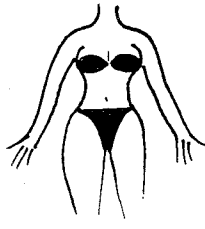


CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 1: NUMBER 5 JUNE 1991



The Swim Suit Issue

Here it is, as promised, and Marc Simont has topped it with a great centerfold.

Bellicose Burghers Bomb Budget

The proposed budget for 1991-1992 has not exactly captured the minds and hearts of local residents. At the annual town budget meeting on May 10, Board of Finance members saw the 23% tax hike thumbed down by a 77 to 51 vote.

Most of the heated discussion at the standing-room-only meeting concerned a single item: \$230,000 for road repair. First Selectman Dick Dakin, explained that for several years taxes had remained low because roads were allowed to deteriorate. Now, Dakin said, "the town has reached the point where the problem can no longer be ignored." Others at the meeting, however, wanted more specific information on road repair, and many objected to the apparent lack of a long-range master plan that included projected costs over the years.

According to state law, the Board of Finance must now review the budget and submit a revision to the voters at another town meeting. This process began on May 16, with the Selectmen and Board of Education members in attendance. CCS

Principal Oros explained that the education budget was already \$16,000 in the red. Schoolboard chairman Lynn Cheney said, "We really can't make any more cuts, but we can get the votes out."

At the May 16 meeting, the Board of Finance voted to request the Selectmen to take three mills (\$240,000) out of their budget. It was agreed that the net reduction would be in fact much less, about \$85,000, because of a revised estimate of interest income and the availability of funds from a road-improvement capital account. Selectman Hedden stated that although there was no limit to the cuts that might conceivably be made, the requested reduction would inevitably result in a "substantial reduction in town services."

The Selectmen and the Board of Finance conferred again on May 30, and a second town budget meeting is scheduled for some time in June. *-Bob Potter*

MBC Has New Ideas

Ideas continue to surface about how to find more town office space. A plan to convert Rumsey gym into a town hall was proposed. The building is in sound structural condition and has adequate space.

A subcommittee is looking into this possibility.

Another option being studied is a lease/buy-back arrangement to finance the renovation of Rumsey Hall. This idea will be explored with contractors at our June 6 meeting.

We are also interviewing architects for all town hall alternatives. One proposal under consideration is hiring a firm that specializes in municipal projects to develop all options and to help the committee and town to choose the best plan.

All meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to share your ideas.

- Rita Quinn

News Highlights


The Planning and Zoning Commission at its May meeting approved the Cornwall Housing Corporation's request to develop land on Pierce Lane into parcels to be leased to families wishing to build their own homes. It is estimated that the monthly costs of such leases would be approximately \$50 per month. The Corporation is also considering ways to coordinate its efforts with the local Habitat for Humanity group, in order to assure affordable housing at all levels of need.


(continued on page 2)


JUNE 1991

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 LQ 5 NM 12 FQ 18 FM 26					<i>June 7, Friday: Don't forget the important votes at the Town Meeting.</i> 	1
2 Islam seminar 1st Church see p.4 Town beach get-ready day see page 4	3 Park & Rec. 7:30pm Town Off.	4 Inland Wetlands 8pm Town Hall	5	6	7 Bd. of Ed. 4:30 CCS Library Town Meeting vote on Budget and Nuclear Free Zone 8pm Town Hall	8
9 All-church family picnic after church 11:00 am	10 Plan. & Zoning 7:30pm Town Hall	11 Dem. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall Hous. Riv. Comm. CCS Lib. 7:30pm	12	13 Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	14 FLAG DAY	15 Poetry reading 8pm Cadwell's Corner
16 FATHER'S DAY	17 Bd. of Selectmen 8pm Town Hall	18	19	20 Bd. of Finance 8pm Town Hall	21 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER	22 Town beach opens 11am Gelerter library exh. closes
23	24 Conserv. Comm. 7:30pm Town Off. ↑(if necessary) Z.B. of Appeals 8pm Town Hall	25 HVRHS grad. 6pm outdoors CCS graduation 7:45 CCS gym	26	27 Mun. Bldg. Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall	28	29
30						

(continued from page 1)

 FISH is an organization of volunteers who help neighbors. The Cornwall branch of FISH was started twenty years ago by local churches. Most of the calls to FISH are from people who need transportation to medical and dental appointments. There is no charge for such service. Some volunteer drivers have had to drop out, and new ones are needed. If you are available from time to time to give someone a lift, please call Marie Prentice at 672-6261 or Polly Calhoun at 672-6205. Your neighbors need you.

 For anyone who missed hearing of it, next year's high school budget of nearly \$5 million won overwhelming support in the May 7 referendum. Cornwall's tally was 153 yes, 40 no. Only populous Salisbury provided more yes votes in the six-town region. The total vote was 852-360, with Kent the only town in opposition.

 The Older Women's League (OWL) operates a free food bank in Lakeville for an increasing number of area residents. Last year OWL contracted to buy vegetables from Gordon Ridgway's farm on north Town Street, but this year they have doubled their order, so the farm will deliver a selection of vegetables every Friday from June to November. It is clear that their needs have increased. Those wishing to support the OWL's efforts may call Jeanne Russo at 672-6089 evenings or weekends, or they may write to OWL's Kitchen, Box 153, Lakeville, CT 06039.

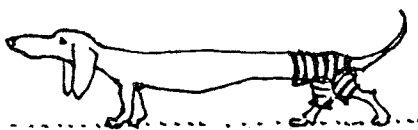
The Old Swimming Hole - a note from the past

Our special swim-suit issue reminds us of Cornwall's favorite swimming hole, better known as Cream Hill Lake. It was not always so named, as *The Cornwall Star* of 110 years ago reports.

"A short drive brings you to Cream Hill Lake, or Echo Lake, as it is more correctly and euphoniously named . . ."

"Echo Lake is one of the most beautiful sheets of water, for its size, in New England . . . It could easily be made to supply the one attraction we lack . . . Obviously, the town will not be built up by manufactories, nor should we welcome the class of inhabitants that such a business would bring. But as a summer resort, Cornwall can compete with any place in the state; and anything that will increase its popularity and induce the wealthier and more cultured class from the city to spend the season and build summer residences here, will be for our direct advantage in every way."

- *The Cornwall Star*, July, Sept., 1880



P & Z OKs Conservation Zone

The P and Z Commission granted approval of the Housing Corporation's subdivision on Pierce Lane. The primary concern voiced at the hearing was the legal means of assuring future affordability. Documents describing appropriate covenants to meet that concern are to be placed on the permanent record.

The Planned Conservation Zone Amendment was heard, and members voted unanimously to add it to the Regulations. Using this new method of development, an applicant with a minimum of ten acres may group houses on lots smaller than those normally required within a three- or five-acre zone, and in exchange, 50% of other "buildable" land must be kept permanently as open space. The goal of the amendment is to allow new dwellings while at the same time preserving the rural aspect of Cornwall.

A change of use proposal for Ingvertsen's gas and auto-repair station was presented. The idea is to cease auto repair and body work, and used car sales but to continue to sell gas and also to open a convenience / retail store. This plan would replace the several non-conforming uses involving autos in and around the building with a less non-conforming use inside the building. The commission examined the site plan and asked for more descriptive details, all of which will be considered further at the June meeting. As always, the meetings welcome interested citizens.

- Ginny Potter

Marriages

Frederick John Balling & Verne Margaret Henshall
Gordon Macdonell Ridgway
& Ronda Jayne Wingard
Cpl. Jason Collis, USMC & Bonnie Patience Potter

Welcomes

Megan Lee Smith to Dewah & Charles Smith, Jr.
Thomas Emlen Samuels to Elizabeth
& Roger Samuels
Jessica Lyn Eaton to Alicia & Allan Eaton

Brokaw To Speak at HVRHS Graduation

Tom Brokaw of Cornwall will be the featured speaker at this year's HVRHS school graduation, to be held in front of the high school at 6 p.m. on June 25.

The Cornwall contingent in the senior class is an unusually small one, only seven students. The plans of Shawn Palmer, Earl Thitchener, and Sherman Palmer are undecided as of this writing. Hector Migliacci will attend Virginia Military Institute as a premed student. Chris Neary is off to the University of Vermont, Jennifer Kenniston to the University of Lynchburg, and Janet Squires to Northwestern Community College.

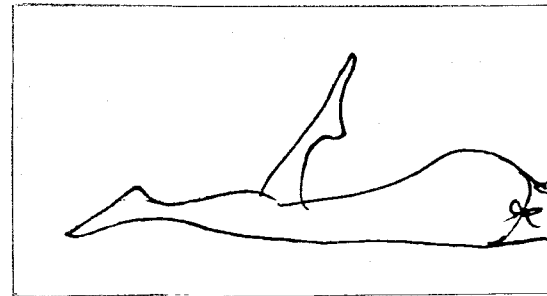
Congratulations to all!

- Bob Potter

Selectmen Budge Budget

At the request of the Board of Finance, the selectmen at their May meetings reduced their budget. Across-the-board cuts in highway maintenance, public safety, and in general government expenditures resulted in savings of \$84,000. Such savings, along with the use of surplus funds for road repair will result in nearly a four-mill reduction in projected taxes. The selectmen's recommendations will be submitted to the Board of Finance for approval prior to the June 7 town meeting.

Closing of the landfill will also require the expenditure of \$75,000, a sum that has to be approved at the meeting.



The purchase of a new town truck is to be delayed for a year, thereby making an increase in vehicle maintenance costs necessary. Selectman Hedden cited the need for readily available and detailed maintenance records on all town vehicles. Savings on maintenance could be effected by contracting for such services as roadside mowing and grading. Such options are being studied by Road Foreman Gene Ingvertsen.

-Nick Edler

Town Nuclear-Free Zone Urged

The Cornwall Nuclear-Free Zone Committee, headed by Pam Reagan, is circulating a petition calling for a town meeting to endorse a Nuclear-Free Zone ordinance. A similar ordinance was recently adopted by Salisbury. Presently there are over 4300 nuclear-free zones in 23 countries, including 173 in the United States. The text of the petition follows:

"Whereas, we, the people of the Town of Cornwall, having become increasingly apprehensive regarding the use of nuclear energy and the disposal of nuclear wastes, and seeking to encourage the development and use of environmentally safe alternative sources of energy; and whereas, we, wishing to affirm our right of self-determination in such matters, and to unite with other communities throughout the nation and the world in such affirmation, hereby propose the following Nuclear-Free Zone Ordinance for the Town of Cornwall:

"Resolved, that the town of Cornwall shall be and is established as a Nuclear-Free Zone wherein no nuclear weapons or products associated with nuclear weapons may be positioned or manufactured within Cornwall.

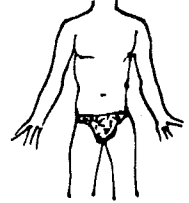
"Further, there shall not be nuclear energy, experimental or commercial, produced or used within the town except for medical applications of nuclear material and that transmitted to and through the town as electrical energy.

"Further, no radioactive wastes nor nuclear components of any kind, excluding medical, shall be used or stored within the town.

"Further, no radioactive wastes nor nuclear components of any kind, excluding medical, shall be transported through the town of Cornwall except in clearly marked vehicles and with advance notice to town officials of times and routes of transit.



Letters to the Chronicle



OUR BUDGET CRUNCH

At our meeting of the Democratic Town Committee on May 14, we had a long and lively discussion of the budget rejection in Town Meeting. However, a poll of the Committee brought 13 yes votes in support of the "bad budget," with 1 no vote and 1 abstention.

It was clear that the Committee wanted to show support for our elected officials, and we felt that if voters were better informed, they would accept the increase in taxes. To provide some of the needed information, we want to raise the following questions:

1. How much remains in surplus funds? And how should we use it?
2. What other ways are there for raising money?
3. How much time do we have to resolve the budget problem for 91-92?
4. Should we ask the Board of Education to seek reduction of RSSC's Administrative and Pupil Services budgets?
5. If the State is so broke, why is it giving us \$95,000 as a Transportation Grant?
6. How large is the "other fund" in "Transfers from Other Fund"?
7. Do we buy trucks at the same rate as other comparable towns?
8. Could we improve some roads this year and others later in order to spread out expenditures?

A friend told me recently, "The recession is over. The depression has begun." Who knows? I would have voted for the budget as an act of faith. Now I urge speedy action. Let's vote Yes and get back to work, harmony restored.

- Judy Gates

HERE'S WHY SOFT HATS, EMILY

The Town of Cornwall rents the Salisbury School rink during the winter. The business manager says that their insurance requires that protection on the heads of all skaters. To accommodate to this request is a small task in exchange for the use of a grand facility. We hearty New Englanders regard our "free spirit" as sacred, and therefore are willing to take precautionary measure to keep them intact while we soar across the ice. Repressive? No - think of it as native good judgment.

- Karen Stevens

TORNADO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ezra Mager's letter and others it evoked have brought a better understanding of the huge expense of cleaning up the tornado's devastation. People have spent

money and worked and done wonders, but there is more to be done. Time will help a lot, but perhaps Ezra and others might organize a volunteer effort to do even more.

- Judy Bronner



YANKEE FRUGALITY COMPLETE THE WHOLE LETTER

Not only is the Selectman's trailer an example of Yankee frugality (at seventeen cents an hour), but, on close examination, one finds that the trailer has subtle esthetic values that both delight and enlighten a discriminating observer.

One is first struck by the jaunty cantilevered presence of the trailer, a jauntiness that radiates confidence in Cornwall's future and its leadership. The trailer is perched lightly on the gray blocks which, in their concrete modernity, reflect the use of stone in the surrounding buildings, thus harmoniously integrating them all, foundationwise. Furthermore, the sturdy blocks are in stacks of three, suggesting the trinity, thereby reminding us of Cornwall's theocratic heritage. So, too, with the name ARTHUR which appears on all sides of the trailer. Who else but King Arthur comes to mind? And once again we recall Cornwall's roots in Olde Englande, thus strengthening our sense of continuity with the past.

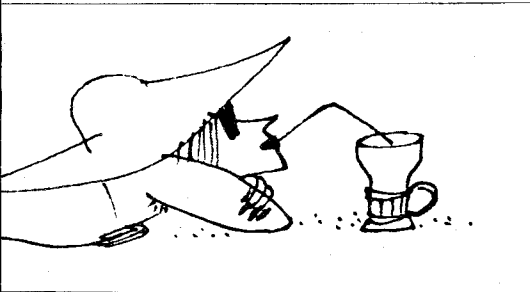
Quibblers might point out that the materials of the trailer itself are not integrating elements. However, when one looks with a knowledgeable eye at the front of the library building, one sees brick, stone, wood, and shingles juxtaposed in a democratic fashion. Surely the vinyl siding on the trailer enhances this eclectic-political mode. Moreover, the formal verticality of the siding echos the dignity of the columns on the library building. One can not help admiring such brilliant integrative touches!

However, one is daily disappointed to find that indiscriminate parking denies the appreciative observer the opportunity to experience fully the architectural statement that the trailer so eloquently makes. Clearly a parking ban is in order, and I call on the First Selectman to act accordingly.

Yes, the selectmen are to be commended for their architectural sensitivity, as well as for their thrift. Indeed, one wonders whether three more trailers, with such names as RICHARD, GORDON, and STEVE, tastefully circling the parking lot, would not make a new town hall unnecessary. Now, that would be true Yankee frugality!

-T.M. Haywitz, C.I.A.*

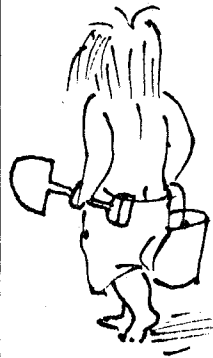
*Cornwall Institute of Architects



"Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to regulate consumer use of radioactive smoke detectors and light-emitting watches and clocks."

For more information call Pam Reagan at 672-0164. The town meeting vote will be June 7th at the Town Hall.

- Marie Prentice



The Not So Green Corner - More About Threatened Hemlocks

The Woolly Adelgid, a microscopic bug, is threatening to destroy the area's hemlocks in devastation

more severe than the gypsy moths. Michael Root, a Cornwall arborist, says that the bug was first detected in Pennsylvania in the 60s. "It hit Long Island with a bang in 1985, and it's been ravaging its way inland ever since."

The bug is hard to see with the naked eye, and it moves very quickly, often spread by birds. "Homeowners," said Root, "should inspect their trees carefully, looking for cottony masses and for browning at branch tips. Unfortunately, hemlocks do not respond to defoliations as do hardwoods which can recover from infestations of gypsy moths."

Homeowners who have special trees they want to save can have them sprayed. Preventive spraying is apparently not effective, since the Woolly Adelgid has to be attacked directly.

- Ken Keskinen



Sixteen to Get CCS Diplomas

The Cornwall Consolidated School's graduation ceremony is set for June 25. The 16 proud graduates will march down the aisle at 7:45 p.m. The event also marks a "commencement" of sorts for retiring music teacher Lee Collins, who will play "Pomp and Circumstance" for the 21st and last time. Amy Bishop will give the commencement address.

As is usual, most of the graduates will continue their education at HVRHS: Eric Augustyn, Julie Batterton, Melissa Borggreve, Daniel Gingert, Heidi Hedden, Jennifer Heiny, Sarah Kochman, Fritz Lockwood, Marianna Matthews, Sarah Quesnel, Francie Sellers, and Jay Wolfe.

In addition, Jalana Lazar will go to the Hotchkiss School and Dana Lugar to the Forman School in Litchfield. Alexis Sullivan will be off to Taft and Alex Terrill to Kent School.

Best wishes to all! - Bob Potter

The Bradford Mill Grinds Again

Saturday, May 4, marked the grand re-awakening of the Bradford Farm water wheel. Weekend millwright and full-time architect Adam Van Doren hosted an afternoon open house for Cornwall history buffs and out-of-town "Spoonies" (Society for the Preservation of Old Mills).

Master millwright Don Perham, who had helped in the two-year restoration, was on hand to keep the mill running - not a simple task. A video tape by Adam Van Doren documenting the story of the restoration played continuously in a corner of the mill shed. Framed photos, illustrated poems of the late Mark Van Doren, and pieces of the original mill completed the exhibit.

The Bradford Mill was one of five known water wheels in the Cornwall area, and it is the only one which is restorable today. It was unique in that it operated under a roof, which probably accounts for its preservation through the years. It was not operating when Mark and Dorothy Van Doren bought the farm in 1923, and no one is quite sure exactly when it was built.

According to John Van Doren, who also worked on the restoration, only a third of the wheel remained at the time the project began, and it was half buried. (The shaft had broken, letting the wheel fall.) Restoration included building a new oak shaft, using authentic hand tools of the period; inserting the cast iron journals; rebuilding the missing parts of the wheel; casting and installing cast iron gear teeth; reworking



the mill pond dam and raised sluiceway to the mill; and, of course, making the whole huge machine work.

The entree for the day was corn meal (milled *in situ*) pancakes with local maple syrup. Dorothy Van Doren was present to greet her many friends, which made the happy afternoon that much more festive.

- Scoville Soulé

Announcements & Events

Swimming: The town beach will be open Cornwall residents from June 22 to Labor Day during the hours from 11:00 to 7:00, weather permitting. There is no fee, but passes may be picked up at the beach. ID is required. Swimming lessons will be provided and a swim team will be formed. Hector Migliacci will be the instructor. Volunteers are asked to come on June 2 for a work/play/get ready day.



Position open: The United Church of Christ invites Cornwall applicants for the part-time position of Director of Christian Education. Contact Jean Vitalis (672-6880) or Peter Hammond (672-6840) by June 15th.



Town Offices to Limit Hours: As a cost-saving measure, Selectman Dick Dakin reports that, starting July 1 the town offices will be open four days a week, from Monday to Thursday.

A five-day week is unnecessary, he said. "On some Fridays we're looking for things to do. Townspeople can conduct much of their business by mail or telephone." The resulting savings in salaries and utilities would be about \$9000 a year. The hours will remain the same, from 9:30 to 4:30.



Park and Rec Offers Activities: Cornwall's 4th of July picnic will include music, games, hayrides, and good food. Registration for the races is at 8:45 a.m.. The five-mile run



begins at 9:30 and the one-mile run at 9:45 a.m.

T-ball is offered on Mondays on the town green at 3:00 p.m. with 30 children participating, and 29 Red-Soxers are in the Little League program. Call Rob or Natalie Hunter at 672-6109 for more information. The Soccer School of Excellence Camp will be at CCS from July 15 to 19, from 1 to 4 p.m., for ages 6 to 11. Applications are available at CCS or at the Town Hall. Call Karen Stevens for more details at 672-6065.



Poetry Reading: Last fall we began a monthly poetry reading. The Cadwells generously invited us to use their cafe on Saturday nights and to share their wonderful coffee. Next meeting (see calendar for date) we will be celebrating the Zinsers' gift of a piano to Cadwell's Corner. All are encouraged to come and bring poems, songs, dessert, and wine.

- Phyllis Nauts



Seminar on Islam Offered: How has Islam influenced events in the Middle East? What do Muslims really believe? How do they view Christianity? These and other questions will be discussed at a seminar on Islam on Sunday, June 2, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the United Church of Christ in Cornwall. The seminar will be conducted by David Kerr, Director of MacDonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations in the Hartford Seminary.

Dr. Kerr will speak on "Islam in Religious Perspective" at the 10 a.m. worship service. At 11:15, he will lecture on current political aspects. At 1:15, he will speak on Islam's history. At 2:00, he will discuss Christian-Islamic Relations, and at 3:00, the future of the Middle East.

Area residents are invited to attend all or part of the seminar. Full-day attenders should bring a sandwich for lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. There is no admission charge. For child-care registration, call 672-6486.

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