



# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 3: NUMBER 11      DECEMBER 1993



## Over the Top

A \$15,000 donation to the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department has pushed the fund for a new ambulance over the top. The \$80,000 goal — toward which fundraising started about a year ago — was exceeded when an unnamed donor, recently retired, made a \$5,000 gift to the Department, knowing that his ex-employer was pledged to contribute double the amount of such a charitable gift. The retiree who engineered this coup prefers to remain anonymous. — *Barbara Klaw*

## Kugeman Village — Almost There!

After experiencing the delays usual to housing projects, Stan Jachimowski, the general contractor, has assured the Cornwall Housing Corporation that, except for site work to be completed in the spring (planting of trees, grass, and shrubs), Kugeman Village will be ready for occupancy by March 1, 1994. Exterior work on all buildings has now been completed. Plumbing, wiring, insulating, and dry-wall work are nearly finished, with trim work, painting, and installation of cabinets and carpeting to begin soon.

Kugeman Village brochures will be mailed in mid-December to the more than

80 people who over the years have indicated their interest in affordable housing. Brochures may also be found in the special HOUSING INFORMATION rack at the Town Office. Also, there is an outline of procedures for selecting occupants.

Candidates for housing must not have incomes exceeding 80% of median incomes for Litchfield County. For a family of four, that income is \$38,000. For a family of three, it is \$34,000, and for a couple it is \$30,000. Rentals will be 30% of adjusted income or the base rent (ranging from \$350 to \$450), whichever figure is greater. Interviewing himself, Ken Keskinen, President of the CHC, said, "Although the qualifying figure of 80% of median incomes for the county seems high, we expect to have many qualified applicants with incomes well below that 80% ceiling. We are also studying ways of providing rental assistance for those who need it."

Ultimately, the entire project will cost about \$1,980,000. Of that amount, \$1,590,000 will be covered by grants through the Department of Housing. The remaining \$390,000 is a loan from the Department at 1% for 30 years, to be paid back from rental income. No town tax moneys have been or will be used to build or main-

tain the complex. Upon completion of the project, the Department of Housing will give the town of Cornwall a sum of money in recognition of its willingness to meet housing needs. The exact figure is not known, but the town of Sharon received more than \$36,000 for its participation in the Housing Partnership Program.

Ken expressed relief that the end was finally in sight. "I don't know how many times in the last five years that I've had to report a change in the completion date," he said. "It's been more than a bit embarrassing. But this March date is for real." However, reporter Keskinen noticed when CHC president Keskinen spoke that he was involuntarily rapping his knuckles on his wooden desk. — *Ken Keskinen*

## Politics and Lunch

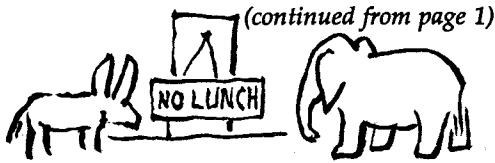
Election day fell on the second day of November this year so we've known the results for almost a month. But for the record, incumbent First Selectman Gordon Ridgway won a big personal victory while the Republicans clearly came out ahead in the rest of the races, including putting two men on the Board of Selectmen, incumbent Bill Hurlburt and newcomer Ray Augustyn.

(continued on page 2)

# DECEMBER 1993

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	 LQ 6    NM 13    FQ 20    FM 28		<b>1</b> W. Cornwall Merchants Assn. 10am Cadwell's	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Christmas Fair 10am-2pm UCC† (p.4)  Holiday Fair 10am-3pm St. Bridget's Church (p.4)
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall*  Skating Mondays 8-9pm Salisbury School Rink	<b>7</b> Inland Wetlands 7:30pm Town Hall  Agr. Adv. Comm. 7:30pm W. Cornwall Firehouse  Park & Rec. 7:30pm Town Office	<b>8</b> CCS PTO 7:00pm CCS Conference Room (p.4)	<b>9</b> HANUKKAH  Cornwall Housing Corp. 7:30pm UCC†	<b>10</b> Tom Bechtle Travelog (Ireland) 7:00pm CCS Lib. (p.4)	<b>11</b> Poetry Reading 8pm Cadwell's
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Cornwall Lib. art show Joan Elder paintings  P&Z 7:30pm Town Hall	<b>14</b> Dem. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall  Hous. River Comm. 7:30pm CCS Library	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Bd. of Ed. 5pm CCS Library  Bd. of Finance 8pm Town Hall	<b>17</b> Xmas Carol Sing 7:30pm Town Hall (p.4)	<b>18</b> Christmas Pageant 7:30pm UCC†
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> HVRHS Bd. of Ed. 7:30pm HS Library   Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall*	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Christmas Concert 10am CCS	<b>24</b> Candlelight Carols, 7:30pm N. Cornwall Meetinghouse	<b>25</b> CHRISTMAS 
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> ZBA 7:30pm Town Hall*	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

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



I'll get back to the election returns in a moment, but, first, a few words about why there wasn't any election-day lunch at the Parish House this year. Don't laugh. Some of us took that occasion very seriously. By that I mean we really like eating home-made soups and apple crisp with our friends and neighbors. Tom and Margaret Bevans and I always voted at noon and then went to lunch. It was our tradition. This year, Tom and I found the door to the Parish House locked. No soup. No crisp. No friends and neighbors. We ended up having some of Dave Cadwell's soup. But it wasn't the same. Dave doesn't do apple crisp, for one thing, and Polly Calhoun and her cohorts, Judy, Lydia, Harriet, and Lorraine weren't running the show.

Polly says the election-day lunches are not necessarily a thing of the past. There was a mixup this year. The World Ministries Committee became the Social Action Committee at First Church. A key planning meeting got snowed out. That plus several other minor problems. Polly says, "If I'm living [next year] and I can get around, there will be a lunch." By the way, the money we paid for these lunches went for relief of world hunger.

Back to the results (winners starred):

**First Selectman:** Gordon Ridgway (Dem.)\*, 445; Ray Augustyn (Rep.), 176.

**Selectmen:** Bill Hurlburt (Rep.)\*, 344; Ray Augustyn (defeated Rep. candidate for First Selectman)\*, 176; Lori Welles (Dem.), 171; Debra Tyler (petitioning candidate), 117.

**Town Clerk:** Cheryl Evans (Rep., unopposed)\*, 511.

**Town Treasurer:** Natalie Hunter (Rep.)\*, 330; Stephen Senzer (Dem.), 268.

**Tax Collector:** Helen Migliacci (Rep., unopposed)\*, 491.

**Board of Finance:** Ralph Gold (Rep.)\*, 480; K.C. Baird (Rep.)\*, 341; Charles Osborne (Dem.), 286.

**Board of Finance Alternates:** Jack Preston (Rep.)\*, 341; Ivelisse Piker (Dem.)\*, 315; Celia Senzer (Dem.), 301.

**Board of Education:** Phil Bishop (Rep.)\*, 320; Robin Freydborg (Dem.)\*, 274.

**Board of Tax Review:** John LaPorta (Rep.)\*, 317; Richard Bramley (Dem.), 284.

**Planning and Zoning:** Ken Keskinen (Dem.)\*, 409; Bill Lyon (Rep.)\*, 313; John Leich (ACP), 131.

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** Hunt Williams (Rep.)\*, 445; Nick Edler (Rep.)\*, 305; Ella Clark (Dem.), 304.

**Park and Recreation Commission:** Charlotte Frost (Rep.)\*, 474; Joan Thitchener (Rep.)\*, 397; Martha Bruehl (Dem.)\*, 365; Craig Simons (Rep.)\*, 320; Joe Gwazduskas (Dem.), 299; Ruth Ohmen (Rep.), 296.

— John Miller

## Four-Corner Genealogy

North's Corners, McKitis's Corners, the Four Corners, Berkshire Country Store... whatever you want to call it, has a new look these days. Walter Dethier, realtor in Warren for the past fifteen years, and his wife, Joanne, have opened what they hope will be known as a "country store" (as opposed to a convenience store or handy shop). There will be a full deli with soup, stews, salad, and sandwiches, fresh bread daily, and staples such as eggs, cheese, butter, milk, and juices. Hot coffee is always on tap.

Unlike most crossroads in Cornwall, the intersection of Rts. 4, 128, and 43 has never acquired an official name. In 1854, when Joseph North built a house on the northwest corner, the area became known as North's Corners. That house burned down in 1886, but was rebuilt by North in 1914. The home was later purchased by A.J. McKitis, who built a service station with lunchroom on the diagonally opposite corner. I remember well McKitis's Corners. Mrs. McK. ran the lunchroom, he pumped gas and sold milk, bread, and newspapers. Their large son, Albie, became famous for "almost" making it on a big league baseball team.

The McKitises were followed by several other Cornwall families, the Williamsons from 1953-60, and later the Dukes, who built a house across the way on Rt. 4. None of them got rich. When Ken Parsons bought the place in 1982 he emphasized garage repair work, without lunchroom, and that remained the custom throughout the ownerships of Robert Perotti, Jr., and Jeffrey Yates (under the management of Gene Ingvertsen).

I suppose what you decide to call those crossroads depends on whose ownership you grew up with. I wish Mr. and Mrs. Dethier luck in their new venture at the spot which I'll probably go on calling McKitis's Corners.

— Bee Simont



## Spanish Civil War Remembered

On Nov. 14, in the fine series of Sunday programs sponsored by the Cornwall Library, Bob Steck spoke about his experiences in the volunteer International Brigade during the Spanish Civil War.

In 1937, moved by their commitment to democracy and justice, 290 young Americans, including Bob Steck, joined the brigade in Spain to help fight fascism. It was a fight destined for defeat by the numerically superior army of Franco which was directly equipped and supplied by Hitler and Mussolini, and indirectly supported by the indifference of the United States and Great Britain, who allowed arms and materiel to reach Franco.

Many of the volunteers died in battle. Others were taken from prison camps to be executed after Franco's victory. Bob Steck survived imprisonment to carry on his life as a teacher, to share his stories of a troubled era in history, and to affirm his commitment to the ideals of democracy that continue to be threatened by fascism.

Bob enhanced his talk with cartoons, posters, and photographs of the time. Adding color — and a touch of pathos — to Bob's reminiscences were songs of the period, expertly played and sensitively sung by guitarist Roger Chapell. — Ken Keskinen



## Child Center Site Work Starts

At long last, visible work is in progress for the new home of the Cornwall Child Center. Diagonally across from CCS on an acre-plus leased lot in Gannett Park, the land has been cleared by Mike Root and crew, and Denny Frost with men and machines has been readying the site for the foundation and structure. The 2,050-square-foot building, which will look like a T-shaped one-story house, has been designed by Connie Gordon of Responsive Designs, Architects. It can be constructed in two phases if more funds are required for completion. There has been generous support from everyone; contributions, of course, are still needed and very welcome. The Center is a nonprofit organization, so all donations are tax-deductible.

The CCC currently has 38 enrolled children at its room in the UCC Parish House, where it has been since its inception 20 years ago. Now a permanent home for the Center is moving from dream to actuality.

— Ginny Potter

## Welcome

Ethan Eugene Tuthill to  
Elinor and Eugene Tuthill

Laurel Mangan Woodruff to  
Geraldine and James Woodruff

## Oops again!

Meghan Elizabeth Brown was born to Maureen Donahue (not Donovan, as we announced last month) and Thomas Brown. Our apologies.

## Goodbye to a Friend

Mary Ann Grant

## Congratulations

Thomas Joseph Kearns III to  
Jean Marie Alexander

## Land Transfers

Swede Plaut and Sarah L. O'Donnell to Hugo V. Wyss, house and 9.43 acres on Dibble Hill Road for \$440,000.

Estate of Daniel A. Meyers to Harry R. dePolo and Carol S. Nelson, house and 2.75 acres on Dibble Hill Road for \$75,000.

Northeast Savings, F.A. to Adam Van Doren and Charlotte Sonnenblick Van Doren, house and 3.84 acres on Hautboy Hill Road for \$620,000.

Morton Yohalem to Arnold Weinberg, house and 7.77 acres on Kent Road for \$280,000.

Francis J. Luning, Jr. to John T. Luning, house and 2.5 acres on Great Hollow Road for \$45,000.

### Nick Jacobs' Shots at Library

All the world's fair game for Nick Jacobs' photographic shoots, no subject too momentous, too inconsequential. There might be as many photographers as photographs, so diverse are his moods and his images: a newborn babe, stark architectural angles, bacon on a grill, folks just larking around, a tender study of the broken carcass of an ancient tree still flaunting fragile new shoots. Specks of human figures texture the imposing stone facade of Teotihuacan pyramid in Mexico. Practically juxtaposed, monumental in closeup, is the poppyseed-textured portrait of a loaf of bread. This reviewer would have liked to see lots more.

At the Cornwall Library until Dec. 11.

— Brigitte Hanf

### Tough Training for Firefighters

A two-day program of intensive firefighting training came to Cornwall on Oct. 30 and 31, in the form of a tractor trailer. This state-owned trailer houses a maze used for training firefighters in the use of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). State instructors, Lieutenants Michael Cicarelli and Fred Arnold, both of the Hartford Fire Dept., conducted the course, which covered maintenance and safety of SCBA. Equipment was donned in less than 45 seconds (one minute had been the minimum hoped for), followed by an intensive trip through the trailer maze in full turnout gear and SCBA. Nine firefighters from Cornwall and five from Lakeville enrolled in the course, which helps test the skills and techniques of firefighters in a fire-like environment. The maze trailer contains a series of tunnels and tubes which can be assembled and changed to provide increasing difficulty. It is also a heated, pitch-black environment, which adds to the difficulty. All 14 firefighters completed the training, and will receive certificates for completion of the State Certified Course. Most trainees had high praise for the course and the instructors, saying they not only learned about SCBA and its proper use, but also about their own abilities in a high-pressure environment.

— Dave Williamson



### LOOKING FOR LOW-COST HOUSING

*When I was born, about three years ago, my mother was very young and unable to take care of us. As a result we were taken to the orphanage at five weeks of age. By a great piece of good fortune, I was chosen for adoption by the Senzers — within a day!*

*It was a good life, with town and country homes, plenty of good food, and medical care. I grew up to be an extremely good-looking cat with beautiful blue eyes and Siamese grey coloring. I don't make the same noise as a Siamese but I am a little standoffish.*

*Life was great until my people moved to the country full-time and brought Murphy, the "cat-killer," into the family. My only realistic choice was to move to the basement. I am quite comfortable, warm, well fed, and with access to the outside. But it's not the same as a well-furnished house with patches of warm sunlight, woodstoves, and people to interact with.*

*I am looking for a new home with a catless family, with absolutely no dogs. In return I can offer my services as mouse-killer par excellence and a friendly, elegant presence.*

*Please call my people. They would miss me, but have my best interest at heart.*

— Pretty Boy Floyd

The Basement, 37 Cogswell Road

### HAPPY SUMMER!

*With summer definitely gone and autumn's beauty drifting into winter, I was reflecting one evening on how short and peaceful summer seemed to have been — from a mother's point of view. We found that the community offers several wonderful activities that satisfy our son's highly energetic body and an insatiably curious mind.*

*Of special mention is the theater program, the Grumbling Gryphons, directed by Leslie Elias. Both participating and nonparticipating children and parents enjoyed their delightful presentations. One of the outstanding events included the use of primitive musical instruments hand-crafted by the children under the direction of Giovanni Ciarlo, head of Sirius Coyote. The colorful, euphoric sounds they produced moved the entire audience to dance happily all around the auditorium.*

*This program and all the other programs (baseball, soccer, swimming, aikido) made available this summer to us desperate parents to delight our youngsters deserve a big round of applause. Till next summer! — Paula Wiske*

### TO EVERYONE

*Thanks to you all for your support of Cornwall Extras for Kids! With the beginning of Choices, Cornwall's new after-school program, Extras has been busy. We received ten applications for assistance. We have been able to meet each request for help because of your generosity. The grants have come to about \$400 so far. We expect that as Choices continues in popularity, as Mohawk begins its season, and as other opportunities arise, Extras*

## Letters to the Chronicle

*will be called upon more and more. Please watch for notices of upcoming fund-raising events to keep us going. Donations are always welcome. The address is P.O. Box 143, West Cornwall, CT 06796. — Scott Cady, President*

### THANKS, ALL

*A special thanks to the volunteers who responded to the 911 call at my home on Sept. 18. A follow-up call was made later to find out how I was doing. A lot has happened since then, but I am well on the road to recovery.*

*To all our friends and neighbors for their cards and prayers, and, especially, for the support given to my wife Carol, thank you. God bless you.*

— Ray Fontaine

### BOARD OF ED. TRIBUTE

*We would like to thank Lynn Cheney for her leadership and dedication to the Cornwall Board of Education and to the Cornwall community.*

*Lynn has guided us through some trying times. During her first year as Board Chair the Cornwall school addition was being built and we had an interim principal. The past three years have been some of the toughest budget years in recent history. With Lynn's leadership the school budget has reflected Cornwall's effort to keep expenses down, while maintaining our school's reputation as one of the finest K-8 schools in the state.*

*Thank you, Lynn, for the dignity and resolution you have shown during difficult times, and especially for your sense of humor. We will miss you.*

— Philip Bishop, Patricia Blakey, Nancy Calhoun, Robin Freyberg, Katherine Gannett and Dianne Heiny

### WHERE DID IT GO?

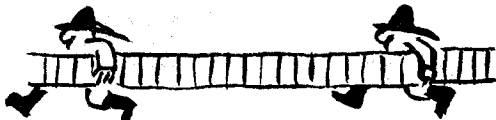
*As I was passing Ralph Gold's I saw a man with a folding easel, stool, and portman-teau who seemed to need a ride or have a question. It was both.*

*"Can I give you a lift?" I said. "Yes, thank you, but where did the building go?" he answered, revealing himself to be English. "I was doing a watercolor of it a short while ago — and now it's gone."*

*"Where are you headed?" I asked. "West Cornwall," he said. I gave him a copy of the Chronicle, which had the story of the Ag School's trip to Kent. We exchanged names and addresses. He was visiting from England and identified himself as Anthony Lousada. "We're Spanish," he said, "but our family has lived in England for six or seven generations." About three houses above West Cornwall (Carla and Eddie Bigelow's), I said good-bye, and wrote my address on a card. A month later I got a very solid mailing tube delivered from England. It contained the watercolor and a note from Sir Anthony Lousada. — Tom Bevans*

### DEAR CORNWALL:

*People, chipmunks, and cougars — my country geese are on the wing, and so am I. Take good care of each other. Love. — Jane Duber*



### Selectmen Hear New Rumsey Plan

Bantam artist Hugh O'Donnell painted a vision of Rumsey as residence for a transatlantic art exchange program. He is confident of generating private money to finance the artists and suggests applying for a grant from the state for building repair. Benefits would be cultural, economic (i.e., jobs), and educational. Cornwall's contribution: the property plus enthusiasm.

Earlier in the month First Selectman Ridgway advised the Board of a pending, once-defeated state bill to force towns to comply with a "Comprehensive Land Use Planning System." Gordon pointed out that our existing Regional Planning Board is more in tune with local needs than is Hartford. The selectmen will attend a hearing to air their views on this "one more layer of bureaucracy."

In other business, the selectmen have cut waste disposal costs by as much as \$6,000 a year as new recycling options have been identified.

Gordon, speaking for himself and the town, thanked departing Selectman Dave Williamson and welcomed Ray Augustyn to the Board. — *Scoville Soulé*

### Housing Boom, cont'd

The Planning and Zoning Commission at its November meeting approved one more permit for a new house. This house, for Jim and Lib Terrall, brings to six the number of new dwellings started since August. For Cornwall, this appears a major trend, possibly indicating a real turn upward in the economy. In all of fiscal year 1991-92 a total of six new houses was approved; in 1992-93 there were three. So this year, the current activity is remarkable.

In other business, members discussed growing worries about access to properties located at a distance from the road. The selectmen have voiced their concern that landowners understand that very long or steep driveways can be a liability if emergency vehicles are needed. However, it was decided that zoning regulations really do not have jurisdiction over private driveways. — *Ginny Potter*

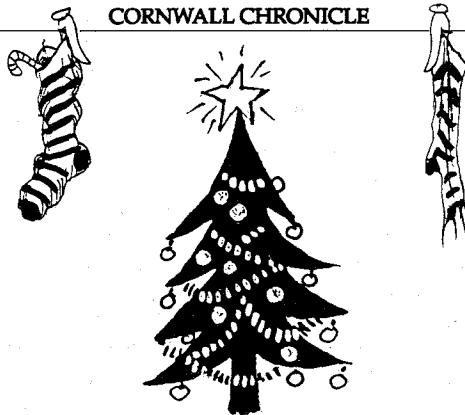


### There's Still Time ...

to give to the *Chronicle* for Christmas. An unusual gift for out-of-town friends or relatives. They'll get 12 months of your town's news, all for \$10 (tax deductible). We'll enclose your card or note with the December issue if you get your note and check to us by Dec. 12.

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### Upstairs Bazaar

Wandering through the huge space on the second floor of the Cornwall Bridge Pottery Store is like strolling through a street bazaar, except there is no hassle — no one is there to lure you to higher prices. It's an airy space where booths, displaying a wide variety of wares, are rented for extended periods.

Carved birds of prey, songbirds, beach birds, and fish are near oil paintings of what could be their habitat. Fossils, 365 million years old, are shown near exotically colored glassware. There is furniture, there are old-fashioned puppetlike Christmas decorations, there are pottery shards imbedded in boxes, and there are huge ceramic pieces.

Many people do their Christmas shopping on the first floor, but if you don't climb those stairs, you're missing a treat. — *Anne Zinsser*

### Outstanding Student

Congrats to 8th grader Davina Piker, who was chosen as CCS's "outstanding student of the year." Davina, who was selected jointly by students and faculty, represented all CCS students at a Nov. 18 banquet sponsored by the Litchfield County Superintendents Association. — *Kelley Ireland*

### Events & Announcements

**UCC Christmas Fair:** Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., United Church of Christ, Cornwall Plain. Christmas gift items, decorations, and our famous fresh wreaths; hand-sewn and knit gifts, baked goods, plants, and books. Lunch available at noon.

**Bravo, Zinssers!** To Anne and John Zinsser, on behalf of Park and Rec and persons attending the first of the Travelog series, many thanks for an outstanding presentation of Alaska's majestic beauty and its people. Our next Travelog will be on Ireland, Dec. 10, 7 p.m., CCS Library, presented by Tom Bechtle. Don't miss it!

**Holiday Fair:** St. Bridget's Annual Holiday Fair will be held in the Church Hall in Cornwall Bridge on Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair offers holiday gift ideas from handmade crafts to food items. Luncheon will be served.

**Cornwall Consolidated PTO:** Led by Karen Stevens, David Samson, and Cheryl Thibault, the CCS PTO will hold its regular scheduled meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the CCS conference room. The public is invited to attend. PTO's mission is to communicate with parents, teachers, school board, administration, and the community about issues concerning our school, students, and education in general. A PTO bulletin board is located in the school foyer with valuable information and a suggestion box for your comments. Letters can also be sent to Karen, David, or Cheryl at CCS PTO, c/o Cornwall Consolidated School, West Cornwall, CT 06796.

**Bank Art:** The next time you are in the National Iron Bank in Cornwall Bridge, please look at the walls. Each month a different Cornwall artist will be on exhibit. December's artist: Scott Zuckerman.

**Community Projects for CCS:** Upper grades at CCS will engage in a number of community-related projects during December. Students will collect food for Owl's Kitchen. Donations, canned or dry, can be dropped off at CCS. Students are also making stuffed bunnies for youngsters. Donations of material will be appreciated.

**Wassail, Wassail:** Park and Rec is planning a carol sing on Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. in front of the Town Hall. Lee Collins and his Hot Chocolate Society Band will lead the singing, and cocoa and doughnuts will be served afterward.



### CORNWALL CHRONICLE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY *Marc Simont*  
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