammond and Stefan Wolf. Other infielders were Will Evans, Brian Lynn, Ben North, and Cale Williamson. Outfielders were Josh Bate, Damian Davis, Tim Freyberg, Joey Gantner, Amanda Hunter, Stuart Jones, and Kyle Whitney.

Umpires for the season from Cornwall included Ted Cheney, Nick Hunter, and Tyler Grimes. Coaches included Rick Lynn, Dave Williamson, Mark North, and Rob Hunter. Sue Williamson was the team's official scorekeeper.

—Rick Lynn

July Scene on the Green

Sack races, three-legged races, water balloon toss, the limbo, street dancing led by Natasha Cole—an enthusiastic crowd of mostly children turned out on the Cornwall Green for these and other events at the July Fest, Park and Rec.'s July Fifth celebration of the Fourth of July.

Led by piper and entertainer Skip Hunt, the kids rode their patriotically decorated bicycles, tricycles, and what-have-you in the annual children's day parade. One of the high points of the day was the watermelon seed spitting contest, judged for accuracy, distance, and style. Some seeds spread widely, some were chin-stickers only. Another high point was the tug of war: the losers were dragged happily through a wall of water sprayed by the Fire Department pumper, and then Alphabet Joe Gwazdauskas and Adam Fischer aimed the hose in the air and sprayed everyone they could get.

Of course there were prizes, including one to Caleb Nelson for "most patriotic" in the parade and Sam Bruehl and Luke Root for world-class water balloon tossing.

—Phil Hart

Welcome

Samuel Jay Eliot Green to
Kathryn and Douglas S. T. Green
Hugo Rapp to
Victoria Strange and Ronald Rapp

Good-Bye to a Friend

Charles J. Besozzi

Congratulations

Marya Ann Butler to James Mahoney
Jennifer M. Hooper to Philippe Selendy
Lynne Harwell to Joseph Algrant
Nancy Jones to William Berry
Caecilia Wijgers to Christopher Mullen

Land Transfers

Matthew Hladik to Marjorie Gutterman,
house and 5 acres on Great Hollow Road for
\$234,000.

Edward F. and Diana H. Greene to Joseph
Freedman and Ilisha Helfman, house and 36
acres at 128 Cornwall Hollow Road for
\$325,000.

Evelyn Peschko to Bruce A. Hayden and
Barbara E. Cantoni, house and land at 211
Great Hill Road for \$150,000.

Coltsfoot Farm Ltd. Partnership to Cornwall
Properties, Inc., Lot 2, 18.6 acres at 39 Jewell
Street for \$275,000.

Apologies All Around

Last month's *Chronicle* erroneously reported that Phil Hart had been named Fireman of the Year by the CVFD. In fact, the person so honored was Phill West. Our apologies to Phil and Phill—and to our readers.

Further apologies are, alas, in order. In our story on Memorial Day we reported that taps had been played by Brian Lynn, Patrick Dinneen, and Ryan Quinn. In fact, the third member of the trio was not Ryan Quinn, but Dan Hammond.

—The Editors

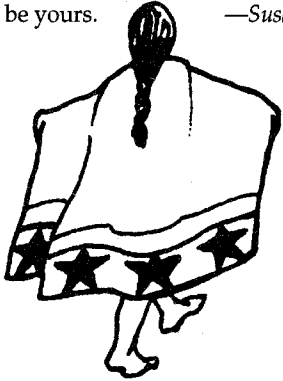


Quilters' World

A handmade quilt tells the tale of a sewing circle and a scrap basket. Long ago, quilting bees provided an opportunity for the women of the community to socialize.

Each Tuesday evening, members of the Northwest Corner Quilters' Guild meet at the United Church of Christ to evoke the past and fabricate for the future. Recently, the Guild has been working to restore and complete a beautiful Cornwall heirloom quilt. Donated by Dorothy Sandmeyer, the quilt was started by Ralph Sandmeyer's aunts Martha, Kate, and Harriet over 50 years ago. The Sandmeyers used a Flying Geese pattern and a palette of warm pinks, bright blues, and buttery yellows.

The quilt will be displayed at the Guild's annual Quilt Show at UCC on Saturday, September 20 (the same day as the Agricultural Fair). Raffle tickets will be on sale. For just \$1 this rare work of collaborative Cornwall art could be yours. —Susan Lilly Ott



That Giant Rocking Chair

Have you been missing the giant rocking chair that was in the Cornwall Bridge triangle for much of the winter? And wondering where it went? And maybe even wondering where it came from in the first place?

Ian Ingersoll, whose workshop fabricated the chair, says it was designed by Barbara Droughel, visual arts teacher at M.I.T., under a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The chair was originally shown in a sculpture exhibit at the Katonah (New York) Museum. When that show ended, Ian was asked to care for the chair until Droughel could find a permanent home for it. He installed it where we all could see and enjoy it, and where it inspired Cornwall residents to provide the chair with an occupant—Edward, the straw man, with his various accouterments.

After the long winter Edward was beginning to get a bit shabby and some people were getting unhappy about that. Just about that time Droughel found a permanent home for the chair (but not Edward) in a museum in Cambridge. So the chair is not only safe for a long time to come but probably being enjoyed by many more people than in Cornwall or even Katonah. —Hanna Grossman

Frog Mystery Remains

From the swamps of myth and memory rises the frog of history to croak answers to the question, Who paints the frog on Route 7 south of Cornwall Bridge?



Letters to the Chronicle

last five years. I love Cornwall, and love to spend time at the lake with friends that I see every year.

Today, while I was in Sandy's living room with my cousin Marisa and Eli Ingersoll, I looked out the window and saw a black bear. It was real close to the window. Eli and I jumped up and yelled, "Marisa!!! Look, a bear!" Marisa came running over just in time to see it running into the woods. The screams scared the bear, but brought Sandy running down the stairs, too late to see the bear. Marisa, Eli, and I were scared and excited. I called my mother and father in Boston to tell them the news. Uncle Dave said that I should write you, because people in Cornwall love to hear about these types of stories. —Ben Wright

CHENEY BLOOMS

I wish to express my appreciation to Lynn Cheney, who has for two years volunteered her talents designing the exquisite flower gardens in front of the Cornwall post office. Everyone who has entered the building has high praises for the beautiful assortment of bleeding hearts, silver daisies, impatiens, tulips, and many other varieties. There is always a surprise added when Lynn returns here on evenings or weekends. This year we also have a cherry tomato bush.

Everyone in Cornwall gives their thanks to Lynn, who is so kind and a well-known designer of flower gardens.

—Liane Dunn, Postmaster, Cornwall

DUNN BOWS OUT

Liane Dunn, who has been Postmaster in Cornwall Plains, 06753, for the past ten years, recently announced that she is retiring, effective August 1. For ten years we who are Liane's postal patrons and friends have enjoyed service as close to perfect as it could possibly be. Our daily service has always been superb, and problems are taken care of with efficiency and good humor. We are all going to miss Liane.

Our Postmaster Relief, Caleen (Cookie) Degreenia, has also always provided us with excellent service any time that Liane was absent. I hope there is some chance of Caleen becoming our next Postmaster.

Liane is retiring to return to her Rock Shop in Cornwall Bridge, at the foot of Warren Hill. We all wish her well, but are bereft that she is leaving our post office. —Ann Peterson

MORE BEAR

My name is Ben. I am from Boston, Mass. I am Sandy and Dave Dolinsky's nephew. I have been visiting them during the summer for the

One theory—that the state highway crew is responsible—appeared to be more guess than fact. Further research finally revealed that the late Oscar Huempfer, once the owner (in the late '40s) of the land behind the frog, was the first to daub paint on the rocks, creating the monster head that still thrusts out of the roadside. Some Cornwallians report that the creature (not yet painted) was in evidence at least ten years earlier.

Who was the most recent of the *en plein air* Picassos to do a touching-up of the frog? This reporter was given the name of a suspect, but telephone messages to the designated artist were unanswered. However, word came around from those in the know that the painter and others involved wanted to keep their identities secret.

Who were some of the earlier painters? They are as yet unknown. Perhaps, as Marc Simont suggests in his illustration in the June issue, the frogs themselves did some painting, thereby honoring their noble heritage while seeking recognition as an endangered species. Hmm—maybe. So—let it all remain a mystery. After all, mystery lends enchantment. I'm all for that. —Ken Keskinen

The Lottery In Cornwall

Over \$100,000 a year is bet in Cornwall on the wide array of gambling games offered by the Connecticut State Lottery. That comes to an average of about \$70 a year for every man, woman, and child in town.



Cornwall has two Lottery sales sites: Baird's General Store in Cornwall Bridge and the Berkshire Country Store at the intersection of Routes 4 and 128. Of the two, Baird's is the busier. The State Lottery people say that Baird's sells about \$1,500 in Lottery tickets each week, while the Berkshire Country Store handle runs about \$750 a week. Most tickets sell for a dollar but you can also place \$5 or even bigger bets if you want.

So far, State Lottery records reveal no big winner from Cornwall. The Lottery counts as a big winner someone who hits Power Ball for over \$100,000 or Lotto for at least \$1 million. Kenneth C. "KC" Baird says that the biggest win he can remember in his family's store was \$5,000. At the Berkshire Country Store I was told that there have been several Lotto players who won about \$2,500 each.

The money that Lottery players wager gets divided four ways. The biggest piece (59.2 percent of the total) goes back to the bettors in the form of cash prizes. The next 31.8 percent goes into the state's General Fund

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

and is used to support the budget. Retail sales centers, like Baird's and The Berkshire Country Store, get 5 percent of the receipts as their commission. The remaining 4 percent covers Lottery administration and overhead.

This sharing of proceeds means that the average return on a ticket is not nearly as good as if you played roulette in Foxwoods or Las Vegas, which returns about 95 percent to bettors after each turn of the wheel. In fact, it's not quite as good a rate of return as I remember getting from the illegal "numbers" sellers when I was at M.I.T. But it seems to be good enough for those who keep playing in the hope of a big win—or at least of breaking even.

To complete my research on the Lottery, I first went to Baird's and bought two \$1 "instant gratification" tickets on behalf of the *Cornwall Chronicle*. Karen Collins, the salesperson, showed me how to scratch off the silver covering to reveal whether any three of my six numbers matched. The first card, on a game called *Rub-A-Dub Doubler*, was a loser. But the second card produced three matching numbers! Karen calmed my excitement by pointing out that the *Chronicle* had only won one dollar.

Caught up in the swing of things, I immediately reinvested the *Chronicle's* winnings in a *Cash Five Quick Pick*. Not to be outdone, KC Baird matched my wager with another dollar. His proceeds, too, were pledged to the *Chronicle's* needy coffers. Because Cash Five only pays off after the winning digits are drawn, I agreed to come back the next week to learn the results.

Still on a roll, I drove to the Berkshire Country Store and bought another one-dollar card for the *Chronicle* from salesperson Joann Dethier. She and a helpful customer explained how my *Wild & Wilder* card worked. This time, when I scratched the surface, I revealed both my three-card poker hand and the State's. The *Chronicle* held a king and a pair of tens. The State held three aces. Lost again!

After the weekend drawing, I returned to Baird's to see the Cash Five results. KC's charitable contribution was a loser. And when Karen put the *Chronicle's Quick Pick* into the computer, the message that promptly came back was "Ticket is not a winner." I'm afraid that the *Chronicle* will still have to rely on the generous contributions of its readers.

—David A. Grossman

Events & Announcements

Chronicle Elects: Susan Williamson has been elected to the *Chronicle's* board of directors.

The 38th Annual Rose Algrant Art Show opening will be on Friday, August 15, from 5 to 8 P.M., and the show will continue on Saturday and Sunday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Thanks to the Mohawk Ski Area, the show will again take place in the Mohawk Ski Lodge.

Cornwall Cup: Sign up now to play in the Cornwall Drug & Alcohol Prevention Council's annual "Cornwall Cup" softball games, to be held Saturday, September 6, at the Cornwall Consolidated School, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Organized to promote good sportsmanship and friendly competition between the three

Cornwalls, the games are inter-generational and family-style. West Cornwall now holds the trophy and will be challenged by teams from Cornwall Village and Cornwall Bridge. To play, call your team captain: Cornwall Village, Jerry Blakey (672-6516); Cornwall Bridge, Bill Dinneen (672-6740); West Cornwall, Susan Williamson (672-4813). Players must be in the sixth grade or older. First 20 to sign up receive a free CDAPC T-shirt, designed by Jessie Bate, who won the design contest for the 1997 T-shirts.

Paint the Town: Ochre, puce, purple, whatever! Artists of all ages and outlooks are invited to paint West Cornwall on Saturday, August 23. (People are encouraged, not required, to paint their pictures that day.) Finished pictures will be for sale at a silent auction from 5 to 8 P.M. at the Hughes Memorial Library, with refreshments provided by local establishments. Come eat, drink, buy a picture, and benefit Cornwall Extras for Kids. Questions? Call Phyllis Nauts, 672-6608.

Art in Cornwall: When the map show closes at the Library, Erica Prud'homme will exhibit watercolors of Umbria and Maine from August 25 through October 11. Elizabeth Perry will be exhibiting watercolors and oil paintings of flowers during the month of August at the National Iron Bank in Cornwall Bridge.

Stretch Exercise classes led by Alice Cadwell in the Town Hall, free and open to all, now meet on Monday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 as well as on Wednesday evenings at 5 and Friday mornings at 8:30.

Rummage Triumphant: A happy break in the steamy weather helped propel bargain hunters to the UCC Woman's Society annual rummage sale on July 19. For the first time, clothing items were all in the former Marvelwood Dining Hall, and, after checking out the goodies at the Parish House, a steady flow of people followed a T-shirt trail to the new sales premises. Well over \$12,000 was raised at the sale.

Gannett Show: The Historical Society will have an exhibit of drawings by Ruth Gannett (1876-1979), including books she illustrated, opening Saturday, August 16. Open Saturdays, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M., and Tuesdays from 9:30 A.M. to noon.

Flash! Until mid-August, absolutely free, the Cornwall Library has trial access to Electric Library, an Internet source of full-text magazine and journal articles. Come in quick while this service is available!

CCC Registration: The Cornwall Child Center will be open for fall registration on Wednesday, August 27, 10 A.M. to noon. Anyone with questions or who is unable to attend may phone director Pam Brehm at her home (824-1289).

Library Book Sale: Please bring books—in good condition, and preferably recent—to the Cornwall Library for the annual book sale, to be held Columbus Day weekend.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

ILLUSTRATIONS Erica Prud'homme

AUGUST EDITORS

Anne Baren Phyllis Nauts and Hendon Chubb

SEPTEMBER EDITORS

Phyllis Nauts and Hendon Chubb Celia and Stephen Senzer

DIRECTORS:

Tom Bevans PRESIDENT

Spencer Klaw VICE PRESIDENT • Barbara Klaw PUBLISHER

Edward Ferman SECRETARY • Robert Beers TREASURER

Hendon Chubb • Cheryl Evans

Audrey Ferman • Charles Osborne • Susan Williamson

Yes, I want the Chronicle to continue.
Here is my tax-deductible contribution of: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/St./Zip _____

Mail the Chronicle to the out-of-town address above: \$10.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE, INC.
143 CREAM HILL ROAD, WEST CORNWALL, CT 06796
E-MAIL: spencebarb@li.com
FAX: (860) 672-2643

Bulk Rate
Car-Rt Sort
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Cornwall, CT
Permit No. 6

CORNWALL RESIDENT