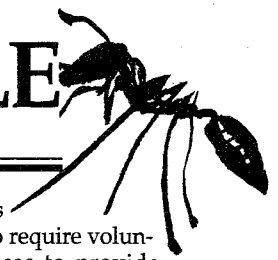


CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 7 : NUMBER 10 NOVEMBER 1997



Monopole, Anyone?

Like other towns in the state, Cornwall is trying to minimize the impact of the new telecommunications towers that will soon appear in our area.

On September 20, representatives from AT&T met with town officials to discuss siting of a monopole antenna in Cornwall. Although the Mohawk Mountain tower serves cellular phones in part of the town, another tower is needed in the Cornwall Bridge area. Since such towers are federally mandated, towns must cooperate with those wishing to erect them. The AT&T representatives reminded the selectmen and other officials that "We will not proceed oblivious to local P&Z regulations, but we don't need to file an application or follow town rules."

Placement of towers is under the jurisdiction of the State Siting Council. By law, AT&T (or any other carrier) is required to follow a pre-siting process: after official notification is given to the town, filing is required within 60 days with the "applicant providing the chief elected official with technical reports concerning the public need, the site selection process, and the environmental effects of the proposed facility."

The Cornwall Bridge installation would consist of a monopole antenna at least 100 feet high, along with an equipment shed measuring 20 by 12 feet. Such towers are

built to withstand hurricane winds up to 85 miles per hour, said an AT&T spokesman. Moreover, monopoles crumble in on themselves; they won't topple on adjoining properties.

AT&T has identified two suitable sites: the Peter Van Doren property on Popple Swamp Road and Merz land near the Cornwall Bridge Firehouse. The Van Dorens do not wish to proceed without input from town officials. Bernice Merz, concerned about both visual impact and encroachment, does not want to lease any of her land.

In a recent letter to FM Technologies (consultants to AT&T) First Selectman Gordon Ridgway has noted that both locations "will be controversial." He also requested more information regarding "comprehensive plans for the town and region, tower heights, other potential users of the tower, and specific environment impact analysis." Furthermore, he urged that as an alternative to a new tower, additional equipment be put on existing towers. "We're waiting to hear," said Gordon.

So are we all.

—Ken Keskinen

Ambulance Fight Won...For Now

Thanks to the strong public outcry in Cornwall and throughout the Northwest Corner, the Connecticut Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) is in the process of major

restructuring. Efforts last winter by OEMS to require volunteer ambulance services to provide paramedic-level emergency medical service generated outrage against yet another unfunded mandate from Hartford. Area ambulance squads and the public argued long and loud last spring that the proposed regulations were uneconomical and unrealistic given the region's rural character. At the same time, the argument ran, the new requirements would open the door to private for-profit ambulance services that might replace the volunteers.

OEMS Director Michael Kliner and his deputy have both resigned and OEMS's structure and procedures are under legislative review.
—Earl Brecher

Library Gears Up for Move

At a special Cornwall Library Association meeting on September 9, trustee David Grossman presented a resolution creating a negotiating task force for the move the library contemplates to the Monroe-Bodkin building. The resolution also called for a building and long-range planning task force and a fund-raising task force.

After passing the resolution, the Board of Trustees picked October 23 as the date for these committees to present to the board reports describing initial plans and ap-

(continued on page 2)

NOVEMBER 1997

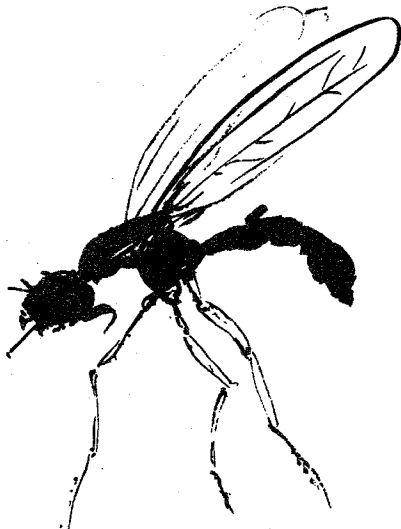
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| Nov. 3 is the cut-off day for voter registration by the following persons: those who have become citizens; those who have reached the age of 18; and those who have just moved to town. Check with the Town Office. | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 Nov. Art Show, Nat. Iron Bank Corn. Br., Nona Coffill (p.4) Voter Regist. cut-off (see above) Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Monday Skating starts, Sals. Sch. Rink 7:30-8:30 P.M. (p.4) | 4 ELECTION DAY Polls Open 6 A.M.-8 P.M. Parent-Teacher Conferences at CCS (p.4) Park & Rec. 7:30 P.M. Town Office | 5 Parent-Teacher Conferences at CCS (p.4) Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Stretch Exer. Class, 5 P.M. Lib. Inland Wet. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall | 6 Parent-Teacher Conferences at CCS (p.4) Agricultural Advisory Comm. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse | 7 Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library | 8 |
| 9 | 10 Cornwall Library Art Show Harvey Offenhardt through 12/13 (p.4) P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall | 11 Dem. Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Republican Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Conf. Room Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library | 12 Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Stretch Exer. Class, 5 P.M. Lib. CCS PTA, 7 P.M. CCS Library | 13 | 14 Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Park & Rec. Game Night 7-9 P.M. W. Cornwall Firehouse (p.4) | 15 Deadline for December Chronicle copy Cornwall Association 4 P.M. Town Hall |
| 16 | 17 Region One Board of Education 7 P.M. HVRHS Library | 18 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall | 19 Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Stretch Exer. Class, 5 P.M. Lib. | 20 Cornwall Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library | 21 Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library | 22 |
| 23 | 24 ZBA 8 P.M. Town Office | 25 | 26 Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Stretch Exer. Class, 5 P.M. Lib. Cornwall Fire Department 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse | 27 THANKSGIVING DAY | 28 Thurber Documentary by Adam Van Doren (World Premiere) 5 P.M. Cornwall Library (p.4) | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

(continued from page 1)

proaches. David Grossman was chosen as the negotiator for the board. Ella Clark and Norma Lake will assist him. Members of the building and planning task force include John Calhoun, Lynn Cheney, Phyllis Nauts, and Terry Carlson. Hector Prud'homme will serve on the fund-raising task force as will Lisa Simont and Montgomery Hare. Before moving the meeting into executive session, Audrey Ferman, President of the Library's Board of Trustees, emphasized that Kay Fenn would be much needed as an advisor.

It was apparent to all that a great deal had been accomplished and that discussions on this issue had reached a new phase.

—Anne Zinsser



Cornwall Cave Persons

Baldwin Cave lurks in the Waramaug Formation on the southern flank of Coltsfoot Mountain. It is formed of sillimanite-garnet quartz-feldspathic biotite gneiss, and has for many years attracted wanderers, Marvelwood students and Congregationalists.

Polly Calhoun tells of a church picnic about 1875, when her husband Frank's father would have been 15: "They all went in on hands and knees carrying lit candles in their teeth, and got a fire going. If you built a fire in one particular place, the smoke would come through the roof. But one girl was late. Not only late, but stout. She got stuck in the passageway, and so blocked the circulation of air that the cave started to fill with smoke, whereupon someone tried to pull her in. A smarter person suggested they push her out, which they did. She had to do without the picnic, which was too bad. I believe the entrance has been blocked off now."

Baldwin was shaped partly by a combination of water erosion and "spalling along the plane of foliation" (the flaking of metamorphic rocks), according to Peter Feboriello of Torrington, cave scientist and member of the National Speleological Society. The glacier of 10,000 years ago did not gallop away, but settled, as sensible characters do, in Cornwall. Millennia of melting caused torrents of water to pour down; a turbulent whirlpool probably sucked the contents of the room down to the glacial lake that then existed at

1000 feet elevation and stretched north from the Coltsfoot Valley all the way to Vermont.

For all its dramatic history, the cave is elusive. "You never knew exactly where the cave was," recalls Phoebe Prentice, "so it was always exciting, always a great find. And it would change; sometimes it was scary, sometimes not. Go in alone? No way!"

With Peter Feboriello as guide, and with the kind permission of landowner Erwin Edelman, your Chronieler was finally able to locate the cave in a grand tumble of blunt boulders and Blistered Rock Tripe (a lichen). The opening is narrow and dark of entry, and exhaled a surprising cool breath of underground into the sunny air. The entrance passageway is confining. Suitable only for the slim and agile—bats, raccoons, teenagers. At last one stands up in a wide room that glistens with moisture and mica. The flashlight beam moves along the floor, picks up the gleam of broken glass, wanders up the shining walls to the roof, which is subtly banded in white, gray, pink, rust, black. Not so subtle are the sloppily painted graffiti. "These don't hurt the cave itself too much," says Peter, "but they hurt our sensibilities, the environment, and certainly they hurt the basidiomyces fungi that might be useful in medical research. By the way, you should always bathe well after caving to wash off the cave fungi that eat hair and nails of dead—or living—animals."

I reported on my trip to Polly Calhoun, who was glad to hear the cave was alive and well—and accessible. "We loved going there," she said. "I am delighted."

—Ella Clark



Just Dial 1-800-842-HELP

When you hear shooting on a Sunday, discover an unwanted hunter on your property, or see strange lights floating through the forest at night, accompanied by gunfire, what do you do? Some years ago I saw those lights and knew they belonged to jackers using flashlights to hypnotize deer. The beam of light makes the eyes of a deer gleam like twin rubies; a perfect target. In this circumstance, not wanting to become a target myself, I dialed 1-800-842-HELP for assistance; Peter Begley, fish and game patrolman, responded.

Since then, Peter has been promoted to sergeant, with two patrolmen assigned to work under him. Together, in the Northwest Corner towns, they primarily perform a law-enforcement function for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), but they also deal with many aspects of work with fish, wild animals, and forest lands. For example, they have continued to keep tabs on

the moose spotted last month at the bottom of Music Mountain and have traced it north of Torrington. However, when asked whether another animal of interest, the North American cougar, inhabits our area, Peter stated that he will believe it when someone shows him the photograph.

Peter Begley lives in Cornwall, is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts with a degree in soil science; he has worked with DEP since his graduation in 1969.

—Earl Brecher



Good-bye to Friends

James Cooley

Barbara C. Dakin

Chester E. Lyman

Lotte Goslar Seehaus

Thomas H. Whiteside

Land Transfer

Gunther C. Hepprich and Ursula Dinneen to John D. and Rita Repas, house and 2 acres on Kent Road for \$142,000.

What a Lovely Fair!

On September 20, the Cornwall Green was filled with typical fair activity. Animals, including two goats, a huggable calf, and a strutting show-off turkey, filled one tent.

Sixty-nine local exhibitors signed in at the registration table, 14 more than last year. Flowers, baskets of produce, baked goods, and jars of preserves filled another tent. A craft tent, machinery corner, and working sawmill were great attractions. Children tumbled in a hay pile looking for pennies, tossed big bubbles into the air, and lined up for horse or pony cart rides. They vied for turns to crank the butter churn and cider presses. Samples for all.

An award for excellence goes to our judges for their ability to look authoritative and to resist bribery. The children's table was filled with blue ribbons earned by 15 young exhibitors. Twenty-five people entered garden produce. Did you see all of Hector Prud'homme's blue-ribbon entries? How about Pat Polk's plentiful and perfect pickles! Thanks to all who exhibited.

Winner of the grand prize (\$1,300) in this year's cow chip lottery was Mike Hanke, who also won two of the \$25 second prizes. Other runners-up were Susan Link, S. Ripley, Kirsten Michaels, J. Harding, and Kevin Hubbard (two \$25 prizes). —Cilla Mauro

Conservationists Convene

Action on two conservation fronts marked the annual meeting of the Cornwall Conservation Trust on October 5. Chairman Ralph Gold announced plans to purchase the

Rogers property in North Cornwall. This prime piece of land, adjacent to the church, is bounded by Cogswell and Rattlesnake Roads. Ralph said that over \$100,000 of the \$120,000 price of the property had been raised; Gold said the trust was confident that the rest would be in hand by the October 30 closing date.

The meeting's other focus was the Cathedral Pines. Using slides, Michael Gannett recounted the history of the pines, quoting the Reverend Ezra Stiles, who noted in 1762 that some of Cornwall's pines were "180 feet tall, seven feet in diameter, and that the height to the first branch was 70 feet."

Michael reminded his listeners that the 20th century Cathedral Pines are not the remnant of a primeval forest, but a later growth started about 220 years ago. In 1967 it was the largest stand of white pine and hemlock east of the Mississippi. In that year, the Calhoun family, which had owned the wooded tract, gave the 42 acres of mixed white pine and hemlock to the Nature Conservancy.

The meeting adjourned to the sunlit Cathedral Pines, where Judith Preston, of the Connecticut Nature Conservancy, walked the group through the area to see the changes that have occurred since the 1989 tornado. Preston said that a study of the site before and after the storm reveals careful management of its development. Over the years hardwood trees had been harvested, and in 1953 some white pines were cut for use as pilings for the Tappan Zee Bridge. She noted that in colonial times trees of this caliber were known as "King's Trees."

After the devastation of 1989, the Nature Conservancy decided to clear only a 50-foot strip on either side of the road, and leave the rest as a kind of laboratory for observing the dynamics of recovery and forest succession. Preston pointed out marked lots—grids for organizing studies of the recovery process. She spoke of "nurse trees" and "tip-up" mounds made by the root balls of fallen trees, which bring nutrients to the surface. Throughout the afternoon, Preston reminded her audience that incidents like the tornado should not be viewed as disasters for the forest, but nature's way of rejuvenating it.

—Julia Scott



A Burning Issue: We Win

At the end of September, Cornwall's selectmen and Salisbury's First Selectman Robert Smithwick met in Cornwall with State Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Sydney J. Holbrook to settle the question of whether the two towns could re-

(continued on page 4)

Letters to the Chronicle

PRAISE FOR A BIG CHANGE

In recent weeks, the Cornwall Planning and Zoning Commission has taken steps to eliminate the industrial/residential zone in Cornwall Bridge and replace it with a residential zone.

There are people in town who are convinced that this change will lead to a loss of opportunity and jobs for our community. THIS IS NOT SO. P&Z is formulating an alternative plan to encourage thoughtful commercial and manufacturing opportunities in town, employing a strategy known as a "floating zone." This type of zoning will permit the commission to consider proposals for commercial enterprises or light manufacturing throughout Cornwall, but will also provide it with a regulatory capacity to ensure that any proposal remains sensitive to residential and environmental concerns. Other towns have adopted the floating zone concept successfully. In fact, Cornwall considered such an idea during its 1987 town planning process, but never fully developed the concept.

It was clear to the commission, as well as to many of us in town, that the I/R zone was creating more problems than it was solving, and that it made no sense for the community of Cornwall or for the environment along the Housatonic River.

I would like to thank P&Z and Tom McGowan, the town planner, for their judicious examination of the issues, and for a wise and forward-thinking decision.

I would encourage anyone excited or concerned about this change to study the Town Plan, come to commission meetings, and offer thoughtful commentary.

—Jed Struckus

A HAPPY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER

I want to express my joy in having decided to become a volunteer at the Cornwall Consolidated School last year. It is such fun to work with both the students and the staff. I started last year with some trepidation as I was not sure how a white-haired older lady would be received by the students. I worked with the fifth grade and the eighth grade and both sets of kids were just great. They were polite and thoughtful and always helpful. I could not wait to do it again this year. I urge anyone with a little spare time to volunteer. It does not require any special talent and is very rewarding. If you can help, call Jamie Monagan at 672-4815 and join me at the elementary school. Your help will be appreciated.

—Janet Gold

A LONG-LOST WALLET

During one of a number of family expeditions to the Baldwin Cave (see "Cornwall Cave Persons," p. 2) during the late '60s and early '70s, I emerged from my explorations for lunch, brushed myself off, and discovered I no longer had my wallet. It appeared that in squeezing



through some narrow aperture, I had extruded my billfold from my pocket. A lengthy search was unavailing.

So the wallet is, presumably, still there, complete with driver's license, credit cards, cryptic notes on scraps of paper, and about \$75. Anyone finding it is, of course, welcome to the cash; I'd just like to learn it had been found (672-6296).

—Charles Osborne

CHEERS FOR LITTLE LEAGUE

Look around at our Cornwall Little League folks! We've gone from a team with one win and 14 losses in 1992 to being the champions of the Tri-town League two out of the past three years. Enthusiastic players and coaches and the dedicated direction of our own Commissioner of Cornwall Baseball, Mark Pastre, have built our baseball program into something to be proud of.

Coach Rick Lynn attributes some of the success to the "start 'em early" structure that Mark Pastre and Park and Rec. have worked hard to create. A thriving T-ball program and growing minor league teams give Cornwall youth opportunities to learn to play and love the game before it's time for Little League. Rick also emphasizes that Cornwall coaches have striven to defuse the winning/losing aspect of Little League: "We tell them, remember, these are your friends out there. Have fun and play your best game." The result has been a group of players whose sportsmanship and teamwork make them a joy to work with. But don't forget, there would be no team to work with without the steady support of parents who faithfully bring players to practice after practice, as well as sell and buy hot dogs to raise extra money for the program, and provide the necessary "Go team Go!" at the games.

Cornwall baseball players, coaches, and fans want to maintain this golden era of baseball. Our baseball field is in need of attention on an annual basis and our pool of faithful coaches who enjoy the kids as much as the sport needs replenishing. If you want to show the love of the game to the upcoming ranks of Cornwall players, why not contact Craig Simons (672-0111) and volunteer to be a coach? At present, there are NO coaches preparing to work with next year's Little Leaguers. Also, currently there is no Cornwall Babe Ruth League team, which means our seventh and eighth graders have no team on which to compete. This sets them back significantly when they reach high school and want to play ball. Community support is needed to find a home field and people to help build a team for our most experienced players. And here's something everyone can do—next spring make plans to come to the games and cheer Cornwall on to glory again!

—Deirdre Fischer

(continued from page 3)

sume burning of brush and scrap lumber on town property. Salisbury had a major brush problem resulting from the April 1 snow-storm. In September, Cornwall was ordered, as a pollution-control measure, to stop burning clean scrap lumber at the town landfill.

These DEP stop orders caused significant inconvenience; in Cornwall, officials were forced to raise fees at the landfill to cover the estimated annual \$10,000 cost of carting away material that had formerly been burned.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway made an effective case for Cornwall before the commissioner as well as Representative Andrew Roraback and Senator Del Eads, who also attended the meeting. Commissioner Holbrook, who had taken the trouble to come out from Hartford, assured both towns that changes could be made. Cornwall, under supervision, will be able to resume burning at the landfill. Bulky-waste fees will remain at the new rate, but there will be no charge for burnable material.

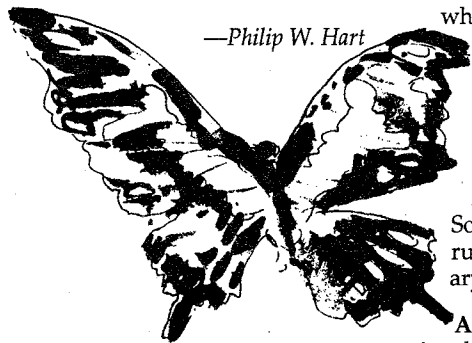
—Earl Brecher

Bradford Scholarships

The Cornwall Board of Education has announced the recipients of the Bradford Scholarship for the 1997-98 academic year. This scholarship is derived from a bequest to the University of Connecticut and is awarded to Cornwall applicants entering UConn at Storrs.

Jonathan Daley has been awarded \$1,000 for each of four years, and Eric Augustyn, who is entering UConn at Storrs as a junior, has been awarded \$1,400. The awards are administered through the financial aid office at UConn.

—Philip W. Hart



Talking Turkey

There are no holidays in the news-gathering game, and when our readers are walking off the big bird, *Chronicle* editors will be putting the final touches on the December issue. Not that we're asking for sympathy, but you know what we do ask for in this space. If you remember us the next time you pick up your checkbook, we'll be most thankful.

Events & Announcements

Northwest Corner Chore Service (NCCS), which helped its first client in Cornwall in 1992, has served 24 Cornwall families this year with \$19,112 worth of housekeeping, yard work, and other tasks that help older people stay independently at home. NCCS pays workers \$9.50 an hour; clients contribute whatever they can. We regret that we had only 12 Cornwall workers in 1997 (they earned \$5,840); we need more. Help your neighbor and get paid for it! Call Ella Clark at 364-1003.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on November 4, 5, and 6 at CCS. Classes will be dismissed on these days at 1 P.M.

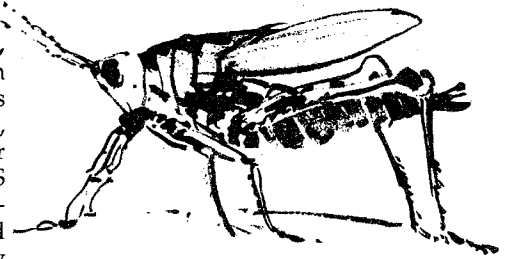
James Thurber's *Life and Hard Times*, a documentary film by Adam Van Doren, will have its world premiere at a Friends of the Cornwall Library gathering Friday, November 28, at 5 P.M. at the Library. Supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, Adam has filmed interviews with Edward Albee, John Updike, Marc Simont, Fran Liebowitz, and others. Refreshments and drinks will follow the showing. Tickets are \$35 a person and will benefit the Library. Seating is limited so those interested are urged to act now. Send checks to the Friends of the Cornwall Library, Box 126, Cornwall, CT, 06753. Questions? Call Lisa Simont, 672-2659.

Fun & Games: Looking for some Friday evening fun? Park and Rec. will be sponsoring Game Night at the West Cornwall Firehouse one Friday per month during the winter. November 14 will be our first night, 7-9 P.M. Scrabble, gin rummy, Monopoly—what's your favorite? Use our games or bring your own. We'll have refreshments.

Sharpen Your Ice Skates and join your neighbors at Park and Rec.'s Monday night skating at the Salisbury School Rink, 7:30-8:30, one dollar per person. Soft hats are required. The program will run from November 3 until mid-February.

Art in Cornwall: The folks at the National Iron Bank in Cornwall Bridge would like to thank Treasa Pattison for stepping into the breach and showing her paintings at the bank in October. In November, Nona Coffill will be showing watercolor landscapes at the bank.

Beginning November 10, at the Cornwall Library, Harvey Offenhartz will be exhibiting pastel landscapes inspired by Cornwall.



Lots of Book Sale \$\$\$: After tireless Friends of the Cornwall Library toiled as sorters, haulers, packers, unpackers, and salespeople, eager book lovers snapped up \$1,454 worth of merchandise at the Columbus Day sale. That was \$271.60 more than was raised at last year's sale.

The Little Benefit Shop at the railroad station in West Cornwall needs volunteers to work in its thrift shop, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., to benefit the Little Guild of St. Francis for the Welfare of Animals. Please stop by or call 672-6534 during business hours. The Little Benefit Shop also needs clean, good quality items of clothing, bric-a-brac, hardback books, china, silver, linens, collectibles, and small antiques. Contributions are tax-deductible, all proceeds benefiting the Little Guild of St. Francis, a non-destroy shelter located on Route 128 next to the West Cornwall Firehouse. The shelter is open to the public Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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