



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 13 : NUMBER 5 JUNE 2003



CCS Groundbreaking

Three referendums, four building committees and nearly four years after it began efforts to expand Cornwall Consolidated School, the town can sniff pay dirt. At a May meeting, the School Building Committee, chaired by Jim Terrall, fielded a nearly final budget from the Casle Corporation, hired as cost estimator and project manager.

Casle's construction manager Dan Sexton and architect Dale Cutler acknowledged that their figures exceeded the \$3.05 million construction budget, part of the \$3.55 million appropriated by the town in the final school expansion referendum last October. The overrun arose from changes necessary in the present building, such as extra ventilation for inside rooms without windows such as the kitchen and girls' lavatory.

To absorb this deficit, Sexton and Cutler offered eight cost-cutting alternates (for instance, eliminating a staircase, or substituting another material for cedar shingles). Deciding whether to use alternates will depend on the results of the bidding process. Bids go out in June.

"Because the town has budgeted \$180,000 in each of the last two years for the school project," says Board of Finance member Tom Bechtle, "we can pay for the initial work. We can also afford to go out to bond as late as September." The earlier appropriations, says

Bechtle, "make for a smaller face value for the bond and the September timing delays payment of principal until the 2005 fiscal year."

Work begins in July with initial emphasis on the alternate parking lot, which must be finished when school opens in September. New building will begin in the fall and finish in the winter. Interior work on the existing school will be done next summer.

—Charles Osborne

HVRHS Budget OK'd

Among those expressing approval of the results of the May 6 budget referendum is Cornwall's own Katherine Gannett, chair of the Region One Board of Education.

The region-wide vote was 483-142 in favor; in Cornwall it was 54-11. Gannett, thankful for both town and regional support, said the board had held working meetings with faculty, administration and the regional boards of finance and selectmen that resulted in limiting the Region One budget increase over last year to 3.97 percent. No school programs were sacrificed.

—Scoville D. Soule

Throwaways Thrive

The *Hartford Courant* called it "fashionably trashy." *The Lakeville Journal* said "it's not trash — it's art." I'm kicking myself because this was my first Art at the Dump. What I

must have missed those first three years!

Gail Jacobson started Art at the Dump in 2000. She got the idea when her husband Jeff mentioned Art Breaun, as in "I just spoke to Art at the dump." So from Art the man, Gail came up with objets d'art ... at the dump, and an art show was born. Work entered was to be made mostly from used or throw-away materials.

There were about 30 entries the first year. This year's event in the big hanger-like salt storage shed had over 200. Many were wonderful. Almost all were clever and inventive. The festivities began with a fashion show with outfits so brilliant I had to put my sunglasses back on inside the building.

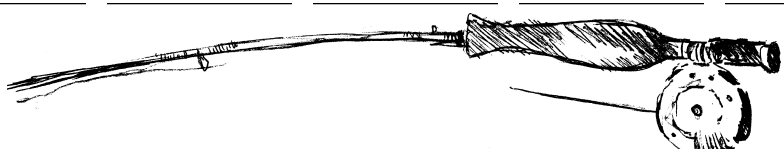
Cornwall's Barbara Stone won the top prize with a disposable wedding gown made from Tyvek house wrap, paper towels and dry cleaning bags.

Bill Healy, wearing a white cowboy hat, arrived from Hartford with an army of robots made mostly from old tins, many from a bygone era. Bill, who took second place, said he gets his tins and cans at flea markets, tag sales and from friends who "save the stuff" for him. Third place was awarded to Charmain Frost of Bantam who, I was told, studied at the Chicago Art Institute.

The prizes were made by last year's winner Lori Barker of Goshen from old coffee

(continued on page 2)

JUNE 2003

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Park and Rec. 7 P.M. CCS 8:30 A.M. Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 8 P.M. Town Hall	3 Blue Mt. Satsang Every Tuesday 6:30-8 P.M. UCC Day Room Inland Wetlands* 8 P.M. Town Hall	4 Play Group 10-11:30 A.M. Playscape Invasive Plants Walk (p.4)	5 Meditation for Mothers Every Thursday 1:15- 2:15 P.M. UCC Day Room	6 Cornwall Historical Society Annual Meeting 4-6 P.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R.	7 Trails Day 9 A.M. Cornwall Bridge Pale Male Video 4 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.3)
8 LaCasa Bike-a-Thon 100 Miles (p.3)	9 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	10 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	11 Play Group 10-11:30 A.M. Playscape West Cornwall Library Assn. Annual Meeting 2 P.M. Hughes Lib. (p.4)	12 Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib.	13 Historical Society Gannett Reception (p.4)	14 FLAG DAY Cornwall Association 8:30 A.M. Cornwall Library Meeting Room
15 FATHER'S DAY Deadline: July Chronicle Copy	16 Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Cornwall Lib. M. R.	17	18 HVRHS Graduation 6:30 P.M. HVRHS Cornwall Child Center Annual Meeting 8 P.M. (p.4)	19 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M. CCS Graduation 7 P.M. VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	20 Park and Rec. Beach Party 5:30-8 P.M. Cream Hill Lake Assn. (p.3)	21 SUMMER BEGINS Hammond Beach Opens (p.4) LaCasa Bike-a-Thon 100 kilometers (p.3) UCC-Jubilee Pot Luck Dinner (p.4)
22 Dulcimer Concert 3 P.M. Town Hall (p.4) Teachers' Farewell: J. Loi and L. Meehan 4-6 P.M. CCS Gym (p.3)	23 Cornwall Library Trustees 4:30 P.M. Library M. R. ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall*	24	25 Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Cornwall Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	26	27	28 Hughes Memorial Library Book Sale 10 A.M.-3 P.M. (p.4) Farewell to Ginny Potter 4-6 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4)
29	30					

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

cup, uncooked macaroni and silver spray paint. Winners also got gift certificates from the Cornwall Inn.

This year there were 51 artists who sold 67 works for a total of over \$2,800. And, Gail said, 32 percent of that, or \$946, will be donated to the art department at Cornwall Consolidated School. In fact, it was a fifth grader at CCS, Dylan Morehouse, whose "wolfhead," made from cardboard and wire, won the first annual Philip C. Jones Memorial Award (\$100) given by Barton and Debbie Jones in memory of their son who died in a rock-climbing accident last year.

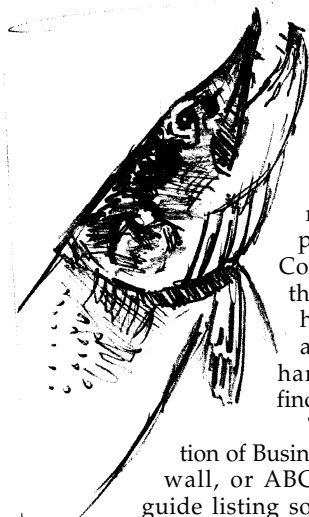
Next year, Art at the Dump will take place on April 24 and the prizes will be made by this year's winner, Barbara Stone. And, Barbara, when you go to the Cornwall Inn with your gift certificate, try the osso bucco. Like you, it's also a winner.

— John Miller

Local Resources

Spring, and an older person's fancy turns to the seasonal hope of finding someone younger, stronger, and more energetic to help with the daunting tasks which come with warming weather.

Few pleasures are more intense than drifting off on a nap to the sound of someone *else* mowing the lawn or preparing next winter's



wood supply. Where to turn in your hour of need? We are lucky that so many talented people in Cornwall are in the business of helping out, and to have a handy way to find them.

The Association of Businesses in Cornwall, or ABC, puts out a guide listing some 201 businesses in town. Last year's issue of 5,000 copies was so successful that it is gone, though you may be lucky enough to find one still at the participating stores. The new issue should be out in early June, so until then you can look for notices on the bulletin boards at area businesses and the P.O.s, ask around for ideas, or check out the listings at cornwallct.org. By hiring each other, we keep the money in Cornwall.

—Maggie Cooley

Moser's Sun and Shadows

The paintings of James Henry Moser (1854–1913), consisting mainly of pastoral scenes showing Cornwall 100 years ago, will be at the Library starting on May 31 for three months. The exhibit is jointly sponsored by the Library and the Historical Society, and has been organized by Joan Edler, Ellen Moon, and Fred Thaler. It is part of the Mattatuck Museum of Waterbury's "Picture Perfect," a multi-site loan exhibition of Litchfield County art from before 1940.

Moser was a major American artist who sometimes worked in oil or pastels, but his real love was watercolor. His fame rested on his landscapes, which capture the fleeting effects of light and color. His work was purchased by the White House and the Smithsonian.

He was married to Martha Scoville of Cornwall in 1883 and for 30 years painted the Cornwall countryside. Moser is buried in the North Cornwall Cemetery and several of his descendants live here today.

"Nobody does this atmosphere as well as he did," says Thaler, "or can show the sun and shadows sliding up the hills." The paintings have been loaned by the Historical Society and other collectors in town - so many, according to Moon, that some of the display will be changed from time to time so that the public may see them all.

The Library will offer a program July 19 on artists in the Northwest Corner. Robert Austin, whose illustrated book, "Artists of the Litchfield Hills," is a companion piece to the Mattatuck exhibit and all its satellite shows, will be the speaker. A reception with wine and cheese will follow, and copies of the book will be on hand in both hard cover (\$45) and soft cover (\$32), to be autographed by the author.

— Ann Schillinger

This Guy Bears Watching

He's believed to be between two and three years old, weighs around 200 pounds, and goes by the name M02, or so says the red-orange tag that dangles from his right ear. He's a black bear who, according to Paul Rego, a Newington-based wildlife biologist for the Connecticut DEP, was captured and tagged in Goshen in 2002 as part of a project to study the habits of this proliferating species. He's made Cornwall his home of late, based on increasingly frequent sightings by local residents.

In late April M02 appeared at the Cream Hill home of John and Nan Bevans, and may have been the same bear who on May 7 visited in succession the homes of David Blakey, Lisa and Doc Simont, and Lilly Hollander in the Ballyhack-Pierce Lane area. And he is certainly the bear who has sat (or, rather, stood)

for photographs for Cilla Mauro and Jan Tenney at the latter's home on Route 128 just outside of West Cornwall.

M02 embodies the changing nature of the modern Connecticut black bear: a not-so-shy demeanor and an apparent lack of concern about the presence of humans. He has been observed marauding bird feeders and rummaging around garbage cans, and at the Bevans home was encouraged to lumber off reluctantly only after being hollered at from inside the house. Lilly Hollander tells of his penetrating gaze as he watched her come out of her house, get into her car, and drive away.

While at the moment this may amount to nothing more than a nuisance for Cornwallians, it adds urgency to the debate about how we humans can best coexist with these wild animals while keeping our contact with them to a minimum. The DEP's website at dep.state.ct.us, in a link entitled "Wildlife in Connecticut Informational Series: Black Bear," details steps residents can take to avoid reinforcing negative behavior in these visitors. And, as Paul Rego reminds us, the DEP continues to urge anyone who has seen any bear, whether M02 or one of his cohorts, to report the sighting by calling 860 424-3333.

— Tom Bechtle

Good-Bye to Friends

Hans J. Schrimpf
Constance Hall Gloeckner

Congratulations

Lesley Gyrosok to Christopher Petersen
Cynthia Bianchi to William Wenkert

Welcome

Michael John Spring to
Maryanne and John Spring
Annabel Lee Sen Resor to
Catherine Scott and Jamie Resor

Land Transfers

Bruce A. and Kathleen C. Vakiener to C. William and Loraine M. Kaman II, trustees, house and 10.4 acres at 142 Great Hill Road, \$1,150,000.

Estate of Elizabeth Lorch Palmer to Roger Jackson, lots 1, 2 and 3 (5.16 acres total) Kent Road, \$160,000.

Gerard J. and Mary E. Burns to Linda S. Malone, house and land at 95 Kent Road, \$402,500.

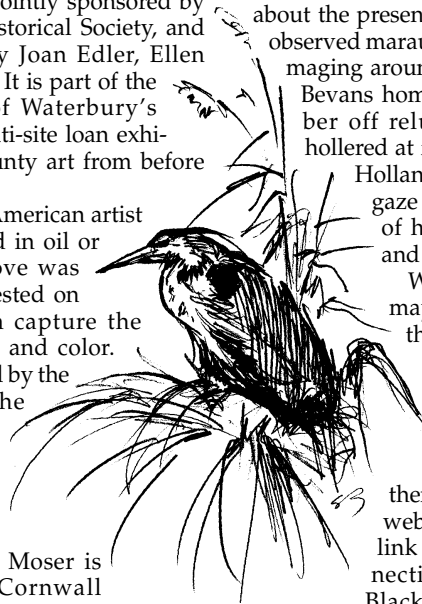
Louis M. and Claudia Paniati to Gerald and Dorothy Cusack, house and 5.95 acres at 199 Dibble Hill Road, \$315,000.

Harvey Offenhartz to Benenson Family LLC, 18.366 acres on Warren Hill Road, \$140,000.

Is That A Yellow Rump?

"Whatcha got? A kingbird! First of the year and right on time!! Good spotting, Celia! Oh! A gorgeous look at a blue-gray gnatcatcher! And who's going to call the singer on the right?"

This is photographer/naturalist Art



Gingert pumping energy into an eager group of 15 warmly dressed binocular-draped members of the Cornwall Birding Group (plus this reporter) as we start out along the Housatonic on the Sharon side south of Cornwall Bridge one clear but chilly Sunday morning in early May. As this stretch of river is on a major migration corridor, we don't lack for birds, some just in, others about to resume their northward journey, and all of them chattering away at once like a bunch of first graders at recess.

How anyone can pick out individual voices from this cacophony is beyond me, yet that's what experienced birders — and there are many in the group — can do. Art demonstrates this by identifying five different birds at one hearing. (Beginning birders use mnemonic aids like "Drink your tea!" or transliterations like "dyup dyup dyup gitty gitty gitty" or "titty titty titty twee!" but this group is way beyond that.)

If you are birding by ear the next step is to locate the bird. For this you need sharp eyes and good binoculars, neither of which I have, but the group members are very helpful. ("Just below that dead branch at two o'clock. Oops! There he goes!")

The more experienced birders are quick to find new birds, and Art keeps up a running commentary: "Palm warbler! That's a good find! Know a nickname for the yellow rump? Butter butt!"

As most of our early finds are tiny songbirds which look pretty much the same to me, I'm glad when we spot, from a grassy field by the river, some bigger birds: mergansers, mallards, a kingfisher, and from far across on the Cornwall side comes the sound of a pileated woodpecker bonging away.

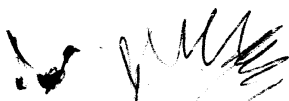
Art offers bird curiosities such as why cowbirds lay their eggs in other birds' nests (they were originally nomadic) or how Mrs. Bluebird keeps her nest clean (she picks up sacs of pre-packaged baby poop and drops them over the side).

As we near the ruins of the old Stanley farm we see our first bird of prey, a redtailed hawk circling high. Then another hawk, lower down, which Joe Ellis identifies as a Cooper's hawk, uncommon in this area. ("Good find, Joe!") From a far tree comes the unmistakable croak of a raven. A bit later sharp-eared Joe Gwazdauskas hears a ruffed grouse "drumming" at a pitch too low for his enemy the great horned owl to hear, but not for Joe. ("Good ears, Joe!")

It's now 10 A.M. We've been out three hours but Art looks as if he could go on all day. As we head back toward the cars he says, expectantly, "There'll be new birds coming in tonight."

— George Kittle

The Cornwall Birding Group is sponsored by Park & Rec. and is open to anyone. For walk schedules, call coordinator Carla Bigelow at 672-0283 or Celia Senzer at 672-0500.



Letters to the Chronicle

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

We are peace advocates who, for many Saturdays, participated in a vigil held on the Cornwall Bridge Green to protest our government's policy of unilateral and pre-emptive strikes on Iraq—a policy that undermines the authority of the United Nations and that needlessly alienates our global neighbors.

Recently a sign appeared on the Green—"Support Our Troops." We who protest our country's policy in Iraq do not wish to discredit the troops who serve our nation. They are doing what they committed themselves to do when they enlisted—that is, to follow the orders that come down to them in the chain of command.

We support those troops, our troops. However, our policy in Iraq has already caused the deaths of more than 150 or our young men and women. The number of deaths of Iraqi civilians (including children)

is now estimated to be over 3,000.

Therefore, we protest any policy that brings about the premature and costly deployment of American troops charged with the initiation of a war with questionable motives. We speak as citizens and as veterans of World War II who willingly served in Europe and the Pacific for what we believed was a "just cause."

Is the war now in Iraq a "just war"?

We say "No."

Our vigil has been discontinued for the time being, but we are ready to resume it when we feel the need to challenge the acts of our government.

Meanwhile, two signs sit side by side on the Green, one saying "Support Our Troops," and the other saying "War Is Not the Answer." The signs challenge us to acknowledge the complexity of the moral questions that continue to face us all in this world.

—Spencer Klaw, Ken Keskinen, Scoville Soule



Events & Announcements

Cornwall Court Time: The red clay tennis courts in Cornwall Village have been reconditioned by the Town of Cornwall and are ready for use under the auspices of the Cornwall Community Tennis Association. This year there will be a sign-up sheet to reserve court time. A tennis clinic for 6- to 18-year-olds will use the courts from 8 A.M. to noon Monday through Thursday from June 24 until August 1. The cost is \$25 for two lessons per week. Once again there will be a discount week June 24 to 27, underwritten by teacher Todd Piker and Park & Rec., when \$12.50 will get you four lessons. To enroll for any of the programs offered call Todd at 672-6545. Space is limited. All of the above was made possible by the Town of Cornwall, the Tennis Association and the generosity of the Hubbard family, who owns the courts.

Celebrate the Contributions of CCS teachers Jo Loi and Lynn Meehan to the education of Cornwall's youth at a Lemonade Social Sunday, June 22, 4 to 6 P.M. at the CCS gym. Alumni, parents, and friends are invited to say thanks and farewell as these two teachers retire. Join the Board of Education and the PTA for lemonade, light refreshments, and memories.

Park & Rec.'s Annual Beach Party will be at the Cream Hill Lake Association on Friday, June 20, from 5:30 to 8 P.M. Lots of food will be provided, plus swimming and a DJ for tunes. Open to all Cornwall residents and free of charge. Just come!

Fund Raiser: The fifth annual Bike-a-Thon that raises money to support the UCC's La Casa project in Mexico will take place in two parts in June. On June 8, the ride will be a 100-mile loop through the tri-state area. On June 21 there will be a 100-km (62 mi.) ride into Berkshire County, MA, and back over flatter terrain. Both rides will leave from the Town Hall. Money raised will be used to purchase materials for the houses that the volunteers will build in northern Mexico June 22 to 26. Non-riders can support them by sending contributions to the United Church of Christ, Box 35, Cornwall, CT 06753. Call Bill Gold at 672-3049 for pledge forms or start-time confirmation.

A Summer Enrichment Program for children three to six will be held at the Cornwall Child Center Monday to Thursday, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M., from July 7 through July 31. The program explores Cornwall's rich environment of farms, birds, animals and streams. There will be hiking, games, crafts, songs, stories, dramatics, puppetry, enrichment in the arts, plus field trips and swimming. For more information call Pamela Brehm at 672-6989.

Heroic Hawk Documentary: The New York Audubon Society's documentary film *Pale Male* will air at the Cornwall Free Library on Saturday, June 7 at 4 P.M. Sandy Fiebelkorn of Sharon and New York City will present this film about the brave redtailed hawk of the same name who has lived and bred on Manhattan skyscrapers for many years. Cornwall redtailed hawk experts will be at the talk to answer questions about the raptors. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library. The event is free, but donations to the Library are welcome. Videos will be available for sale for \$20. Call the Library at 672-6874 for further information.

Hughes Memorial Book Sale: The Hughes Memorial Library in West Cornwall will hold its annual book sale on Saturday, June 28, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Donations may be left at the Library during regular hours. To arrange pick-up or delivery at another time, call Estelle Stetson at 672-6769.

Jubilee Visit: A group of students, teachers and parents from Philadelphia's Jubilee School will arrive in Cornwall on June 20 for their annual four-day visit. Families who would like to be hosts are asked to call Pat Blakey weekday mornings (672-6840) or Peg Keskinen (672-6486) at other times. The usual potluck supper will be held under a tent at UCC on Saturday, June 21 at 6 P.M. followed by a variety show. All are welcome. Bring a salad, vegetable or dessert to share. Elementary-school-age children must register by June 10 to join in some of the other activities planned. Call Tracy Gray at the church office (672-6840) for information and to register. Call Nita Colgate (672-6797) after June 5 for a schedule of events.

The Cornwall Association is sponsoring an Invasive Plant Identification Walk on Wednesday, June 4. It will be led by Elizabeth Corrigan of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group. Some examples of invasive plants: purple loosestrife, giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed. To register or for more information call Carla Bigelow at 672-0283 or Judith Herkimer at 672-6867.

Early Cornwall Chronicles: The Cornwall Historical Society has published Town Historian Michael Gannett's latest book, *Cornwall Grand Lists, 1742-1820, and Cornwall Censuses 1790, 1800, 1810 and 1820*. The 184-page volume can be bought (\$12) at the Society, the Cornwall Free Library and Barbara Farnsworth Books in West Cornwall. It can also be ordered postpaid (\$15) from the Society at P.O. Box 125, Cornwall, CT 06753. And save the date Friday, June 13, from 5 to 7 P.M., when the Historical Society will be holding a reception in honor of Michael at its Pine Street building.

Out-of-Town Readers

This is our annual reminder that we ask a \$10-per-year contribution to cover our mailing costs. We don't send renewal notices, but please check the date in front of your name on the label; it indicates the expiration date of your subscription. If you read the *Chronicle* online (at www.cornwallct.org) we still need your donation to cover the cost of producing the electronic edition.

Tax Relief Programs: With tax bills scheduled to go out at the end of June, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reminds us of two Cornwall tax relief programs:

(1) If your property tax bill exceeds 8 percent of your income, you may enter into a tax-free situation with the town, which then takes a lien on the tax-abated property. That lien is eventually settled when the property is transferred.

(2) Persons facing difficulty in paying their tax bill may apply for a \$200 reduction if the tax exceeds 10 percent of their income. This request must be filed with the town by June 15. For more details on either of these programs, contact the First Selectman's Office at 672-4959.

Hammond Beach Opens for the season on Saturday, June 21. Hours are 11 A.M. to 7 P.M., seven days a week. Sign-up times for swimming lessons and the town swim team will be 11 A.M. to 7 P.M.



June 23 to 28 at the beach.

Resident season passes are \$10 for individuals and \$20 for families. They can be obtained weekdays at the First Selectman's Office or by mail at P.O. Box 205, Cornwall, CT 06753. For information call Jane Prentice at 672-6101.

June Is for Dogs: The State of Connecticut requires that all dogs six months or older be licensed annually by June 30 in the Town Clerk's Office in the town where the animal is kept. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be submitted or be on file. Neutered and spayed dogs cost \$8, and male and female dogs cost \$16. There are penalties for late registration. You may apply by mail to P.O. Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753 and please enclose a SASE for return of tag and license.

The Cornwall Child Center annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 18, at 8 P.M., following a business meeting at the Center on Cream Hill Road.

Save Saturday, June 28, 4 to 6 P.M., for a party at the Cornwall Free Library for retiring librarian Ginny Potter. A ceremony with speakers begins at 4:30 P.M., followed by music and refreshments.

Free Concert: Cornwall native Lorraine Choiniere Hammond, one of the country's finest Appalachian dulcimer players, will give a free concert at the Town Hall on Sunday, June 22 at 3 P.M. In addition to the dulcimer, Lorraine plays the five-string banjo and folk harp. She will be accompanied by her husband Bennett Hammond who plays fingerstyle guitar. Lorraine collected traditional songs from local musicians while growing up in Cornwall, and the concert will include old Scottish ballads she learned from members of the Degreena family. Her parents lived here until their recent passing and the Hammonds offer this concert in gratitude to town residents for the assistance and support they provided. The event is sponsored by Park & Rec. and Friends of the Library. Refreshments will be provided and people are encouraged to bring their musical instruments and a picnic for post-concert merrymaking. For further information please call the Library at 672-6874.

The 2nd Annual Corndance Film Festival hit the CCS gym on May 18. All the stars were out. This year's judges' picks: 1st Prize to Danielle Forrester for *e.e. cummings' Loneliness* and 2nd Prize to Tom Schiller for *The Acid Generation: Where Are They Now?*

The audience selections: 1st Prize to Dominique Lasseur and his Cub Scouts for *Zombies Take Cornwall* and 2nd Prize to April Stevens for *Warren Leaves Home*. Kudos to organizers Donna Murphy and Lib Terrall.

Cornwall Author Rinker Buck will give a reading from his recent book *First Job: A Memoir of Growing Up at Work* at the D. M. Hunt Library on Main Street in Falls Village at 6 P.M. on June 21. The reading is part of the Saturday Sessions series at the library.

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JUNE ISSUE

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