

Search for Space Goes On

The Town Office and the Library are staying right where they are. The December 2 referendum voted down options 1) to renovate the current town office space, and 2) to move the offices to the former Marvelwood Dining Hall.

The first option failed 431 to 174. The second was a squeaker with 326 no votes overcoming 319 yes votes.

A total of 684 Cornwall residents voted, 582 of them registered to vote in any election and 102 participating because they own property. Seventy-nine people voted by absentee ballot. The total number of voters exceeded the tally of 621 who voted in the November municipal election.

It's hard to figure out the exact distribution of opinion because some people voted on only one question and others voted no on both. Some who lamented the dining hall's seven-vote loss were quick to say that winning by seven votes would have been almost as bad, since the choice would have been too close for comfort.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, speaking at selectmen's meetings and to his constituents in the weeks that followed the vote, said that resolution of the space problem is needed for both the town and the Library. About \$75,000 has been spent on architects and engineers since the search for space began with the also-defeated Rumsey option in

1990. He said that talks with the Library trustees will continue and other plans will be reviewed as the search goes on. —*Lisa Lansing*

Local Hero

On December 2, Edward Delgado of Johnson Road was driving on Route 7 in Danbury when he saw that a car had spun off the road into a pond. Stopping, he watched as it sank into the icy water. "Ordinarily I would have waited for the emergency squad," he said, "but it was going under." He swam out to the car and tried to get the door open but it was jammed, so he got up on the trunk and with the help of another man, unidentified, he kicked in the rear window. Then they managed to pull out the unconscious body of Francis Scott of Danbury and get him to shore.

Both Delgado and Scott were treated for exposure and minor injuries at Danbury Hospital and then released. Police speculate that Scott fell asleep while driving.

—*Hendon Chubb*

Remembering Yutzler's

The news of the rebirth of Yutzler's was, well, restorative. After a long and continuous presence in West Cornwall, Yutzler's has been a hollow, vacant shell since it closed last winter, the last survivor of the village's old businesses.

My mother, Doris Cross, talks about an earlier West Cornwall: the shear shop and the raceway, the dam above the covered bridge which made skating possible, the livery stable, now Cadwell's, the mill below the post office, and the old three-story hotel between Yutzler's and the post office, which burned down and showered the whole village with embers.

But for me the memory is largely of Bate's Meat Market, which went out with the flood of '55 and moved to the building now housing the video store; Community Service, which died with the railroad and became D&S hardware before eventually evolving into the pottery store; Cochrane's, which sold a variety of goods, like gas and shoes and shirts, became Bierce's, and is now a restaurant; and Yutzler's.

Yutzler's was smaller than Cochrane's, and didn't have for me, as a skinny, tow-headed kid, the magnetism of the Community Service and railroad yard, where it was exciting to load grain and citrus pulp directly from a boxcar onto the farm pick-up truck, and watch coal and lumber trucks rumble around the storage yard. But Yutzler's was the survivor, a living symbol, a yesterday and today you could grab with both hands. When you grew up and left home, it was still there when you came back.

Yutzler's sold Cherry Hill Farm raw milk
(continued on page 2)

JANUARY 1996

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Note: Deadline for February Events & Announcements and Calendar listings is January 15.</i></p> 	<p>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY</p> <p>No SKATING</p>	<p>2 Art show 1/2-3/9 Library Robert Andrew Parker</p> <p>Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall</p> <p>Ag. Adv. Comm. 7:30 P.M. Firehouse</p> <p>Inland Wetlands 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*</p>	<p>3 W. Cornwall Merchants Assoc. 10 A.M. Cadwell's</p> <p>Ken Keskinen's sculptures at Nat'l Iron Bank Cornwall Bridge thru 1/31</p>	<p>4 Stretch Class 5:30 P.M. Town Hall</p>	<p>5 Judy Gafney Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8 Tai Chi Chuan Class 6:45-8:15 P.M. CCS Gym</p> <p>P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall</p> 	<p>9 Repub. Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS</p> <p>Dem. Caucus 7:30 P.M. Town Hall (p.4)</p> <p>Park & Rec 7:30 P.M. Town Office</p> <p>Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library</p>	<p>10 PTA 7 P.M. CCS Library</p>	<p>11 Stretch Class 5:30 P.M. Town Hall</p>	<p>12 Judy Gafney Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Poetry Reading 8 P.M. Cadwell's</p>	<p>15 Tai Chi Chuan Class 6:45-8:15 P.M. CCS Gym</p> 	<p>16 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall</p> 	<p>17 HVRHS Board of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS</p>	<p>18 Bd. of Education 5 P.M. CCS Library</p> <p>Stretch Class 5:30 P.M. Town Hall</p> <p>Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library</p>	<p>19 Judy Gafney Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22 Tai Chi Chuan Class 6:45-8:15 P.M. CCS Gym</p> <p>ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Stretch Class 5:30 P.M. Town Hall</p>	<p>26 Judy Gafney Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library</p> <p>Travelogue by Russell Edes on Scandinavia 7:30 P.M. CCS Library (p.4)</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29 Tai Chi Chuan Class 6:45-8:15 P.M. CCS Gym</p> <p>Conservation Commission 7:30 P.M. Town Office</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>			

*Check time and place at Town Office

(continued from page 1)

and cream, so the Harts were in and out of the store where we regularly "traded." Our large family—we were two girls and six boys—was well known in town, and I remember someone once remarking to my father, in the store, how well behaved we were. Fred Yutzler, with his familiar irony, remarked, "They can't fool me." Carl fascinated us, because he had the mannerisms and voice of the Santa Claus who showed up for Sunday school Christmas parties at the West Cornwall chapel.

We would peek in the little back office to see if Hulda O'Donnell was there "doing the books." She was. We stocked the cooler with fresh milk, pulling the older milk forward and putting the fresh milk behind. Frequently we would stop for treats—ice cream or orange push-ups. Five cents. Carl would lift the round, black, hard-rubber lid, take the ice cream scoop from the water-filled bowl it sat in, dig deep into the dark, cold recesses and come up with a small round scoop of ice cream which he placed on the cone. Arlington's scoops were not as neat, but lasted longer. It was always very special. And Fred usually managed to sneak us a cookie or a piece of candy before we got out the door.

The memories from the store are many: Blanche Yutzler behind the counter, the antique adding machine, the coffee grinder and aroma, the rumor exchange, familiar faces, the shaky floor, the upstairs you never got to see, the back room where carcasses occasionally hung from an overhead track, the old green delivery truck with open sides, and the big delivery trucks which took up most of the parking lot and reminded me of the world beyond Cornwall.

Perhaps Yutzler's will again be the stuff of memories.

—Philip Hart

And Now the Good News!

Yutzler's was indeed the stuff of memories: it was where you met your friends, picked up your cheddar and newspaper, got a few groceries, and shot the breeze with Dutch and Fred and Carl. Your kids would whip over to the far corner beyond the counter, curl up on the floor, and immerse themselves in the comics. You could run over to Bate's for your meat or get the mail and they'd never budge.

If it was a free comics library for the kids, it was also an informal lending society for the grown-ups, carrying people from month to month during hard times. Marc and Bee Simont remember being embarrassed about owing money, saying to each other, "I went last time, you go this time." When they apologized to Dutch for an overdue bill, he said, "If I'm not worried about it, why should you be?"

But if West Cornwall lost a bit of its soul when Yutzler's shut down, it's regaining it in a new form. Russ and Sharon Sawicki will move over from Cadwell's and reopen the store on or around March 1.

According to Russ, it will be Yutzler's with a whole new look: new entrance, new coolers, more light, maybe even vaulted ceilings. They'll have a full line of groceries, and also offer organic beef, free-range chickens and eggs, some of Russ's prepared dishes that you've enjoyed at Cadwell's, fresh pasta, a variety of pastries and cakes, and a cup of cappuccino or espresso (hopefully even a comics corner).

The Sawickis are setting up a partnership with Dan Cain, the primary backer, but will ultimately own the business. Jim Terrall is doing the renovation, with a lot of help from the Sawickis' friends. And Russ and Sharon, who are grateful for the support the town has given them, are keeping the name Yutzler's. As they say, it has a good history.

—Phyllis Nauts

Southwest Lakeshore Conserved

A 1,600-foot stretch of the southwest shore of Cream Hill Lake next to Hammond Beach has been placed under a permanent conservation restriction agreement with the Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc. According to Trust president Ralph Gold, the action means that from water's edge to the ridge line, 22.7 acres will stay almost as they are now for generations to come.

The parcel in trust, owned by Edward H. (Ted) Dodd III and his wife Elena, includes land once owned by his mother, Roxanna Hammond, which was purchased in 1986 to forestall expected development along the shoreline.

Under the agreement with the Conservation Trust, Dodd and any future owners may cut trees only 100 or more feet back from the water's edge, and following a professionally prepared forestry plan approved by the Trust. Limited use of the land is allowed; for example, the two existing cabins may be occupied in the warm months but may not be served by any utilities. No residential or commercial development is allowed.

The Dodds have donated over \$5,000 to assist the Trust in carrying out its agreement obligations.

Ralph Gold said that the Conservation Trust has adopted a policy of providing free land planning services to property owners interested in protecting their land and exploring the tax benefits conservation can offer.

—Lisa Lansing

Controversy at Four Corners

On November 21 the Planning and Zoning Commission wrote the owners and operators of the Berkshire Country Store at the Four Corners crossroads asserting that the store was in violation of its permit. While describing the store as "a useful and appreciated part of town life," P&Z asked the store to remove tables that had been installed inside and outside the store, to paint parking lines, and to stop renting parking space to CL&P and Laurel Cable, all of which the commis-

sion said violated the store's nonconforming use permit.

In a handwritten reply, Walter and JoAnn Dethier, the store's operators and soon-to-be owners, said that while they felt parking lines would take away from the country-store effect that they were trying to achieve, they were willing to paint them in although preferably not in white. They also said that they were no longer renting parking space.

Responding to the commission's position that tables must go, since the permit "specifically prohibits fixtures that would promote anything like a restaurant or lunch counter use," the Dethiers asserted that they respect P&Z's desire not to have a restaurant and do not provide menus, wait on people sitting at the tables, take orders, or sell any food or beverage that is not fully wrapped. They argued that the tables are there "to allow people to sit and feel at home with other people who are in the store" and that what they are doing is "really no different than any country store that has customers congregating on rocking chairs on the front porch."

Although at its December 11 meeting P&Z was unable to conclude whether the outside tables were in violation of the permit, P&Z Chair William Lyon says that the indoor tables must definitely go. Walter Dethier says that while P&Z's position has been reported in the press he will have to see its official response before he can comment further.

Also at the December 11 meeting, P&Z dealt with routine applications and elected William Lyon chairman and Doc Simont vice-chairman. Ken Keskinen remains as secretary.

—Hendon Chubb

Welcome

Carl Robert Fossati to Irene and Paul Fossati

Good-bye to a Friend

M. Mildred Smith

Land Transfers

Barbara J. Stone to S. Waite Rawls III, 5 acres of land on Poughkeepsie Road for \$75,000.

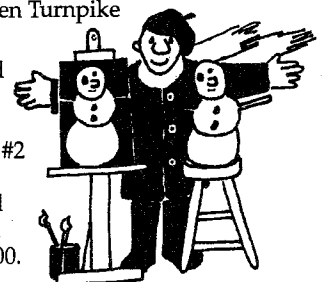
Sarah Paul to Leland L. and Frances C. Taliaferro, a house and 3.39 acres on Town Street for \$202,000.

Phillippe Berard to the Dime Savings Bank of New York, a house and 5.7 acres on Great Hill Road for \$120,000.

Cornwall Limited Liability Co. to Thomas J. Hubbard, Lot #1 (Miller Dormitory) and 2.27 acres of land on School Street for \$275,000.

Philip S. Bishop to Cornwall Enterprises, Ltd., a building and land (Yutzler's Store) on Sharon-Goshen Turnpike for \$150,000.

Cornwall Limited Liability Co. to John F. and Betty B. Hudson, Lot #2 (Trustees Dormitory) and land on School Street for \$200,000.



Have Mice, Will Travel

At international scientific conferences Cornwall mouse breeder Phyllis Wojan is often the only person there who isn't a Ph.D. or a doctoral student.

When Phyllis's daughter Lisa was nine and already determined to become a veterinarian, Phyllis got her some mice from the laboratory at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital. Over the years they studied these mice and many generations of their descendants. They watched as daddy mice taught their pups how to use the exercise wheel. They researched how mouse colors are transmitted genetically. They found that by watching their mice's behavior they could predict storms more accurately than the local radio station.

Then Lisa went away to veterinary school, leaving Phyllis with dozens of cages of mice. You or I might have decided that now was the time to find them another home, but Phyllis was hooked. Blessed with a tolerant husband, Cliff, she kept the mice and continued to study them. She now has some 450 mice, housed in 50 cages in a room of their own in her house on Warren Hill Road.

Phyllis is the kind of amateur scientist who flourished in the nineteenth century. Most mouse geneticists nowadays use techniques like electrophoresis to study the makeup of DNA. Phyllis doesn't have a laboratory. She learns by studying the mice themselves. When she notices something that the books don't explain, she tries to figure out what might be happening. Often she will do some preliminary experimenting and then turn her results over to other scientists for more work.

A number of years ago, she and Lisa noticed that female mice in the same cage with a mouse giving birth would soon start producing milk themselves and suckle the babies. A scientist friend told Phyllis this was well known and seemed to be caused by the babies' putting pressure on the adults' stomachs. As a mother herself, she doubted that having a baby mouse walk on an adult mouse's stomach would make it start producing milk. She was sure it had to be more hormonal than that. She and Lisa had noticed that for a couple of hours after a mouse gave birth there was a wonderful honeysuckle smell in the cage. Could this have something to do with it? They did experiments and found that if a female mouse, even one that had never been pregnant, was exposed to the smell, she would start producing milk by the next day. Phyllis told her friend, who performed some more experiments to confirm what she had found and published the results in *Science*, America's most prestigious science journal. Currently Phyllis is studying how mouse colors are related to other characteristics. Research labs want mice whose babies live to adulthood. The males of her champagne-colored mice are particularly gentle. They don't eat baby mice and they



Letters to the Chronicle

WANTED: BUDGET INPUT

The new year brings on the town budget season. Now is the time to get involved. The individual boards and commissions, including the school and Region One boards, make up their budget requests in January. In February and March, these are received by the Board of Finance and modified.

The most effective way to influence the overall budget is to get involved from the beginning. Input and participation from citizens has been increasing over the past several years. Let's make this year the best yet.

—Ralph C. Gold, Chairman, Board of Finance

THANKS TO THE UNDETERRED

On Saturday, December 9, Cornwall awakened to a flurry of snow that would not end until the roads were snow-laden. The silence was punctuated by the familiar sound of the snow plows and the ringing of the phone. Should we proceed with the third annual wine tasting? Would anyone come? We shoveled the paths, arranged the candles, and lit the fire. And promptly at 5 P.M. the stalwart supporters of Cornwall Extras for Kids started arriving to imbibe the fine wines and beers provided by the Cornwall Package Store and taste the glorious food donated by the Brookside Bistro, the West Cornwall Grill, the Ambrosia Cottage Tea Shop, Cadwell's, and a variety of fine local chefs. Music was provided by Ram Miles (bass) and Ted Perry (piano). Thanks to one and all for being undeterred by the storm, and for your generosity to Extras.

—Robin Freyberg

THINK AHEAD

It looks like we're going to have a real winter this year. Several storm survival suggestions:

- 1) Plan ahead. Have alternative heat sources ready, as well as extra food and water.
- 2) Please park off the roads. The town has a parking ban in force during bad weather as roads have

help with the parenting, which means that more pups survive. Brainstorming, she wondered if her line of champagne mice were less aggressive because they had less adrenaline. Again, a scientist friend tested them for her and found it was true.

Phyllis has developed four "registered" strains of mouse. One of these is being used in leukemia research at the Fox Chase cancer labs. Another has contributed to the gene pool of mice being studied at Yale.

Recently Phyllis has been teaching a course in genetics for the Taconic Learning Center. To illustrate her points, she brings along some of her mice in traveling cages. The little mice look very cute as they crawl all over each other, but her students know that they are serious business. Their teacher has had an impact in a field that is usually reserved for "real" scientists. —Hendon Chubb

Library Building or Town Hall?

Which is it? Not only newcomers are confused: The imposing stone structure in Cornwall Plains that the *Chronicle* calendar refers



been clogged in past winters by abandoned cars.

3) Let a neighbor or my office (672-4959) know if you need special assistance during bad weather.

—Gordon Ridgway

ENCOURAGEMENT AND CHEER

To all those kind people who sent me cards and letters of encouragement and cheer, thank you all.

—Doris Cross

WHAT BIG TEETH YOU HAVE!

On Sunday, December 3, at 6:20 P.M., as we were en route to the Hopkins Inn, a huge, silvery animal dashed across the road only a few feet in front of the glare of our headlights. "A wolf!" we all three cried with one voice: Naneen Bunnell, Colonel Dick Simons, driver, and the writer. And none of us had had a drink. The sighting: about one mile beyond the crest of Warren Hill.

The senior waitress at the inn presently told us that two days previously, on Friday, friends told her that they had just sighted two wolves in the Mt. Tom area southwest of the inn. On Monday, December 4, Bryan Paddock of West Cornwall told me of a big wolf strung up by its neck outside the old bar on Route 55 just before it joins Route 22.

Four wolves in four days! Grandmothers beware!

—Larry Pool

to as the Town Hall bears a sign reading "Cornwall Library Building." And if push actually comes to shove in the current space crunch, who has legal rights to the building, the Town of Cornwall or the Cornwall Library Association?

To answer these questions, a little history: In 1908 the building was designed, erected, and given to the community by John E. Calhoun, in memory of his father and brother. Calhoun established two charitable trusts for what he named the Cornwall Library Building, one for the benefit of the Cornwall Library Association, which was to have the south wing, and the other for the benefit of the town, which was to use the rest of the building. Trustees of the two trusts were directed to maintain, light, and heat the building without charge to either library or town.

This arrangement apparently worked well until the Great Depression, when trust income declined. John E. Calhoun must have provided funds directly for a period of time, for it came as a shock when he died in 1940

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and left nothing in his will toward perpetual maintenance of the building. (In 1940, too, the building trustees leased the southeast portion of the land to the town for a new office building, which was built in 1942.)

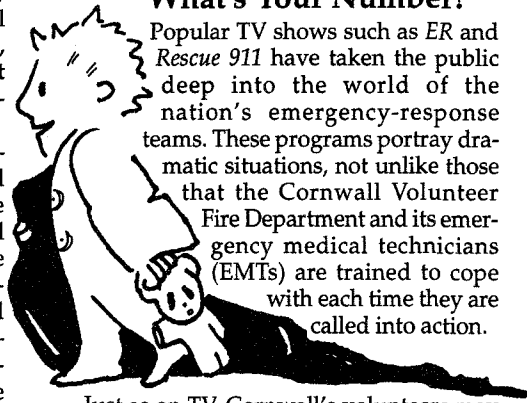
For some years both the town and the Library Association maintained and heated their portions of the building. This became more and more difficult, and in 1958 the legal pieces of the problem were rearranged, to the apparent benefit of both the town and library. Ownership of the building passed from the successor trustees to the town—subject, however, to the town's legal obligation to maintain, heat, and light the entire building, including the south wing and some upstairs space for continued use by the Cornwall Library Association.

There things stand today. The questions now arise: Could the town give up its interest in the building to allow for library expansion? Could the Cornwall Library Association's claim to the south wing be exchanged for some other town provision of library space?

Such solutions may well be possible. Any projected legal arrangement would probably proceed from State Statute 47-2: "All estates granted...for public and charitable use shall forever remain to the uses to which they were granted, according to the true intent and meaning of the grantor, and to no other use whatever." Thus John E. Calhoun's "intent" and "meaning" would seem to take precedence over the specific allocations of "Library Building" space in his original bequest. —Bob Potter

What's Your Number?

Popular TV shows such as *ER* and *Rescue 911* have taken the public deep into the world of the nation's emergency-response teams. These programs portray dramatic situations, not unlike those that the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department and its emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are trained to cope with each time they are called into action.



Just as on TV, Cornwall's volunteers may be dispatched to deal with situations in which minutes could mean the difference between life and death. Unfortunately, a problem they encounter all too often—particularly at night—is locating the people who've called 911 for help. Just last month, EMTs responding to a medical emergency during the early morning hours were delayed because they couldn't find the house number.

When Litchfield County adopted the 911 emergency-response system in the late 1980s, residents were asked to prominently display the street number of their home or business so they could be located quickly in an emergency. Chances are the modest financial penalty for homeowners who disregard this regulation is not enough to motivate everyone. But self interest should surely convince residents to make sure that their house numbers are clearly visible to emergency crews.

The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department hopes homeowners will make sure their house numbers are at least three inches high, and readily visible from the road. If you have questions about compliance or know of neighbors who might need help posting their house numbers, contact the selectmen's office at 672-4959. —Bill Winters, CVFD

Events & Announcements

Appealing Assessments: The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet March 6, 7, 8, and 9 to hear appeals on assessments of real property, personal property, and motor vehicles. A new statute requires people who want to appeal their assessment to file a request form with the board by February 20. If you plan to appeal, you can pick up the form and request a preferred hearing date at the Town Clerk's office starting February 1.

CCS Bulletin: Congratulations to the CCS girls' soccer team for winning the elementary school championship of Region One! Coach Jo Loi led the team to its victories. Students are very active in sports this month. Ski programs are beginning, and students can't wait

to get out on the slopes. Upper-grade students are working hard on their basketball.

The D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program begins January 16 for fifth graders, who will be involved in discussions and activities aimed at helping them to learn about substance abuse.

Scandinavia Travelogue: A talk by Russell Edes, focusing on Finland, will also include a re-port on Estonia. CCS Library, January 26, 7:30 P.M.

Dems to Caucus: A Democratic Party caucus will be held on January 9 at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Hall to elect members to the Town Committee. A slate of nominees will be presented, and nominations from the floor will be welcome.

A special guest at the meeting will be William R. Dyson, state representative from the 94th district and chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Dyson will talk about issues pending in the legislature that are of particular interest to Cornwall and other small towns.

Taconic Learning Center: Registration begins this month for the spring semester, during which three Cornwallians will be offering classes. On Mondays at 11 A.M., starting on January 22, John Zinsser will conduct a class on the opera at Noble Horizons. Also starting on January 22, John Leich will continue his conversational Russian class at the Salisbury Congregational Church on Mondays at 3 P.M. On Wednesdays, February 7 to March 27, Leich will hold an updated Great Decisions class, and on April 3 to May 1 a class on the United Nations Today. Both will be at 3 P.M. at the Salisbury Public Library. Wednesdays at 7 P.M. Ken Keskinen will continue his Writers' Seminar (call him for location, 672-6486); and, beginning March 21, he will coordinate a class in Mind, Body, Spirit, and Healing: Fad, Fantasy or Fact? at the Salisbury Library. For the full program and registration forms, call 435-2922.



To Your Health—and Ours

Remember, all contributions to the *Chronicle* are tax deductible and essential to our health. So if you never got around to sending a check in '95, this would be a good time to join the angels who kept us going during the year. And here's a toast to your good health in 1996.

The '96 *Chronicle* Calendars will head for the recycling bin late this month. You could rescue one by sending us \$11.50, and you'll perk up your year as well.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Send _____ copies of the 1996 Calendar: \$11.50 each.

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

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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