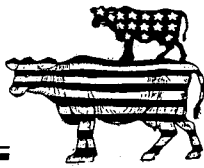




CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 3: NUMBER 6 JULY 1993



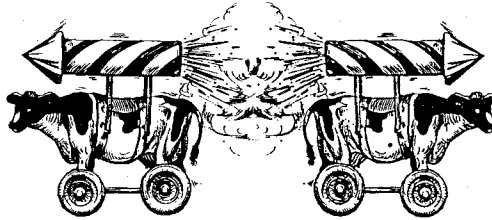
Cornwall Gets Shuttle Farming

The gleaming silver milk truck will no longer be barreling up Cream Hill to make its daily collection from the Cream Hill Farm. For the first time since the 1750s, no milk will now be marketed from the dairy, according to Charles Gold, who, with his brother Ralph, owns the farm.

This by no means implies that the farm is going out of business, the Golds emphasize. Rather, it has merged with the Davies Hollow Farm in Washington, Connecticut, which is run by John and Maria Nye. In a novel arrangement, the two farms will work together, with the milking cows all concentrated in Washington, and the heifers and dry cows housed at the Cream Hill Farm. The animals will be shuttled back and forth between their two homes — the dry cows coming to Cornwall to have their calves, bull calves going directly to market from Cornwall, cows and heifer calves then taxied back to Washington. Wheb the calves are off a milk diet, they will be trucked back to Cornwall to grow up and have their own calves. According to John Nye, there will be about 60 dry cows and 250 young stock at the Cream Hill Farm at any one time.

The Nyes will also use the fields and

bunker silos at the Gold farm to grow and store feed. They have now planted about 80 acres on Cream Hill to corn, and will cut grass on approximately another 60 acres. They practice "no-till farming," in which the fields are not ploughed or harrowed, but simply fertilized with manure, spread with a "very low rate of herbicides," John Nye says, and then seeded. Nye explains that this method — "ugly farming," he calls it — helps prevent erosion.



Craig Simons, who has operated the Cream Hill Farm for the last 12 years, is "phasing out of that job," he says, although he will continue to live in Cornwall. Amy Jasmine, an employee of the Nyes, who graduated from Northwestern Connecticut Community College this spring, will live in a house owned by the Golds on Scoville Road and work full-time at the Cornwall farm, looking after the resident

cows, calves and heifers. Although it doesn't come from Cornwall, there is still milk going to market with a Cream Hill Farm label, from the Washington contingent of Gold cows ("they have blue tags in their ears," Nye says). There are now about 300 milkers altogether at the Nye farm, and they are milked three times a day, around the clock. The Nyes raise crops on about 1000 acres of land, mostly rented, in the towns of Warren, Washington, Roxbury, New Milford, Bethlehem, Litchfield, and Bantam, where they now have 800 acres planted to corn and the rest in grass or alfalfa. They employ 14 people, full- or part-time.

The Cream Hill Farm has been in the Gold family since 1790, when Captain Hezekiah Gold (who had recently married one of the daughters of the Wadsworth family, the owners of the farm) bought land from a brother-in-law. In 1813 he inherited more land on Cream Hill when his father-in-law died. The farm, which has varied in size over the years, was probably at its largest when it was owned by Theodore S. Gold, a grandson of Captain Hezekiah, who, in the mid- to late nineteenth century, farmed 1500 acres, covering most of Cream Hill and stretching all

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JULY 1993

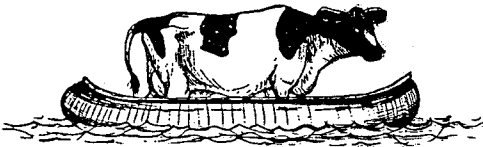
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>The Glorious Fourth at the Town Green</i> July 3 (rain date July 4) Extras for Kids Road Race, 10:30 am Kids' Race, 11:30 Starting at noon: picnic, Grumbling Gryphons parade (wear a crazy hat!), VFW burgers, hot dogs, Republican bake sale, Child Center ice cream.			☺ ☾ ☼ ☽ FM LQ NM FQ 3 11 19 26	1 Every Thursday: Sr. Citizen lunch & shopping trip	2 Biking begins at Mohawk (p.4)	3 <i>Glorious Fourth Picnic (see left)</i> Book Sale 9-11am Cornwall Library Story Hour 10:30 am every Sat. Corn. Lib. Corn. Hist. Soc. items noon to 4 (p.4)
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Glorious Fourth rain date	5 Park & Rec. 7:30pm Town Office Agric. Adv. Comm. 7:30pm CCS Lib. Inland Wetlands 8pm Town Hall ♣♣ Bd. of Selectmen 8 pm*	Every Tuesday: 6 Quilter's Guild UCC† 7-9pm (p.4)	7 W. Cornwall Merchants Freshfield 3pm Extras for Kids theater trip 5pm CCS	8 Board of Ed. 4pm CCS Lib. Cornwall Housing Corp. 7:30pm UCC†	9	10 Tornado Party Blakeys' 3pm (p.4) Poetry Reading 8pm Cadwell's
11 Corn. Hist. Soc. items 1-4pm (p.4)	12 Cornwall Lib. Art Show: Elizabeth Smith Hass, paintings P&Z 8pm Town Hall ♣♣ Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall	13	14 Deadline for Chronicle calendar notices and announcements	15	16	17
18 Corn. Hist. Soc. items 1-4pm (p.4)	19 ♣♣ Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall	20	21	22	23	24 Historic District Forum 4 pm Town Hall (p.4) Family Potluck UCC† 6-8pm
25 Corn. Hist. Soc. items 1-4pm (p.4)	26 Road oiling this week (p.4)	27 Democratic Caucus 8pm Lutheran Church (p.2) Republican Caucus 8pm Town Hall (p.2)	28	29	30	31 UCC Rummage Sale: outside 9, inside 10 until 2pm (p.4)

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

(continued from page 1)

the way east to Town Street. There have always been cows on the farm, Charlie reports, but the principal crops have varied with the demands of the market and the interests of the owners. Some of the Gold ancestors emphasized apples and other fruit, while at other times sheep produced the farm's principal income. Though it's hard to believe now, there was even a period when wheat was grown in Cornwall as a cash crop. "We feel," Charlie concludes, "that the new arrangement is a continuation of the need to be flexible in running the farm."

— Barbara Klaw



Republicans Tap Augustyn

At its June 16 meeting the Republican Town Committee unanimously endorsed Raymond Augustyn of Bolton Hill Road for nomination as First Selectman by the Republican caucus to be held in the Town Hall at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27. Two names, incumbent Philip Bishop and Gerry Kenniston, will be presented to the caucus for the one available Board of Education seat. The Committee's recommendations for the other positions on the ballot will also be presented to the caucus at that time.

— John Forster

Ridgway Hat in Ring Again

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway will seek nomination to run for a second term when Cornwall Democrats hold their party caucus on July 27 (8:00 p.m., St. Peter's Lutheran Church). Dave Williamson will not seek a second term as selectman.

At its June meeting the Democratic Town Committee, while expressing its delight that Ridgway wants to run again — and its unhappiness that Williamson does not — decided not to offer a slate to the caucus. Nominating committee chairman Nick Bruehl reported the following potential candidates: Lori Welles or Earl Brecher for selectman; Charles Osborne for the Board of Finance seat being vacated by Ed Ferman; Robin Freyberg for the Board of Education seat being vacated by Lynn Cheney; Ken Keskinen for another term on Planning & Zoning; and Evie Piker for another term as Board of Finance alternate. Pat Bramley is stepping down as Town Treasurer, and the Democratic Committee is seeking candidates for Treasurer, Town Clerk, and Park & Rec.

— John Miller

The Fold-Boat Train

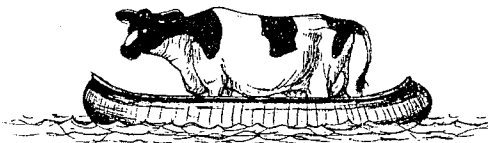
With all the talk of local railroad revival, here's a bit of ancient lore. In May, 1937, the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Rail-

road ran two Sunday excursion trains from Grand Central to Falls Village. Passengers rented folding boats for a day and were picked up for the return trip as the train reversed its way down the river bank.

A recently discovered clipping tells more: "On the plashy banks of the Housatonic River in northern Connecticut one morning last week, two fishermen looked up with scowls as a hiker with a rucksack and a brown duffle-shaped bag like an oversized golf bag broke through the woods. [He] took a red rubbery roll of cloth and a heap of small sticks from his duffle, put the sticks together in a simple frame, shoved it into the red material . . . and in ten minutes had a trim, 17-foot red boat shaped like an Eskimo kayak. Two more sticks merged into a double-ended paddle. The hiker . . . stepped aboard and vanished in a spate of spray."

Headlines of another clipping have this to say: "FOLD-BOATMEN' CAPSIZE BUT NO ONE IS DROWNED. 75 KAYAKS SHOOT RAPIDS. 9 TIP OVER, 6 HIT ROCKS, 2 ABANDONED AND 1 IS LOST." This perilous sport cost \$2.25 for train fare and \$7.00 for renting a fold-boat.

— Larry Pool



P & Z Deals with Commerce

The regular June P&Z meeting focused on commercial concerns. An application by the Cornwall Inn for retail/office space in the motel's lower level received a public hearing. After determining sign size and location, the commission granted the special permit.

Plans for the gas station/convenience store (Berkshire Country Store) at the blinking light on Route 4 were presented by owners Jeffrey and Eileen Yates, attorney Peter Ebersol, and developers Joanne and Walter Dethier. Changes in the approved project plan included: a more safely visible gas-price post, rather than pump-top prices; barn-red siding for the former grease pit portion of the building; and a reconstructed walkway along the back of the building.

A re-application from Rocky River Associates to mine gravel was denied without prejudice because of lack of information about the firm's viability and intentions.

— Ginny Potter

Child Center Stays Busy

The summer session of the Cornwall Child Center, held in the Consolidated School art room, will continue Tuesdays through Fridays 8:30-1:00 until August 6.

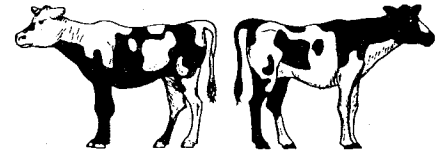
Registration for the new school year in the fall will be on August 3. For more

information phone director Pam Brehm (672-6699) or visit during open hours.

Work has started at the site of the Center's new home. Cost estimates indicate that more money needs to be raised, and offers of time, material, and services will be most gratefully accepted. Call Cheryl Evans (672-0094) with suggestions.

Look for sales of ice cream on July 3 and a new edition of note cards.

— Ginny Potter



Welcome

Lucien Leopold Swift Polshek
to Nina Hofer and Peter Polshek

Congratulations

Brian L. Porzak to Amy Jo Neill
Michael Allen Fry to Jennifer Jean Brokaw

Land Transfers

David L. Bain, trustee, to Edward Kirik, Barbara Winsor, and Patricia Kirik, a house and land on Warren Hill Road subsequently transferred to Kirwin Realty.

Marvelwood School to James and Elizabeth Tobin Terrall, six acres on Furnace Brook Road.

Elizabeth Lorch Palmer to the U.S.A., a grant of protective easement on Kent Road.

Estate of Marie W. O'Dell to Catherine M. Stiglin, a house and land on Kent Road.

New CVFD Officers

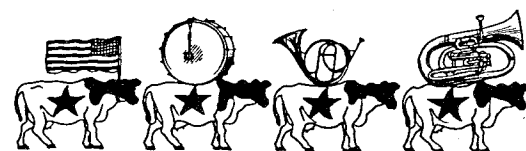
The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department has elected officers for 1993. President is Dave Becker; vice president, Jim Prentice; secretary, Tracy Plaut; treasurer, Joan Pelletier. Other board and committee members: Connie Hedden, Dave Williamson, Chris Hopkins, Art Lorch, Jack Preston, Fred Bate, Jr., and Steve Hedden.

Fire Chief is Gary Hepprich and assistant chief is Jim Vanicky. For Cornwall Bridge, the captain is Rick Stone; lieutenant, Ron Laigle, Jr.; engineer, Phil Starr. For West Cornwall, the captain is Ron Laigle, Sr., and the lieutenant, Pat Quinn. Rescue captain is Ingrid Laigle, and the lieutenant is Joan Pelletier

— Dave Becker

Medical Emergency Fund Committee

In 1956, this committee was formed to help Cornwall neighbors burdened with medical emergency bills, a service it continues



to provide. Those in need may apply for assistance to the committee, which deals in confidence with the applicants and doctors, hospitals, and drugstores.

Four officers and four board members, elected annually in May, are responsible for acting on applications. After many years of helpful service as president and treasurer, the Reverend Charles Russ has resigned. Replacing him is Joseph Lush, Jr., with Richard Dakin as vice president, Ellen Lorch as treasurer, and Patricia Preston, secretary. Other board members include Ingrid Laigle, Barbara Dakin, Ernest Kenniston, and Sally Hart. Those wishing more information may contact any of the board members. — Patricia Preston

Refugee Family Committee

A committee of people interested in sponsoring a refugee family has been formed at the United Church of Christ in Cornwall. The group is seeking guidance from the Interfaith Refugee Ministry in Ansonia, and has had one initial meeting with its representative, Sally Jones. The ministry will have two or three training sessions with us covering aspects of sponsorship such as housing, employment, English as a second language, and medical care. The ministry estimates the family would be independent in two to six months, and that the total cost of sponsoring one family is just \$2000.

If you are interested in joining the committee or want information, please contact Peter Ebersol (672-0081) or Jill Gibbons (672-0033). — Jill Gibbons

Parker Paintings and Prints

Once upon a time when I was a student in art school, I hung all my walls with magazine clippings of illustrations by Robert Andrew Parker. At length and in vain did I strive to emulate — "in the manner of" — that supple line, those lucid colors, the spirited vision. Today, decades later, Bob Parker originals hang on my hometown library's walls and their author has become a neighbor.

The sense for atmosphere, physical and psychological, is as striking as ever; it pervades all Parker's spaces, whether the subject is land/sea/sky/mountain scape, or war. It brings into sharp focus the rare air of a mountain peak — tiny in size, huge in scale — and illuminates the passing moods of a day by thesea. Humor is Parker's other unmistakable trademark: serious humor, at once shrewd, profound, and tender. See his dog series, for instance.

The considerable recognition accorded Parker over the years is documented at the Cornwall Library's exhibit. — Brigitte Hanf



Letters to the Chronicle



GREAT PARTY!

On behalf of the residents and merchants of West Cornwall we would like to thank all the volunteers of the Fire Department for the grand party they organized and threw for us on May 30. Thanks are also due the town officials who smoothed the way. We all had a great time and hope you will consider doing it again next year. This is the type of gathering that binds us together as a community. It is a fine tradition that deserves to be kept alive. — Ian Ingersoll, Dave Cadwell & Paul B. Wiske

SIGNS OF OUR TIMES

David Monagan's letter (June) is sadly out of focus. He perhaps does not know the background of the signs he makes fun of. Cornwall Plain is the village's name going back to the 18th century.

The Nuclear Free Zone sign has a newer background. A few years ago, the Northwest Corner was under consideration as a site for storage of low level radioactive waste. Several towns in addition to Cornwall (Kent, Sharon, Salisbury, to name a few) responded by voting themselves Nuclear Free Zones. No one feared nuclear submarines on the Housatonic or underground silos. But, there is a real threat from trucks hauling radioactive wastes and meeting with accidents. Such accidents have taken place in neighboring states.

That is the reason behind the Nuclear Free Zone sign. Failure to inform the town of the time and place of the transportation is a violation of the town ordinance. I wish there were more such signs in Northwest Connecticut. — Natasha Eilenberg

"CORNWALL PLAIN" TOO FANCY?

Thank you David Monagan. Your letter was terrific! When I first saw the Cornwall Plain sign I, too, thought it was pretentious — but really more laughable than obnoxious. Then the Nuclear Free Zone sign went up and I recall thinking general thoughts that would not have been appropriate to print in the Chronicle.

Let's save a tree and not waste wood on any more signs. And perhaps the best use of the present signs would be to run them through a wood chipper and use the result as compost around some of "Cornwall Plain's" newly planted trees. — Joanne Wojtusiak

BUG OFF!

Regarding David Monagan's letter about Cornwall signs: While I agree with him about the pretentious Cornwall Plain sign, the Nuclear Free Zone sign is not a cry of outrage or alarm, but rather a declaration quite as explicit as the Catch and Release Zone signs he sees and — I trust — observes while parting the waters of the Housatonic. Nor does it bear comparison with Drug Free Zone

signs, which are not so much statements or orders as they are wishes, threats, or hexes, and probably no more effective than a sign declaring Cornwall a Bug Free Zone would be in riddling us of our gnats. Though, on second thought, maybe it's worth a try.

— George Kittle

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

To all the volunteers who met at Rumsey Hall to trim shrubs, haul brush, remove x-bracing, repair the porch face, mow the lawn, and tidy up around the place, and to Jeff Fox for painting the columns, and to Don Bracken for painting the first of a series of works by local artists to be displayed in the portico window opening* — THANK YOU!

— Debra Tyler

*Artists interested in hanging their work in this magnificent picture frame can talk to Tim Prentice for details.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

When a Florida hurricane, a California earthquake, or a Connecticut shoreline flooding occurs, the Red Cross is there. But what's this got to do with us here in Cornwall? The answer is — plenty!

One's own life may be saved by a transfusion of blood collected by Red Cross; or by CPR or first aid administered by a neighbor taught by Cornwall's own Martha Bruehl or Peter Russ on Red-Cross-provided equipment. If a fire puts a family out of house and home, Red Cross can make a repair-and-clothing grant, or pay for a temporary motel stay. The head lifeguards at our town beach were sent by the local Red Cross branch to get their Water Safety certificates.

We are fortunate in Cornwall to have such a high level of volunteerism, exemplified by the excellent efforts of the Civil Defense workers after our own tornado. That there will be good cooperation between them and the Red Cross if an emergency arises in the future should reassure us all. — John Forster

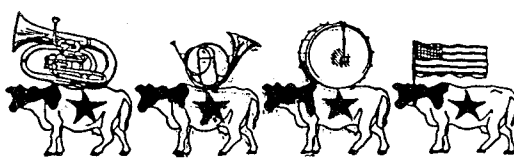
THANK YOU, FRIENDS

Thanks to all my friends and neighbors in the Cornwalls for their kindness and help. — Hellen Gazagnaire

rites of Spring

Although we do not have the largest or the fanciest town office in the region, Cornwall does have a new flower bed prepared and cared for by town officers in off hours. Visitors can observe the new effort on the way in the front door.

Thanks also go to the brave volunteers who got blue legs putting in the docks at Hammond Beach on a brisk Sunday afternoon in May. — Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman



Events & Announcements

Voters to be Canvassed: The registrars of voters begin their annual canvass of voters July 1 as required by the Secretary of State. The registrars request that voters fill out the questionnaire they will be receiving about their voting status, sign it, and mail the SASE envelope back to the registrars by July 24. The more people who answer the canvass by mail, the less expense it will be for the registrars to do follow-ups. If you have any questions or do not receive your canvass card, please call Judy Gates (Dems) at 672-6568 or Maureen Prentice (Reps) at 672-0135.

Biking at Mohawk: The Mohawk Mountain Bike Club starts this summer with a series of rides, races, and guided tours of Mohawk Forest and the surrounding area. Based at the ski area lodge, the club opens its season July 2. On weekends the ski lifts will loft riders up the mountainside (\$18 for an all-day ticket). Jim Marchionna is in charge (672-6100).



Rummage Sale: The United Church of Christ will hold its annual rummage sale Saturday, July 31, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Offered for sale will be assorted items including baked goods, clothing, books, toys, linens, nearly new gifts, pictures, jewelry, a "Tiffany" table, electrical appliances, and much more. Outside tables with merchandise and clothing open at 9 a.m. There will be a \$1 bag sale on Monday, August 2. Lunch will be available.

Historical Treasures: The Cornwall Historical Society will hold an exhibit in July of seldom-seen items from its vault. Open Saturday, July 3 from noon to 4 p.m. and Sundays thereafter, 1-4 p.m.

Historic District Forum: The Cornwall Association will hold a public forum on historic districts on Saturday, July 24, at 4 p.m. at the Town Hall. A panel of people in the know about architectural preservation, local historic districts, and statutory standards will be on hand to answer questions. Wine and cheese will be served.

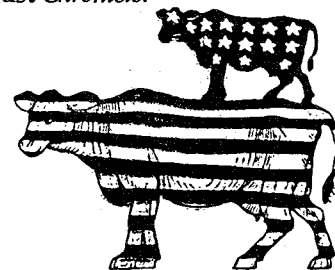
Cornwall Graduation: The Cornwall 1993 8th Grade graduation was held on Friday, June 18, at the CCS Gymnasium. A special thank you to our graduation speaker, Seth Wilson, and congratulations to our 19 graduates. (See June issue.)

Cornwall Scholarship Fund: The Cornwall Board of Education would like to announce the creation of a new scholarship fund. The purpose of the fund will be to assist qualifying Cornwall students with undergraduate college studies. Questions about the fund may be directed to Nancy Calhoun or school officials.

Quilter's Guild: The Northwest Corner Chapter meets Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Day Room of the United Church of Christ. Bring your handwork and join us. For more information call Jill Gibbons at 672-0033.

Road-Sealing Scheduled: The Town Highway Department will be sealing roads with oil and sand this summer. Pierce Lane, Popple Swamp Rd., Scoville Rd., Yelping Hill Rd., Great Hill Rd., and the northern section of Town Street are all scheduled for the last week in July. Cream Hill and Dibble Hill Roads will be sealed in August.

Cornwall Aggies Plan Fair: Start pampering those flowers and veggies for the Second Annual Agricultural Fair on Saturday, August 28. Highlights of the day will include dinner music by Robin Paton; an antique farm-tool display; exhibits of paintings, needlework, photography, and sculpture with a farm or garden theme; modern farm equipment, including a portable sawmill; exhibits on bees and honey and maple syruping; and, last but not least, the Cow Chip Raffle. For information, prospective exhibitors should call Jayne Ridgway at 672-4959. Entry forms will be inserted in the August Chronicle.



Tax Help for Elders: Cornwall renters who were 65 or older by December 31, 1992, or who are receiving Social Security disability benefits, may be eligible for a grant from the State of Connecticut. Some of the requirements are: the applicants must have resided in Connecticut for any one-year period prior to filing; income, including Social Security, may not exceed \$20,100 if single or \$24,700 if married; five percent of qualifying income must not exceed 35 percent of total rent and utility payments.

Application forms and additional information are available at the assessor's office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9:30-12:30, and Wednesday afternoon, 1:00-4:30. Application must be made by September 15, 1993.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY Michael Gellatly

JULY EDITORS

Julia Scott Kim Gellatly Lisa Lansing

AUGUST EDITORS

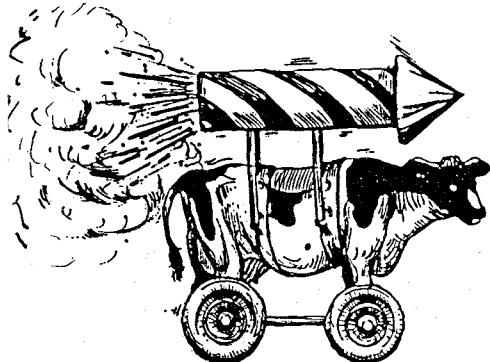
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CORNWALL RESIDENT



Tornado Party: Once again it's time for the annual Tornado Party. On July 10 all Cornwallians are invited to a party at the Blakeys', 3 Pine Street in Cornwall Village from 3 p.m. on. Beverages and hot dogs will be provided; please bring a covered dish.

Profitable Bridge Dance: The CVFD Bridge Dance was held — this year — under clear skies May 30 and rewarded the ambulance and rescue-equipment funds with a profit of over \$5,000.

Chronicle Update: Thanks for your good response to last month's appeal. But there are still lots of you we haven't heard from recently, if ever. Even a few dollars will help. Don't count on your neighbor to keep the Chronicle running; we need the support of everyone!

.....
• Yes, I want the Chronicle to continue.
• Here's my tax-deductible contribution of
\$ _____
• NAME _____
• ADDRESS _____
• CITY/ST/ZIP _____
• \$10 will get the Chronicle mailed out of town
.....