



# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 3: NUMBER 8 SEPTEMBER 1993



## Parties, Cows Back Candidates

"Ms. Chairman, Ms. Chairman!" called out *Lakeville Journal* reporter Robert Longley, Jr. The Dems didn't have a candidate for Town Clerk and the caucus was arguing about whether to endorse the Republican incumbent Barbara Dakin. "Out of order. You don't vote here." "But, Ms. Chairman..." "Out of order!" "Ms. Chairman, I've just come from the Republican caucus and Barbara Dakin isn't running for reelection. They've nominated Cheryl Evans for Town Clerk."

The reporter thus saved the Democrats from an embarrassing error.

The other Republican nominees were First Selectman, Ray Augustyn; Selectman, Bill Hurlburt; Tax Collector, Helen Migliacci; Treasurer, Natalie Park Hunter; Board of Education, Phil Bishop; Board of Finance, Ralph Gold and K. C. Baird; BOF alternate, Jack Preston; Board of Tax Review, John LaPorta; Planning and Zoning, Bill Lyon; Zoning Board of Appeals, Nick Edler and Hunt Williams; Park and Recreation, Charlotte Frost, Ruth Ohmen, Craig Simons, and Joan Thitchener.

Democratic nominees were First Selectman, Gordon Ridgway; Selectman, Lori Welles; Treasurer, Stephen Senzer; Board

of Ed, Robin Freyberg; BOF, Charlie Osborne; BOF alternates, Evie Piker and Celia Senzer; Tax Review, Richard Bramley; P&Z, Ken Keskinen; ZBA, Ella Clark; Park & Rec, Martha Bruehl, Joe Gwazdauskas and, for a two-year term, Danielle Mailer.

A Connecticut Party has nominated John Leich for P&Z. Hoping to help the town move from "we versus they" to "all of us together," farmer Debra Tyler has filed to run for Selectman as an independent. We gather that Debra's ten cows are solidly behind her although because of a technicality they were not allowed to sign her nomination petition. — *Hendon Chubb*

## Give Us Back Our Name

These selectmen have received a petition from the folks who live on Dudleytown Road to change the road's name back to Bald Mountain Road, which was what it was called before the 911 system was introduced a couple of years ago. It seems that tourists, intrigued by the legend of Dudleytown, are always coming up the road to explore, hoping to see a ghost. What they see instead is the likes of John and Jean Leich or Bob and Teddy Bury, who are not always enchanted by the traffic. The selectmen were sympathetic to the idea. First Selectman Gordon

Ridgway said the town would have to vote on it, but wondered if the town shouldn't turn the naming of roads over to the selectmen. No final action was taken.

The selectmen spent a lot of time this past month working on bids and bid specifications. They rejected bids for a new highway truck after the lowest bid came in a few hundred dollars over budget, and put out new specs with the hope of saving a little money. They also worked on bids for the winter's oil and the new salt storage shed.

Finally, they analyzed Mohawk Mountain's five-year management plan and wrote a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection expressing general satisfaction with the first year of the plan. For future years, they requested particular attention to tree planting and shading of lights. Copies of the plan are available in the Town Office. — *Hendon Chubb*


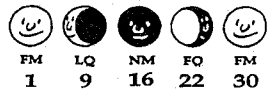
## Freshfields For Sale

Work continues by local residents aiming at the possible purchase of Freshfields, the well-known Cornwall restaurant.

The current owners, who also own Troutbeck, the successful Millbrook, N.Y., restaurant and meeting center, have had Freshfields on the market for two years.

(continued on page 2)

# SEPTEMBER 1993

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		7 Corn. Hist. Soc. old photos 9:30-noon (p.4) Agric. Adv. Comm. 7:30pm W. Corn. Firehouse	1 SCHOOLS OPEN Corn. Child Center opens (p.4) W. Cornwall Merchants Assn. 10am Cadwell's	2	3	4 Cornwall Hist. Soc. old photos 10am-1pm (p.4)
5	6 LABOR DAY	Park & Rec 7:30pm Town Off. ↑↑ Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall* Inland Wetlands 8pm Town Hall*	8	9 Cornwall Housing Corp. 7:30pm UCC*	10 Town Meeting on Historic District 8pm CCS	11 Corn. Hist. Soc. old photos, 10 to 1 (p.4) Poetry Reading 8pm Cadwell's
12	13 Cornwall Lib. art show, Don Bracken, artist P & Z 8pm Town Hall	14 Dem. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30pm CCS Lib.	15 Rep. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	16 ROSH HASHANAH Bd. of Ed. 4pm ** CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30pm CCS Library	17	18
19	20 HVRHS Bd. of Ed. 7:30pm HS Lib. ↑↑ Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall	21	22	23	24	25 YOM KIPPUR
26	27 ZBA 8:00pm Town Hall*	28	29	30		

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

(continued from page 1)

At an informational meeting on July 28, Freshfields' financial results for the past three years were reviewed, and attendees were told of the \$600,000 asking price for the building and business.

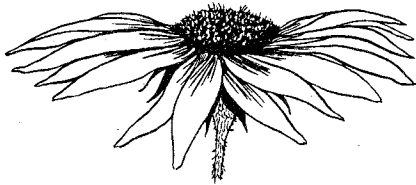
Todd Aichele, leader of the ad hoc Committee to Acquire Freshfields, identified two local residents who have expressed interest in making five-figure investments. Since then, Aichele has also received an expression of interest from a West Coast restaurateur who would like to return to Cornwall, where he still owns a house.

Local merchant Todd Piker says, "A good anchor restaurant is needed for the economic vitality of West Cornwall." According to Piker, the restaurant is a major draw for his Cornwall Bridge Pottery store.

Aichele hopes that local residents will join the potential major investors in a community effort to restore the restaurant to a profitable status, while serving the needs of both the community and visitors.

Appraisals of both the restaurant equipment and the building are now being sought to aid in determining a realistic offering bid.

— Stephen Senzer



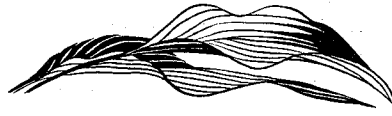
### Dorsen v. McCarthy

In the summer of 1953, Cornwall's Norman Dorsen, just out of law school and newly commissioned as a first lieutenant, was assigned to the office of the general counsel to the Secretary of the Army. In that job, he was destined to play a supporting role in the dramatic Senate hearings that pitted the Army against the bullying anti-Communist demagogue Joseph McCarthy. Forty years later, on last July 25, Dorsen, who went on to become a law professor at NYU and president of the American Civil Liberties Union, treated an audience of 60 at Town Hall to a riveting insider's account of the proceedings that held millions of TV viewers spellbound and helped to bring about McCarthy's downfall.

Among other things, Dorsen recalled the bizarre events that led to the Senate spectacle, notably the drafting of McCarthy aide G. David Schine — a development viewed by McCarthy's chief deputy, the brash and arrogant Roy Cohn, as an act of lese majesty. Dorsen also vividly sketched the principal actors in the drama, including the Army's canny lawyer, Joseph Welch, whose moving and seemingly spontaneous tongue-lashing of McCarthy — "If it were in my power to forgive you for your reckless cruelty I would do so..." — was in fact a carefully rehearsed courtroom trick.

Dorsen's was the first in a series of Sunday afternoon talks sponsored by the Cornwall Library.

— Spencer Klaw



### P&Z Stands by Regs

The monthly meeting and hearing of the Planning and Zoning Commission dealt mainly with a special permit application by Christine and Gary Guilman on Warren Hill Road to construct an accessory apartment. After lengthy discussion and deliberation about the intent of the regulations, the permit was denied by unanimous vote. The structure as proposed was to be very nearly the same size as the primary dwelling, and therefore not accessory in nature.

Responding to last month's request for a report on the Little Guild's efforts to reduce the noise of barking, Judy Bekasi, president of the Guild board, stated that air conditioning had been installed and windows closed. In September, insulating material will be put in place around the outside runs. It is hoped these measures will prevent any further annoyance to neighbors.

— Ginny Potter

### Soccer Camp

On July 19, about 50 girls and boys, ages 5 to 11, began a week of soccer instruction.

The 8-and-under kids learned the basic rules and techniques of the game while the older kids practiced more advanced moves.

The last day was Family Day which consisted of a Kids v. Parents game. Of course the kids won, 5-4. — Carla Geisser

This was the third year that Park & Rec arranged soccer camp for the children of Cornwall. The USA Soccer School of Excellence sends teams of professional coaches around the towns and villages of New England to train the next generation of players. This year's enrollment was the largest yet, with many returnees, attesting to the fun had by all.

— The Editors



### Talking Historic District

Laura Clarke, executive director of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, presented her views to about thirty Cornwall citizens on Aug. 21 at the Town Hall. Introduced by Cornwall Association President Charles Osborne, Ms. Clarke stressed the economic benefits of establishing a historic district.

Ms. Clarke's contention was that such a district can preserve the character of a town and enhance its value as other towns lapse into unimaginative homogeneity. But she warned that establishing a commission is a lengthy process (typically five years) of research, reports, and town votes, followed by a vote of the residents of the proposed district.

Cornwall citizens will vote at a town meeting on Sept. 10 whether or not to support a study committee to examine the ramifications of a historic district in Cornwall Plain, and on a proposed \$2000 appropriation for the operation of the committee. In the long run, the cost to the town in dollars will be minimal, the bulk of the cost being covered by volunteered time and energy.

— Scoville Soulé

(Editors' note: The selectmen urge citizens to come to their office to read state statutes and other materials on historic districts before Sept. 10.)

### Welcome

Kristina Mary Aakjar  
to Kelly and Peder Aakjar

Jedediah Steele Gracey and  
Madigan Baughman Gracey  
to Caitlin and Dan Gracey

### Congratulations

Duncan Nichols  
to Katharine Beecher Pershouse

David K. Laigle to Sheila Lynn Stephens

Cassandra Lee Taliaferro to  
Christopher Page Hiland

### Hail to the New Citizen

Julia Scott

### Goodbye to a Friend

W. Chandler Tenney

### Land Transfers

Edward L. and Audrey Ferman to Lee and Leslie Middlebrook Moore, house and land on Jewell Street.

Dorothy S. Bouteiller to Jean D. Bouteiller, house and land on College Street.

Diane M. Alessi to Adam W. and Deirdre A. Fischer, house and land on Great Hollow Road.

Arlington M. Yutzler to David and Alice Cadwell, house and land off River Road.

### Successful Rummage Sales

The Woman's Society conducted its annual rummage sale at the United Church of Christ on July 31. Although the popular perception is that the sale is a church function, that's not quite the case. The sponsor of the sale is actually the Woman's Society, a long-established independent group.

The society uses the proceeds of the sale, which exceeded \$10,000 this year, for various good works, including significant contributions to the UCC and to college scholarship funds for Cornwall students.

According to Priscilla Mauro, co-chair-



woman of the event, "The sale involves many different members of the community, and builds friendships among the participants. People have fun and want to come back next year." Much of the advance work is done by a handful of dedicated people, whose efforts are augmented by a staff of 75 or so on the day of the sale.

What isn't sold is not junked — except as a last resort. After the regular and bag sales are over, unsold articles are donated to resource organizations and individuals. Virtually all unsold clothing finds its way to needy persons in New England, the South, and other parts of the country. Furniture and appliances are taken by Habitat for Humanity, Prime Time, and similar organizations. Unsold books are taken to the UCONN branch in Torrington for its ongoing book sales. Other articles may be used to stock similar church sales, or even held for the following year.

On Aug. 14, St. Bridget's held its annual Church Fair. Favored by warm, sunny weather, the mostly-outdoor sale ran from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to the church members' own "Attic Treasurers," sale merchandise was provided by 17 vendors, who set up their own booths and displays. Home-grown vegetables, delicious baked goods, and lunch treats were also available.

According to Father Brenza, the approximately \$2000 raised by the sale is used for general church needs. St. Bridget's serves a wide area; besides the Cornwalls, parishioners come from Sharon, Kent, and Warren.

— Stephen Senzer



## Letters to the Chronicle

OH, DEER!

Have your veggies and shrubs been massacred by Cornwall's exploding deer population? If yes, eat venison. Lots of it. Get even! It's low in saturated fat, too.

— F. Bronner

DEAR FRIENDS IN WEST CORNWALL

I think it is always hard to say "good-by," especially when I've had such a prime time in a beautiful place with the most friendly and warm people I've ever known. This town and its people will have a deep significance for me for the rest of my life. My principal objective, to learn your language, I achieved so smoothly and with such fun, thanks to your help and "carinosa acogida."

Through these months I have felt a part of your community. I am glad that I had the opportunity to serve as the third grade Spanish teacher in the Consolidated School because I also had the opportunity of knowing and loving your children and feeling loved by them.

I had heard from some people in my country that foreigners in the U.S. feel a sharp discrimination; but it seems they didn't have the luck of coming to West Cornwall, because I couldn't feel more welcome, helped, and accepted.

I guess this is just to say thank you and "Adios Amigos ... Hasta la Vista." To my children, all my love — I'll never forget you. For the community, my personal friends, and my sweet and supportive family — thanks from my heart and I hope to see you (here or there) again.

— Maria Eugenia Arias

I want to thank you for your help. We are now ready to receive applications for funds. If you wish to apply, please contact me at P.O. Box 206, Cornwall, 06753 or 672-0143, and I'll send the brief application form. A small committee of the board will review applications, which will be handled in the strictest confidence, and determine how best to disburse funds.

Please continue to make donations so that we can be generous with our allocations. Make them out to Extras For Kids, and send to P.O. Box 143, West Cornwall, 06796. Thanks again to you all.

— Scott Cady, President

OPUKAHA'IA ARRIVES HOME

While many Cornwallites viewed Henry Opukaha'ia's (correct spelling!) exhumation, I paid him my respects at the United Church of Christ in Honolulu. They have an entire room dedicated to him there, including a framed rubbing of his grave that was done about 40 years ago.

I introduced myself to the Lee family as a Cornwall native, and they raved about the wonderful hospitality and friendly townspeople. I also heard, in great detail (and with a lot of laughter!), about Peter Hammond's attempts to string a lei. Before the service began, I was taken to the front of the room, introduced, and described as a "Connecticut Yankee who's so tall and thin because all she eats is baked beans!"

It's nice to know that there's a "Cornwall connection" with this little island, 5000 miles away from home.

— Bonnie Potter-Collis Kaneohe, Hawaii

SUCCESS STORY

Due to the wonderful support of the people of our community, Extras For Kids has a bank account! Our fund-raising events (theater trip and road race), sponsors' contributions, and donations have given us the means to help our local youngsters with the cost of enrichment activities.

On behalf of the board of Extras For Kids,

SPECIAL THANKS TO RITA QUINN

Rita Quinn, longtime teacher at CCS, has taken a position as Computer Coordinator for the Plainville School System. Rita, during her tenure at CCS, played an active role in the PTO, curriculum development, and the Computer Program. We wish her the best of luck in her new position and are looking forward to following her career.

— Bill Oros



## Howard Stone's Light Touch

You might say that Howard Stone's ability as a watercolorist shows best when he uses it least. But don't take that the wrong way. Stone does show considerable ability in the paintings he's exhibiting in the Cornwall Free Library. But in several intriguing pieces he employs a pale wash, just a little coloring, and a very light touch to produce a strong effect.

Two pieces portray action and vigor we don't usually see in watercolors. A canoe breaks out of the corner of one painting, heading toward the shore of a lake at sunrise. In another, motorcyclists tear around a dirt track with motion so vigorous that the mud even splashes out onto the mat board.

In contrast, other works express calm and stillness, while making use of the same light wash and minimal stroke. In "Foggy," a flock of water birds fades off into the fog in brown, yellow, and orange.

Howard Stone's watercolors will be on exhibition through mid-September.

— Alfred Bredenberg

## Would A Million Help?

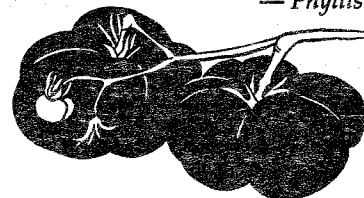
About 50 people gathered to hear John Zinsser on Aug. 22, for the second talk in the Sunday afternoon series at the Cornwall Library. Zinsser spent 36 years at the *Reader's Digest*, retiring as editor-in-chief of condensed books. He had many delicious stories about publishing and about DeWitt and Lila Wallace, the self-made founders of the *Digest*. Lila, who became a major philanthropist, was once with mezzo-soprano Risé Stevens, and heard that the Metropolitan Opera's touring company was having financial difficulties. She said casually, "Would a million help?"

Zinsser has a genius for relaxed, witty

(the audience was in stitches much of the time!) talk. He said that all condensed books have to have pace, identifiable characters, and moral standards, and they must give information. In his talk, he met all four of these requirements with a great deal of charm and grace.

The next Library talk will be by Spencer Klaw, in October, on his new book.

— Phyllis Nauts





### A Yummy, Delectable Sound

The Coltsfoot Chorus gave its second annual concert in the Rumsey Gym on Saturday, Aug. 14, and it was very, very good indeed. The gym, which hadn't seen a live performance since the '50s, was bursting at the seams with a large and enthusiastic audience.

The singers, seven women and five men, are all Cornwall residents (except Greg Zabielski, who wants to be) and members of the Kent Singers (except Tim Prentice, who gets in because the singers practice at his house).

The program included compositions by two chorus members: Marie Prentice's *Song for the Coltsfoot Chorus*, which, in the words of its lyric, had a "thoroughly yummy, delectable sound," and John King's rich music for Shakespeare's *Full Fathom Five* and *Under the Greenwood Tree*.

Other highlights: Tim Prentice (on Motherplucker, his homemade bass fiddle), John King (on guitar), and John LaPorta doing a rendition of *Stormy Weather*; Julia Scott leading a song she had last sung at Cambridge 40 years ago; Joan Hinchman and John LaPorta's love duet (they must have been effective — my mother asked if they were married!); and Beth Samuels' soaring voice in *Shenandoah*. The group also includes Jim Whiteside, Nora Horan, Lisa Lansing, and Susan Fox.

In all, there were 14 songs and an encore, and it didn't seem like nearly enough. The group has an energy and electricity and joyfulness that's totally captivating. Afterwards, the audience walked over to picnic in front of Rumsey Hall. A wonderful August evening. — Phyllis Nauts



### September Song

The days are growing shorter, and the *Chronicle's* bank balance is dwindling down to a precious few dollars. This may seem like a familiar tune, but remember that all our support comes from you, and our only appeal for funds is in this little corner. If you haven't sent anything recently, please go to your checkbook right now and send a tax-deductible contribution.

A \$10 contribution will get the Chronicle mailed to an out-of-town address. Other contributions welcome.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE, INC.  
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### A Rose is A Rose Is A Rose's Show

How do you review a show that includes a Mona Felina for 4,500,000 lire (frame included), plumber's helper sculpture, sagging milk bottle vases, the New York subway, an altar, a bed, a dollhouse, a night light, mobiles, boxes, and styrofoam milk cartons? Not to mention oil paintings, watercolors, photographs, primitives, vests, jewelry, a bird bath, steel sculpture, gates, and exotic mosquitoes?

And how do you convey, if there's anyone out there who still doesn't know about it, what a great tradition the Friends of Rose Algrant exhibit — now in its 34th year — has become for Cornwall? How do you describe the enthusiasm, the feeling of community this annual event generates?

I give up, so I'll just give the facts. This year's show, again held at the Marvelwood School, included 65 exhibitors, four more than last year, and grossed \$10,545, of which \$1500 will go to the Rose Algrant Scholarship Fund at Rumsey Hall, where Rose taught for many years. Once gain, it was superbly organized by Marc and Bee Simont, Kelley Ireland, Tom Bevans, Tim Prentice, and Nick and Joan Edler. Margaret Bevans was commemorated by Julia Scott's beautiful arrangement of August flowers. — Phyllis Nauts



### Cornwall Swim Team — 1993

The Cornwall Swim Team had a bonanza season. Helen Kotchoubey and Hector Migliacci were the very special coaches who spurred the team on to four victories out of the seven meets and one scrimmage. The loss to Sharon was by only ten points.

The town and the Cream Hill Lake Association united to produce a team of 60 swimmers from the ages of 5 to 18 years who were as dedicated to practice as to the meets. It was for this reason that we had a stronger team this summer than any in the recent past and we can look forward to becoming stronger because so many of our swimmers are still very young.

To raise money for team swimsuits, which the team has not had for 12 years, the children held a swimathon on July 14. Forty-



four members of the team found individual sponsors from merchants and the community who pledged money for each lap the swimmers would swim. The participants raised \$996, which purchased swimsuits for all the team members, plus stopwatches, kickboards, swim cards, and snacks for the meets.

Future plans for the team include a community service event to take place some time in the fall, and, of course, swimming next season with what the coaches hope will be an even larger team. The team wishes to thank the community and merchants for their support. Thanks also to all the parents, grandparents, and others who helped make this a terrific season, and special thanks to the coaches for their unflagging devotion to our team. — Jane Bevans

### Events & Announcements

**Cornwall Child Center opens Sept. 1**, offering nursery school and daycare from 8:30 to 5:30 on the school calendar schedule. Children may still be registered; please visit or phone director Pam Brehm for information (672-6989).

**Historical Society Exhibit:** The current show of old Cornwall photos, many specially printed for this exhibit, has been extended to Sept. 11. Open Tuesdays 9:30-noon, Saturdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Admission free!

**Gymnastics:** Park & Rec has arranged a gymnastics program for children in grades one through eight. Starting on Sept. 13 classes will be at 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Monday and Thursday at the Goshen Center School. Call Joan Thitchener (672-6531). Joan will pass names on to Jean Jacquier, the instructor, who will advise those interested which class to attend. The charge is \$20 for a six-week program.



### CORNWALL CHRONICLE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY Erica Prud'homme  
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