



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 1: NUMBER 12 JANUARY 1992



Selectmen on Center Stage

Our new first selectman isn't dragging his heels. One of his first moves will be from the trailer to the stage in the Town Hall, where he plans to set up a permanent repertory company. No, seriously folks, the selectmen's offices will occupy the stage until we get a new town hall.

— Phyllis Nauts

"It's Been Good"

"It's been good," says Selectman Bill Hurlburt, summing up the first month of the new Board of Selectmen. Good, yes, but the pace would have worn out any board where the average age was more than thirty-six.

They've met thirteen or fourteen times. They've walked or driven every road in town so they can set repair and maintenance priorities in the upcoming budget. They've instituted regular monthly inspections for the town's highway equipment, to catch problems before there are breakdowns. And they're introducing weekly job schedules for the highway crew.

They've appointed Thalia Scoville, Scott Cady and Pat Bramley as a personnel

committee to look into pension plans, insurance and vacations for non-union staff and to update job descriptions. They've finished a review of the wetlands regulations. And they're in the final stages of negotiating a contract for a feasibility study of the proposed new town offices.

They've been working hard, and some folks are saying they deserve a lot of applause.

— Hendon Chubb

"RQ, Cornwall, Signal 33!"

At 7 p.m. on a recent Thanksgiving Day the above emergency broadcast signal was transmitted from Litchfield to Cornwall's Rescue Squad. A pedestrian had been struck by a car near Baird's Store in Cornwall Bridge. Cornwall's ambulance responded with a full crew, and two medical technicians came from Kent. The injury was found to be very serious.

The crew went into action. Medical control was established by radio with Sharon Hospital. Permission was obtained to start an IV line to control shock resulting from a massive head injury and internal bleeding. The Life Star helicopter was requested for immediate evacuation of the

patient to the Hartford trauma unit.

The procedures worked. The man lived.

What happens when you dial 911 and request medical help? Cornwall's system is linked to a dispatcher in Litchfield who broadcasts the RQ "Signal 33" to Cornwall's volunteers, followed by particulars concerning the type of emergency and its location. The duty squad and driver go to the firehouse and roll the ambulance, while other members drive directly to the scene. The first member to arrive does a basic assessment of the patient's condition and usually takes charge until the ambulance team arrives. Patients are treated on the spot and prepared for a trip to the hospital, or back-up aid is called in by radio. This could include advice from the hospital emergency room or a request for the Life Star helicopter.

Members of the Cornwall Rescue Squad have all been trained to provide basic on-site medical care, electrocardiac resuscitation, and primary IV therapy. Two members, Fred Bate III and Dave Cadwell, are former military medics with Vietnam combat experience. Jan Bracken is a trauma

(continued on page 2)

JANUARY 1992

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ice skating every Monday at Salisbury School indoor rink 7-8pm. \$1 per person, children 5 years and under free. Soft hats required.	NM 4	FQ 13	FM 19	LQ 26	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall
5 Agricultural Advisory Comm. 7:30pm Firehouse	6 Bd. of Selectmen 7pm Town Hall	7 Park & Rec. 7:30pm Town Off. Inland Wetlands* 7:30pm Town Hall	8	9	10	11 Poetry reading 8pm Cadwell's Corner
12	13 Plan. & Zoning 7:30pm Town Hall	14 Rep. Town Comm. Caucus 8pm Town Hall (p.2, 4) Dem. Town Comm. Caucus 7:30pm Firehouse (p.4) Hous. Riv. Comm. CCS Lib. 7:30pm Photographs by Jacqueline Mosher Cornwall Lib.	15	16 Board of Ed. 7:30pm CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30pm Town Hall Corn. Housing Corp. 7:30pm First Church	17 Domestic Violence talk 7:30pm, Day Room First Church (p.3)	18 Habitat celebration Cadwell's 4-6p.m. (p.2)
19	20 BIRTHDAY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.	21 Bd. of Selectmen 7pm Town Hall HVRHS Bd. of Ed. 7:30pm HS Lib.	22	23 Land use talk 2pm Firehouse (p.4) Fiber Arts Guild 7pm Pottery Shop (p.4)	24 Amahl & the Night Visitors 7:30pm First Church (p.4) Domestic Violence talk 7:30pm Parish House (p.3)	25 Amahl & the Night Visitors 7:30pm First Church (p.4)
26	27 Conserv. Comm. 7:30pm Town Off. Z.B. of Appeals* 7:30pm Town Hall	28	29	30	31	

*Check time and place at Town Office.

(continued from page 1)

nurse. Joan Pelletier is completing her paramedic training. Other members have volunteered many hours to train in the emergency department at Sharon Hospital. They include Earl Brecher, Asa Goddard, Don Heiny, Ingrid Laigle, Brian O'Neil, Peter Russ, June Starr, and Jim Whiteside. The ambulance drivers are Mike DeGreenia, Ron Laigle, and Phil Starr.

The Cornwall Rescue Squad, like the Fire Department, is a volunteer organization. Squad members participate because they know they meet a need in their community, because they have an interest in their work, and because they know that a volunteer service is the only one that makes sense in a rural town. They ask that you display your 911 number conspicuously on your mailbox or front door so that if the need arises the Rescue Squad can quickly come to help you.

— Earl Brecher

Marvelwood Hit Again

Marvelwood School was burgled for the second time in three months on Dec. 6. Thieves entered the main building sometime before dawn and took two new computers, a new stereo, skis, and \$3,000 in travel money for the students, who were leaving for Christmas vacation that day. The prior robbery, in October, was similar. In both cases the thieves had keys.

"It's tough on the kids," said Business Manager Susan Smith. "They take it personally. It's like a violation." — George Kittle

Planning and Zoning

On December 9, Planning and Zoning held public hearings on applications by Roepke/Hasselberg for an accessory apartment on Day Road and Charles Besozzi, Jr. for a permanent sawmill off Route 4 behind the Marvelwood playing fields.

During its regular monthly meeting following the hearings it approved the Roepke/Hasselberg application and an application by Roland Costello for a video shop in the former Bate meat market in West Cornwall. But P&Z deferred action on an application for a seasonal tube and canoe rental operation in Cornwall Bridge pending the receipt of further information.

It also scheduled hearings on January 13 to continue consideration for the sawmill application after certain items have been clarified and members have had a chance to visit the proposed site and to consider special permit applications by Tim Prentice for a home-occupation sculpture studio on Lake Road and David Epperson for an antique store near Mansonville Road.



On December 6 Judge Walter Pickett of the Litchfield Superior Court accepted arguments on the suit by certain Cream Hill residents challenging P&Z's recent sawmill regulations. A decision is expected in six to eight weeks.

— Ginny Potter

Calling All Republicans!

At its caucus on Jan. 14 (see calendar) the Republican Town Committee will discuss expanding its membership from 20 to 25 members. All registered Republicans are asked to attend, as their presence and opinions are of vital interest to the party.

— K. W. Edler

Dems Dip Into War Chest

The Democratic Town Committee voted Dec. 10 to donate a portion of the leftover funds raised for the campaign to 10 area charities. Fifty dollars went to each of the following organizations: Cornwall VFD Rescue Squad; the Child Care Center; the Johnson Foundation; Torrington Soup Kitchen; OWL's Kitchen; Housatonic Center for Mental Health; the Visiting Nurse Assn.; the Northwest Corner Fuel Bank; the Susan B. Anthony Project; and the Women's Emergency Service.

The money still held by the committee will fund state and national contests in 1992.

— Lisa Lansing

It Ain't Like It Used to Be

Those who see proposed businesses and industries such as convenience stores and sawmills as a threat to our rural tranquility might consider the fact that in the 1800s and indeed well into this century there were more non-residential activities in Cornwall Village alone than there are in much of Cornwall today.

Take general stores, for instance. On the site of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, facing the green, there was a store run successively by Philo and Frederick Kellog (pre-1850), Menzies Beers & Sons (1849-1890) and Collins E. Wilcox (1890-1913, burned, not rebuilt).

The 1859 map of the village shows the H&E Hitchcock store at 15 Pine Street (now the Whitman house), and a store at the corner of Pine and Bolton Hill Road was operated by Samuel Hopkins (by 1850), then by Henry Sanford (1880s), and then by John Richter (1894-1915), who also operated a livery service out of his barn (ca. 1900-1920). Slightly north of this, Whiting Wilcox had a store and gas pump in a building that also contained the Post Office.

More specialized stores included a tailor shop at the northeast corner of Pine and Bolton Hill Road, where the Hopkins store later was, and a yarn shop, operated briefly in the 1930s by Liliias (Sanford) McCloud in the Tankersley house at 11 Bolton Hill Road.

Nor was the village lacking in various sorts of light industry. Merlin Temple and



Joseph Matyas, Sr. operated a sawmill in the 1930s in the field behind the Sullivan house at the bottom of Jewell Street, not far from the site of the proposed new one. (See P&Z story.)

A slaughterhouse and meat delivery service was operated by Collins E. Wilcox and Ben Cole until the 1920s in what before the tornado was the Ferman barn.

A brick kiln and clay pit at 23 Jewell Street (the Whitcomb house) provided clay for the tennis courts in the Village and at Cream Hill Lake in the 1920s.

A shoe factory and tannery owned by Curtis and Menzies Beers Co., later M. Beers & Co., made hand-sewn shoes for many years from 1817 until sewing machines came in, perhaps at the tannery site, just west of 6 Valley Road (Frank and Polly Calhoun's house). (To be continued) — The Editors
based on Michael Gannett's notes

Live Poets' Society

For a year now Dave and Alice Cadwell have been supplying the space and the coffee for the monthly poetry readings at Cadwell's Corner. Sometime last spring John Zinsser turned up with a piano, so the evenings sometimes include song — no dance yet. Readings from now on will be the second Saturday of each month, at 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and read poems, prose, laundry lists, the classified ads (someone did, once!) or just listen.

— Phyllis Nauts

Marriage

Alice Meade and Clifton Read

New Lot for Lottery

The Cornwall Housing Corporation has completed its purchase of the Pierce Lane parcel, and is developing detailed leasehold procedures for distribution so that those wishing to be in the lottery may fully understand their opportunities as well as their obligations. The lottery should take place early in 1992.

The CHC has postponed its application for a permit to utilize the Town Street parcel in order to consider development matters in more detail with residents on Town Street.

The corporation looks forward to final approval of its application for Kugeman Village early in 1992. All required documents have been submitted. — Ken Keskinen

A Gift

Habitat for Humanity has been given a parcel of land by the Cornwall Housing Corp. Help us celebrate at Cadwell's Corner Jan. 18 from 4-6 — Paul Baren

Housing Stats

According to the recently completed Cornwall Housing Survey, median family income in town has gone up 81% in the last ten years, while the value of our houses has risen 192%, and rents have gone up 134%. The survey, conducted by the Northwestern Connecticut Council of Governments, indicates that 33% of our residents now spend more than 30% of their incomes for shelter. The figures suggest why so many young people can't afford to live in Cornwall.

The last decade has also seen a substantial shift in the age of Cornwall's 1,414 people: there are approximately 100 fewer residents in the 15- to 34-year-old age bracket than there were in 1980, and about 200 more people 35 to 64 years old. At the same time, the number of children has remained about the same throughout the decade, and we now have 40 fewer people over 65.

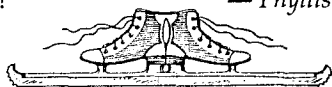
A whopping 39% of Cornwall's residents are part-time, the survey shows. Of those who responded to the survey, 82% stated that they are "Year Round Occasional," and the majority of the part-timers intend to move to town permanently some time in the future. Such devotion shouldn't surprise us when we read the statistic that 30% of the people responding to the survey have lived in Cornwall for 26 years or more.

For those who want to study this survey in depth, a copy ("Housing and Demographic Studies for The Towns of Sharon and Cornwall, Connecticut") is available in the town office. — Barbara Klaw

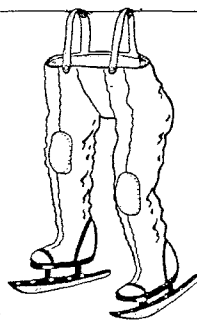
Potter Out, Williams In

After 16 years on the School Board, 6 as Chairman and 8 as Cornwall's representative to HVRHS, Bob Potter has stepped down. He figures he's been a member longer than anyone in recent times except Dorothy Van Doren and Bob Terrall, who served for 18 years, and that he attended something like 800 meetings over the years. He received a bronze plaque for distinguished service from the High School, and a handsome pen and pencil set from the Cornwall board (no golf balls!) We're all extremely grateful for the time, energy and intelligence he put into the job over the years.

Becky Williams was unanimously elected to succeed him as Cornwall's HVRHS representative. No newcomer to the CCS Board, she served on it for 8 years, and was chairman for six. She now has been elected chairman of the HVRHS board and faces a job that's far more complex. Bob estimated that decisions that used to take 20 minutes 14 years ago — for example, deciding the superintendent's salary — now can take three full meetings. Good luck, Becky! — Phyllis Nauts



Letters to the Chronicle



ENCORE COUGAR

I was delighted to read Barbara Klaw's "Lions, Anyone?" article in the November issue as it confirmed my sighting of a cougar south of Kent. My wife Barbara and I were driving north on Route 7 at about 9 p.m. on a clear night two winters ago when a large tawny animal loped across the road, from east to west, into the field several hundred yards south of Kent Greenhouse, passing rather quickly 200 feet in front of our headlights. I drove onto the left shoulder of the road to try to keep the animal in our beams, but it disappeared quickly. From its body configuration, the shorter front legs and the longer, more powerful back legs and haunches, and its distinct gait, I felt certain that it was a mountain lion. Based on the number of reported (though unsubstantiated) sightings, it seems certain that they are back, perhaps a result of the deer over population. Fabulous!

— Joseph Ellis

LIGHTING YOUNG MINDS

The other day I had one of those memorable experiences that don't come along all that often: I watched a great teacher inspire 13 students for forty minutes.

I'd gone to Cornwall Consolidated to watch my grandson Matthew's 8th Grade math class, taught by Gisela Lichtenberger (she has the words "light" and "mountain" in her name). The moment she started her class, total silence fell in the room as the excitement of new ideas being presented with consummate skill to receptive minds made the atmosphere electric. The students were challenged to think, to create, to work their way to answers through their own mental efforts. The forty minutes flew by. There was no squirming around to look at the clock. The kids took rapid notes, yet remained alert:

Domestic Violence Workshops

Two workshops on domestic violence, led by Audrey Levine, Program Director of Women's Emergency Services in Sharon, will be held Jan. 17 and 24. The first, "Rethinking Our Beliefs about Battering," will be held in the Day Room of the First Church and will explore the dynamics of abuse and the factors that cause domestic violence. The second, "Reaching Out," (at the Parish House) will discuss ways to help someone who is being abused. See calendar for times. For more information call (672-6840) or (672-6486). — Peg Keskinen

On Strong Drink

We hardly ever have heard any one of our

whenever a question was asked, several hands shot up.

It was obvious that Gisela loves to teach. She admits as much. She truly lights the top of the mountain. Cornwall is indeed fortunate to have such talented teachers. — Lydia Wolf

LAND OF GOOD WILL?

I have found it interesting that four times in 11 months the Cornwall Star was quoted in the Chronicle. The items chosen have not made me proud of Cornwall, 1880. I wonder what people will think of Cornwall one hundred years from now in reading old copies of the Chronicle. Are they going to cry "Shame, shame!" at the ugly words concerning the Blumenthals' gift to the town?

I want to add my thanks to that truly good couple who lived here so many years, quietly giving their share.

Over the past year the Chronicle has faithfully recorded our history. I hope that Cornwall will appear to future readers as a land of good will. — Harriet L. Clark

LESS IS MORE

A recent article in the Hartford Courant reported that Cornwall is the only town in Connecticut without cable TV. It also has the school that scored highest on the state mastery tests. Hmm. — Dave Cadwell

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Here are heartfelt thanks to whomever it was that recently restored the signpost in Cornwall Center at the corner of Town Street and the Goshen-Sharon Turnpike, recording events in our town's earliest years.

— Michael Gannett

THANKS

I want to thank all those involved in making the Cornwall Chronicle the excellent paper that it is. It strengthens the community by keeping neighbors informed about events that concern them. It also brings information and cheer to those of us who are not in Cornwall year round. And it gives all of us the opportunity to express our views.

Best wishes for 1992!

— Lorraine Nye Eliot

citizens praise this village to a stranger without speaking of its moral purity, and this pride is just, when we consider that not a drop of liquor is regularly sold within four miles of us. A drunken brawl, such as make night hideous in many of our neighboring villages, is something with which the people of Cornwall Plain are happily unfamiliar.

—The Cornwall Star, October 1880



New Town Map

To help introduce the E 911 system three years ago, the town passed an ordinance giving official names, many of them new, to the 78 public and 16 private roads, and assigning numbers to all the buildings.

Now B&B Maps of Cornwall has published an 11" x 17" map showing all presently active public and private roads in Cornwall, all the names established by the ordinance, and all other changes and additions made by the town's assessor and selectmen. It also has a key to the street numbering system. The map will be for sale at local stores, and complimentary copies will be given to Cornwall's voluntary emergency service groups.

— Bob Beers

Wool Gathering

The Fiber Arts Guild will have a Yarn Swap & Sale on Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Pikers' pottery store in West Cornwall. For those who think this might entail munching bran and exchanging tall stories, a word of explanation.

The Fiber Arts Guild was started by Carey McDonald and Diane Ingersoll last November to provide an opportunity for knitters and weavers who work in different kinds of fibers (wood and cotton being the most common) to get together and exchange materials and patterns, share ideas and expertise, or just sit and chat and knit.

Other plans include providing local people who produce wool (like Joan Edler, who raises Angora rabbits) with a market for their product, helping people buy yarn in bulk, and finding a space where weavers could work their looms and where all could exhibit and sell their goods.

For more information call Carey at 672-1777.

— George Kittle



\$

With this issue we complete our first year of publication. While the *Chronicle* will continue coming to you FREE, if you've enjoyed reading it over the past year, maybe this would be a good time to help us get started on Volume 2!

Out-of-town subscriptions: \$10
Donations of less, or more, welcome!

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THE CORNWALL CHRONICLE
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Teachers' Salaries

The negotiating committee for Region 1 schools decided at their Dec. 16 meeting on a 3.2% overall increase in teachers' salaries for 1992-1993. Because of differences in increment on the pay scale the actual increases will vary from town to town. Cornwall's will be 3.05%.

The increase must be ratified by each of the six towns in Region 1 plus the High School, as well as by the teachers' union. Then, unless it is repealed by a town meeting within 30 days, it will take effect.

— Lynn Cheney

AAC Plans & Aims

The recently-formed Agricultural Advisory Committee is focusing on two areas.

We are working with the zoning board in trying to get some definitions and "right to farm" guidelines incorporated into the regulations so that disagreements may be avoided or at least settled more easily.

We are sponsoring a series of five activity periods for interested upper-grade students at Cornwall Consolidated. In the first, Cilla Mauro gave an historical overview of agriculture in Cornwall. The second dealt with career opportunities in agriculture. We hope the series will lead to more direct involvement with Cornwall farms in the spring and summer.

Other areas the committee hopes to address are taxes, farm/neighbor relations, local marketing, labor and open space.

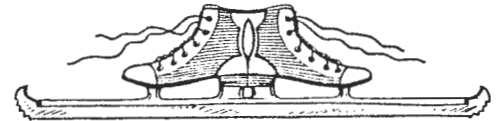
We'd appreciate hearing from people who have other concerns or would like to help with these. Our next meeting is Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Firehouse. — Chris Hopkins

Events & Announcements

Amahl: Back by popular demand, Cornwall's own production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. With the original cast: Davina Piker as Amahl, Judy George as his mother, Doug Carlson & John Leich as Wise Men, Beth Samuels as a Wise Woman, John Miller as the Page, plus more shepherds than last year. Sets by Tim Prentice, costumes by Ellen Moon. Directed by Anne Chamberlain. Dec. 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. at First Church. Tickets \$5 (Benefit: OWL's Kitchen and Torrington Soup Kitchen).



Warm Thy Neighbor: Because of drastic cuts in state aid many people in our area will have trouble paying their fuel bills this winter. You can help them stay warm by sending a contribution to the Northwest Corner Fuel Bank, Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069.



Land Use: The Agricultural Advisory Committee has invited Jim Gibbons of the UConn Extension Service to talk on land use and zoning regulations as they pertain to agriculture on Jan. 23 at 2 p.m. at the firehouse. Public invited.



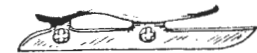
Caucuses: Both Republicans and Democrats will hold caucuses on Jan. 14 for the purpose of electing members of their town committees. Reps meet at 8 p.m. at the Town Hall, Dems at 7:30 at the Firehouse. Unaffiliated voters may participate in either caucus by enrolling in one of the parties by Jan. 14.



Art Show: Art dealers Carol and Jim Goodfriend will present an exhibition of original prints and drawings from the 15th through the 20th centuries at the Anna Howard Gallery in Washington Depot. The show opens Jan. 4 with a reception from 2 to 5 p.m., and runs through Jan. 26.



Winter Rules: Remember to park your cars at least six feet away from town roads, so the crew can plow. In effect through March.



"Random Order": A permanent outdoor stainless steel sculpture by David Colbert has been installed at Northwestern Community College in Winsted. It was commissioned by the State of Connecticut through the Connecticut Commission on the Arts.



Night Skiing: On December 20 Mohawk Mountain kicked off its new night skiing operation with a well-attended public reception. Mohawk will now be open until 10 p.m. every night except Sunday.

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