

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

UME 4: NUMBER 11 DECEM



How We Voted

The most interesting thing about the 1994 election is that while the country went heavily Republican and Connecticut modestly Republican, Cornwall with two exceptions went Democratic. Not that all the Democrats who won in Cornwall won their contests. Incumbent Dem. Mary Ann O'Sullivan easily won here but got edged out by Andrew Roraback. Dan Dwyer took Cornwall by 79 votes but lost to incumbent State Senator Del Eads. Dem. Bill Curry edged Republican John Rowland and ACP's Eunice Groark in Cornwall, but Rowland prevailed statewide. Rep. Nancy Johnson, among the Republicans, won Cornwall and she was an easy winner in the Sixth Congressional District.

Candidates who appeared on both the ACP and Dem. lines got about 40 percent of their total vote from ACP, and the ACP's Eunice Groark did 11 percentage points better in Cornwall than in the rest of the state — 30 percent of the vote here and only 19 percent statewide.

Cornwall had 937 registered voters and 719 voted, including 76 by absentee ballot. That comes to an almost 77 percent turnout, a very good figure for a non–Presidential, non–municipal election. Here's a breakdown of the Cornwall vote in each of the races:

Governor: Almost split in thirds — Curry 233, Rowland (the winner) 209, and Groark 205. Groark clearly got votes from both Democrats and Republicans.

U.S. Senate: Incumbent Dem. Joe Lieberman was an easy winner over Repub. Jerry Labriola, 461-192. This was about the same margin as in the statewide vote.

U.S. Congress: Another term (her seventh) for Nancy Johnson, who defeated Dem. Charlotte Koskoff, 376-277, in Cornwall. Johnson won here with 58 percent of the vote, two points less than her Sixth District total.

State Senate: Two years ago Eads edged Dwyer by about 700 votes. This time she beat him by 3,500. Cornwall went for Dwyer 351-272.

State Assembly: Cornwall clearly loves Dem. incumbent Mary Ann O'Sullivan. We supported her 420-271 over Repub. Andrew Roraback. But Goshen clearly loved its hometown boy just as much, and it's a bigger town. Roraback took Goshen 743-386 and the district 4,672-4,544.

Secretary of State: Dem. Miles Rapoport, a squeaky winner in the state, won handily here over Repub. Andrea Scott, 376-269.

Treasurer: Repub. Christopher Burnham lost here to incumbent Dem. Joseph Suggs,

347-274, but Burnham was the winner statewide.

Comptroller: Dem. Nancy Wyman, the winner, defeated Repub. Gene Gavin in Cornwall, 373-260.

Attorney General: Aside from our popular probate judge, incumbent Dem. Richard Blumenthal got the most votes in Cornwall, 471-184, in winning reelection over Repub. Richard Arnold.

Sheriff: Incumbent Andrew Ocif was Cornwall's other Repub. winner defeating Dem. Joseph Silano 366-274.

Judge of Probate: Running unopposed, Maggie Cooley got 349 votes on the Republican line and 275 on the Dem. line for a total of 624. Don't mess with her!

Registrar of Voters: Repub. Lisa Cruse got 296 votes, Dem. Jayne Ridgway got 333, and both were elected. They replace Maureen Prentice and Judy Gates, both of whom retired after many years on noble service.

— John Miller

...And What Comes Next

By the time the legislature goes back into session in January, area selectmen and the Northwest Council of Governments (NWCOG) in Warren hope to have some answers from Governor-elect John Rowland about the directions his administration will take.

(continued on page 2)

WEDNESDAY MONDAY TUESDAY THURSDAY **SUNDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY** Xmas Fair 2 1 Note: Deadline for 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. lanuary Events' and UCC (p.4) FM Announcements and FQ Holiday Fair Calendar is Dec. 15 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. St. Bridget's Church Kent Singers 8 p.m. Kent School Chapel (p.4) Xmas Crafts 4 Kent Singers 6 (8)444 Boutique 6-9:30 p.m. Cadwell's (p.4) 3 p.m. Kent PTA Holiday Dinner 6:30 p.m. CCS gym W. Cornwall Merchants Cornwall Housing Inland Wetlands Bd. of Selectmen School Chapel 7:30 p.m. Town Hall 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Assoc. 10 a.m. Cadwell's Corp. 4:30 p.m. Kugeman Village (p.4)(p.4)10 Xmas Crafts Poetry Reading 8 p.m. Cadwell's Boutique 3-6:30 p.m. Cadwell's 13 2 14 **15**) 16 17 Cynthia Kirk, paintings Cornwall Ass'n **€**CS PTA CVFD Open House 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. W. Rep. Town Comm. Bd. of Education 5 p.m. Cornwall Library 7 p.m. CCS Library 4 p.m. Osbornes, 82 ':30 p.m. Mohawk CCS Library Goshen Sharon Tpke Cornwall Firehouse Pk and Rec 7:30 Ski Ľodge Special Olympics Bd. of Finance 7:30 p.m. p.m. Town Office Hous. River Comm. Host Committee Book Party Benefit CCS Library P & Z 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. CCS 10 p.m. - midnight Cadwell's (p.4) meeting, 7 p.m. Town Hall Town Hall Library 18 19 22 23 24 20 21 HVRHS Bd. of Ed. Carol Sing 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Candle light Carols 7p.m. Sharon 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. School (p.4)N. Cornwall Meetinghouse MA Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 p.m. Town Hall 25 CHRISTMAS 27 28 29 30 26 ZBA 8 p.m. Town Office*

(continued from page 1)

Fiscal issues loom largest, according to First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, a member of the Legislative Committee of NWCOG, along with Bud Trotta of Salisbury and Allen Chapin of Washington. Since the state is now operating with a biennial budget system, Ridgway feels 1995 will be devoted to budget and tax issues; other policy issues will stay on a back burner until 1996.

Ridgway says he, Trotta, and Chapin plan to press Rowland about proposed cuts in the income tax (where will the money come from?) and in the budget. Weicker's final budget would eliminate all Town Aid road funds, a loss of more than \$66,000 to Cornwall.

This, says Ridgway, comes at a time when the state is chiding Northwest Corner towns for not completing necessary road improvements. The state estimates that these improvements will cost the region's towns \$263 million.



Cornwall is estimated to have 36.5 miles of road in "poor condition" or worse, and only :4 miles in "good condition." The state esti-mates it would cost Cornwall \$41.2 million to get these and other local roads in good condition.

Ridgway said he and his colleagues will attend a workshop on property tax reform on December 6 at which Rowland is slated to speak. —Lisa Lansing

The Naked Truth

The Cornubia Sketch Group is back in operation following the summer recess. Sessions are on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fee to cover costs of the hall, heat, and model is \$44 for four weeks. The models pose in the nude except for rare times when we do portrait sketching.

Last year a prospective sketcher came to observe the group in session before deciding whether to join. On that day Maria, Paula Wiske's niece, was sitting for us we were doing protrait sketches and Maria was fully clad. The prospect was favorably impressed and showed up the following Monday, complete with easel,

sketchpad, crayons, etc.

As sometimes happens, we had a lastminute cancellation from the model that day, and David Bean, the man in charge, persuaded a friend to substitute. In about half an hour the friend arrived, undressed, and was up on the platform. He was a robust, bearded, red-haired man with all his masculine credentials.

This was evidently not what our new prospect had expected. She broke all records for folding easels. She gathered her stuff and was out the door without even taking time to get her money back.

-Marc Simont

Unhelpful Stats

Cornwall Consolidated School principal William Oros refers to the recently released Strategic School Profiles of Connecticut's elementary schools as the "infamous ED 165." This state-mandated Educational Document measured and compared faculty composition, school finances, scholastic achievement, physical fitness, and diversity and ethnicity among many other factors — in the state's schools. Such measurements, Oros says, may be useful for a larger school than ours with more students, but are not very helpful for CCS.

In the first place, the survey is already a year old; it studied the 1993-94 school population. And CCS now has 160 children, 17 more than last year, enough to change percentages substantially. Also, since the annual survey, now in its third year, never covers the same children two years in a row — it tests fourth, sixth, and eighth graders, and lumps together statistics in various confusing ways — it doesn't help the school assess an individual child's progress.

The survey showed that only 50 percent of CCS's staff had advanced degrees, the lowest number of such degrees among teachers in the Northwest Corner towns. Oros says this was because CCS had hired a lot of new young faculty in the last three years, most of whom were working on their master's degrees during the sum-

In addition, the survey's figures on the cost of educating our children were misleading. At \$10,540 each, Cornwall spent more per pupil than any other school in the area. Oros points out that almost \$2,000 of this amount was for debt service on the school's recent building additions, a figure that goes down each year as the debt is

In fact, as state aid to local schools evaporates (from \$50,000 in 1989 to \$1,800 in 1994), Oros feels that he can't maintain "even the status quo without other sources of income." He plans to bring this problem up before the Board of Education.

All in all, Oros feels that Educational Document 165 doesn't make much sense for CCS. "I hope," he says, "the State Department of Education will reconsider this method of comparison when dealing with smaller schools with small populations." -Barbara Klaw

Local Color at Library

Since age ten, when Martha Rubin was given a kid's box camera, she's never stopped taking pictures. A career in anthropology helped develop her sense for the minutiae of life within the larger setting, and this is the focus — literally and figuratively — of her interest in the details of the natural world, especially as she

finds them in Cornwall. Rosehip and seedpod, armyworm and cocklebur display unexpectedly mysterious colors when captured by her wide-eyed lens and developed in her own darkroom. Close-ups of insect and plant imply their habitat. It's a seasonal show, the subjects mostly autumnal. Let's hope a summer show will be –Brigitte Hanf forthcoming.

Cornwall's New Ambulance

On October 28, after three years of fundraising, members of the Volunteer Fire Department drove their new ambulance from a New Jersey factory to its home in the West Cornwall Firehouse.

The new blue-and-white Ford Super Duty Turbo Diesel vehicle replaces the original ambulance, now 13 years old and "mechanically unreliable" according to Ambulance Captain Brian O'Neil. The new rig has a custom body which can transport two patients instead of one and still not crowd medical attendants. Storage for equipment is also improved.

The \$110,000 cost of the new ambulance was covered entirely by fund-raising which ranged from donation jars in stores up to the two (now annual) bridge dances in West Cornwall. Two hundred of the donors gave \$100 or more; one anonymous individual gave \$5,000. —Earl Brecher

Welcome

Daniel Jacob Hedden to Connie and Don Hedden

Erik Thomas Kenniston to Unni and Don Kenniston

Good-bye to Friends

Nicholas Baird Cooley Avery Worth Gordon Jenny Hansen Holmes

Land Transfers

Estate of Gisela Lichtenberger to Mary Katherine Norkin, house and land on Pine Street, \$110,000.

Louis Marx, Jr. to Brae Group, Inc., house and 166.5 acres at 35 Pritchard Road, \$1 million.

Petitjean-Rubin Associates, Inc. to Kathy Lee Strawson, house and land at 370 Kent Road, \$132,500.

Amelia M. Penders to Michael A. and Betty A. Friedman, house and 6.2 acres at 14 Great Hollow Road, \$145,000.

Ralph J. Gulliver, Jr. and Gustav Haller, Jr. to Edward E. and Ginger Council, house and 3.7 acres on Kent Road, \$175,000.

Catalyst for Commerce

A Cornwall Chamber of Commerce? In such a pastoral setting, the concept is hard to grasp. But in the last year or so the Cornwall Association has come to grips with the town's need to develop the local economy.



Letters to the Chronicle



The association was formed to provide a forum for discussion of ways to preserve the rural and historic character of Cornwall in a manner consistent with the needs of the town and its people. Recent economic conditions have strengthened consensus within the association that local commerce must be supported to encourage the town's diversity. Small business, including agriculture, will be the likeliest sources of growth.

A Business Committee, led by board member Patricia Bramley, took as its first task the publication of the Cornwall Yellow Pages, a directory of town businesses and services. The 32-page booklet was published in October and is available free at Baird's, Yutzler's, and other retail stores.

During the past year, the association found new allies in its economic development campaign. The West Cornwall Merchants Association and the Volunteer Fire Department joined to buy a banner for the annual bridge dance, facilitated by a \$700 loan (fully repaid) from the Cornwall Association. Merchants Todd Piker and Todd Aichele have joined the Business Committee.

"It would be great," Piker said, "if the Cornwall Association could get involved, through the Business Committee, as an umbrella for all pro-economy activities in the town."

The Business Committee plans to expand its publishing activities and create a tourist map of Cornwall, showing the location of appropriate businesses as well as points of attraction for hikers, sightseers, and river runners.

—Charles Osborne



Getting Out the Milk

The "snows of yesteryear" may have been praised by poets, but not by the farmers of Cornwall. In the early years of the century, the job of clearing a passage from barn to road was begun at dawn, for the milk must get to the roadside stand early. Here it was picked up by the farmer whose turn it was to carry it by sled to Lime Rock, West Cornwall, or Cornwall Bridge for a trip on the "milk train" to New York City.

When the 40-quart cans were filled, the tops were hammered into place with ringing strokes of big wooden mallets, and then the cans were carried by sled to the roadside. The sled was constructed of heavy planks with a platform on top forming a V-shaped snowplow. A huge stone served as a weight, behind which the driver stood to guide the horses or oxen out to the road. With luck the road had by then been plowed, or at least tamped down.

Beginning in the early 1930s Clarence

AND ONE MORE THING. . .

It has been brought to my attention that those scratchy hand-knit stockings that I described in last month's Chronicle must have had some astral powers to keep them from sliding down over those long johns. Nothing so sublime; we had garters, long, sturdy elastic appendages that hitched to that over-burdened Ferris waist and attached to the stockings both fore and aft. They did the work well, keeping the stockings firmly in place and scratchier than ever.

— City Lansing

LAND USE BACK TO HAUNT US

The push for state land-use legislation is back and the manner in which it has returned could give those who value local government cause for alarm. To refresh your memories, last year's bill (HB 5684) would have required regional planning agencies, councils of government, and municipalities to make their planning and zoning decisions consistent with state land-use plans and to keep them that way. The bill didn't pass because of parliamentary wrangling, but it was a close call.

The new draft of the land-use bill, prepared by the Land-Use Coalition, still focuses on mandated consistency with state plans. That's a warning sign that attention must once again be paid to this issue.

The proponents of statewide land-use planning have never made clear what the purpose of such a law might be. "Stopping sprawl" and "protecting areas that should be protected" are desirable goals to which we can all subscribe. But do these goals require a heavy hand from Hartford? Many viable solutions to regional issues have been in place for years, but no assessment of voluntary regional plans has been undertaken by the supporters of the state approach. There are other ways to resolve land-use problems without erecting a costly, complex, and intrusive state bureaucracy. The state could, for example, review and comment on local and

regional plans. These plans could be required to discuss regional relationships in ways that would encourage looking beyond local and regional plans. Local and regional plans could be required to discuss regional relationships in ways that would encourage looking beyond local needs. Most of all, training and education must be made available to regional and municipal planners.

Proponents of last year's HB 5684 labeled opposition to the bill as knee-jerk reaction to preserve the status quo and antipathy to issues like affordable housing. That is simply untrue. Many communities in this state participate in voluntary regional planning and most, including towns in the Northwest Corner, have developed inventive and sensitive solutions to housing problems.

What those of us who oppose the current legislative proposals object to most is the high-handed, top-down approach that is being used. We all need to be part of this solution.

—Deirdre Fisher

HIKERS AND HUNTERS

This ongoing great weather makes me want to enjoy the outdoors as long as possible before the freeze drives me indoors. For safety's sake and to permit hunters to enjoy their activity, we should remember we are in the middle of hunting season. The following general information and December schedule may be useful.

Small game season — open throughout December. Turkey season archery — Dec. 26 to 31. Deer season archery — Dec. 12 to 24, Dec. 26 to 31. Deer season firearms — Dec. 1 to 10, Dec. 12. to 24.

No Sunday hunting. Hunting hours are a half hour before sunrise to sunset for deer and turkey, and a half hour after sunset for small same.

There are exceptions including night hunting for some small game species. For more details, contact Wildlife Division, DEP, at 203-424-3011.

—Jim Levy

Blake was the selectman in charge of snow-plowing. Then, for fifteen years he served as First Selectman and thus the recipient of the forcefully expressed wails of weekenders caught by a Sunday snowfall on a road with no farms nearby. These wails came to Clarence's house from dawn to dusk. Bessie Blake sat by the telephone and in her soft and soothing voice did her best to stem the tide of snowbound woe. Clarence had a saltier tongue and when greeted by the neglected ones long after the milk reached the railroad, often had some acerbic opinions to express about the relative importance of cows and humans.

Today the ratio of cows to commuters has been reversed, but not the relative importance. When the snows heap high, cows come first in Cornwall, as ever and always.

—City Lansing

Bravo the Art Exhibits!

For those not too fixated on signing out a book or a video, the art exhibits at the Cornwall Free Library are, and have been, a source of pleasure — not only for those who take time to look, but for the artists as well.

It is generally agreed that Cornwall has an abundance of creative types. Many of us assume that most are big-city professionals. Not so. In kitchens, basements, sheds, and shops (as well as in studios), creative minds and hands are at work. And it has been Hildreth Daniel's intention to help those local artists find a place to share their creations.

For nearly 30 years Hildreth has been involved with the library exhibits, first as an assistant, and then when she became the librarian in 1964, as the planner and (continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3) organizer of the shows — a task which she still carries on, although she retired in 1987. In that period, nearly 250 artists, from children to octogenarians, have shown their work in the library. For some it has been their first and only show. Others have gone on to show elsewhere. Beginners continue to share space with professionals. Although more than half of the shows have been of paintings, drawings, and photographs, exhibits of books, guns, crafts, sculpture, and ceramics have had their space — not to overlook strange and beautiful objects hanging overhead, or a child's model blast furnace on the floor.

Hildreth has kept the show notebooks. In them are reviews of all the shows, along with the signatures of some of those who took time to look at the exhibits. Until the '80s rarely was a signature followed by a comment. Now we see more names followed by "Bravo!" "Loved it!" "Wonderful!" "Do more!" and "Thank you!"

The exhibitions continue. A quiet invitation from Hildreth finds yet another artist who is pleased to be asked to share his or her work. So the next time you go to the library, take time to look around at what's on the walls or overhead. You're sure to be delighted. Then sign the book and add your comments.

The late Herb Whitman, a reviewer of the art shows from 1986 to 1992, referred to them as "Hildreth's monthly treat." They are indeed that. To her we say "Do more!" "Wonderful!" and "Thank you!"

–Ken Keskinen



Routine P & Z

The regular meeting on November 14 of the Planning and Zoning Commission was fairly routine. Approved were a shop and storage use for Jim Terrall on Route 4 and a subdivision creating one new lot for Chester and Lillian Lyman on South Road, East Cornwall, as well as three additions, a shed, and a pool. No application for any new use of the Marvelwood School had been received.

—Ginny Potter

There's Still Time . . .

to give 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 December 12.

Yes, I want the Chronicle to continue. Here's my tax-deductible contribution of	
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Events & Announcements

The Kent Singers will present Christmas Revelry on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4, at 3 p.m. at the Kent School chapel. The lively and different concert has been designed and directed by Beth Samuels of Cornwall. Children from the Connecticut Conservatory in New Milford will contribute a song and some dancing to the program. Music includes traditional carols, "A Day for Dancing" by Lloyd Pfautsch, and selections from the Christmas music in Handel's "Messiah." Ten of the 35 Kent Singers are from Cornwall.

Carols and Hot Chocolate: Cornwall's Park & Rec will sponsor a carol sing with Lee Collins's Salisbury Brass and Hot Chocolate Society on Friday, Dec. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Singers and others will be treated to doughnuts and hot chocolate. Park & Rec asks that everyone bring a flashlight because, weather permitting, carolers may make the rounds of village homes.

Christmas Flower Sale: Cornwall Extras for Kids is sponsoring a poinsettia sale. Plants available are: 5½" pot, 3-5 flowers, \$6, or three for \$16; 6½" pot, 5-8 flowers, \$8, or three for \$22; 7½" pot, two plants, red or white, \$15; 7½" pot, two plants mixed, \$15. To order, call Todd Aichele, 672-6785, or Scott Cady, 672-0143, by Dec. 4. Plants can be picked up Dec. 15, 5-8 p.m., or Dec. 16, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Come Meet the Ambulance: The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department will hold an open house Sunday, Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the West Cornwall Firehouse to welcome the new ambulance to its Cornwall home. "This is a gift you gave to yourselves," said Ambulance Captain Brian O'Neil, "so please come by for a look and a nosh."

An Episcopal Congregation has been gathered in Cornwall and will meet for the service of Holy Communion at 8 a.m. every Sunday at the North Cornwall Meetinghouse. The priest in charge is the Rev. Christopher L. Webber. All are welcome. For more information call Lisa Lansing at 672-2659.







Book Party Benefit: A party to celebrate the publication of *Midnight Snacks: The Cookbook That Glows in the Dark* by Carol and Andrew Schneider will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 10 p.m. to midnight at Cadwell's Corner. Come sample some of the recipes, including Cadwell's meatloaf and Janet Watson's Tex-Mex dip, and hear Anne Chamberlain and John Miller sing a few songs about food. Copies of *Midnight Snacks* will be sold to benefit Owl's Kitchen.

UCC Fair: The Woman's Society of the United Church of Christ will hold its annual Christmas Fair, Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the UCC Parish House. Shop for decorations and our famous fresh wreaths, hand-sewn and knit gifts, books, and baked goods. Lunch available at noon.



CCS News: The PTA will hold a Holiday Dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9, in the CCS gym. Cost per dinner is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children. If you wish to attend, call David Samson at 672-6797. Everyone is welcome.

A good Christmas present is one of the navy blue or gray sweatshirts being sold by eighth graders to raise money for their class trip. They may be bought at the school or from any eighth grader.

School will be dismissed at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23, and won't be in session again until Wednesday, Jan. 4.

Holiday Crafts Boutique: Local artisans will gather at Cadwell's Corner for the 4th annual Christmas Crafts Boutique on Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4. Hours are 6 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday and 3 to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. For more information call Alice Cadwell at 672-6316.

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

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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