

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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BY THE

CORNISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Introductory Notes on the History of the Cornish Police Department

For most of Cornish History, local law enforcement was not a major issue. For Example, in 1960, there were two constables, elected by the people, and the expenditure was \$150. Paul LaClair served as Chief Constable for many years, and in the 1960's he was joined by Dale Rook. For information about constable responsibilities during this period, see the CHS Film Interview with Dale Rook where he describes his work.

The situation began to change from that time on as change came to Cornish. In 1977, the town voted to have the Select Board appoint the constables. The feeling was not unanimous, as the vote was 90 in favor, 54 against. For 1979-1980, the expenditure was \$4,000.

In 1978, four part-time constables were appointed: Matthew Tinker, William Stocker, Jim Lukash, and Andrew Kuhre. In 1979, Gote Sartz was designated in the Town Report as the first Chief

Jim Lukash succeeded him and in 1980 submitted the first Police entry in the Town Report. Phillip, later known as Joe, Osgood, came after Lukash in 1984. In the 1986 Town Report, the force was referred to as Police Officers not Constables. In the 1987 report, Osgood asked the town to consider having a full-time Chief.

Compiled by Laird Klingler, Librarian, Cornish Historical Society, from Town Reports, March, 2018

EAGLE TIMES

Serving the Twin State Valley

Thursday, July 20, 1978

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Man allegedly held wife, son hostage

Tear gas ends armed siege in Cornish

By ALICE DEMBNER

Eagle - Times Staff

CORNISH, N. H. — A Cornish man was charged with one count of aggravated assault Thursday morning in Claremont District Court after he reportedly held his estranged wife and son hostage for a short period Wednesday and held police off for almost three hours while armed with four loaded weapons.

Raymond Eastman, 46, Town House Road, Cornish, was arraigned and released on \$1,000 bail. An accomplice, Robert Nye, 21, Ascutney, Vt., was charged with disobeying a police officer, reckless conduct, and hindering apprehension. He was released on \$300 bail. Both cases will return to court Aug. 24.

The incident began early Wednesday afternoon when Eastman

visited his wife and son who are living separately from him while divorce proceedings are arranged. Eastman reportedly kicked in the door of the house, wrecked a good deal of the furniture, threatened his wife, and held her and his teenage son hostage for several minutes.

New Hampshire state Police responded to a call about the family being held hostage, but Eastman had left when they arrived. Police went to Eastman's home to question him about the incident but were refused entrance and threatened.

Eastman began to fire a gun inside the house and police retreated. Residents in the four houses on either side of Eastman's place were evacuated and the New Hampshire Police SWAT team was called in.

A two and a half hour siege followed, during which police tried to

convince Eastman to give himself up. They were communicating with Eastman through two windows which he had broken jagged holes in.

During the stand-off, Nye broke through a roadblock on Town House Road by nearly running over a state trooper and gained access to the house. Police report he was encouraging Eastman to hold out.

At about 8:05 p.m. police dropped tear gas canisters down the chimney. Both men ran from the building and were arrested.

Inspecting the house, police found two loaded shotguns, a loaded rifle, a loaded pistol, and a stockpile of foodstuffs.

The Cornish Police Department and Cornish Rescue Squad assisted state police throughout the afternoon and evening.

7/11/1976

Cornish Men Fined In Marijuana Case

CLAREMONT — Two Cornish men were fined \$200 each and a hearing was set for a third on charges of marijuana possession aired in district court Monday.

Daniel Whitcomb, 19, and Michael Davis, 20, both pleaded guilty to possession of a non-narcotic drug (marijuana). Bruce Dumont, 18, pleaded innocent to a similar charge and a hearing was set May 27.

The three were arrested by state police after a search of Whitcomb's rented chalet on Dingleton Hill prompted by a pre-investigation by Cornish constables James Lukash and Orville Fitch.

In other court action, Dana R. Giguere, 23, of 11 Harvard St. waived probable cause hearing on a charge of criminal liability for the conduct of another and was ordered bound over to the next term of Sullivan County Superior Court.

Barn Fire

Giguere has been charged in connection with an April 19 fire which destroyed two barns and a shed at the home of Olga Clow in West Unity. Two alleged companions have also been charged with arson, attempted arson and criminal liability.

Giguere has entered no plea to the charge and is being held at the Sullivan County House of Correction in lieu of \$2,500 bail. He waived his right to counsel in Monday's session.

Richard R. Currier, 37, of Windsor was fined a total of \$175 and lost his license for 60 days after pleading guilty to driving

while intoxicated and operating without a license.

Edwin Bennett, 31, of Saxtons River was fined a total of \$170 and lost his license for 60 days after pleading guilty to driving while intoxicated and speeding.

Rodney Raymond, 23, of Pine Crest Trailer Park was fined \$10 after pleading guilty to a violation of city ordinance No. 143, Sec. 2, consuming an alcoholic beverage on a public way.

Patricia Macie, 25 of 16 Spofford St. was fined \$25 after pleading guilty to allowing an improper person to operate.

Judge Albert D. Leahy Jr. presided.

Cornish

Town Responds To Officer Tinker

By PAT YUDDEN

Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — People prevailed over plows at town meeting yesterday, when voters rejected \$25,000 in special articles but came to the aid of one of their fellow residents while passing a \$237,027 budget.

The appropriation for the Police Department was increased from \$7,430 to \$10,930 after Selectman Stanley Colby explained that \$2,500 of the extra money will be used to compensate Officer Matt Tinker for an accident suffered in the line of duty. Tinker has received almost no insurance payments because of a quirk in the New Hampshire law.

Tinker has been disabled and unable to work since he was involved in an automobile accident on February 11, and he expects to be out of work at least

another six or seven weeks. Tinker spent two weeks in the hospital, including one week in intensive care, recovering from severe facial injuries, a broken sternum and several broken ribs.

Although Workman's Compensation paid for his medical bills, his weekly pay compensation is based only on his police department earnings during the 12 weeks before the accident. Since he is only a parttime policeman, his weekly compensation is only about \$24 a week. Also, since he was injured while employed by the town, he cannot collect on his accident policy through his regular fulltime employer.

"This is not due to an oversight on the part of our selectmen," Police Chief James Lukash said. "This is due to a quirk in the law that affects every town in the state that employs part-time officers. For years we assumed that we were covered in a situation like this. It could happen in any town."

There were no protests when Colby asked for the \$2,500 for Tinker plus an additional \$1,000 to purchase a Wage Interruption Policy to cover such situations in the future.

Voters also increased two other items in the budget proposed by the selectmen. The appropriation for town hall expenses went from \$16,798 to \$17,348, with the extra \$550 to be used to upgrade the building's inadequate wiring. The Workman's Compensation for town employees went from \$5,807 to \$6,107, with the \$300 extra to cover several firemen added to the department.

These three increases totaled \$4,350, bringing the total budget from a projected 7.1 percent to a 9.1 percent increase, which will raise the town portion of the tax rate an estimated \$.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Residents rejected an article to purchase a new pickup truck and plow, which would have cost about \$12,000, preferring to keep the existing truck for at least another year.

They also turned down a request for \$12,000 to repair the bridge on Clark Camp Road, which has been closed since it was damaged by floods a year ago.

Also rejected was an article requesting \$1,500 to replace a fence around Edminster Cemetery in South Cornish. Resident Bruce Tracy drew a laugh when he questioned the need for a fence by asking, "Is someone trying to get out of there?"

Three articles to disburse \$10,000 in revenue-sharing money were approved: \$4,000 for this year's payment on the

International truck, \$5,000 to Claremont for sanitary landfill, and \$1,000 for improvements in the offices of the selectmen and town clerk, including a separate telephone line for the selectmen.

Voters approved \$3,312 for the town of Windsor for ambulance service, \$1,500 for the Rescue Squad, \$600 for Wheels Around Windsor, \$768 for N.H. Vt. Solid Waste Project, \$322 for the Dartmouth-Lake Sunapee Region Association, and an additional \$3,000 for the New Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, which will be added to the \$2,000 approved in the budget.

Two amendments to the zoning law were approved by paper ballot. One allowing home occupations in a conservation zone passed 238-54; the other makes property owners (rather than the selectmen) responsible for the location of driveways intersecting town roads; it was approved 200 to 80.

Mar 11, 1981

Police solve rash of burglaries

By MARGO HOWLAND

CLAREMONT, N.H. — Claremont and Cornish police announced Friday that they have solved a rash of burglaries occurring over the past three months in the Cornish area, along with one Claremont burglary, with the arrests Thursday of a Cornish man and two juvenile boys.

Charged in Claremont District Court Friday with six Cornish burglaries was Raymond Oldenburg, 20, Harrington Road, Cornish, who was also arraigned Thursday on one Cornish and one Claremont burglary.

Police indicated that the additional burglary charges were brought Friday instead of Thursday because of the amount of time it took to complete all the paperwork on the cases.

Oldenburg is being held at the Sullivan County Jail for lack of \$4,000 bail, \$500 on each charge, authorities said. A 16-year-old Cornish boy, alleged to have been Oldenburg's accomplice in the break-ins, has been charged in juvenile court with all eight burglaries, and a Claremont boy, age 17, has been charged in juvenile court with possession of the stolen property and possession of property with defaced serial numbers, Claremont Police Lieutenant Michael N. Prozzo Jr. and Cornish Police Chief James Lukash said.

Police have also recovered a camera reported stolen out of a car parked in a driveway in Claremont, but have not determined who stole the camera, Prozzo said. The Claremont juvenile was charged with possession of the stolen camera, and with possession of a camera with defaced serial numbers, a misdemeanor.



RECOVERED LOOT — Cornish Police Chief James Lukash, left, and Claremont Police Lieutenant Michael N. Prozzo Jr. examine a stolen camera recovered Thursday in a raid on a Claremont apartment. Also confiscated was an estimated \$1,300 in stereo equipment

stolen in a Cornish burglary, a number of street signs and a quantity of marijuana. An adult and two juveniles were charged in connection with seven burglaries in Cornish and one in Claremont as a result. (Margo Howland Photo)

burglary which led to the suspects and the clearing of other burglaries.

"These items, except for the camera and the signs, all came out of one burglary in Cornish that was the biggest burglary," Prozzo said. Taken in the other breaks were such items as liquor, food, and cash, ranging from \$15 to \$100, Lukash said.

Prozzo said most of the breaks occurred during the daytime, and in many cases the suspects "found the doors unlocked and walked right in."

Lukash said the burglars were, in some instances, seen by neighbors in Cornish who didn't pay any attention.

"It seems to me that seeing a couple of people walking down the road with jugs of whiskey in their hands would seem a little unusual. We would have solved these cases a long time ago if people had been paying attention. In one case they walked right by some neighbors near the house and they weren't paying any attention so they couldn't describe them," Lukash said.

"They were carrying things that would have told people paying any attention that they were up to no good," he said.

The Cornish juvenile has been placed in a home, and the Claremont juvenile was released to the custody of a responsible adult, Prozzo said.

The Claremont home broken into on March 22 was the Rodney Dorr residence on Old Windsor Road. The Cornish burglaries, which dated

from Jan. 10, were at the homes of Jack Sunday, Townhouse Road; Robert Kallinch, Parsonage Road; Steven Lyle, Route 120; James M. McElreavy, Parsonage Road; Frank Taylor, Harrington Road; Donald Wends, Harrington Road and Dr. Edward P. Newcott, Parsonage Road.

Prozzo said Oldenburg and the Cornish juvenile had been staying at various places in Cornish "wherever they could hang their hats" and that the Claremont juvenile had been

staying with a chum who was not involved.

A probable cause hearing on the charges against Oldenburg has been scheduled for April 19, police said.

Cornish and Claremont police worked together on the cases from the beginning, Lukash said. "It was my feeling that eventually it was only a matter of time before they showed up in Claremont," he said.

State police also assisted in the case, Prozzo said.

Early Thursday morning, armed with a search warrant, Prozzo, Lukash, Cornish Police Officer Matthew Tinker, Detective Robert Mitchell, Sgt. Orville "Bud" Fitch and Claremont Officers Joseph Dalton and William Wilmot raided the Mulberry Street home of one of the juveniles and recovered several stereos, the camera, a number of street signs from Claremont and Windsor and a plastic bag containing several ounces of marijuana. The items were valued at \$1,300, police said.

Although police had an idea who was behind the burglaries, Prozzo and Lukash said, the turning point in the investigation came with the break-in of a Claremont residence on March 22, this past Monday.

"The break-in reported Monday in Claremont fit the same M.O. as the Cornish breaks," said Prozzo, and Mitchell followed up on information provided by a person in connection with that

Police Assistance Agreement Likely

By ANDY CORRIGAN

Valley News Correspondent

PLAINFIELD — Cornish and Plainfield selectmen got a rare chance to meet officially at last night's Plainfield selectmen's meeting. They got together to hash out the details of an emergency police assistance agreement between the two towns.

According to Plainfield selectman David Stockwell, the agreement was proposed simultaneously by Plainfield police chief Tim Crotts and Cornish police chief James Lukash. The agreement was not signed last night but selectmen say joint signature is expected soon.

"What we have now is that our policemen have very little authority once they're on the other side of the line, and the same is true with their men," said Stockwell.

The new agreement would allow the two towns to share assistance in emergencies when the chief of police determines that his department "lacks police officers readily available to handle existing police requirements."

The agreement would cost neither town anything at first. But it says: "The requesting municipality shall pay the wages of the responding officers from the time of response until withdrawal (from the scene) is completed." The rate of pay would be the same as what each officer receives from his own department.

The Cornish selectmen — Michael Yatsevitch, Myron Quimby, and Cheston Newbold — last night gave to their Plainfield counterparts a revised draft of the agreement they had received from the police chiefs. The Plainfield selectmen tentatively said they saw no problems with the revisions and assured the Cornish selectmen that the text "looks pretty good."

Both groups will now send the agreement to their insurance companies for approval before ratifying it.

The Plainfield selectmen — Peter Haubrich, Sherry Kelley, and Stockwell — will probably visit Cornish the next time the two boards meet, they said.

Said Cornish selectman Michael Yatsevitch, "I think this is a very good agreement for all of us. Both towns will benefit."

In other business, the Plainfield selectmen continued a discussion of zoning matters. Selectman Peter Haubrich went to the town's zoning board Monday night seeking clarification of town ordinances relating to multiple use of single lots, junk cars, and limits on billboard signs.

Haubrich wants to know when those ordinances should be enforced, who should enforce them, and in some cases — such as in billboard sign limits — whether the ordinances can actually be enforced fairly and realistically.

"What we have," said Haubrich about the signs, "is most likely quite a few people in violation. It may seem unreasonable to have people skrink their (existing) signs down to the law."

Selectmen have indicated that they may seek changes in the town's existing ordinance, which allows one sign of not more than 32 square feet per premise.

Haubrich said his other questions on zoning were largely cleared up Monday night. The zoning board said that any situation that might lie outside the zoning ordinance would have to be brought before the zoning board which could either deny or approve a variance or exception.

He called Monday's meeting helpful. Haubrich and the town zoning administrator this Monday will visit the planning commission with the same issues in mind, "just to communicate."

Out of 386 dogs voluntarily reported in town, only about 20 still have to be registered, according to police chief Crotts.

The selectmen said they are still working to decrease the the \$120,000 they plan to request at a special town meeting August 26. They are asking voters a third time for money for a new town garage; the old one burned in October of 1982.

The town is now renting space on a short-term agreement with G&S Trucking on Route 12-A. Selectman Kelley said the town has been hurt by not having a central location from which to operate its highway equipment.



From left, Jeff Rizzo, Tony Rizzo and Ralph 'Skip' Davis recovered a Cornish family's life savings from the Connecticut River Sunday afternoon.

Boys retrieve stolen bonds from river

Windsor Chronicle

Oct 6, 1983

"I was scared a lot when I couldn't get back up the rope," said Ralph "Skip" Davis as he described a hair-raising escapade which resulted in a Cornish couple recovering most of their stolen bonds valued at about \$10,000.

Davis and two friends, Tony Rizzo, 11, and his brother, Jeff Rizzo, 12, were playing on the historic Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge when they looked out an opening near the middle and saw something shining in the water far below.

It was about noon when they spotted the object, but couldn't reach it, so they went to Davis' Jacob Street home for a rope and hustled right back to the bridge. Tony remained on the bridge while Jeff and Skip clamored down to the piling, still some 30 feet above the water. Skip shimmied down the rope to the footing of the piling and attempted to reach the metal box, but it was still out of reach. But the boy's ingenuity saved the day and he was able to drop a chain down through the handle and pull it up with a stick to a point where he could raise the box.

Once the box was tied to the rope, Jeff hauled it up to the top of the piling and the same procedure was followed to pass it to Tony on the bridge. Then the problems began. Skip discovered

he couldn't climb back up the rope. He said he thought about swimming for shore, but decided the water was too cold. About that time

Paul West and David Smith, both residents of West Lebanon, came downstream in a boat and picked Skip up, taking him to the Windsor side of the river.

When Tony opened the box he couldn't believe his eyes. It was packed full of savings bonds, bank books and checkbooks. The three boys never considered keeping the bonds, but took them to the Windsor Police Station where they were identified as the property of Frederick and Geraldine Oldenburg, Cornish. They had been taken from the couple's home Sept. 19 and reported stolen at that time. The box had also contained about \$200 in silver coins, but those were missing.

Windsor Police turned the box and its contents over to Cornish Police Chief James Lukash who contacted the owners and the investigation is continuing.

In the meantime, the youngsters headed for home. Tony and Jeff knew they were in trouble because their mother, Shirley Rizzo, had told them to be home on time for supper. Mrs. Rizzo said Tony's first words were, "Mom, I know we're late, but I just held \$10,000." She said she was "not a bit pleased" when she heard where the trio had been because they had been on the bridge before and had been told never to go there again. "But I'm proud that they never considered keeping the bonds and knew they had to be returned to their owners," she said.

Cornish Man, 21, Gets Six Months For Auto Theft

NEWPORT — Christopher Blanchard, 21, of Cornish, was sentenced in Sullivan County Superior Court yesterday to serve six months at the Sullivan County House of Correction for stealing a car, driving it through a cornfield and disposing of the vehicle in the Connecticut River in Cornish on or about Oct. 11.

Blanchard pleaded guilty to criminal mischief, a misdemeanor, and theft, a felony, in connection with the incident.

Blanchard stole a 1979 Chevy Chevette from the East Road residence of Fred Sullivan and drove it through the cornfield of Charles Steve, causing \$500 in damage.

On the criminal mischief charge, Superior Court Judge Joseph A. DiClerico Jr. sentenced Blanchard to serve a 12-month sentence at the House of Correction, with all but six months deferred for one year. He will begin serving the sentence next Thursday.

Blanchard will return to court in a year to show cause why the rest of the sentence should not be served. He was also placed on probation for two years.

On the theft charge, Blanchard received a deferred 12-month sentence to the House of Correction and was placed on probation for two years.

In both cases, he was ordered to make restitution to the victims and reimburse the state for his counsel fees.

UNION LEADER, MANCHESTER, N.H. — Friday, February 12, 1988

Valley News

Friday, March 18, 1988

County dispatch plan explained

By EAMONN SULLIVAN
Staff Writer

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. — Town officials reserved judgement on a proposed Sullivan County dispatch center Wednesday night.

County Business Manager Robert Hemenway, Sunapee Police Chief Orville Fitch, and Newport Police Chief Arthur Bastian met with Charlestown officials to explain the proposed county-wide dispatch center.

Hemenway said that the county is trying to get feedback from cities and towns about the center "to see if they want it. If they don't, there's no need to develop the center."

Fitch summarized the recommendations of the Sullivan County

Dispatch Committee, of which he was a member.

The committee studied a report by the International Association of Chiefs of Police commissioned by the county, in which a central dispatch center was recommended and several alternatives were proposed, including using Newport or Claremont dispatch facilities and creating another branch of county government.

Fitch said the committee agreed with the consultants that the county needed a central dispatch. The committee also recommended that a center be designed as a non-profit corporation, located in a new building at the county facility in Unity.

Fitch said the non-profit corporation would give towns more control over the facility without unnecessarily enlarging county government.

Fitch said the advantages of such a center would be increased communication between police and fire departments and emergency services throughout the county. He said the committee felt that the county will be forced to develop such a service in the future.

Bastian said the "fragmentation" of services in the county would eventually cause problems. Liability problems will force the county to adopt a central service, he said.

The Forum

Terrorism In Cornish

To the Editor:

My good friend and neighbor has had a horrible injustice done to him. For several years he has been the target of many cruel pranks. But now a deliberate killing of his beautiful horse has been the same as a bullet in him. Not only is he in fear for his life, but all of us wonder if we or our animals are safe from this sickness.

I cannot put into words how sick I felt watching two excellent vets try for over three hours to save this spirited horse. Many other neighbors and friends stood by in disbelief knowing they were helpless to do anything but comfort one another and pray this siege of terrorism would stop.

My poor friend could only hold the dying mare's head down and cry as we all heard her gasping for air into lungs that were rapidly filling with blood.

We all hoped a small miracle could save her. But no. How he loved that horse. We would go out once or twice a week on the trails with his mare, his pride and joy and good friend. It always reminded me of how he was so happy with her progress. Only a horse or animal lover could understand their special relationship. Only a disturbed mind could kill it.

My friend's only crime was his fierce love for his horse and determination to protect his land from illegal hunters. Any true hunter plays fair and doesn't hunt on prominently posted land. A coward is someone who sneaks around when no one is home.

All of Cornish is truly upset at what has happened. The neighbors have all pulled together through this tragedy, but we cannot let this sort of thing go unnoticed. We can't stop seeking justice for this and all the other crimes around us. No, my friends, people must know there will be justice in the end.

The Lord will deal with those that hide in their dark ways and evil doings for the sake of excitement and malicious intentions.

We, as concerned citizens, cannot let this go as a misdemeanor or something of a "freak accident." It must be prevented from ever happening again.

GAYLE HEIM

Cornish

A Despicable, Repulsive Act

To the Editor:

Someone shot my neighbor's horse. It was last Saturday evening, and it was no accident.

The shooter aimed for the mare's throat, to kill. The bullet he or she fired hit the horse hard, ripping her lungs and piercing her spine. She was standing by her barn door when she was hit. My rage at her death is overwhelming.

A number of people tried to help her and her owner. There was nothing we could do, except to comfort them both as best we could. I am writing this letter at the request of some of those who were there to let the owner know, to let my neighbor know, that we stand with him. Whoever did this perpetrated the most despicable, repulsive and inhuman thing to happen in this lovely town for years. Whoever did this took a shot at all of us, for what happened to one of us affects us all.

To my neighbor I can only express my sorrow, and my understanding of his loss. To the shooter I can say nothing. English has not the right words.

PETER HOE BURLING

Cornish

Wednesday, March 9, 1988

Valley News



Valley News - Bob Mard

Joseph Dennis offers some information during the discussion of an article calling for a full-time police chief in Cornish. The article was soundly defeated.

Cornish

Police Chief's Job Remains Part-Time

By DAN BILLIN
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — The residents of Cornish — population 1,300 — voted in favor of preserving their small-town atmosphere yesterday, rejecting the idea of a full-time police chief and deciding to paint the town hall on their own rather than hire a contractor.

Despite emotional statements of support from residents whose homes have been burglarized or vandalized, voters at the annual town meeting rejected a proposal to hire a full-time police chief. The measure was defeated 85-45.

In other business, voters approved a \$443,205 budget for 1988, down 4 percent from 1987, and rejected a \$6,850 appropriation for painting the town hall in favor of \$1,000 for materials and a committee to line up volunteers.

The proposal to establish a full-time police chief's position was put forward by Philip "Joe" Osgood, Cornish's current part-time police chief, who said he would seek the position if voters approved its creation.

The proposal would have increased the police department budget from \$12,677 in 1987 to over \$45,000 in 1988, with a \$26,000 salary for the chief.

Voters turned down the plan even though Osgood amended the request to \$38,000, proposing that the full-time chief not start until April. Instead, voters approved a \$19,115 police budget that includes higher salaries for the part-time police officers. Osgood will now make \$7 an hour, up from \$6. The other officers also got dollar raises.

In arguing for the full-time position, Osgood cited limited state police availability and a surge in police calls over the past year. The difficulty for a part-time officer of finding the time for state training could eventually lead to a liability problem for the town, he added.

In a six-page proposal he distributed to voters at the meeting, Osgood said his department is having to assume more and



Valley News — Bob North

Part-time Cornish Police Chief Philip "Joe" Osgood, top, argues that the job should be full time. In Croydon, Moderator Jules Pellerin displays a sharp eye, a sharp pencil and a ready gavel.

more responsibility for investigating the local crimes it once turned over to the state police.

"We can't find the state police at the time that we need them," he said.

As a result, some local criminal cases are being dropped because "there is just not enough time," Osgood said.

During the meeting, he said the demands of the police department are interfering with his full-time job.

Three of Cornish's part-time officers — of whom Osgood is the only town resident — rotate the town's only police car, each having it for a week at a time.

In 1987, the Cornish police received 575 calls, up from 333 the year before. The four leading categories of calls, in order, were: requests for public assistance, dog complaints, motor vehicle complaints, and motor vehicle accidents.

"One of my major concerns is the juveniles in Cornish," Osgood said. He listed 15 juvenile complaints for 1987, as well as 27 incidents of criminal mischief and 27 reports of criminal activity. Being chief full time would allow him to work to head off juvenile problems, he said.

"It's really good to nip these things in the



bud," said resident Tony Neidecker. "By paying for Joe's budget, we're really paying for an insurance policy."

Several residents supported Osgood's request by talking tearfully or angrily about having been the victims of burglars or gun-toting vandals who take potshots at houses.

Having a full-time chief, however, would not prevent such crimes, said resident Bill Gallagher. He opposed the proposal, saying it would create a new bureaucracy that would only grow.

While the finance committee deliberately took a neutral position, selectman Michael Yatsevich said there was no proof that having a full-time chief "actively stops crime."

Other residents objected to the increased costs.

"They wanted a police cruiser, so by golly we got them a police cruiser. Now they want a police chief. Where's it going to stop?" asked resident Bob LaClair. "We're going

hells-bells overboard."

Jim Lukash, a former Cornish police chief, backed Osgood's request for an increased hourly rate for the part-time officers. "People aren't going to go out and get beat up and shot at when they can make more slinging hamburgers at McDonald's," he said.

Although he supported a better part-time pay scale, Lukash said he thinks Cornish is too small for a full-time chief — a sentiment echoed by several other voters.

Despite voters' reluctance to take that step, times have already changed for Cornish. When resident Fred Sullivan said he takes the keys out of his cars ever since one was stolen last year, many of his neighbors nodded their heads and said they now do the same.

The budget discussion was uneventful, with the only real surprise being health officer Virginia Wood's admission that she spent only \$1.67 in 1987 — for postage. Despite the inspection visits she makes, she didn't bill the town for gas because, "I have the selectmen drive whenever possible," she said.

This year the town made another concession to the modern age by appropriating \$8,500 for a computer to assist with accounting and property-tax billing.

When discussion turned to the historic but deteriorating town hall, however, voters decided to tackle the problem the old-fashioned way. They amended the \$6,850 painting appropriation to a mere \$1,000 for materials, and after one man volunteered to sell the town paint at cost, set up a committee to oversee the community painting effort.



Valley News — Larry Crowl

Philip "Joe" Osgood works at a Claremont service station besides serving as Cornish police chief.

Chief Looks For Improvements

By LOREN BILLINGS
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — Part-time police chief Philip "Joe" Osgood hopes he can find a way to improve the operations of the town's police department.

If he can't, he said, he'll quit. "I'll find the time to do what I want to do with the department or I'll find it in myself to resign, even though I don't really want to," he said recently.

Osgood believes police service in Cornish is inadequate because all of its officers are part-timers. Because they all work other jobs — Osgood works at a service station in Claremont — they often can't respond to accidents, fires or requests for help, relying instead on the state police. State police, though, often aren't in the area, meaning response is delayed. Also, because of a shortage of time, investigations either don't happen or are delayed.

Before town meeting last week,

Osgood thought he had an idea — hiring a full-time chief. He proposed that the police budget be increased from \$12,677 in 1987 to \$45,000 this year, and announced he would apply for the chief's job if it passed. It didn't. The budget was raised to \$19,115, but only to reflect higher per-hour pay for officers and an increase in the dispatcher service fee.

"I'd be a liar if I said I wasn't upset," Osgood said of the vote, which was 85 to 45. "But I'm not a quitter."

He won't be able to solve all of his problems this year, but he is initiating a program to update police training and policies. He'll start with the manual that tells officers the right way to handle situations. It's too vague now, he said, and a better one will mean increased safety for officers and less chance of lawsuits against the department.

"There are something like \$325 million worth of lawsuits pending against New Hampshire police departments," he said. "I'm afraid for myself."

When he finishes the manual, Os-

good said, he'll begin screening training films.

A third part of his updating plan includes hiring one more part-time police officer — the new budget also allows for that — which will bring the number of regular officers to four.

The extra officer will be the improvement that allows Osgood time to make the others, he said. He'll use a schedule that uses two people at a time, one on duty for a week, the other on backup for that week. Rotating them that way will give each person two weeks off at a time. Osgood said he'll use his two weeks and other available time to work on his manual and training plans.

But being full time would be much easier, he said. "What do you do when when you go home after you've worked a 40-hour week?" he asked.

One who did not support Osgood's proposal for a full-time police chief was Selectman Michael Yatsevich although the board as a group took no stand. He said at the town meeting that he saw no evidence that a full-time chief would reduce crime in town.

Plainfield Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Plainfield And Cornish Selectmen Mull Cooperative Services At Recent Special Session

June 9: Present: Judith Belyea, Peter Haubrich and Bruce Baird. The meeting opened at 7 p.m.

Met with the Cornish selectmen to discuss the possibility of joint services.

We discussed the possibility of sharing an administrative assistant. They are going to see if their people are interested in looking into this. They will form a study committee and get back to us.

We discussed the possibility of a joint police force. We said we felt that our police force had everything they could handle at the moment and we didn't see how either town could save money by doing this.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.
Bruce W. Baird, Clerk

June 8; Present: Judith Belyea, Peter Haubrich and Bruce Baird.

The meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Peter arranged to have a telephone installed by the phone company in Plainfield outside the store.

The road crew has continued ditching and grading. They are now up on Columbus Jordan Road.

Fairbanks testing will come down to test our underground tanks for us.

Anne Donaghy came in to have us sign the agreement with the Cornish Rescue Squad.

Art is having trouble with the tires on the grader. He is going to try filling them with chloride to see if that will take care of the problem.

Art has had some questions about the construction on Farm Road off of Stage Road. We will send a letter to clarify what we said to them.

Ray Morin came in to discuss the 4th of July parade. He is looking for names to help organize it.

We reviewed the proposed building and zoning applications and permit fee schedule. We voted to approve the schedule to be effective July 1, 1988.

Gordon has talked to KUA about parking on Chellis Road. They are also concerned and tried to police it themselves. We will post "no parking" signs on the left hand side of the road.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Bruce W. Baird, Clerk

From Page 1

had returned from a vacation late Sunday night and had not heard about the accident, said today that the board is meeting tonight and will decide then what to do about finding a temporary a police cruiser. "I really have no idea what we'll decide to do," she said.

Cornish Police Chief Joe Osgood defended the use of Unity's police cruiser and said that at the time of the accident, Hackett was "within department policy with every move he made."

According to Osgood, swapping cruisers between towns in Sullivan County is done "on a regular basis to maintain decent police protection." He said, "I feel bad it happened, but it could have happened to anybody."

For example, Osgood said, Cornish's sole police car has in the past patrolled Unity.

According to Osgood, who is responsible for investigating the events leading up to the accident, Hackett was responding a second time to a complaint at the Cornish Fair that some people in the parking lot, who had reportedly been drinking, were being "obnoxious" to others. The people were just leaving the fair parking lot as Hackett pulled in and he decided to follow them to make sure they were not going to be a hazard, Osgood said.

Hackett followed the vehicle on Townhouse Road and pulled it over at the intersection of Townhouse Road and Route 120. The vehicle fled while Hackett was calling in its registration number and that was when the chase began, Osgood said.

According to Hackett, a part-time Cornish police officer for the past six months and a part-time Unity police officer for the past 18 months, he decided to call off the chase after the speeds became too high. He is unsure how fast he was going at the time of the accident, but he remembers the speedometer reading 81 mph as he passed Power's Country Store.

"I decided that was too fast, that he probably wouldn't stop," Hackett said. And he called off the pursuit, coasted through a few turns and, about ¼ mile north of Cornish Flat, as Hackett put his foot on the brake, the accident occurred, he said.



WRECKAGE — Police inspect a Unity police car overturned in an accident in Cornish Saturday. (Wayne Carter Photo)

Unity cruiser is in Cornish crash

By **JULIAN P. BROWN**
Staff Writer

CORNISH, N.H. — A part-time Unity police officer, while on duty for the Cornish Police Department, wrecked a Unity Police cruiser Saturday evening only moments after he backed off of a pursuit with another vehicle.

Police officer Doug Hackett, 21, who also serves as a part-time police officer for both Cornish and Unity, was driving the Unity police cruiser, a 1979 Chevrolet Camaro. The car was totalled after it flipped over an embankment on Route 120 just north of Cornish Flat.

According to Hackett, who was uninjured in the wreck, the acci-

dent occurred at 7:06 while the cruiser was still slowing down shortly after he called off the pursuit of a vehicle he had chased for about one mile north on Route 120.

"I put my foot on the brakes, the rear end of the car went around, went backwards, went sideways into the embankment. The front right tire caught on the pavement," and the car flipped over, Hackett said today.

The accident leaves the Unity Police Force without a cruiser. Margaret Delude, chairman of the Unity Board of Selectmen, who

(Please see CRASH-Pg. 6)



HIGH TIDE — A boat which was being hauled by Lawrence Duval, Cornish, became disengaged from his vehicle Saturday afternoon on Route 120 and veered across a driveway and into the side of a garage owned by Paul Rollins. The mishap damaged both the siding of the garage and the boat. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

EAGLE TIMES, Monday, April 18, 1988—



THREE PEOPLE were injured in an accident Saturday night at the intersection of Pleasant and Mulberry Streets. Driver Diane Smead and passengers Kimberly Nelson and Cheryl Honney, all from Cornish, were treated and released at Valley Regional Hospital. According to police, the accident occurred as Smead's vehicle struck a vehicle (above) operated by James Hale, Newport. Hale reportedly swung wide onto Pleasant Street from Mulberry Street, entering the northbound lane of Pleasant Street and striking the Smead vehicle. Both vehicles received moderate to extensive damage. (Poody Walsh Photo)

Cornish Again Asked To OK Full-Time Police Force

By BRAD HILLS

Union Leader Correspondent

CORNISH — Voters will be asked to appropriate \$46,431 to establish a full-time police force during the business portion of the annual Cornish town meeting on March 18.

A similar proposal was voted down on a paper ballot tally of 85 to 45 at last year's meeting.

Cornish Police Chief Joe Osgood, who has headed the part-time department for six years, has once again renewed his call for a full-time police force.

In his message in the 1988 town report, Osgood noted that his department handled well over 500 calls for service during the year.

Osgood said he has seen the workload "increase dramatically" during his 11 years with the department.

"I have also taken great pride in the department," Osgood wrote. "I again find it necessary to inform the town that in its best interest it is beyond time to hire a full-time person for the department."

"I hope you will consider my hands-on experience of the situation when making a decision," Osgood wrote. "I can assure you our town will benefit from such a

change."

The part-time Cornish Police Department had expenditures of \$18,208 during 1988. In addition to Osgood, the department also has six part-time police officers.

Voters will face a 33-article warrant when they go to town meeting. For the first time, the business portion of the meeting will be held on a Saturday rather than a Tuesday. The meeting will get under way at the Town Hall at noon on March 18.

The board of selectmen has proposed a \$532,604 operating budget for the town this year. Voters appropriated \$514,836 to run the town during 1988.

Voters will consider several first-time capital outlays in addition to the full-time police department, including \$16,900 for a cemetery tractor, \$2,250 for a cemetery trailer, \$3,000 for a building codes administrator, \$1,000 for a special town project, \$1,500 for the Family Intervention, Referral and Support Team and \$1,000 for microfilming.

The town will also consider three non-binding referendum questions that are appearing on the warrant at the request of the Sullivan County Commissioners.

LOCAL
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Full-Time Plan Loses

MAR 20 1989

Cornish Police Stay Part Time

By ERIC LIPTON
Valley News
Staff Writer

CORNISH — A majority of voters aren't interested in having a full-time police officer, but they would like to be part of a county-wide emergency dispatch service.

In a seven-hour town meeting Saturday, with 31 articles on the warrant, voters approved a \$247,812 town budget and a \$217,160 highway budget, and appropriated \$19,350 for a cemetery department tractor and trailer, \$3,000 for a building and codes administrator, and \$2,000 to use during a study of where to put a new town office.

On the first paper ballot vote, on whether or not to hire a full-time police officer, 142 residents of the 946 on the checklist voted. By the time the moderator reached the 10th article at 5 p.m., half the crowd had left and by the last ballot vote, article 31, only 42 people were left.

It took over two hours for the voters to pass the town budget. They ended up passing it with \$200 more than the total that was printed in the town report. No cuts were made, but some money was added to town officers' expenses. Of the total highway budget, \$150,070 will be raised by taxes and the rest will come from a state grant.

This was the second year in a row voters turned down a request for a full-time police officer. Police Chief Philip "Joe" Osgood told voters that

Town Meeting '89



the full-time officer would be a "personal police officer" who would work with people who had regular run-ins with the law to try to help them reform their ways. Under Osgood's plan, the town would spend \$41,431 for the part-time chief, the two current part-time officers and a new full-time officer.

Osgood said it is getting more difficult

to find part-time officers because of stricter state standards. And his part-time officers come and go so often that he is occasionally left to run the department on his own, Osgood said. The two current officers are both from Claremont. One has worked for the town for four months, the other for almost a year.

James Lukash, former Cornish police chief, said it would not be right to have a full-time officer under a part-time chief. He added that the proposal for a full-time officer should come from a residents' committee, not the chief.

Selectman J. Cheston Newbold told voters that while the selectmen respect Osgood's request, and put it on the ballot for him, they do not support it. The board came to the same conclusion last year.

"We have discussed this with Joe, and we do have a position and that is we do not feel we can support a full-time police officer at this point," Newbold said. "We do not feel the

(Continued on page 16)

— CORNISH

(Continued from page 1)

gains will offset the cost."

Jim Neil asked residents if they had ever not received the police assistance they needed. Fire Chief John Rand raised his hand, and said once at a fire scene he could not get assistance. One other resident also raised his hand.

"I see one or two hands, so it appears to me that the existing system seems to be working and I would vote that we let it stand," Neil said.

After Osgood's proposal was voted down 102 to 40, he told residents that it won't be his fault if at some point he is not able to provide requested coverage.

"There's more work than that department can handle out there — no matter what anybody says. I am the one that is watching it happen," he said. "And it makes me feel better at the end of the year that you people told me" that the current staffing is adequate.

David Kibbie moved that the town spend \$2,000 on renovating town hall into new office space for the select-

men and the zoning and planning boards. The warrant article asked for \$2,000 so that if the town found a property that could be used for new offices, it could get a purchase-and-sales agreement to hold onto the land until a town meeting day vote.

Bernice Johnson said she "would hate to see this building cut up into a whole bunch of different rooms." She said the fair association and the church both use the town hall. The offices are currently in a small building off Route 120.

Newbold said the town offices are so cramped the selectmen are "just about able to breathe." But, he said, the selectmen would like to put off a decision on new offices so that different options can be studied.

"We don't need it yesterday, we don't need it next year, necessarily," he said. "We want a chance to look into it."

Kibbie withdrew his motion after it became apparent that it lacked the support of the majority. The motion that passed formed a committee to look for a place to relocate town offices and gave the committee

\$2,000 to use if it needed to hold a desirable location for a town meeting vote or to do engineering studies on possible office designs.

In support of the article that proposed to give the selectmen the power to appoint a building and codes administrator, Henry Homeyer, an electrician, said that in his work, he has "run across some pretty scary things that have been done" and the town really needs the administrator.

The selectmen said the town permit fees could be increased to cover the estimated \$3,000 the administrator would cost. The fire department currently does building inspections but Chief Rand said he does not have the manpower to do a thorough job. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Voters also approved \$1,000 to pay for supplies for this year's volunteer building renovation project. Last May, 125 residents painted town hall

for \$700 instead of the \$7,000 that had originally been budgeted for the project. This year's project, on the first weekend in May, will be the "beautification" of the town sheds on Cornish Flat and, if time and money remains, on Parsonage Road.

Voters agreed to give money collected as a penalty on landowners who take their land out of current use tax status to the conservation commission. And they formed a historic district commission, passed a \$15,000 property tax exemption for blind residents and added three alternate positions to the planning board.

After being told that Cornish's annual portion of the county public-safety dispatch center would be about \$6,800, \$2,000 more than the town paid last year for its dispatching services, residents voted 73-2 in favor of the proposal.

And by a 69-to-6 vote, residents changed the procedure for tax sales

so that now only the town, county or state can buy tax liens for unpaid taxes. This will prevent out-of-town "tax farmers" from buying up liens that come with a high-interest payment.

On a motion by George Edson, voters tabled a article that if passed would have instructed the town's state representatives that the voters support a bill that would require deposits on soda, beer, wine cooler and liquor containers. At least 80 percent of the unclaimed deposit money, under this proposal, would have gone back to the towns to help them pay for a recycling program.

Edson said first that this was not a town issue but one the state should deal with. But he then listed several reasons why he opposed bottle and can deposits. Bill Gallagher said the town has every right to voice its opinion on state or national issues. But Edson's motion to table passed by a 39-to-29 vote.

Claremont vandals caught

CLAREMONT, N.H. — Acting on information from a Cornish resident, Claremont police early this morning apprehended an adult and five juveniles believed responsible for a rash of rock throwing incidents in the city.

The six Claremont residents were apprehended at 1:30 a.m. as they drove in the Barnes Street-

North Street area. Police had been alerted to look out for a blue AMC Concorde wagon, the occupants of which had been seen throwing rocks at homes in Cornish earlier this morning.

No charges were formally made, and no names were released. The six will be prosecuted in the adult and juvenile sections of the Clare-

mont District Court once charges are made, police said.

Claremont police received a call about the rock-throwing car from the Valley Central Dispatch, which had been called by Cornish police with information from a resident, said Lt. William T. Wil-

(Please see VANDALS-Pg. 6)

mont of the Claremont Police Department.

The Cornish resident had apparently followed the car after witnessing some rock throwing and called in a description and license plate number, Wilmont said.

"(The Dispatch) notified us to be on the lookout for a particular vehicle because the vehicle had been seen throwing rocks at houses," Wilmont said.

Upon a search of the car, Claremont police found pieces of asphalt, he said. During questioning, the six admitted to throwing the asphalt at homes in Cornish and Claremont, Wilmont said.

The six are believed responsible for approximately 30 rock throw-

ing incidents in the past two months, police said.

Charges will be made once it is determined exactly which incidents they should be held accountable for, Wilmont said.

"The problem is there are so many (acts of rock throwing vandalism) out there. We're not going to lay the blame on them for every act of criminal mischief in the last three months," Wilmont said.

The apprehending officers included Sgt. Dave Hanson, Cpl. Jack Stukas and Patrolmen Joe Temple and Bill Wadsworth.

Claremont police noted in a press release that this apprehension might not have happened had not an observant citizen wanted "to get involved."

Cornish Man Indicted In Florida Drug Ring

CONCORD (AP) — A man indicted in Florida as part of a marijuana and cocaine smuggling ring was working for someone he didn't know was involved with drugs, his aunt said yesterday.

Charles Parry, 47, of Cornish, was arrested Tuesday by U.S. Customs and Drug Enforcement Administration agents at an estate in Cornish owned by his aunt, Margaret Parry St. Gaudens.

He and 20 others are accused, in an indictment handed down Oct. 6 in Miami, with conspiracy to import cocaine and marijuana.

But St. Gaudens said yesterday her nephew "was working for someone he did not know was involved with drugs. He was helping him in some of his many legitimate business enterprises."

She said he worked as a troubleshooter for the person's legitimate concerns, including a hog farm in Texas and a shrimp operation in Florida.

St. Gaudens is the widow of a nephew of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the 19th-century American sculptor whose estate in Cornish is a national park.

The estate in Cornish where Parry, living with his wife and her sister, was arrested is a short distance away from the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site.

Speaking from her other home in Coral Gables, Fla., St. Gaudens said the Parrys moved to Cornish this summer to fix up

the estate and planned to return to Florida to spend the winter with her.

She said she believes Parry was falsely implicated by a relative whom she has sued in a financial dispute, and who assumed Parry was behind the lawsuit.

Parry is accused of helping smuggle nearly four tons of cocaine and 35 tons of marijuana into south Florida between 1984 and 1989.

At the bail hearing Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Concord, U.S. Magistrate William Barry ordered Parry held on \$20,000 cash bail, and ordered him returned to Florida if he should make bail.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Keith Lohmann said Parry had made bail and was on his way to report yesterday to Miami federal authorities.

At the bail hearing, a Customs agent testified that Parry captained seagoing vessels delivering tons of marijuana into southern Florida, and also co-piloted small planes airdropping bales of marijuana and coolers of cocaine to boats off the coast of Florida.

However, St. Gaudens said he has not flown an airplane in years, though he did at one time have a pilot's license.

If convicted, Parry faces a maximum of life in prison and a \$4 million fine.

The indictment superseded an indictment returned by the federal grand jury in Miami.



Valley News — Bill Conrath

Police Chief Joe Osgood of Cornish takes measurements near Anna Pluhar's car, which was destroyed by the crash and the Jaws of Life used by rescue workers.

Woman Dies In 12A Crash

By DAN BILLIN
and ROGER CARROLL
Valley News Staff Writers

CORNISH — A Plainfield woman was killed and five other people were injured Saturday in two-car crash on Route 12A.

Anna Pluhar, 56, died after the car she was driving collided head-on with another car driven by Michael Norton, 19, of Claremont, police said.

Norton's car crossed the center line on a straight stretch of the road in Cornish, just north of Chase House and about 1½ miles south of the covered bridge to Windsor,

according to a state police report. The accident occurred at about 1:30 p.m. Saturday, shortly before a snowstorm. The cause of the accident is still under investigation, the police said.

Pluhar, who was co-op educator for the Twin Pines Cooperative Housing Foundation, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident, according to state police. Norton was treated at Valley Regional Hospital in Claremont for minor injuries to an arm and his face, and was released, according to a hospital

(Continued on page 20)

— CRASH

spokeswoman.

Four other people — members of Pluhar's family — were riding in her car, police said. Ivan Pluhar, 63, of The Philippines — her ex-husband — was listed in serious condition this morning at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, with chest and abdominal injuries.

Jefferson Thomas, three-month-old grandson of Pluhar, was treated at Mary Hitchcock for head injuries but had been released by this morning, according to a hospital spokeswoman.

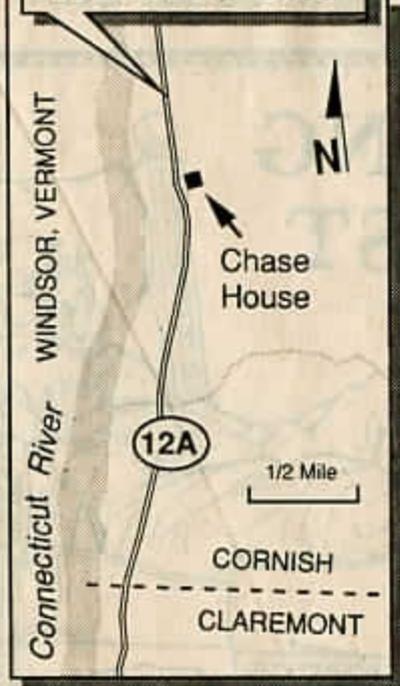
The infant's parents, Kevin Thomas, 36, and Andrea Pluhar, 31, of West Newton, were treated at Valley Regional Hospital for assorted minor injuries and released, according to a hospital spokeswoman.

The infant was in a car seat at the time of the accident. Anna Pluhar, her daughter and son-in-law were not wearing seat belts, an investigating officer said today. He also believed Ivan Pluhar was not wearing his belt.

Rescuers had to use the "Jaws of Life" tool to free the occupants of Pluhar's car, said Cornish Police Chief Joe Osgood. State police officers attached to Troop C in Keene, the Cornish Rescue Squad, and police from Claremont and Plainfield also responded to the accident, he said.

Pluhar became the first executive director of the Grafton County Sen-

Accident Site



Valley News—D. Marietta

ior Citizens Council in the early 1970s. The council's first home was on the second floor of the Carter Community Building, across the street from the old A&P store.

The latter would become the council's new home in 1979, after the supermarket closed and after a fund drive chaired by former Lebanon

"A very prime go-getter," was how Brown remembered Pluhar this morning. His memories of Pluhar asking the city council for money were especially vivid: "She was the kind of person who was very hard to deny. She was high-pressure when it came to getting money for that center. She was the driving force. That center wouldn't be like it is today if not for Anna.

"She was a very good administrator. Very dedicated. She was very involved in fund-raising . . . and also very involved in the design and renovation of the center," Brown said. "She was a very, very excellent person in that type of job."

"I saw the Upper Valley Senior Citizens Council grow substantially under her leadership," said Tom Pryor, who was regional administrator for the state Council on Aging in Littleton when Pluhar ran the local organization.

Pryor would later become Pluhar's deputy when her advocacy on behalf of the elderly landed her the job as director of the state council. She was appointed to the job by then-governor John Sununu in September 1984, and held it until the end of 1986.

"I think it's fair to say that she established herself as a very unique person, . . . a very tough administrator and a very capable administrator. On the other hand, she was genuinely concerned about the needs of people, and set standards of

administration."

Among her accomplishments at the state council, Pryor said, Pluhar helped draft a series of state priorities and protocols for providing services to the state's elderly population.

In an interview with the *Valley News* earlier this year, Pluhar acknowledged her forceful personality. She spent three months in a Carmelite monastery in 1987, but left after the other nuns decided she would change them more than they were ready to accept. "I make a difference in any community in which I live. I'm going to make a big difference," she explained during that interview this spring.

Pluhar had been working for most of a year as the co-op educator for the Twin Pines Cooperative Housing Foundation, a private, non-profit group based in Norwich and working on affordable housing in the Upper Valley.

According to John Chaffee, who was working with the foundation on behalf of the town of Hartford, Pluhar was helping the residents of two foundation-owned buildings qualify for limited-equity ownership of their apartments under a new state law.

"She'd just done a terrific job. She leaped into this with both feet," Chaffee said. "She was able to take the dense legal documents and re-work them so they were readable."

Scrapbook



CORNISH POLICE OFFICER Michael Evans stands by the newest addition to the town's police force. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

New cruiser for Cornish

CORNISH, N.H. — The Cornish Police Department has a new police cruiser. The approval for its purchase was given by voters at the annual March meeting.

The 1991 Ford LTD 4 door, a fully-equipped police package,

was purchased from Irvin Motors, Laconia, and has a five-year 100,000-mile, no deductible warranty.

"A warranty...made the purchase very attractive," said Philip "Joe" Osgood, police chief.

The outside lettering and covered bridge motif was done by Dale Flewellyn, Newport. Police lighting and radio equipment were installed by Osgood and a Cornish police officer Michael Evans.

Cornish police chief wants job expanded to full-time

East Times Feb 25, 1991

By RUTH ROLLINS
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — Cornish Police Chief Philip "Joe" Osgood believes there is a need for a full-time police chief to better serve the community. He will present the proposal at Town Meeting in March.

He has compiled and printed a pamphlet of information to inform residents why he feels the step is necessary. It has been placed at both the Cornish branch of the Claremont Savings Bank at Cornish Flat and at the 12 Percent Solution store on Route 12A to give residents the opportunity to know the facts before attending the meeting.

The information was gathered through Earl Sweeney of New Hampshire Police Standards and Training, Leslie Horne Jr., loss prevention coordinator of the New Hampshire Municipal Association, and Drville "Bud" Fitch, chief of the Sunapee Police Department.

Currently, the Cornish Police Department includes a part-time chief and patrolman.

"Law enforcement is a complex, demanding profession and while many part-time officers are competent, dedicated professionals, it is extremely difficult for any part-time officer to obtain or maintain a skill or knowledge level comparable to a full-time person," stated Osgood.

"I realize that taxpayers want as much education, police protection and other municipal services as they can afford, but it is important to consider the pros and cons of a part-time department," he continued.

"Police protection must be assessed in two ways. First, direct costs of receiving service, and, second, the indirect costs which can be forced onto a community if police work is not carried out properly."

He said that often, the indirect costs are overlooked — "costs of bad law enforcement, which could include community attitude, reputation, and citizen safety."

"Police officers are given the authority to deprive citizens of their freedom, to use physical force against citizens to effect arrests, and to use deadly force against citizens to prevent certain acts."

"These powers attract many individuals to law enforcement who lack the intelligence to understand, the education to com-



PHILIP "JOE" OSGOOD works at his desk in the Cornish Police Department office. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

and judgment to execute these overwhelming responsibilities," Osgood states.

He noted that the New Hampshire Municipal Association Property and Liability Trust, which insures Cornish and many other towns, has paid out "millions of dollars" in settlement of suits against local departments.

"If these dollars, now paid out by the towns involuntarily, could have been invested in better selected, supervised and trained officers, most of the problems could have been avoided," according to Osgood. "To make proper training possible, more adequate time is needed by a chief."

With a full-time chief, Osgood said burglaries, thefts, criminal mischief incidents, and similar crimes could be investigated much sooner after they are committed.

In addition, he said a full-time chief could help initiate several active programs of police-youth interaction, which could have a positive effect.

"After several years, this type of interaction could very well affect a reduction in crimes, because many are committed by juveniles," he said.

Osgood feels that more timely response to emergencies is usually a prime consideration in

chief and the Cornish department needs extra time to investigate cases.

A complete job description is included in the informational pamphlet offered, which includes a 40-hour work week schedule for a chief. To keep operating costs down, the chief would continue investigations of problems that occur on patrolman's hours, on the following day.

If a full-time chief worked any evening hours, the chief would subtract that many hours from his schedule the following day to avoid overtime costs.

An annual budget of \$50,912 would be needed to include a full-time chief position, with an adjusted amount of \$46,963 necessary to fund a full-time position for the remainder of this year.

Cost to a taxpayer for each \$1,000 of assessed property valuation would be 37 cents for a part-time chief's budget and 55 cents to fund a full-time position.

Demonstrating the impact of a full-time chief on the tax rate, Osgood compared assessment values. A \$75,000 assessment would increase the tax by \$13.87, a \$125,000 assessment would show an increase of \$23.12, and a \$185,000 assessment would show an in-

Full-Time Chief In Cornish?

By **KIMBERLY WOOD**

Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — Voters will decide at Town Meeting whether to appropriate \$46,964 for a new position of full-time police chief.

According to Selectman Michael M. Yatsevitch, the full-time position is needed "so the chief can concentrate on requirements, training, reducing insurance risks and better coverage."

Appropriations for the town's proposed 1991 budget total \$593,522.50, not including assessments for school and county taxes. Compared to the \$621,977 appropriated for 1990, the figure is down \$28,454.50, a decrease of 4.6 percent.

Yatsevitch said that the figure is down for 1991 because of fewer capital outlays. For 1990, property taxes to be raised totaled \$1,536,440 to cover the town budget and school and county assessments. Yatsevitch said that he didn't know how much will have to be raised in property taxes this year because of the uncertainty of revenues from the state.

According to the town report, 42.1

percent of the town's portion of the proposed 1991 budget is slated for highways. Three highway articles are listed on the warrant. The largest expenditure is \$229,823 for maintenance of Class V highways and bridges. Yatsevitch said that \$166,083 would pay for such things as plowing, sanding, culvert maintenance and ditches. Federal block grant money would provide \$63,740 for construction on certain roads, including the completion of blacktopping on Dingleton Hill Road and graveling on South Parsonage and Hell Hollow roads. Residents will also vote on the purchase of six radios and a culvert steamer for the highway department.

Elections of town officers will take place in the morning with all candidates unopposed. Among those seeking election are Yatsevitch for selectman, Janet McPaul for tax collector and Dan Poor for town treasurer. Also in the morning session will be a vote on the adoption of the revision of the town's zoning ordinance. The revised ordinance reflects the town's new master plan.

Cornish Town Meeting

■ Where: Cornish Elementary School gymnasium.

■ When: March 12 at 10 a.m.

■ Voting: On articles one through five by Australian ballot; polls open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Business meeting begins at noon for articles six through 23.

■ Key Issues: New position of full-time police chief; highway expenditures; water tank for fire department; zoning amendments.

Other warrant articles include \$16,100 for a water tank for the fire department and \$9,603 to remove and dispose of three drums of hazardous waste. Yatsevitch said that these drums, containing herbicides, are currently in an "old burial vault" on Townhouse Road and are monitored by the state to make sure there is no spillage.

Still No Support For Full-Time Police

By KIM WOOD

Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — Voters once again have rejected a proposal for a full-time police department.

More than an hour of discussion followed Police Chief Philip "Joe" Osgood's presentation of the benefits of a full-time chief. He said the move would reduce civil liability, help the department deal with troubled kids, and provide more effective coverage. His proposal would have cost the town \$46,964 this year in salaries and other expenses, an amount that would have increased the tax rate by 18.5 cents per \$1,000.

Resident George Edson, a member of a study committee that considered the question of a full-time police chief a few years ago, noted that the committee was against the idea because: a full-timer would work days, not weekends or nights, when most crime-related activity takes place; expectations of a full-time chief would be greater; and creation of one full-time position would lead to the need for another to take over on days off. And Edson said the increased police activity might lead to more situations in which the town would be open to lawsuits.

"You don't create a new department when you have a crisis in the country like we have now," said Jim Lukash, resident and former police chief. "I don't think this is a discredit to Joe. I think that he's doing a hell of a job." Later, Lukash said he believes the town can do fine with a part-time police department.

Resident Arthur Bailey opposed the plan, saying to applause that spending must be kept down. "Some of us are getting old and we see our taxes going up all the time. . . . I lost my job. How am I going to pay my taxes?"

But Paul Rollins, also a member of that police study committee, supported the full-time position, saying it might mean more help for troubled children. "You can help some of these children, if you give a little more on it. . . . Like the rest of you my taxes are too high, but it is worth it for a child in a lot of trouble."

Two Cornish residents who are members of police departments in other communities addressed the liability issue that Osgood had raised. "The door is open to liability more than you people realize" because of untrained personnel, said Jim Dube, a member of the Claremont police force.

But Chris O'Connor, a sergeant in Hanover, said: "I don't think liability is the issue here. . . . The liability comes in when a police officer goes beyond the ability of his training and expertise. Whenever a cruiser goes out in public you have liability. If you like the services the way they are, stay the same. If not, vote to change it."

Osgood requested a paper ballot, saying he didn't want people to say later that he was giving them a speeding ticket because he saw them vote against his plan.

The proposal was defeated, 149 to 35.

After that, voters turned back to consideration of the budget for the part-time department. They approved \$31,254, which includes \$3,400 to pay Osgood for an additional two

days per month for administrative work.

Resident Fred Weld unsuccessfully proposed an amendment to cut the police budget to \$28,782. Selectman J. Cheston Newbold objected in the name of the board. And Ruth Rollins angrily stated, "If you're going to cut his budget, I suggest that someone who is a good administrator come help him."

After the meeting, Osgood said he felt upset, as usual. It was the third time in four years that residents have rejected some version of a full-time department. "It is frustrating to want to put across something and not to be able to get it across," he said. "The two major things are trying to assist juveniles and the liability issues. It is frustrating not getting those things passed — mostly the juvenile situation. It is hard to get people in Cornish to see that we have a juvenile problem."

The town approved a total of \$546,890 in appropriations for 1991, a drop of \$75,086 — 12.1 percent — from last year's budget. Newbold said that he couldn't project the tax rate until it is set by the state in October.

The town's contribution toward support of Sullivan County government services will stay the same this year, at \$235,542.

When town officers' salaries came up, Barbara Rawson, bookkeeper for the trustees of the trust fund, asked that the \$10,000 account be cut by \$100, the amount of her salary. It has affected her income taxes, she said, and it "doesn't begin to cover it." Voters accommodated her.

Early in the six-hour meeting came discussion on the zoning ordinance amendment

"Some of us are getting old and we see our taxes going up all the time. . . . I lost my job. How am I going to pay my taxes?"

Cornish resident Arthur Bailey

that appeared on the ballot. "This ordinance as proposed changes lots of things a little," planning board Chairman Peter C. Storrs said. He described the changes outlined in a handout. When a restriction on building on land with a slope of 25 percent or greater was questioned by a resident, Storrs said it is inappropriate to build on steep slopes, in part because of runoff problems.

"I'm dead against it," Fred Sullivan said of the proposal. "I'm a dairy farmer and I live off the land. It is going to force all buildings off slopes into fields. I think that is contrary to what the people want."

He said the proposed zoning ordinance would have prevented him from building a house for his son where he did. He would have had to use some of his farm land, he said, and that is the effect the change could have on others.

The zoning amendment was turned down.

A conservation award was presented to the Fitch Farm on Dingleton Hill for the protection and careful management of natural resources. Orville Fitch and his daughter, Martha Zoerheide, and son, James Fitch, accepted the hand-carved wooden plaque.

office space. The selectmen's office and town clerk's office are four miles from the town hall in a tiny brick building with an outhouse; the town's computers and the tax collector's office are in a rented office across the road from the selectmen's office.

Residents said while they didn't dispute the need for new offices, adding to the town ball wasn't the place to do it. The historic building should remain as it is. They also objected to the proposal because it would have meant pumping sewage uphill from the building, something that several residents said would be nothing but trouble.

Bob Bladen, president of the Cornish Fair, argued against the addition. He said it would take one whole side of the hall that is rented for booths and that garners considerable income.

Voters asked that the office space committee continue its search and report back at next year's Town Meeting. Since the committee already has spent three years on the problem, it was expected that the current members would resign and new ones would have to sign on.

Another issue that elicited much debate ended happily for Police Chief Philip "Joe" Osgood, the selectmen and the finance committee. Residents voted 112 to 69 to fund the police department at \$35,682 after an attempt was made to cut it to \$25,131, the amount spent last year.

At last year's Town Meeting, residents for the third time in four years rejected a proposal for a full-time police department. This year the selectmen didn't propose a separate article asking for a full-time police chief, but instead asked for an increase in money so that Osgood could work more hours. They believe the town has inadequate police service.

Osgood will now work about 37 hours a week and receive \$26,000 in salary, and so will be able to quit his other full-time job at a truck repair shop in White River Junction and find another part-time job. He had worked 25 hours or so a week as police chief. The fact that 37 hours is not so far away from a 40-hour work week rankled some voters.

Chris O'Connor, a sergeant with the Hanover Police Department, summed up their feelings. "Is this a way to give Chief Osgood a full-time job without voting on it? I think that's what the townspeople are saying."

Selectman Newbold later responded, though, that contrary to some voters' belief, selectmen were not trying to "put one over on the town." He asked in exasperation: "What are we going to get out of it? The police chief will get a \$10,000 pay cut (when Osgood quits his full-time job). We are funding a position of a part-time police chief."

A full-time chief would cost far more than what Osgood will be paid, said Jim Dube, a lieutenant with the Claremont Police Department.

The heated, hour-long debate on the police department funding was temporarily halted to let elementary school pupils quietly and orderly troop into the gymnasium to watch one of their teachers get an award. Linda Fuerst was honored by the Cornish Conservation Commission for instilling in her pupils a "powerful appreciation" for the natural world. The entire assemblage gave her a standing ovation and she also received a wooden bird — a nuthatch — carved by resident Angie Dworak.

The police department funding was one of 39 line items in the budget voted on separately. Esch was approved, along with a

highway budget of \$240,300, for a town budget of \$540,766 for the fiscal year that began Jan. 1. The budget is down 1 percent from last year's budget, since most departments were level-funded.

Selectman Michael Yatskevitch was given a standing ovation for his more than 190 years of cumulative service to the community. That includes 30 years as selectman, 30 years as a school board member, 25 years as trustee of the town's funds, 20 years on the conservation commission and so on. Yatskevitch has been nominated by town officers for a volunteerism award that's given by the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

Newbold, the outgoing selectman, got his last official words in at Town Meeting, seemingly talking about half the time. (He competed with the glhb Rep. Peter Burling, who has served as town moderator for the past 20 years.) Since Newbold was "losing" his job, townspeople elected him a bog reeve to keep him busy.

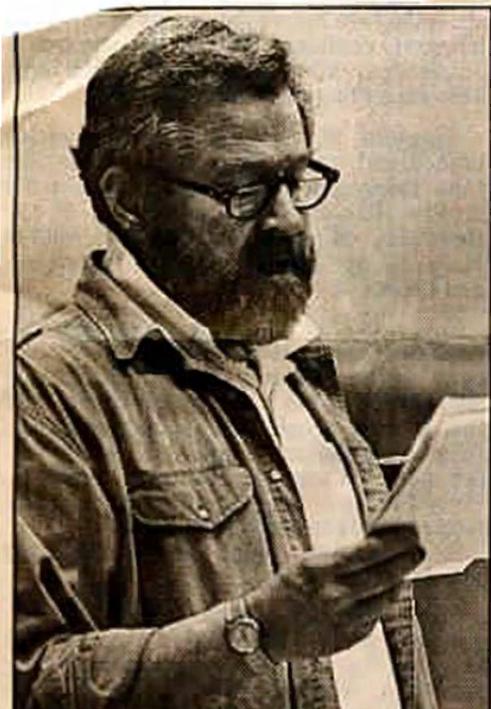
One of the voters' final actions of the day was to approve a resolution criticizing Gov. Judd Gregg and the New Hampshire Legislature for retaining an "unjust, regressive" tax structure that undermines the state's educational system.

The comprehensive revision of the zoning ordinance was approved. The proposal was submitted by the selectmen and approved by the planning board — indeed, the planning board has been working on the revision for three years. An amendment to the zoning ordinance had been rejected at last year's Town Meeting and the planning board took the suggestions and objections from residents and revised their proposal.

Among other things, it permits greater flexibility in what people can do in the way of home occupations, and it's more restrictive in the area of environmental concerns. Some setback distances from wetlands, steep slopes, rivers and streams are greater, for example.

Voters turned down a property tax exemption for home solar energy heating and cooling systems. If it had been adopted, there would be no assessment for systems under \$12,000 value.

The proposal was submitted by members of the Cornish Alternative Energy Committee, and the chairman of that committee, Greg Devesque, said there are only seven such systems in town. The exemptions would have added just 55 cents to the tax bill for a home assessed at \$100,000.



Cornish Selectman Cheston Newbold reads a memo from Chief Osgood about liability risks that accompany understaffing the police department.

Cornish

No Town Hall Addition; Full Funding For Police

By ANDREA HEIL
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — After slogging through the muck on a quintessential mud season day, townspeople tackled a number of weighty matters yesterday.

And not without some debate: five hours and 19 minutes of discussion without a break, to be exact.

There was no debate, however, on the three subjects that were voted on by Australian ballot throughout the day. A comprehensive revision of the zoning ordinance was narrowly approved, 196 to 183. A property tax exemption for home solar energy systems was defeated, 209 to 178. And Robert Maslan handily beat challengers Lawrence Duval and Robert Hall to take the three-year selectman's seat being vacated by Cheston Newbold.

During the business meeting that began at noon, townspeople voted 103 to 42 against building an addition to the town hall for

Valley News
March 11, 1992

Cornish voters reject full-time police proposal

By RUTH ROLLINS
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — A proposal to fund a full-time police chief for the town of Cornish was defeated 149-35, following a presentation outlining job description, benefits, and costs of such a position. Tuesday's voting was by paper ballot.

At the same time, a police budget of \$31,253 was passed, giving the present police chief, Philip "Joe" Osgood, extra time each month to follow up on cases needing to go to court.

The adoption of amendments, as proposed by the Cornish Planning Board for the town's zoning ordinance, was defeated 222-126.

Voters approved \$12,400 for the upkeep of cemeteries, \$25,650 for the Cornish Fire Department, \$3,000 for the Cornish Rescue Squad and \$9,925 for ambulance service.

After discussions both in favor and against raising \$1,725 for expenses of the recycling center, as well as amendments to lower the amount, the article was approved as presented.

Voters also approved \$250 for Sullivan County Hospice, \$2,400 Visiting Nurses Association,

\$2,500 for Community Youth Advocates and \$900 for Wheels Around Windsor.

Library funds tabbed at \$6,880, and \$4,000 to maintain the Cornish Recreation Education Area ballfields, were also approved.

Voters approved \$3,000 for the Conservation Commission Fund and placed \$28,000 in Capital Reserve Funds for new highway, fire department and police vehicles. An amount of \$14,000 for retirement and pension contributions was also approved.

Special articles included the sum of \$229,823 for maintenance of Class V highways and bridges, with \$166,082 to be raised by taxes and \$63,740 to be received from the state as Highway Block Grant Funds for special maintenance projects.

Six radios at the cost of \$3,643 to place in highway vehicles to enable better reception and \$2,800 to purchase a culvert steamer for use on frozen culverts, were also approved for the highway department.

An article asking \$16,100 to fabricate and install a water tank on

(Please see CORNISH-Pg. 6)

the existing 1981 Cornish Fire Department tanker was increased by \$1,200, with members of the department are allocating another \$6,000 for this purpose.

A problem which has existed for several years has been how to remove and properly dispose of three drums of hazardous waste material that have been stored within the town.

Selectmen explained that a company is available for this disposal purpose now, which has not been available prior to this time, and other companies will be contacted. Up to \$9,603 was approved for the purpose of disposing of the material.

An amount of \$5,000 was voted to offset the cost of auditing the 1990 town books. A request for the audit was made at last year's Town Meeting.

Also approved was \$2,000 to purchase a new copier for the selectmen's office.

The Cornish selectmen were given authorization to accept private donations of land, interest in land or money to be deposited into the Conservation Fund for the purpose of contributing to the local matching portion required for acquiring conservation land under the New Hampshire Land Conservation Investment Program.

George Edson gave a progress report on findings of the Town

Office Space Needs Committee formed in 1985 to analyze office space needs.

Edson showed drawings of a small scale model of a building which would be attached to original town hall, removing present kitchen, stage, restroom areas.

James Lukash suggested committee look into the possibility of building the addition with unteer help, such as the same townspeople banded together to build the Town House Fire Station.

Voters ask that the committee continue its investigation of site project and include a warrant article for consideration at the annual town meeting, including costs.

Officers elected at the Cornish Town Meeting Tuesday were: Michael Yatskevitch, selectman, three-year term; Daniel I. McNeil, treasurer; Janet Tracy McNeil, tax collector; Katherine Kibbie, overseer of welfare; Harold M. Goss, highway agent; and John F. Sexton, all for one-year terms.

Also, Catherine Cooper, clerk, three years; Audrey Quier, trustee of trust funds, three years; Bernice Johnson, trust library, three years; and R. Bunnell, auditor for a two-term.

*Life Times
7-7-82*

Cornish man held on crack dealing charge

By KEVIN McNULTY
Staff Writer

NEWPORT — Djuan Smith pleaded not guilty to charges of possession of crack cocaine with the intent to sell Friday morning in Sullivan County Superior Court.

Smith, 33, of 4 Sunrise Drive, Cornish, was remanded to the sheriff's department custody to be transported back to the Sullivan County House of Corrections because he was not able to come up with the \$25,000 cash bail ordered by Superior Court Judge Robert Morrill. Smith was already being held at the prison in Unity after he was initially arraigned on the possession with intent to sell charges on June 12 in Claremont District Court. Because of the serious nature of the charges, Smith was indicted by a grand jury in Sullivan County Superior Court on June 20.

Assistant County Attorney Alexander Scott requested Morrill order \$25,000 cash bail because of Smith's lengthy criminal record and the fact that he tried to attack the arresting officers. Smith was already on probation for an assault charge at the time of his arrest.

Smith, wearing a tie-dyed T-shirt embossed with a peace sign, displayed little emotion when he entered his plea of not guilty.

A trial date has not yet been scheduled.

Claremont police, acting upon intelligence given to two patrolmen, arrested Smith on June 11 on Main Street with allegedly \$1,500 worth of crack cocaine, said Claremont Police Sgt. Jeff Burnham. Burnham would not disclose the source of the intelligence, but said "we knew that (Smith) would be on Main Street at the time we arrested him with a quantity of crack cocaine."

When confronted by the police, Smith allegedly did not give up without a fight. Allegedly, Smith snatched the drugs out of

Burnham's hand and threw the crack cocaine into the woods abutting the Sugar River, court records state. Smith then attempted to strike Burnham with his fist and run away, but patrolmen Greg Belisle and Jon Stone leaped to Burnham's aid and the three officers wrestled Smith to the ground and handcuffed him, Burnham said.

"Once we had him on the ground, he acted as if he was sick. I don't know if he was feigning an illness or if he really was sick," Burnham stated. The police called Golden Cross Ambulance service, which examined Smith and said he was healthy enough to be processed, Burnham said.

Smith was charged with intent to sell the crack cocaine because the illegal narcotic was divided into multiple containers, Burnham explained.

The Claremont police also charged Smith with endangering the welfare of a child under the age of 18 and possession of marijuana. Allegedly, Smith was with a young child at the time of his arrest and dropped the child on the ground when approached by the police, court records recount. He also allegedly had less than five grams of marijuana in his possession, court records state. Both charges are class A misdemeanors.

Smith was held at the Sullivan County House of Corrections the night of June 11 and was arraigned in Claremont District Court the following morning. A bail officer initially set bail at \$20,000 cash, but the district court judge raised the bail to \$50,000 cash, Burnham said.

If convicted, Smith faces seven and a half to 15 years in prison and fines of up to \$200,000.

Kevin McNulty can be reached at 603-543-3100, ext. 105, or by e-mail at etimes@cyberportal.net.

Drug Arrest In Cornish

Police seized about 10 pounds of marijuana, a Ford pickup truck and more than \$17,000 in cash this week after arresting a 28-year-old Brownsville man on a drug charge.

According to authorities, Jeffrey A. Lemire was arrested on Tuesday while delivering three pounds of marijuana to an undercover police agent in Cornish. He was charged in New Hampshire with possession of marijuana, and released on personal recognizance.

Det. Douglas Robinson of the Southern Vermont Drug Task Force said Lemire would be cited today on the same charge in Vermont. Lemire will face court proceedings in both states at a later date, Robinson said.

The police investigation, which began early this month, focused on marijuana trafficking in Lebanon, Cornish and Windsor. Police agencies involved included the New Hampshire Drug Task Force, the Southern Vermont Drug Task Force, and the Lebanon, Hanover, Windsor and Cornish police departments.

Robinson wouldn't say how police were tipped off about the trafficking.

Following Lemire's arrest, police obtained and executed a search warrant for his house on Row Hill in Brownsville, where they seized about seven pounds of marijuana, roughly \$4,600 in cash, and records and equipment related to marijuana sales, according to a press release.

Police say they also found records that gave them probable cause to obtain a search warrant for a safe deposit box in Windsor. They searched it on Wednesday, and seized an additional \$12,850 in cash.

Police say the investigation continues and that more arrests will follow.

2 Teens Found Dead

Murder-Suicide, Authorities Believe

By ROGER CARROLL
and SARAH STROHMEYER
Valley News Staff Writers

CORNISH — The bodies of two teenagers were discovered early this morning in woods off Dingleton Hill Road in Cornish in what law enforcement authorities say was an apparent murder-suicide.

Authorities found the bodies of Willard T. Smith of Hartford and Keri L. Thibodeau of Pleasant Street, Lebanon, at 1:30 this morning, said Michael Ramsdell, senior assistant state attorney general. The two 19-year-olds were believed to have died sometime after 3:30 p.m. yesterday.

"Preliminary indications pending autopsies by the Chief Medical Examiner's Office are that Mr. Smith shot and killed Ms. Thibodeau and then shot and killed himself," Ramsdell said in a press release.

Thibodeau was the daughter of Nancy Thibodeau of Lebanon and Michael Thibodeau of Canaan. She was a 1992 graduate of Lebanon High School and was described by former co-workers as quiet and reserved.

Lebanon school officials described Smith as a troubled youth who was considering attending their high school this year. Smith had lived in various places in the Hartford area, authorities said.

The two started dating last April, according to a friend of Thibodeau's family.

Sullivan County Attorney Marc Hathaway said that several notes were left in a red 1986 Chevrolet Cavalier convertible the couple used to drive to Dingleton Hill Road. It was parked near where the bodies were found. He declined to discuss the content of the notes in detail, except to say that they dealt with the "possible deaths of the parties" and some were addressed to friends and family members.

"The author has not been determined," Hathaway said. "(The notes) definitely involved this event and definitely involved these people."

Ramsdell said it appeared that Smith used a .25 caliber handgun to shoot Thibodeau and then himself. Deputy State Medical Examiner Dr. James Kaplan was performing the autopsy in Concord this morning.

Hathaway said police looked for the couple all day yesterday after they received a tip "from a concerned third party." He did not identify the third party, and would only say it wasn't a family member.

"There was a concern expressed for the two people," Ramsdell said about the tip.

Police found the car yesterday evening and then conducted a "line search" through the woods until the bodies were discovered, Hathaway said.

Hathaway said he did not know why the couple stopped in Cornish.

Smith was a former Hartford High student who withdrew from school late last month, before classes

(Continued from page 1)

started, said Hartford Superintendent Carl Mock.

Smith then tried to get into Lebanon High School.

"He said he was moving to Lebanon and wanted to go to school here," said David Faulkner, Lebanon High School guidance director. "We needed more time to develop a program for him."

Faulkner said Smith had emotional problems.

He said he last saw Smith on Wednesday, Sept. 9, when he came to the school with Thibodeau and her best friend. "They were saying that they were all getting an apartment together," Faulkner said.

He said Smith failed to show up for an appointment at Lebanon High a week ago, and didn't contact the school this week.

Raymond Plante, who was Thibodeau's guidance counselor at Lebanon High, said she was a shy person. "She was a typical teenager and had her ups and downs like most of them."

He said Thibodeau was working "with the idea of going on to school later. She was a kid who wanted time in between," Plante said. "Business courses were of interest. Health studies were of interest. She was one of those kids who tried out a variety of things."

She also took karate lessons, he said.

Thibodeau didn't show up for work



Keri Thibodeau as shown in the Lebanon High School yearbook.

yesterday at Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital in Lebanon, Jim Sheehan, vice president for human resources, said this morning. He said Thibodeau, who has worked there part time as a nutritional aide since July 1991, was scheduled to work at noon yesterday. "She typically worked weekends for us in the kitchen," said Sheehan, adding that Thibodeau occasionally worked weekdays, too.

"She certainly kept to herself, and a lot of people do," said Sheehan. The last day she worked was Sunday, he said.

It's share and share alike with Cornish surplus vehicles

By RUTH ROLLINS
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — A surplus military vehicle has been pressed into service by the Cemetery Department, allowing for easy transport of needed equipment.

When the department lost its town vehicle in a fire, immediately after voters had held their annual Town Meeting in March, Police Chief Philip "Joe" Osgood shared a four-wheel drive Dodge Army vehicle that had only 20,000 miles on it that he had acquired through a government surplus program.

Osgood has made good use of the vehicle in the past, and at one time was able to travel a mile off one of the town's highways into the woods where he confiscated 418 marijuana plants that had a value of between \$2,000 and \$3,000 each. The traveling could not have been done with the Cornish police cruiser.

"Just two weeks after I got the truck, it was possible to confiscate a million dollars worth of drugs," said Osgood.

The vehicle was obtained through a program that is aimed at getting drugs off the market and had to be kept by

Police Chief Joe Osgood has purchased several pieces of equipment for the town at practically no cost to taxpayers through the government surplus program.

Osgood for an 18-month period, during which time it was supposed to be used for a drug bust of some sort by the Police Department.

Though the vehicle is being used by the cemetery sexton, Jack Rock, in the Cemetery Department, it must always be available to Osgood's department if needed.

Osgood has also acquired another of these vehicles for his department. These vehicles could be used by any town department in a crisis situation in which town vehicles could not reach an area.

He has purchased several other pieces of equipment for the town at practically no cost to taxpayers through the government surplus program, picking up the vehicles and items from warehouses at military bases.



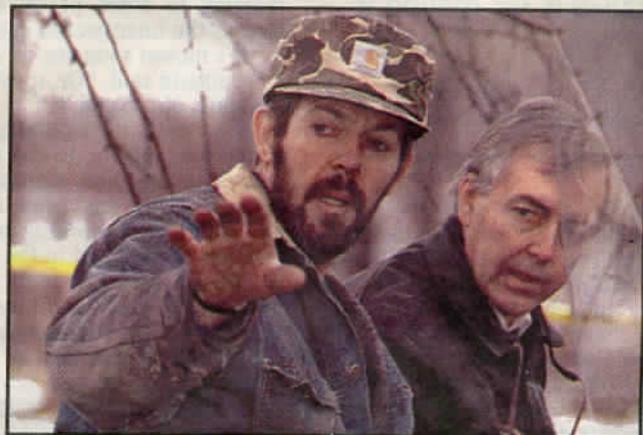
CEMETERY SEXTON John "Jack" Rock has put this 1977 Army ambulance to good use, moving equipment for his department. (Ruth Rollins photo)



Crash In Cornish

The wreckage of a home-built helicopter sits on the property of Polly and John Rand of Cornish yesterday. The pilot, Curtis Wyman Sr., also of Cornish, walked away from the accident unharmed. In photograph at right, Wyman, left, describes the incident to Ted Domin of the Federal Aviation Administration. Initial reports said that mechanical problems probably caused the craft to fall.

Valley News
Dec 29, 1994



Helicopter Crashes In Cornish; Pilot Safe

By ED BALLAM

Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH FLAT — A helicopter pilot escaped serious injury after his home-built flying machine apparently developed mechanical problems that forced him to crash-land in a cornfield off Cornish Stage Road at noon-time yesterday.

Although his fiberglass and metal two-seater helicopter sustained heavy damage after crashing into an apple tree and a granite boundary marker, the pilot, Curtis M. Wyman Sr., 45, of Leavitt Hill Road, walked away unharmed.

Federal Aviation Administration officials on the scene said the 1990 Scorpion II helicopter developed severe vibrations moments before the accident occurred.

"At this point, it looks like he had a mechanical problem ...," said FAA Investigator Ted Domin, who works in the Portland, Maine, office as a principal avionics inspector. Domin confirmed that the craft was home-built from a kit and powered by a four-cylinder aviation engine.

Wyman, who was talking with the investigators and neighbors who gathered at the scene, declined to comment on the crash. He appeared uninjured.

A piece of the helicopter's main rotor was found in a nearby tree.

Wyman and the FAA investigators discussed the possibility that the rotor, which Wyman made, had delaminated — or come apart — in flight and caused the vibration and the ensuing crash.

"Luckily, I wasn't hurt," Wyman told the investigators. "... I was strapped in there pretty good."

After striking a mature apple tree and a large granite post, the silver chopper came to rest on its right side on John and Polly Rand's back lawn.

The cockpit was shattered and pieces of fiberglass and aluminum were strewn around the crash scene. The tail assembly and both rotors were bent and twisted. The apple tree was gashed and the granite post severed at its base.

"It could have been a lot worse," said Polly Rand as she stood in her back yard. "Someone could have gotten hurt or it could have hit our house."

Rand said she and her husband were traveling on Cornish Stage Road when they heard a pager call alerting them to the helicopter crash in back of their home. Rand said she and her husband didn't know exactly what to expect when they arrived home, but were pleased no one was injured and property damage was limited.

Fire Chief Michael Monette placed white absorbent pads under the



Valley News — Jennifer Hauck

The helicopter took a bite out of this apple tree during its crash landing.

wreckage to catch leaking motor oil and other fluids. No fuel was leaking and the other leaks were minor, Monette said.

Police Chief Phillip "Joe" Osgood was busy keeping the curious spectators away from the crash scene. He said he called federal officials to notify them of the crash and was told to

make sure no one tampered with the machine or any of its wreckage.

"And that's what I'm doing," Osgood said.

When the FAA investigators were finished, Wyman loaded the twisted wreckage on a flatbed trailer towed by a sports utility vehicle and hauled the mangled flying machine away.

Serve two masters?

A chief question in Cornish

The question is not whether the job is full-time or part-time. The question is whether someone can serve as both police chief and selectman, and the answer is no.

In Cornish, Philip "Joe" Osgood is the "part-time" police chief. He is running for a three-year selectman's term. You can see the obvious conflict of interest. The Board of Selectmen is the town's governing body. It oversees town business and town departments, including the police. Selectmen appointed Osgood in 1985. Osgood wants to be a member of the governing body that regulates him as police chief and his department. That's unacceptable.

Even if he doesn't participate in discussions and votes surrounding the Police Department, it's still unacceptable. The police is too important a department not to have a full complement of board members overseeing it. And there's the risk a board of selectmen with a police chief on it may not be fully objective when it comes to deciding police matters, even if the chief recuses himself from those discussions.

A police chief on a board of selectmen just doesn't work.

Under the law, Osgood has the right to run for selectman. It's illegal for a full-time chief to serve as a selectman, but Osgood, who averages 25 hours a week on the job, is considered part-time. But full-time or part-time is a matter of semantics. Osgood basically is on call 24 hours a day. Can't that be considered full-time? The chief's position pays \$27,000 a year. There are a lot of full-time workers who don't even make that much.

But the question of full- or part-time shouldn't screen the deeper question of a public servant serving on the regulatory board to which he answers.

Osgood should be commended for his commitment to public service that makes him want to serve as both police chief and selectman. But he needs to make a choice between one or the two. He shouldn't be both.

If he wins the election, he should resign as police chief. Or the voters could make up their minds for him tomorrow.

Woman Who Was Found In Cornish Wooded Area Died Of Natural Causes

CORNISH — A woman found dead in a wooded area Saturday morning died of natural causes, authorities said yesterday.

"Foul play on the body was ruled out," said Cornish Police Chief John Osgood last night. He said the woman was elderly.

"We feel confident that there is no reason for anyone in the area to be alarmed," said New Hampshire Assistant Attorney General John A. Stephen yesterday.

The identity of the woman has been determined, but her name will not be released to the public until her relatives have been told and she has been positively identified by them. That could happen today, Stephen said.

An autopsy of the body was completed yesterday afternoon.

The investigation on the exact circumstances and date of her death is focusing on finding the woman's car, a red 1992 Subaru Justy with three doors and Vermont license plates reading "JAX".

The car was last seen in Barre, Vt., on Aug. 2, Stephen said.

"We have lots of pieces of information, but we need to put those pieces together," said Osgood.

Anyone with information about the vehicle is asked to call New Hampshire State Police at (800) 852-2311 or the Vermont State Police at (802) 229-9191.

The body was found by people working in the woods in the vicinity of power lines off of Saint Gaudens Road, a remote dirt road off Route 12A.

Valley News 8-28-95

Body found in Cornish

Exeter Times Aug 27, 1995 p.1

Death of female probed

By **GEORGE CAHLINK**
Staff Writer

CORNISH — The body of an unidentified white female was discovered Saturday morning in a wooded part of town, according to State Police.

Troop C Commander Barry Hunter said Saturday afternoon the death is being investigated as suspicious. He said an autopsy was to be performed at 9 this morning by the state medical examiner in Concord to determine the cause and time of death.

The investigation is being handled by the state attorney general's office.

"The body was discovered



be going into the woods, said Hunter, who declined to name the person who discovered the body.

He also declined to say what condition the body was found in, how long it had been there, the age of the female, or if there had been any evidence of sexual assault.

The body was found adjacent to power lines in a secluded part of town off Saint-Gaudens Road near where it meets Gap Road. It was found on a slope next to a tall pine tree near a three-foot-high wire fence that separates the woods from a 50-foot-wide clearing where power lines run up and down

a hill.

The site is about 100 yards above Saint-Gaudens Road but there is no clear path from the wooded area where the body was found to the dirt road — only thick brush.

According to police, the property is privately owned — a residence and an area being excavated by a bulldozer sit several hundred yards from the site. Police stressed there is nothing that leads them to suspect the property owners, who they declined to identify, had any knowledge or involvement in the death.

(Please see BODY-Pg. 6)



SUSPICIOUS DEATH — State Police investigators, above, examine the site where the body of an unidentified white female was discovered in Cornish on Saturday morning on a slope about 100 yards above Saint-Gaudens Road. At left, Sullivan County Attorney Marc Hathaway and the state's Major Crime Unit are among those at the scene to look for answers as to how the woman died. Her death has been termed suspicious. (Wayne Carter photos)

Hunter said the first call to police came at about 10:05 a.m. Saturday, and by early afternoon the state's Major Crime Unit arrived at the scene from Concord. Law enforcement officers turned out in force: 16 state investigators, a representative from the attorney general's office, and Sullivan County Attorney Marc Hathaway were at the scene in Cornish.

Shortly before 5 p.m., a state vehicle carried the body away, and investigators began packing up their equipment, including rakes and a metal detector. Hunter said the equipment was the same as that used by the Major Crime Unit during any investigation. All the crime scene work was concluded by about 6 p.m.

According to Hunter, police planned to spend Saturday evening calling local police departments to check for missing people and interview area residents for any information

about the deceased.

Area police departments declined to say late Saturday night if they had received any reports of a missing white female.

At about 6 p.m. on Saturday, a Plainfield woman, who asked not to be identified, said she was riding her horse on Saint-Gaudens Road near the site and was asked by police if she had recently been riding along the power lines. She said no and the investigator asked her no further questions.

The investigator did not tell her that State Police were investigating a suspicious death.

The woman said she often rides along back roads in Cornish, like Saint-Gaudens Road, because it is quiet and there is not a lot of traffic.

On Saint-Gaudens Road "it is mostly just people who live there," she said. "It is out of the way. It doesn't take you anywhere."

Body is identified

Eagle Times
8-28-95

By **GEORGE CAHLINK**
Staff Writer

CORNISH — The body found in a secluded area of Cornish on Saturday was that of Anita T. Eniti, 81, of Williamstown, Vt., according to New Hampshire Assistant Attorney General John Stephen.

He said late this morning a preliminary investigation indicates she died of natural causes. She had been reported missing from Barre City, Vt., since Aug. 4.

Stephen said the investigation will remain open until police find her car, which was last seen in Barre on Aug. 2. After the car is found, authorities believe they will be better able to make a final determination as to the cause of death.

He said authorities were beginning their search in Cornish because that's where the body was discovered. But he said

police in both states were looking out for it.

A State Police helicopter was to conduct an air search over Cornish at 1 p.m. today in an effort to locate a car authorities believe was owned by the woman whose decomposed body was discovered Saturday morning.

"We should get a pretty good view," said New Hampshire State Police Lt. Barry Hunter. "It should show up fairly well from the air."

The car that state troopers from New Hampshire and Vermont are seeking is a red, three-door 1992 Subaru Justy with Vermont registration JAX.

In addition to an air search, Hunter said state troopers and state Fish and Game Department officials will conduct a ground search of the area using

(Please see **BODY-Pg. 6**)

BODY

From Page 1

all-terrain vehicles. He said the search will begin in the immediate vicinity of where the body was found and spread out. The search could last until sunset, Hunter said.

He said the car has not been reported stolen.

According to Hunter, police received several tips about the car; none of them panned out. He speculated that the car could have been driven off a Cornish road or parked in a secluded part of town by the

victim, whose body was found in a wooded area off Saint-Gaudens Road.

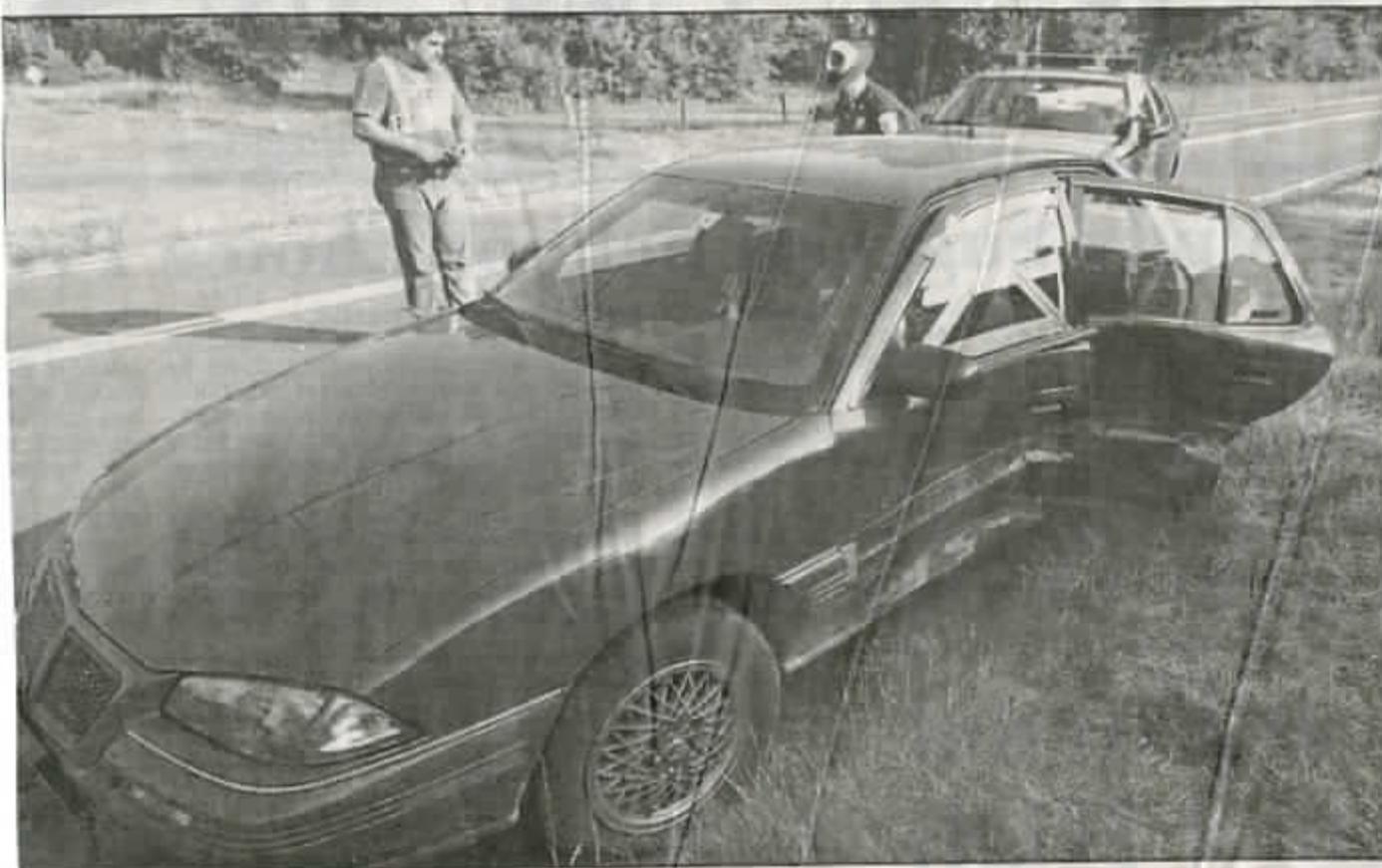
He said police in both states will continue to check with area police departments for any indication that the vehicle was recently seen or stopped by police.

The body was discovered Saturday morning by a person working in the woods about 100 yards above Saint-Gaudens Road, near where it meets the Gap Road in a remote part of town off Route 12A. It was

found on a slope next to a tall pine tree, just a few feet from a wire fence that separated the woods from a clearing where high voltage power lines run up and down the hill.

Stephen said the body, in an advanced state of decomposition, had been in the wooded area for about a month.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of the car is asked to contact New Hampshire State Police at 1-800-852-3411 or Vermont State Police at 1-800-229-9191.



Car Collision

Cornish police officer Scott Morse, left, and State Trooper P.S. Courran look over the scene of an accident yesterday in Cornish. This car, driven by Rebecca Kempton, 24, was hit by another car driven by Dawn Auten, 78. Kempton, who is pregnant, was treated at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and released. Auten was not injured.

Valley News —
Medora Hebert

Gun threat leads to man's arrest

ALSTEAD — Police say they arrested a Cornish man Tuesday night after he allegedly threatened to kill his girlfriend with a gun outside of the Alstead Village Store.

According to Alstead police Sgt. David Peltier, Eric Cooper, 26, was charged with one misdemeanor count of criminal threatening and one felony count of criminal threatening.

"The felony count is there because he threatened to use his gun," said Peltier.

Peltier said a call came in from a relative of the girlfriend, saying that Cooper had threatened to kill the girlfriend and anybody else around.

"The couple had lived together in Maine and had just moved

back," said Peltier. "He lives in Cornish now, and she in Alstead."

Peltier said the domestic squabble escalated at 10 p.m. near the Main Street grocery store, where Cooper continued to threaten her.

"There were cleaners in the store who removed Cooper's gun from his vehicle," said Peltier.

When police arrived, Cooper was talking with the woman in front of the store, said Peltier.

Cooper was being held at the Cheshire County House of Correction on Tuesday night and was to be arraigned on both charges this morning in Keene District Court.

Essex Times

12-2-96

Body of Cornish resident is found

By SUSAN POTTER THIEL
Staff Writer

The body of a Cornish man missing since a boating accident May 18 in Great Bay was found Friday on the Newington side of the bay in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire.

Authorities said a man oystering Friday afternoon found the body of Roy Stewart, 61, of Cornish, at about 1:13 p.m. on shore in the vicinity of Thomas Point in Newington at low tide.

"We know where Stew is," his wife, Ruth Stewart, said Saturday. "He's gone to be with God."

"He'd been oystering in that bay for more than 25 years. He was an avid sailor," she said. The couple had agreed long ago to be buried at sea, and Ruth Stewart plans to fulfill that pact by scattering her husband's ashes at sea.

She said she had been touched by the outpouring of affection for Roy Stewart from 300 people attending a memorial service last Sunday and expressed her appreciation to local police and those on the coast.

"No doubt they have done everything they could," she said. "The big thing is the man

(See STEWART - Pg. 7)

was doing what he loved to do.

Stewart had been oystering with two younger men, Larry Sprague, 28, and Gary Ward, 35, on May 18 when their boat sprang a leak off Nannie's Island, which is a small rock formation about three-quarters of a mile from Newmarket Boat Launch, their starting point.

The younger men swam three-quarters of a mile to shore in Newington and called for help from a residence there, but Stewart had disappeared after swimming for 45 minutes.

Master Patrolman Tim Stuart of the Newington Police Department said Stewart's body was found in a remote area, accessible only by water, about three-quarters of a mile from where the men's boat sank.

Stuart said the Newington Fire Department recovered Stewart's body by boat.

The body was taken to Woods Funeral Home in Portsmouth, where Medical Examiner Gino Nigro determined Stewart died as a result of salt water drowning.

Stuart said the area off Nannie's Island is a popular oystering spot, but the day Stewart and his friends went out was windy, and the water was rough, which made it less likely other boats would be nearby to help the trio when their 17-foot wooden boat sunk.

Stuart said the currents that run as the Piscataqua River drains into Great Bay are said to be the second roughest in the country. He said over the past 18 or 19 years, about 18 people

have died in those waters.

"Their boat wasn't exactly seaworthy," Stuart said. "It started taking on water."

He said the men pulled the drain plug in the stern of the boat, a strategy intended to allow water to flow to the stern and out the drain as the boat's bow rose out of the water while traveling.

But Stuart said the men couldn't get the motor started, and the boat rapidly filled with water and sunk.

Stuart said there were no life preservers on the boat, which belonged to Stewart.

The sunken boat was spotted from the air by a Coast Guard helicopter crew and towed to shore. It has since been brought back to Cornish by Stewart's son, John.

Members of the Coast Guard, New Hampshire Fish and Game, local firefighters and volunteers searched the bay and shoreline for four days for Stewart's body before giving up.

Stewart had planned to retire this summer after 20 years of employment at Pine Tree

Castings in Newport and had worked for many years at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Windsor.

He also taught electrical courses in the New Hampshire vocational education system.

He was a Navy veteran who had served on the USS Rooks and the USS Haley.

Cornish Man Presumed Drowned

By SUSAN J. RAND

Valley News Correspondent

NEWINGTON, N.H. — A Cornish man is missing and presumed to have drowned in a boating accident on Great Bay Sunday that sent two other area men to a Portsmouth, N.H., hospital with severe hypothermia.

"I'm amazed that two people made it," Lt. Mark Gallagher of the New Hampshire Marine Patrol Bureau said yesterday of the accident that officials believe led to the drowning death of Roy D. Stewart, 61, of Cornish.

Local, state and federal officials, including divers, searched the bay and its shoreline for Stewart's body yesterday and on Sunday.

They suspended the search at about 4 p.m. yesterday, a Newington firefighter said last night. The search will continue today, said Cornish Police Chief Joe Osgood, who after being informed of the accident on Sunday traveled to Newington with Roy Stewart's son John Stewart.

Osgood said he is acting as the spokesman for the families of the three men involved in the accident.

Larry Sprague, 28, of Cornish, and Gary Ward, 35, of Plainfield, survived

“They made it clear that if it was not for Roy's directions they wouldn't have made it. Roy was a very avid sailor and he knew the ocean — he knew that bay.”

Cornish Police Chief Joe Osgood

Speaking of the two men who survived Sunday's boating accident

the sinking of Stewart's 15-foot fiberglass 1962 Dorsett runabout in the frigid Great Bay tidal waters.

The bay, which has tides like the ocean, is fed by ocean water from the Piscataqua River, which flows inland from Portsmouth Harbor, on the New Hampshire-Maine border.

Sprague and Ward were treated and released from Portsmouth Regional Hospital on Sunday night.

Officials estimated that they were in the bay's water, which was in the low 40-degree range, for about four hours, attempting to make their way out of a strong, incoming tide that coupled with a northwest wind of 15 knots to make their swimming extremely treacherous.

"The police chief of Newington told me (Sunday) night that he had never seen anyone stay in that water that

long — even in August — and make it," Osgood said.

The wind and tidal conditions were very similar to conditions that in the early 1980s led to the death of a University of New Hampshire rower who drowned after waves and wind swamped crew boats leaving dozens of college students in the cold waters, said Newington Fire Chief Larry Wahl.

He said rescue workers told him that Sprague's and Ward's body temperatures were about 95 degrees and that the men were suffering from severe hypothermia when ambulance attendants got to them.

Osgood said Stewart was a skilled sailor and that Sprague and Ward told Stewart's family that they survived by navigating the bay's waters according to instructions Stewart

gave them shortly after the craft sank, leaving the three men clinging to a piece of plywood from the boat.

"They made it clear that if it was not for Roy's directions they wouldn't have made it," Osgood said. "Roy was a very avid sailor and he knew the ocean — he knew that bay."

Osgood said Stewart worked in the maintenance department at Sturm Ruger & Co. Inc. in Newport. He had 14 weeks of work left before he was to retire, Osgood said.

The three men were out on an oyster-gathering trip and left Cornish early Sunday morning in time to be on the water at about 9 a.m., according to Osgood. He said they "had just started out when they experienced problems."

It would be about four hours later before Sprague and Ward were out of the water and being attended to by emergency crews, according to those involved in the incident.

Stewart's boat, which Gallagher said had a 40 horsepower outboard motor, apparently began taking on water and quickly sank, said Newington

(Continued on page A3)

— DROWNED

Drowned

(Continued from page A1)

ton Police Sgt. John Tretter.

The three men then grabbed onto a floating plywood board that they used to clean oysters on, Osgood said.

Gallagher said it "appears there were not" life jackets on board the boat.

Life jackets are required by law, he said.

He said the Marine Patrol will examine the condition of Stewart's boat, which was recovered on Sunday and towed to the U.S. Coast Guard Station in New Castle, N.H.

Osgood said Stewart and his son had just had the boat on the Connecticut River Saturday night and the "boat didn't take on any water."

The Cornish chief said he thinks the boat struck a sandbar on Sunday as the men were making their way

out into the bay.

Tretter said that after clinging to the board for about 45 minutes, Stewart lost consciousness and slipped under the water.

He said Sprague and Ward "were able to pull him back, but after a short while he disappeared" into the water. Stewart wasn't seen after that, Tretter said.

Gallagher said the men had been about 50 yards from an island, but they couldn't head in that way because the current was taking them in the opposite direction.

Sprague and Ward traveled about a mile in the water, eventually finding that they were able to touch the bay's muddy bottom and come ashore at the Newington-Greenland town line, according to Wahl.

He said they then had to walk a dis-

tance measuring somewhere between a quarter and a half mile through a field to get to a farmhouse and ask for help.

A 911 call was made from the farmhouse at about 1 p.m., Osgood said.

He said he was notified of the incident by Newington police once Sprague and Ward were on their way to the hospital.

Osgood said he went to notify Stewart's wife, Ruth Stewart, and their son. He said the couple has other children but that he didn't know their names.

Members of the Newington police and fire departments and the Marine Patrol were aided in the air, water and land search for Stewart by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, the Air National Guard and the Coast Guard.

Body of Cornish resident is found

By SUSAN POTTER THIEL
Staff Writer

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(See STEWART - Pg. 7)

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Stewart had been oystering with two younger men, Larry Sprague, 28, and Gary Ward, 35, on May 18 when their boat sprang a leak off Nannie's Island, which is a small rock formation about three-quarters of a mile from Newmarket Boat Launch, their starting point.

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The sunken boat was spotted from the air by a Coast Guard helicopter crew and towed to shore. It has since been brought back to Cornish by Stewart's son, John.

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Castings in Newport and had worked for many years at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Windsor.

He also taught electrical courses in the New Hampshire vocational education system.

He was a Navy veteran who had served on the USS Rooks and the USS Haley.

Edge Times 5/24/97

Man arrested for Cornish arson

By CASSIE D. LAVERTUE
Staff Writer

CORNISH — A 32-year-old Cornish man was arrested this weekend on felony charges of arson and conspiracy stemming from a 1991 fire that destroyed a Cornish home on Route 12A.

Police say that Dale Braley set fire to the home of William and Barbara Balch on Feb. 19, 1991, to cover up a burglary. The arrest came after a three-month investigation and involved New Hampshire Police Cpl. Michael Johnson and Cpl. Thomas

Lombardi of Troop C in Keene and Cornish Police Chief Joe Osgood.

Braley is being held at Sullivan County House of Correction in Unity on \$5,000 cash bail and was arraigned today in Claremont District Court. A probable cause hearing was set for April 1.

Neither Johnson nor Lombardi was available for comment. Osgood could not be reached at the Cornish department.

Barbara Balch said this morning that she and her husband know Braley but would not comment on their relationship

with the Cornish man. Braley lives just down the road from the Balch home on Route 12A.

Balch said she and her her husband were taken by surprise with Braley's arrest and said they didn't know anything until police contacted them about the alleged arson investigation last fall.

According to Balch, police initially ruled the fire electrical. The fire destroyed the garage and kitchen area and gutted an

(See ARSON - Pg. 6)

adjoining room, the dining room and an upstairs bedroom. Balch said the frame of the house in that area was severely damaged and said police suspected at the time that the fire had started in the garage and kitchen area.

Six fire departments responded to the 1991 blaze and two firefighters suffered minor injuries. The Balches have since rebuilt their home.

Balch said police and fire officials may have had difficulty pinpointing the cause of the fire because the garage and kitchen area had already burned when emergency vehicles arrived.

Balch said she and her husband were out of town at the time of the incident and noted that the houses along Route 12A are sparse.

"We have no close neighbors ... no one to report a fire," she said.

Balch said she and her husband are reserving further comment until they talk with a lawyer.

offices may lack the ability to glean information from state computers holding motor vehicle records, business licenses and similar data used to determine if people are evading federal taxes.

"It's fair to say, if these programs exist out there in some number ... there more than likely will be an impact on examination and collection functions," Gross said.

Many other government agencies and businesses are in a similar bind with the 2000 problem, since software from the 1960s and 1970s was designed to save storage space by recognizing dates in two digits — "97" would reflect 1997. Without a fix, 2000 could be recognized as 1900 by these old computers, botching up liens, installment payments and penalty and interest calculations.

"The year 2000 is a stay-in-business issue. There isn't an alternative," Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers said in an interview.

So far, the IRS has the worst part of the peril defined: 62 million lines of computer code in 19,000 computer programs that comprise the guts of its main data center in Martinsburg, W.Va., and other key systems in its field offices.

"I think our biggest exposures ... are not necessarily in our core business applications, which is the good news," Gross said at a hearing last month.

The incomplete IRS inventory isn't due to lack of warning. The General Accounting Office, the watchdog arm of Congress, asked the IRS to complete a systems architecture, which would include an inventory, by the end of 1995.

police custody on Nov. 13 for criminal trespassing and criminal threatening charges for a separate incident when he told police about the arson. According to an affidavit filed by state police Cpl. Thomas Lombardi, the Newport man said police could find some of the stolen items at the home of the woman whose son allegedly helped Braley with the burglary. The Newport man said he was telling police the information "to get back at" the woman because he felt she was responsible for his arrest.

The Newport man also said the two men tampered with wires behind the refrigerator in the Balch home the day after the break-in. An affidavit by state police Cpl. Michael Johnson shows that police talked with the woman's son and he told police Braley started the fire with gasoline from the Balches' garage.

The state fire marshal initially determined the cause of the fire to be electrical and said the fire started in the garage and kitchen area, but Cornish Police Chief Philip "Joe" Osgood said that some officials had misgivings from the beginning about the investigator's determination and had always suspected arson.

Osgood said last week that there may be another arrest coming from the 1991 incident.

As part of his bail conditions, Braley must post the \$5,000 bail, reside in West Canaan with his father and appear and check in with Canaan police every Wednesday, no later than 4 p.m. Until bail is posted, Braley is being held at the Sullivan County House of Correction in Unity.

Arson suspect waives hearing

By CASSIE D. LAVERTUE
Staff Writer

CLAREMONT — The Cornish man accused of trying to cover up a burglary by starting a fire in Cornish in 1991 waived his probable cause hearing in Claremont District Court on Tuesday and will face trial in Sullivan County Superior Court at a later date.

Dale Braley, 32, of Route 12A, Cornish, waived his right to a hearing and is awaiting state police reports, said his

attorney, Richard Guerriero of the Public Defender's Office in Keene.

District Judge Jean K. Burling granted a request that the court lower Braley's bail to \$5,000 cash or surety. Guerriero initially made an appeal for a \$2,500 cash or surety bail so that Braley could live with his father in West Canaan, N.H. According to Guerriero, Braley has lived all of his life in

(See ARSON - Pg. 6)

Braley Timeline 4/21/97

ARSON

From Page 1

either Cornish or West Canaan.

Braley was arrested March 22 and entered no plea in Claremont District Court to charges of arson, conspiracy to commit arson and burglary. Police allege Braley and another man burglarized the home of William and Barbara Balch on Route 12A in Cornish, and then set fire to the house to cover up the break-in.

The 6-year-old incident was brought to the attention of police in November by a Newport man who said Braley and the son of a woman he knew had removed various items from the Balch home on Feb. 18, 1991, and then set the house on fire the next day. The Balches were away on vacation in Florida at the time of the fire.

The Newport man was in

Cornish man goes to jail

For arson and burglary

By CASSIE D. LAVERTUE
Staff Writer

NEWPORT — The man convicted of setting fire to a Cornish home to cover up a burglary in 1991 was sentenced in Sullivan County Superior Court on Monday.

Dale Braley, 33, of Route 12A, Cornish, received two sentences of 1-to-7-years at the New Hampshire State Prison on charges of arson and burglary. The sentences are to be served at the same time.

Braley refused comment and remained stone-faced during yesterday's sentencing hearing in which William and Barbara Balch told Superior Court Judge Robert E.K. Morrill how their lives have changed since the Feb. 19, 1991 incident.

"I don't feel vindicated, but I do feel hurt that he betrayed our trust," said William Balch.

According to police, Braley burglarized the Balches' home on Route 12A on Feb. 17 and 18 in 1991, then set the house on fire to hide the break-in. At the time, Braley lived just down the road from their home, said Barbara Balch.

The Balches were away on vacation at the time of the incident and have since rebuilt their home on the same site.

According to William Balch, only two rooms in the 12-room, 200-year-old home were saved. Six fire departments responded to the blaze and two firefighters suffered minor injuries.

Sullivan County Attorney Marc Hathaway said the Balches lost nearly \$31,000 in household contents plus the cost of their home. A hearing will be set later to determine the exact amount in damages, he said.

William Balch said in court yesterday that Braley was a classmate of their son, Russell, at Cornish schools. He added that he had been Braley's Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball coach and has known Braley since 1972.

"I considered him a friend," Balch remarked. "I just feel if he'd do this to a friend, what would he do to a stranger?"

Morrill called the arson fire "devastating" because it permanently destroyed family keepsakes and photos.

"You could forever talk about how they were just things, but they were momentos," remarked Morrill.

The six-year-old incident was

(See BRALEY - Pg. 8)

BRALEY

From Page 1

brought to the attention of police last year by a Newport man who said Braley and the son of a woman he knew (Paul Lawrence) had removed various items from the Balch home on Feb. 18, 1991. The Newport man told police they could find some of the stolen items at the woman's home and said he was telling police the information "to get back" at the woman because he felt she played a role in his arrest on Nov. 13, 1996 on charges of criminal trespassing and criminal threatening.

Braley was arrested four months later and indicted on charges of arson and burglary by a Sullivan County Grand Jury on April 3. Lawrence, 32, also of Route 12A in Cornish,

was indicted by the same grand jury on an accomplice to burglary charge.

Lawrence received a 12-month suspended sentence at the Sullivan County House of Correction in Unity and was placed on five years' probation. He was not convicted on an arson charge because Braley set the Balches' home on fire, not Lawrence, said Hathaway, citing State Police affidavits.

Although Braley pleaded guilty to the two charges in October, Braley's attorney asked Morrill to give his client a suspended sentence similar to Lawrence's.

"He understands there is nothing he can do to make up for their losses," said attorney Mark Cameron.

"Most of the evidence was

obtained because Lawrence's mother's boyfriend was mad ... He (Braley) wants to make monetary restitution" and can't do that inside prison, Cameron said.

Morrill denied Cameron's request and agreed with Hathaway in calling the incident "a joint enterprise" on the part of Braley and Lawrence. He said he would have never have given Lawrence a suspended sentence if he had first read victim statements from William and Barbara Balch.

Hathaway said he thinks Braley received a light sentence considering the charges against him, but said the Balches are "extremely forgiving" and that the case's age affected the intensity of the sentences.

Police: Local Man 'Significant Dealer'

Cornish Resident Held On Cocaine Charges

BY DAN BILLIN

Valley News Staff Writer

*86
1-1-1*

HARTFORD — While Alan Paul Stevens was collecting a monthly disability check and checking in with his federal probation officer, he was also allegedly running back and forth between the Upper Valley and Lowell, Mass., to keep his cocaine customers supplied, according to court records.

The 50-year-old Cornish resident pleaded innocent last week in Vermont District Court to two charges of felony sale of cocaine and one charge of felony delivery of cocaine. Members of the state police's Southern Vermont Drug Task Force say they bought thou-

sands of dollars worth of the drug from Stevens during a seven-week undercover investigation in Hartford.

"He was a significant dealer in the area," Sgt. Pat Devenger, the task force supervisor, said in an interview.

Stevens' age is incongruous with his alleged crime, as is his criminal history. His only felony convictions are for white-collar crimes related to environmental testing and waste disposal services he provided in Massachusetts.

According to federal court records, Stevens was convicted of mail fraud in 1992 for operating an environmental laboratory that furnished phony test results to clients. In 1996, he was convicted of wire fraud in connection with a scheme in which he provided phony test results on waste materials and dumped hazardous wastes in a vacant lot, court records show. He served 10 months in prison for the

latter conviction.

Stevens was still on probation for his last fraud conviction when he allegedly sold cocaine to an undercover state trooper in Vermont this spring and summer. In court on Tuesday, state Assistant Attorney General Karen Carroll said Stevens' federal probation officer plans to charge him with violating his probation, which could result in an additional sentence of up to three years.

Stevens lived on Route 12A in an apartment in his sister's house, according to court records. He is being held in the Woodstock jail in lieu of \$10,000 bail. His court-appointed attorney, Martha Neary, told the judge Tuesday he would not be able to make bail at that amount.

In applying for a public defender, Stevens told the court he is not employed and that he receives

See POLICE — A5



Alan Stevens at his arraignment.

VALLEY NEWS — MEDORA HEBERT

Police Say Cornish Man Was Major Cocaine Dealer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Social Security disability income of \$865 a month. Neary told the judge that Stevens suffers from heart and liver ailments, and was scheduled to undergo a liver biopsy soon. She said he is a college graduate.

Drug task force agents learned of Stevens through an informant, and a state trooper posing as a drug buyer cultivated his confidence, allegedly purchasing increasingly larger quantities of cocaine from him over a period of weeks, according to court records. Stevens allegedly sold 2.2 grams to the police on May 5, then 5 grams on June 10, and brought almost 28 grams to sell on July 2, court records show. On the last occasion, Stevens was arrested before any money changed hands. The total amount of cocaine, almost 1 1/4 ounces, was "a significant amount

for this area," Carroll said in court.

Stevens allegedly told the undercover trooper he went to Lowell to buy his cocaine, according to court records. Stevens gave the trooper his pager number and an identification code, and instructed the trooper to punch in his code, followed by the number of "eight-balls" (one-eighths of an ounce) of cocaine he wanted. Stevens would then meet the trooper in the parking lots of restaurants on Sykes Avenue in White River Junction. Customers could page him until 2 or 3 a.m. — but not on Sunday or Monday, Stevens said.

"Monday is usually a dead day. I take my break then," Stevens allegedly told the trooper, who was recording the conversations with a hidden microphone, according to court records.

The day he was arrested, July 2, Stevens allegedly told the officer he was planning to go back down to Lowell to stock up for the busy Fourth of July weekend.

In 1984, Stevens incorporated a business in Stoneham, Mass., called Stevens Analytical Laboratories, which performed water quality tests for clients that included municipalities. The *Boston Globe* reported that he sparked a drinking-water safety scare in 1992 when he pleaded guilty to sending out water quality reports without performing tests. Federal officials said he became so overwhelmed by work that he made up results, the *Globe* reported.

Stevens was sentenced to six months home confinement in 1992 and ordered to pay \$4,140 restitution. He returned to environmental fraud while still on probation, according to federal officials.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said that from 1993 through 1996, Stevens fraudulently operated as a hazardous waste consultant who purported to provide testing and disposal services to clients. He collected samples of waste but didn't test them before

returning fraudulent reports. In one instance, he simply truckedrels of contaminated oil to a vacant lot and left them there, the EPA said.

Stevens pleaded guilty to fraud in 1996, and was sentenced to a year and a day in prison, ordered to pay \$7,467 in restitution. He served his time in a minimum security prison camp in Pennsylvania and was released in October 1997 to begin three years of probation. Neary told the court Stevens had been living in Cornish since release. In addition to his sister, parents and a brother live in Upper Valley, she said.

Thomas Tarr, the chief federal probation officer in Concord, said Stevens had passed numerous tests after his release.

"Up until this incident involving the sale, he had been in compliance," Tarr said in an interview.

Stevens' supervision consisted of reporting to Concord, receiving probation visits at his home, and phone calls, Tarr said. Stevens was in regular touch with his probation officer and probation officials had advised that he was under investigation, he said.

Cornish man indicted for possession of marijuana

NEWPORT — The following indictments were handed up by a Sullivan County grand jury last Thursday.

Paul Heim, 18, of White Swan Farm Road, Cornish, was indicted on the charge of possession of marijuana with intent to sell for allegedly having the drug in his vehicle in Cornish on Oct. 12, 2001. If convicted, he could face one to three years in the New Hampshire State Prison and a \$25,000 fine.

Blaine C. Hector, 30, of Milford, N.H., was indicted on the charge of theft by unauthorized taking for allegedly taking a 1989 Saab from a Cornish business on Dec. 24, 2001. If convicted, he could face 7 1/2 to 15 years in the New Hampshire State Prison and a \$4,000 fine.

Thomas Woodard, 28, of Rutland, Vt., was indicted on the charge of attempted shoplifting at a Claremont store on Jan. 5. If convicted, he could face 7 1/2 to 15 years in the New Hampshire State Prison and a \$4,000 fine.

Michelle Stomper Woodard, 24, of Rutland, Vt., was indicted on the charge of attempted shoplifting at a Claremont store on Jan. 5. If convicted, she could face 7 1/2 to 15 years in the New Hampshire State Prison and a \$4,000 fine.

David Hill, 29, of Lower Main Street, Claremont, was indicted on the charge of habitual offender for allegedly operating a vehicle on Route 10 in Croydon on Jan. 10 after having been convicted of four counts of operating after suspension in Claremont and Newport district courts since 1996. If convicted, Hill could face jail time and a \$4,000 fine.

Robert LaClair Sr., 56, of Parkview Street, Newport, was indicted on two counts of aggravated felonious sexual assault for allegedly engaging in sexual intercourse and other activity with an individual under the age of 13 between June 8, 1983 and Sept. 2, 1986. Each charge carries with it a maximum sentence of 10 to 20 years in the New Hampshire State Prison and a \$4,000 fine.

Carrie A. Melcher, 33, of Main Street, Charlestown, was indicted on the charge of reckless conduct with a deadly weapon for allegedly shooting a firearm out of her bedroom window on

Dec. 30, 2001. If convicted, she could face three to 20 years in the New Hampshire State Prison and a \$4,000 fine.

Theophile Lapre, 30, of Hartford Street, Claremont, was indicted on the charge of habitual offender for allegedly operating a motor vehicle on Broad Street in Claremont on Jan. 7, after being convicted of seven charges, including driving while intoxicated, operating after suspension, operating while a habitual offender and disobeying a police officer in the state since 1992. The charge carries with it a possible sentence of one to five years in the New Hampshire State Prison and a \$4,000 fine.

Mark Maynard, 24, currently housed at the Sullivan County House of Correction, Unity, was indicted on the charge of issuing bad checks in Claremont on Dec. 19, 2001. If convicted, he could face 7 1/2 to 15 years in the New Hampshire State Prison and a \$4,000 fine.

Christopher Safford, 33, of Winter Street, Croydon, was indicted on the charge of possession of a controlled drug (Oxycodone Hydrochloride/Percocet) near Oak Street in Newport on Jan. 15. If convicted, he could face 3 1/2 to 7 years at the New Hampshire State Prison and a \$25,000 fine.

Ronald Perron, 23, currently housed at the Sullivan County House of Correction, Unity, was indicted on the charge of burglary for allegedly entering a River Road residence in Claremont on May 29, 2001. If convicted, he could face 3 1/2 to 7 years in the New Hampshire State Prison and a \$4,000 fine.

Jamie Lunderville, 20, of Borrough Road, Charlestown, was indicted on the charge of burglary for allegedly entering a River Road residence in Claremont on May 29, 2001. If convicted, he could face 3 1/2 to 7 years in the New Hampshire State Prison and a \$4,000 fine.

Matthew Waddell, 42, of Springfield, N.H., was indicted on the charge of incest for allegedly engaging in sexual intercourse with a family member at his residence on Jan. 13. If convicted, he could face 3 1/2 to 7 years in the New Hampshire State Prison and a \$4,000 fine.

Teens arrested for vandalizing Cornish buses

By RUTH ROLLINS
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Two teens have been charged with vandalizing school buses in Cornish last week.

Manuel Terceira and Jeremy Swoyer, both 17 years old and of Cornish, are scheduled to

appear in Claremont District Court on April 25 to answer the vandalism charge. If convicted, they can be fined up to \$1,000 and possibly serve prison time for the Class A misdemeanor.

Cornish Police received a call at about 10:58 p.m. on April 12 from a resident who thought he heard people

throwing items at buildings on the Cornish Fair grounds on Townhouse Road. Upon investigation by police officer Douglas Hackett, however, a number of windows were found broken on "First Student" school buses parked at the Cornish School.

"This citizen was able to give officer Hackett a description of

a vehicle leaving the area, which he located," said Barry Bodkins, officer in charge. "In speaking with the operator of the vehicle he admitted to doing the damage to the busses and also identified a second suspect."

Damage to the buses is estimated to be more than \$700.

Cornish teens plead guilty to vandalism

CLAREMONT — Two Cornish teens entered guilty pleas in Claremont District Court on Wednesday to charges that they vandalized two school buses earlier this month.

Jeremy A. Swoyer, 17, and Manuel C. Terceira, 17, were charged with one count each of criminal mischief after reportedly throwing stones at the buses parked outside the

Cornish Elementary School on Townhouse Road on April 12 at 10:50 p.m. Seven windows were broken during the incident, causing approximately \$400 in damage, according to court documents.

Swoyer and Terceira were each fined \$1,000, with \$800 suspended on the condition that they pay \$707 in restitution within 90 days.

Barry Terceira 4-27-80

Barry Terceira 4-27-80

Douglas Hackett to head Cornish PD

By RUTH ROLLINS
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Cornish selectmen have promoted police officer Douglas Hackett to sergeant and appointed him to become the officer in charge of the Cornish Police Department as of Tuesday.

He is replacing Barritt Bodkins, who resigned after he was charged with sexually assaulting a minor. Bodkins held the position for the past three years.

Hackett served as police officer in the Cornish department during 1988 through 1990, under Chief Philip "Joe" Osgood, leaving to work as a member of Hanover Police Department. Following a couple of years spent in Iowa he returned to the Cornish department in 1999 and has served as an officer since

then.

As the administrator of the department "my first priority will be to get the department up to a staff of four officers, which will enable us to provide an increased amount of time for patrolling," said Hackett.

"The past three years the department has budgeted for an extra person, but not been fully staffed and most funds have been turned back to the general fund," he said. "One year we used an amount for radar equipment. Therefore there will not be a large increase in the budget, only a small increase this year, due to an increase for officer pay and an increase in dispatching fees from Claremont."

Hackett will be working with officers Michael Boutilier and Andrew Langlois until a fourth officer is hired.

Eugene Timmins 12-31-01

Life Times
7-7-02

Cornish man held on crack dealing charge

By KEVIN McNULTY
Staff Writer

NEWPORT — Djuan Smith pleaded not guilty to charges of possession of crack cocaine with the intent to sell Friday morning in Sullivan County Superior Court.

Smith, 33, of 4 Sunrise Drive, Cornish, was remanded to the sheriff's department custody to be transported back to the Sullivan County House of Corrections because he was not able to come up with the \$25,000 cash bail ordered by Superior Court Judge Robert Morrill. Smith was already being held at the prison in Unity after he was initially arraigned on the possession with intent to sell charges on June 12 in Claremont District Court. Because of the serious nature of the charges, Smith was indicted by a grand jury in Sullivan County Superior Court on June 20.

Assistant County Attorney Alexander Scott requested Morrill order \$25,000 cash bail because of Smith's lengthy criminal record and the fact that he tried to attack the arresting officers. Smith was already on probation for an assault charge at the time of his arrest.

Smith, wearing a tie-dyed T-shirt embossed with a peace sign, displayed little emotion when he entered his plea of not guilty.

A trial date has not yet been scheduled.

Claremont police, acting upon intelligence given to two patrolmen, arrested Smith on June 11 on Main Street with allegedly \$1,500 worth of crack cocaine, said Claremont Police Sgt. Jeff Burnham. Burnham would not disclose the source of the intelligence, but said "we knew that (Smith) would be on Main Street at the time we arrested him with a quantity of crack cocaine."

When confronted by the police, Smith allegedly did not give up without a fight. Allegedly, Smith snatched the drugs out of

Burnham's hand and threw the crack cocaine into the woods abutting the Sugar River, court records state. Smith then attempted to strike Burnham with his fist and run away, but patrolmen Greg Belisle and Jon Stone leaped to Burnham's aid and the three officers wrestled Smith to the ground and handcuffed him, Burnham said.

"Once we had him on the ground, he acted as if he was sick. I don't know if he was feigning an illness or if he really was sick," Burnham stated. The police called Golden Cross Ambulance service, which examined Smith and said he was healthy enough to be processed, Burnham said.

Smith was charged with intent to sell the crack cocaine because the illegal narcotic was divided into multiple containers, Burnham explained.

The Claremont police also charged Smith with endangering the welfare of a child under the age of 18 and possession of marijuana. Allegedly, Smith was with a young child at the time of his arrest and dropped the child on the ground when approached by the police, court records recount. He also allegedly had less than five grams of marijuana in his possession, court records state. Both charges are class A misdemeanors.

Smith was held at the Sullivan County House of Corrections the night of June 11 and was arraigned in Claremont District Court the following morning. A bail officer initially set bail at \$20,000 cash, but the district court judge raised the bail to \$50,000 cash, Burnham said.

If convicted, Smith faces seven and a half to 15 years in prison and fines of up to \$200,000.

Kevin McNulty can be reached at 603-543-3100, ext. 105, or by e-mail at etimes@cyberportal.net.

Boyle 9-30-02

Cornish cops to spend more time catching speeders

Secretary will free up their time

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Commuters along Route 120 in Cornish Flat are going to have to slow down as a result of action taken by the Cornish Board of Selectmen Friday night.

Sgt. Douglas Hackett of the Cornish Police Department will have some of his time now spent on clerical duties freed to catch commuting speeders on Route 120 and Townhouse Road.

The selectmen Friday voted 3-0 to create a part-time secretarial position of 10 hours a month for the police. The board also approved

offering the job at \$11 an hour to resident Sheryl Tallman, who has done some clerical work for the department before as an independent contractor.

Now she will be a town employee.

Hackett told the board Friday the hiring is necessary because he has not been able to fill two part-time patrol positions approved at the annual town meeting.

"It's hard to find trained people," he said.

"This will be a more efficient use of my time. We can have someone who's good at paperwork, and I can be doing patrols," he explained.

Hackett said he has been hampered in his traffic control efforts because of the time he has to spend in the office.

"I hate paperwork," he added.

A recent car accident in town created about four hours of paperwork, he said.

The department has one other patrolman, who doesn't have time to take care of his regular patrol duties and to be on the highway during rush hours.

Hackett said he receives regular complaints about the speeders on Route 120, a two-lane road, including complaints some from parents whose children ride the school bus.

"It'll be easy to catch 60s," he said, referring to drivers exceeding the speed limit through Cornish Flat at 60 miles an hour.

Most of the speeding traffic takes place going northbound during early morning commuter hours and southbound in late afternoon commuter times by drivers traveling to and from jobs in Lebanon, N.H., Hackett said.

While Cornish gets some relief from the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department and the New Hampshire State Police, the two law enforcement agencies lack the personnel to be everywhere at once, he said.

"The sheriff's department is seeking a highway safety grant from the state, and they're seeking a grant for radar," he said of future prospects.

"Let's get somebody," Selectman Larry Dingee told Hackett. "There's still some money in the budget."

Board Chairman Robert Maslan, while concerned about the speeding through town, expressed caution about escalating positions on the town's payroll and asked Hackett to be careful about spending.

"I hate paperwork."

— **Cornish Police**
Sgt. Douglas Hackett

Police saying little about baby abandoned on Cornish doorstep

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Local and county officials are maintaining silence on details of an unidentified baby left Dec. 20 on a Platt Road doorstep near the Plainfield town line.

They are not saying who the baby is, how old it is, who it belongs to, on whose doorstep it was left or what has happened to the baby since. Cornish officials learned about the matter at the time of the fire department's annual Christmas party for children on Friday, Dec. 20, when a call first came in at the station during the party.

Sgt. Douglas Hackett said he can make no comment about the incident. When asked whether charges would be filed in the case, Hackett repeated, "No comment."

"You'll have to ask that ques-

tion of the county attorney," he said.

Sullivan County Attorney Marc Hathaway said Friday he could not talk about the case because the privacy of a child needs to be protected.

When asked whether the case is being investigated, Hathaway replied, "Obviously a matter like this would be investigated."

Hathaway said he learned about the case "immediately

upon the event happening."

Assistant Fire Chief Dale Rook said there was a call that night at the station, but he doesn't know who responded.

"There was a call, we responded and Windsor ambulance responded," said Jeff Ballard of the Cornish-Plainfield rescue squad.

Ballard said he could not confirm a report that the child was taken to Valley Regional Hospital in Claremont or a

comment that the baby is all right.

"The police are handling it," he said. "You'll have to talk to them."

George Chappell can be reached by e-mail at gchap@sover.net.

Circle 1-5-83

Major cocaine bust made in Cornish

By Kristen Senz
Eagle Times

CORNISH — Police raided a Nelson Road residence Wednesday morning, Sept. 22, and arrested four people after finding \$30,000 worth of purified cocaine.

At 6:45 a.m. Wednesday, police from several agencies, including the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, executed a search warrant at 18 Nelson Road. Police said the four individuals sleeping in the house were awakened by a large group of officers who seized about 3 1/2 ounces of cocaine, a loaded 9 mm semi-automatic assault rifle, and cash.

The raid was the result of a lengthy investigation that is still ongoing, according to Sullivan County Sheriff Michael Prozzo.

Cameron Aldridge, 24, of 18 Nelson Road, was arrested and charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm as well as being in possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. Aldridge has a prior felony conviction for counterfeiting in Vermont, police said.

Also arrested were Lauren Annunziata, 19, and Lucas Lyons,

23, who also live at the Nelson Road address. Both were charged with felony possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.

Police also arrested Aldridge's brother, Brandon Aldridge, 23, of Manchester, N.H. The younger Aldridge was charged with resisting arrest for allegedly keeping a bedroom door locked and refusing to open it despite several commands to do so by Sullivan County Deputy Sheriff Michael Yacono.

Brandon Aldridge, who reportedly had a bench warrant issued for his arrest after failing to appear in Manchester District Court, was arraigned on the resisting arrest charge, a class A misdemeanor, in Claremont District Court Wednesday afternoon. He pled not guilty and his bail was set at \$5,000 cash only.

Cameron Aldridge, Annunziata and Lyons were also arraigned in Claremont District Court Wednesday, but did not enter pleas because the charges against them are felonies.

In light of two previous assault convictions in Lebanon and the counterfeiting conviction in Vermont, bail for Cameron Aldridge was set at \$25,000 cash only.

Annunziata is being held on \$1,000 cash or surety bail. Lyons is being held on \$10,000 cash only, due to a prior conviction for domestic assault and the fact that he is currently out on bail for a charge filed against him in Vermont.

All four individuals were transported to the Sullivan County House of Corrections following their arraignments. Cameron Aldridge, Annunziata and Lyons will be back in Claremont District Court Sept. 30 for probable cause hearings. Brandon Aldridge will stand trial Oct. 26.

Prozzo said it's possible that further charges will be filed against the four individuals.

Assisting in the raid were the Western New Hampshire Special Operations Unit, which includes officers from Claremont, Newport, Sunapee and Washington, the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, the New Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Task Force and the federal Drug Enforcement Agency.

The incident, while it was the first major drug bust in Cornish in recent history, should remind citizens that no community is immune to drug-related crime, Prozzo said.

9-30-04 CT Valley Spectator

More arrests related to Cornish drug raid

5 nabbed in Enfield; cash-filled safe seized

By **KRISTEN SENZ**
Staff Writer

The raid of a Cornish residence last week that netted \$80,000 worth of cocaine has directed police to a cash-filled safe in Manchester and five more arrests in Enfield Wednesday, police said.

Cornish A major drug ring lost five more members Wednesday when police executed two search warrants and arrested two Lebanon residents, two Enfield residents and a gang member from Camden, N.J., charging all five with felony possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, police said.

At 4 p.m. Wednesday the Enfield Police Department, working with the New Hampshire Drug Task Force and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, executed a search warrant for a pickup truck that was found traveling on Route 4 in Enfield.

What led police to Enfield was a drug bust at 18 Nelson Road in Cornish last Wednesday morning, Sullivan County Sheriff Mike Prozzo said. The four individuals arrested during that raid had at some point worked with

some or all of the individuals arrested in Enfield, police said.

The driver of the pickup truck, Michael Lyons, 40, of 501 Dartmouth College Highway, Lebanon, and the passenger, Barbie Barden, 36, of 380 Dartmouth College Highway, Lebanon, were arrested after police say they found about an ounce of cocaine in the car, with some in a backpack at Barden's feet and some behind the seat.

Barden and Lyons could each face up to 40 years in jail with additional time tacked on because they were driving in a school zone, police said.

From information obtained during interviews with Barden and Lyons, police were able to obtain a search warrant for 10 Sawmill Lane, Apt. 203, in Enfield. Residents of the apartment, Shawn Irish, 24, and April Gee, 22, weren't home when police forced their way in at 8 p.m., Enfield Police Capt. Richard Crate said. The search revealed about 7 ounces of cocaine in a backpack in the living room, Crate said.

As police prepared to leave the scene, Gee pulled into the driveway in a Volkswagen with Irish in the passenger seat and a third person, Jose Alberto Cruz, 27, of 1440 Haddon Ave., Camden, N.J., in the back seat, Crate said.

"They were taken into custody at that point and the vehicle was searched," he said.

Through interviews with the

suspects, Crate said, police determined that Cruz was the main drug supplier for Irish, Gee, Barden, and Lyons. Cruz, who has two prior drug-related felony convictions, allegedly told police that he belongs to the gang the Latin Kings.

Following his arrest, Cruz's bail was set at \$100,000, but at his arraignment Thursday, a Lebanon District Court judge raised it to \$200,000 cash only, due to his past criminal record and the quantity of cocaine, Crate said. If convicted for a third offense, Cruz could face life imprisonment.

Bail for Irish and Barden was set at \$50,000 cash only. Cruz, Irish and Barden are still being held at the Grafton County House of Corrections. Lyons and Gee were released Wednesday night on \$50,000 personal recognizance bail.

Last Wednesday, after executing a search warrant in Cornish and finding about 3.5 ounces of cocaine, police arrested Cameron Aldridge, 24, of 18 Nelson Road, and charged him with being a felon in possession of a firearm as well as being in possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. Aldridge has a prior felony conviction for counterfeiting in Vermont, police said.

Also arrested were Lauren Annunziata, 19 and Lucas Lyons, 23, who also live at the Nelson Road address. Both were charged

with felony possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.

Police also arrested Aldridge's brother, Brandon Aldridge, 23, of 881 Mammoth Road #8, Manchester, N.H., and charged him with resisting arrest, a misdemeanor.

Through the investigation, police learned of a safe at Brandon Aldridge's Manchester residence, Prozzo said. A group of police officers went down to Manchester and seized the safe, as Aldridge's mother, who has not been charged with a crime, stood by, police said.

The next day, police obtained a search warrant to open the safe and found it to contain \$7,000 cash, which is believed to be the fruit of multiple drug transactions, Prozzo said.

Cameron Aldridge, Annunziata, and Lyons appeared in Claremont District Court for probable cause hearings yesterday. The charges against Annunziata were dropped and probable cause was found in the cases against Aldridge and Lyons, which will now be transferred to Sullivan County Superior Court. Brandon Aldridge has pled not guilty to the resisting arrest charge and is scheduled for trial in Claremont District Court Oct. 26.

Kristen Senz can be reached at (603) 543-3100, ext. 105 or by e-mail at ksenz@eagletimes.com.

Cornish police officers stump for new station

By RUTH ROLLINS
Contributing Writer

At the March Town Meeting, residents will have to decide, among other things, whether or not to build a new police station in Cornish.

Cornish

A small group of people heard a proposal on Friday evening at the Cornish Town Office to construct a police station.

Currently the department is housed at the town office building in a space so small there is just about room for a desk — with a closet being used as an evidence room. Consequently evi-

dence is often stored in various locations around town.

A committee, appointed after the last town meeting, on a request from voters, have spent time studying land space owned by town, to avoid taking property off the tax rolls. Also space needs for the department have been weighed.

After several investigations, they decided the land where the Town House Road Fire Station is located was the best choice.

A drawing, shown by Police Officer Douglas Hackett, showed a 20-by-60-foot structure that would be connected to the left side of the fire station.

The building would house office space, an evidence room and a 12-by-16-foot room that can be used as for interviewing, conferences and training.

Hackett told those attending that the space would allow the department to do more of the police work in Cornish, rather than out of town and the building would be accessible to state troopers as well.

In support of the new police department, Hackett told the group that youths who are picked up in Cornish on misdemeanor crimes are often transported to Claremont for processing where they come in contact with other youths who have committed felonies.

"We want to do what we can here," said Hackett.

Selectmen have included a warrant article that will ask voters to raise and appropriate \$110,000 for the purpose of site preparation and construction of new space for the police department.

"There would be no interest or long-term debt included in this year's taxes, as the first payment would come from next year's budget," said Selectmen Robert Maslan and Larry Dingee.

They town will also be receiving \$7,800 of federal Homeland Security aid to go toward the project.

Cornish police building plan hits bureaucratic snag

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**
Contributing Writer

Planners of the proposed Cornish Police Department building are finding out that there's no such thing as a free lunch in the form of government grants.

"That money came with strings attached," Selectman

William Gallagher said Friday night of the state and federal funding for the Cornish Recreation and Education Area grant to buy the 76-acre historic land and barn many years ago.

"We have to use the land for recreation or education," he said.

Recent plans call for a 20-foot by 60-foot addition for a

police station to be built on the 42-foot by 60-foot fire station on Townhouse Road. But the fire station's property line may be too close to the proposed building, Gallagher learned from the Cornish Conservation Commission this week.

If the new building overlaps on CREA property, then there is a violation of the land use.

Officials are in a quandary

whether to call in a surveyor to measure the properties, or to reduce the size of the police station a few feet.

"We'll build it, even if we have to shave four feet off it," Selectman Larry Dingee said Friday.

George Chappell can be reached at 603-543-3100, ext. 105, or by e-mail at gchap@sover.net.

New police station and highway repairs big ticket it

Ruth Rollins
Contributing Writer

A three hour voting window will be set aside exclusively for the vote on spending \$110,000 for a new police station next week at town meeting.

The item is the first article on the warrant and carries the second largest price tag. A vote on raising money to spend on the maintenance of town roads and bridges could cost the town \$259,503. The total sum of the road projects is closer to \$360,000 but the rest of the money would come from grants.

The business session of the meeting begins at noon on March 9 to discuss the 20 articles on the

warrant.

In order to build the new station for the police, bonds or notes will be issued. The vote on the article will directly follow a discussion period that will include drawings of the proposed structure.

Approval of the article requires a two-thirds majority vote by paper ballot.

Article 3 calls for voter approval to defray all charges in the coming year for the fire, police, rescue and ambulance services.

Article 4 asks whether \$3,000 should be appropriated to the Conservation Commission fund.

Articles 5 through 10 need voter approval to place money in capital reserve funds including \$35,000 for heavy equipment for the highway department, \$13,000 for the fire department,

\$4,000 for a new police cruiser, \$10,000 for appraisals, \$2,000 for the library and \$10,000 for the town bridge fund.

Article 11 is the highway project that would be paid in part by grants.

Article 12 faces voters with spending \$7,500 to purchase additional assessing and secretarial services, and authorize selectmen to withdraw the amount from the appraisal reserve capital fund.

Article 13 asks whether the town should raise \$85,000 for the purchase of a new dump truck for the highway department, and authorize selectmen to withdraw that amount from the high-way heavy equipment capital reserve fund. Any funds derived from the sale of existing equipment to be used to offset the withdrawn amount.

MARCH 5, 2004

Items in Cornish

Other articles include \$5,000 to reprint the town's history books and \$5,000 to purchase a used truck for the cemetery department.

Also voters will decide if modifying the elderly exemptions from property tax based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers is appropriate, along with the issue of depositing 100 percent of the revenues collected from land use change tax into the Conservation Commission fund.

The warrant also includes an article — which was added sometime after the public hearing — to see if the town will allow the board of selectmen to accept a gift from the Trinity Church.

Bernice Johnson CHS Album

Town spirit raises police dept. walls

By **BARBARA NOLL**
Contributing Writer

The construction of the new Cornish Police Department has been likened to an Amish barn raising. Community members, in a show of spirit, have volunteered their time and energy to see this building to completion.

As the result of a year-long study conducted from

2003 to 2004, the present police facility, which is housed in the renovated town office building, was deemed too small.

"At the March 2003 Town Meeting, the last thing brought up at the meeting was a request on my part for the town to appoint a committee to evaluate the space needs and report back at the 2004 Town Meeting on their findings," Sgt. Doug Hackett recalled. "They came back to the March 2004 Town Meeting with a warrant article recommending that the town place an addition on the Town House Road Fire Station."

A warrant asked for \$110,000 to build and equip a 20-by-66-foot addition.

At the 2004 Town Meeting a vote was supposed to be taken concerning the Trinity Church. State Sen. Peter Burling, then owner of the historical building, had offered it to the town for free. Residents were apprehensive because the building was old and would require maintenance.

It was then the request for building a new police depart-

"Cornish is a community-minded town. We use residents whenever we could."

Sgt. Doug Hackett

Cornish Police Department

ENTER TOWN 3 AM 11/2005

ment then took an unusual turn.

"Clark Rockefeller of Cornish stood up and held up a check already made out for \$110,000 to build the police station, at no cost to the taxpayer, with the stipulation that the town accept the gift (of the church) and sell it to him," Hackett recalled.

The plan was approved. Last July 1, the town accepted the gift of the church from Peter Burling, sold it to Rockefeller, and in turn received the \$110,000 check for a new police department building. However, it was so late in the construction season contractors were not available to do the work this year so Cornish turned to volunteers.

"In late July we broke ground. We were chugging along at a slow speed. Cornish is a community-minded town. We used residents whenever we could," Hackett explained.

Melvin Clark has a concrete business and laid the foundation. McClay Construction did the site work, while Leo Maslan, a forester, removed the trees. Will Reed did the wells. By late August, only the foundation was complete, and contractors were behind because of the rainy summer.

"Ultimately what happened is we had the walls prefabbed at

LaValley's. Doug Freeland chosen to do the radiant heating. We got a group of residents who put up the walls: my Corey Stevens, Larry Din, Fred Schad, Kurt Wyman, Spaulding, Marilyn Bourne. Hackett said.

In November, several volunteers and a crane operator from LaValley's spent one very long day putting the trusses up, roof on and the tarpaper done. In December, Boone Road did the standing seam roof and a contractor from Claremont, Enoch Hartwell, did the soffit and eaves. Boone got the roof just before the first snowfall of the season.

"We're very community-oriented. It's not hard to get volunteers to work [here]," Hackett explained.

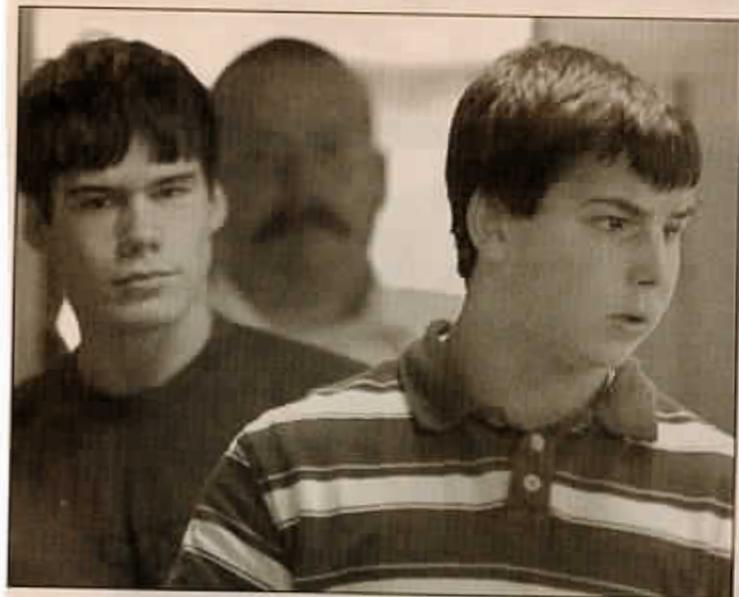
In mid-December Corey, interior walls and windows were installed. On Saturday, the electricians were at the site, and this week the carpenters were back to prep the building for insulators. Once the insulators complete their work, the carpenters will be back to do the drywall. The building will be completely sealed up in the next few weeks. The target date for the police to move is the first week of March.



HELPING OUT — Josh Hartwell readies the saw for the day's work at the new Cornish Police Department.

BARBARA NOLL PHOTO

THURSDAY
JULY 14, 2005



DON CLARK PHOTO

Richard Strong, right, and Richard Flaig, left, enter Claremont District Court for arraignment on multiple felony charges. Police suspect the two acted with Jimmy Alexander, not shown, and tossed a homemade bomb into a vacant home on Sunday evening.

Police: Teens bombed house

By JOSH ADAMS
Staff Writer

Three Claremont teenagers were arrested Wednesday morning and charged with tossing a homemade bomb into a vacant house over the weekend. The explosion and ensuing fire did not injure anyone, though the structure at 343 Bible Hill Road was destroyed.

Richard Strong of 46 High St., is facing three felonies in connection with the fire. Jimmy Alexander, 1 Wayne Ave., is charged with five felonies for his alleged involvement and Richard Flaig of 10 West Pleasant St., is facing four felony charges.

All four are 18.

Investigators were looking for connections between this incident, which occurred around 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, and another fire in Newport the night before. Both homes were

vacant estate properties, both fires were deemed suspicious and both were reported after dark.

Claremont Det. Colby Casey said Wednesday the similarities are a matter of coincidence.

"There is absolutely, positively no connection between this investigation and the one in Newport," Casey said. "The timing is coincidental."

Max Schuldz of the state Fire Marshal's office is investigating Saturday's Pike Hill Road fire in Newport. That fire was also set intentionally, Schuldz said, but he declined to elaborate.

"The fire was incendiary, but it's still under investigation," Schuldz said.

Claremont Police Chief Alex Scott said the three teens charged in the Claremont fire used only one device to ignite the home owned by Ludmila Borisov, but said it was not the first time they detonated a bomb. On two separate occasions and at different locations, Scott said the teens tested their homemade explosives before using them on the Bible Hill home.

Police suspect the teens chose to bomb the Bible Hill property because it is secluded. Scott said it's unlikely they intended to kill anyone.

"The fact that the residence was empty was a consideration," Scott said. "It would seem it was targeted as a vacant residence."

Though the building is in a rural area, Casey said tips on how the blaze may have been started began coming into police that night and continued into Monday. Sullivan County Attorney Marc Hathaway said the evidence does include witness accounts.

The state Fire Marshal's office was issued a search warrant by Claremont District Court Judge Jack Yazinski and went to Flaig's home Monday

morning where the bomb was allegedly made. Investigators confiscated black powder, a hot glue gun and fireworks from Flaig's home, authorities said.

The fireworks were purchased for their fuses, Casey said. The owner of the Cornish General Store where they were

purchased did not have a permit to sell fireworks, police said. Robert Bladen, the store's owner, is scheduled to appear in Claremont District Court on Aug. 8 to



Alexander

answer to a related misdemeanor and violation charge.

Chris Wyman of the Fire Marshal's office said homemade bombs tend to be quite volatile and the one believed to have been built by Flaig, Alexander and Strong could have been deadly.

"Had it accidentally gone off in the vehicle it could have seriously injured or killed the individuals," Wyman said.

All three suspects were released on \$25,000 personal recognizance bail and are under house arrest. Alexander is allowed to leave his house to work at Market Basket and visit his mother in the hospital. Flaig can not be away from home except to work the second shift at New Hampshire Industries in West Lebanon, N.H.

All three are scheduled for a probable cause hearing in Newport District Court on July 21.

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DON CLARK PHOTO

Cornish Assistant Fire Chief Dale Rock, right, helps pull in a rescue boat that searched the Connecticut River for about an hour after emergency personnel were informed of three men who had gone missing while canoeing. The claim later turned out to be false.

Missing canoeists claim false

Police: Man who called in report has history of mental illness

By DAMIEN FISHER
Staff Writer

Emergency personnel swarmed the Connecticut River Tuesday afternoon in search of three men who had reportedly gone missing while on a canoe trip. About an hour into the search, Cornish police learned it was a false

Cornish alarm

A 48-year-old Windsor man called police at about 2:30 p.m. claiming his brother and two friends had taken a canoe onto the river in Hartland and were heading for the boat landing in Cornish. The man claimed the boat had not been seen since about 12:45 a.m.

Cornish Police Sgt. Douglas Hackett said he learned the man has a history of mental illness and hallucinations.

"The report (about the boat) was due to

his emotional difficulties which were due to his being off of his medications," Hackett said.

The false alarm triggered police officers and rescue squads in Cornish and Plainfield, as well as fire departments from Claremont, Windsor and Hartland to begin an intense search of the water.

"It was a significant emergency response," Hackett said.

While the Cornish Rescue Squad was putting a search boat onto the river, the man was watching and looking out onto the water. He told the *Eagle Times* his brother was visiting for a couple of days.

He said he first searched both sides of the river from Hartland to Windsor himself when the canoe did not turn up in Cornish. He then called police.

The man claimed his brother was a military veteran who had served in Iraq. Looking out to the river through Tuesday's

freezing rain, the man said he expected the worst.

"I would rather this brother be shot at than this," the man said.

While the Cornish Rescue Squad was on the river, and having engine trouble, police were interviewing the man. It was during that interview that his mental illness was discovered.

Hackett said he spoke to the man's family and confirmed that the brother was alive and well and not in Cornish. The search was called off and the man was taken into custody.

Tuesday evening, Hackett said the man had been admitted to Valley Regional Hospital in Claremont for treatment and observation. Hackett said he would not be bringing any charges against him for the false report.

"We're not charging him, we're helping him," Hackett said.

Teens Charged After Police Break Up Party

By **KRISTEN FOUNTAIN**
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — A late-night teenage party in Cornish on Friday night resulted in six arrests and two ambulance runs, said Cornish Police Chief Doug Hackett yesterday.

Hackett and another policeman were patrolling in town around 10:30 p.m. when they discovered a vehicle parked on Route 12A between 12 Percent Solution store and the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge, obstructing the roadway. While knocking on the door of the nearby house, the pair smelled alcohol and marijuana and saw a

young man passed out on the floor, Hackett said.

A Windsor ambulance was quickly called and the young man, who when found was breathing at the very low rate of roughly four beats a minute, was transported to Mt. Ascutney Hospital, Hackett said.

A second Golden Cross ambulance was called after a number of people in the house attempted to flee through the woods behind the house and one fell into the freezing cold Tandy Brook. That person also was transported to Mt. Ascutney and treated for hypothermia, Hackett said.

Cornish police said that they eventually found all 17 people in the house at the time of their arrival. The police were assisted by officers from Windsor, Claremont and Plainfield and the New Hampshire state police.

Breath tests showed that eleven guests at the party, who appeared mostly to be students and former students of Hartford High School, did not have alcohol in their system, said Hackett. They were taken into police custody and released to an adult, he said.

Paul V. Archer of Hartland, Daniel Forbush of Sharon and Peter R. Neil of Quechee, all 18 years old, and an unnamed juvenile, 17, were arrested for alcohol pos-

session.

Courtland Fitch of Cornish, 19, was arrested for possession of alcohol and a narcotic. The person who hosted the party is a juvenile who also was arrested for possession of alcohol, narcotics and "facilitating an underage alcohol house party," a new charge in New Hampshire, according to police logs.

The parents of the teenager were not home at the time of the party and will not be charged, Hackett said.

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2/28/06

Ex-police officer back in jail

By **AARON ALDRIDGE**
Staff Writer

Former police officer and sheriff's deputy Michael Yacono is back in jail for violating the terms of his probation and is being held on \$50,000 cash bail.

Cornish Yacono, 36, of Cornish, was in New Port District Court Monday morning and charged with three counts of simple assault and one count of criminal mischief stemming from an incident in Cornish Friday night.

According to court documents, Yacono was at his residence on Townhouse Road when at 10:04 p.m. he allegedly grabbed a woman and threw her to the lawn. When police arrived, Yacono allegedly grabbed Cornish Police Chief Douglas Hackett by the uniform and shoved him backward. Yacono also allegedly shoved and pushed another officer repeatedly in the chest and shoulders.

The criminal mischief charge states Yacono allegedly punched the hood of a police cruiser with his fist repeatedly, causing a dent in the hood.

Yacono is a former Sullivan County sheriff's deputy who had worked for the department for about three years, according to Sullivan County Sheriff Michael Prozzo. He was dismissed by Prozzo in December 2005 and Prozzo had said the circumstances surrounding his dismissal are confidential because they are a personnel matter.

Yacono was then hired to work

part-time for the Charlestown Police Department when he was arrested for assaulting a man in Cornish on March 12, 2005. After Yacono was sentenced on July 27, 2005, to 12 months in jail for the assault, Yacono's employment was terminated, Charlestown Police Chief Ed Smith said.

Yacono did not serve the entire year and all of the sentence was suspended except for 21 days. He was placed on probation for one year and ordered not to consume any alcoholic beverages.

According to a document filed by probation officer Scott Paterson on Monday, Yacono is alleged to be in violation of his probation for committing the crimes of simple assault, criminal mischief and driving while intoxicated. The document alleges Yacono consumed an unknown quantity of alcohol on Friday.

Yacono was previously found guilty of violating his probation on March 9, 2006, and was sentenced to 12 months in jail. All of the jail time was suspended and he was again ordered not to drink. In addition, Yacono was ordered to comply with a sobriety plan and participate in any and all recommended treatment and counseling.

Within about two weeks, Yacono again violated his probation by allegedly consuming several beers and was arrested on March 27. He was given a suspended sentence of 60 days and placed on house arrest. Additional sentencing included attending 90 Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in 90 days and participating in a 28-day program at Friendship

House, a residential treatment program.

Yacono's troubles continued when on April 12, 2006, two probation officers stopped to do a home inspection at his residence and discovered he had been drinking. He was arrested and held without bail until a court hearing on April 14.

At that time Yacono was found guilty of violating his probation and was sentenced again to 12 months in jail. He was given pre-trial confinement credit of 24 days and was told he may enter the Veteran's Administration post-traumatic stress disorder and alcohol dependence treatment program. On May 10 he was ordered to start the VA program on May 11 in Boston and again was ordered not to drink.

Cornish police then located Yacono on Nov. 16 intoxicated and stumbling on the side of the road on Route 12A near the covered bridge, according to court documents. He was taken into protective custody and brought to the Claremont Police Department.

For the fourth time he violated his probation and was held at the house of corrections until his hearing on Jan. 11. At that time Yacono was sentenced to 12 months in jail with 114 days of pre-trial credit. This most recent violation of his probation involves new criminal charges and a hearing is scheduled for June 12 at 1:30 p.m.

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Cornish Police Department's new vehicle

From 2009 Town Report

Cornish Forms a Patrol to Counter Burglaries

By KATIE BETH RYAN

Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — Many towns wouldn't grow overly concerned about five burglaries over the course of nine months. But in Cornish, with a population of roughly 1,400, the burglaries, coupled with a rise in the number of DUI arrests, have led Police Chief Doug Hackett to form a volunteer patrol group of residents.

Nearly 20 volunteers have signed on to patrol the town by car in two-hour shifts during the day.

The patrol members will "drive around [and] look for things that don't fit in," said Hackett. "In the middle of the afternoon, you see someone carrying a TV out of a house to a car, that's something we're going to check up on."

Hackett said the police department, which consists of himself and four part-time officers, will take over patrol duties at night.

At a Labor Day training course for prospective patrol members, Hackett said that he and other officers were clear about citizens not acting in lieu of armed officers, but rather as the eyes and ears of the department during the daytime.

"We're not out stopping every person," he said. "Basically, we're documenting what's going on, and if something comes out of it, then we'll follow up on it."

The last month has been an especially busy one for the department. Hackett said that four of the five burglaries that have taken place this year occurred in late July and August. That's compared with just two burglaries during all of 2008.

Already this year, the Cornish police have responded to

200 more calls for service than in 2008, and DUI arrests are four times what they were at the end of last year.

The only expense incurred in the civilian watch program has been the purchase of a \$40 voice recorder. Cornish Selectboard Chairwoman Merilynn Bourne believes preventing crime now via unpaid volunteers will help ease the pressure the police department is under, and is a cost-effective move.

"This is a response to an increased number of break-ins in a community that tends to be very quiet," said Bourne. "It doesn't cost the citizens anything to do this, and we're all very aware of the tax base and the tax burden on retired citizens and those on fixed incomes. I see this as ahead-of-the-curve thinking." Several residents whose homes have been burglarized are serving on the patrol. M.A. Ricci, who

See CORNISH—A₁₈

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Cornish Forms Patrol

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

believes that her shed was broken into, is adamant about deterring future burglaries in the town.

"This is a small town. We can't afford to have multiple policemen on duty all the time," said Ricci. "The citizens have to step up. Everybody needs to be a little more vigilant."

The spike in burglaries and other crimes in Cornish mirror the crime increases in other communities, said Fire Chief Nate Cass. Statistically speaking, he said, crimes go up during poor economic periods.

"When the economy gets worse, two things happen. People stay home and drink, and they go looking for money," he said.

In Lee Baker's lifetime in Cornish, he can scarcely remember a time when the town was plagued by the level of crime it has experienced over the last few months.

"When I grew up here, we never locked our houses. We left our keys in the car," he said.

Baker, along with other interested residents, attended the training session.

Baker believes that many of the crimes are committed by nonresidents who have easy access to the town from nearby Interstate 91. He chose to join the patrol because he'd

like to see Cornish retain its small-town tranquility.

"To me, it brings us back to where we were when I was young, when neighbors looked out for other neighbors," he said.

Most of the volunteer crime-watch members, predominantly retirees, second-shift workers and stay-at-home parents, have no previous experience in law enforcement. Ricci maintains, however, that patrol members know what to look for, and will exercise caution in reporting activities to the police.

"I know which vehicles belong to the neighbors and which ones don't," she said. "It's not a matter of being nosy. It's just noticing something out of the ordinary."

Hackett said that he didn't believe that the civilian patrol would cause any undue worry among Cornish residents.

"I think as a general rule, people in Cornish now have a heightened awareness that this is happening here, and asking them to follow up and being diligent about what's happening in their neighborhood is not a bad thing."

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Valley News
13 Sept
2009

HALT! WHO GOES THERE?

In a way, I envy the Cornish Citizens Patrol. Talk about the ideal job. Strictly banker's hours, Monday through Friday. No nights or weekends. No heavy lifting, either. I'm little worried, though, that having to scribble down the license plate number of every out-of-state car and truck that crosses the town line might wear on the old carpal tunnel.



Pay is another drawback. At the moment, there is none. But I'm sure once details of the plan that Cornish has developed to combat its recent crime wave reaches Washington, the FBI will send suitcases loaded with cash. The idea of regular citizens driving around town on the constant lookout for suspicious

activity (make up your own definition) and then relaying their findings to police would certainly have met with J. Edgar Hoover's approval.

Responding to a spike in nonviolent crimes, Cornish Police Chief Doug Hackett announced on the town's Web site the formation of the citizens patrol. Four burglaries have been reported since July, bringing the town's year-to-date total to five. In all of 2008, there were only two reported burglaries, which means Cornish has seen a 250 percent increase in the theft of flat-screen TVs, iPods and power tools. And we haven't even made it to Halloween, when the number of pumpkins missing from front porches is almost sure to throw the crime statistics further out of whack.

Following a townwide meeting last week, more than 20 residents signed up to patrol Cornish's roads on weekdays. The chief and his four part-time officers will handle night and weekend shifts. Each two-person citizen patrol team will have a cell phone, portable radio and digital recorder to "note vehicle descriptions." There is also talk in town about buying video cameras. (Vigilante-wannabes, however, must bring their own pitchforks.) And more good news: Private donors are paying for gas.

"Hopefully the criminal element will get the message (that) Cornish is a community that cares, and will not stand for our privacy and homes (to be) violated," Hackett wrote on the Web site.

The Cornish initiative has already made the evening news. WMUR-TV in Manchester has been to town twice to interview Hackett and others. The station's Web site reported that "part of the reason some residents think the program can work is because most people can recognize who belongs in town and who doesn't."

And as I see it, that's why Cornish is heading down a slippery slope. Just because someone isn't a familiar face, does that mean they might be up to no good?

According to the 2007 U.S. Census survey, there were 1,767 people living in Cornish. Nearly 98 percent of them were white. With foliage season approaching, I pity the African American leaf peeper driving a car with New Jersey plates who takes a wrong turn en route to Saint-Gaudens. He might find his picture tacked to the Cornish Post Office wall.

On Thursday afternoon, I roamed Cornish to get a sense of how the patrols were being received. I stopped at Town Hall. The door was unlocked, but I couldn't find anyone inside, which got me to thinking: If Cornish is in the midst of a crime wave, shouldn't the Town Hall's front door be locked when the building is vacant?

I could have walked out with a box of bingo cards, and probably no one would have known until it came time for Tuesday night's weekly game.

At the Cornish General Store, the woman behind the cash register had not heard about the citizen patrols, which began Wednesday. "I live in Claremont," she said.

A co-worker tried to explain to her how the citizen patrollers were supposed to operate. When she finished, the first woman had just one question: "Are they armed?"

Good question.

Bill Wall, a retired Connecticut sheriff's deputy who lives near the store, told me that he would follow the police chief's marching orders, and leave his .38 Special at home when he's out patrolling with his wife. "I'll do whatever (the chief) wants," Wall said. "It's his idea, and I think it's a good one."

It's important to recognize that volunteers are just serving as the eyes and ears of the community, said Wall, 63.

I shared my qualms with Hackett about having well-intentioned but untrained residents heading up reconnaissance missions. The chief assured me that the volunteers wouldn't be making any citizen arrests. Their job is to "observe, document and report," he said. "I don't want them to act."

Hackett said he's not worried about liability issues, which I think could arise if a patroller were injured, goes overboard, or became involved in a traffic accident. But he agreed that activating citizen patrols is not the same as hiring additional professionally trained officers. (In some towns, the county sheriff's department is hired to patrol on an as-needed basis.) "I can't afford more professionals on a budget of less than \$60,000 a year," Hackett said.

It's obvious Hackett, the town's police chief for seven years, and his recruits care about what's happening to Cornish.

No doubt their hearts are in the right place. I just wonder about their heads.

◆
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LOOKING FOR TROUBLE

CORNISH TRIES CITIZEN PATROLS

Valley News
Sept 17, 2009

IN CORNISH, about 20 residents have volunteered to go looking for trouble. Our fear is that they're going to find it, and the town will suffer for trying to expand its law enforcement effort on the cheap.

Responding to a recent spike in burglaries and other crimes, Cornish Police Chief Doug Hackett has assembled a group of volunteers to patrol the town to augment the efforts of his small department, which includes himself and four part-time officers. Hackett has taken steps to limit the scope of the volunteers' work and minimize the chances they'll forget that they're not professionals: Volunteers will receive training, but they will be limited to two-hour shifts of day-time patrolling, and, most important, they'll be instructed to do nothing more than serve as monitors. If a volunteer sees something that appears to warrant investigation or a response, he will be under instruction to do no more than notify Hackett or one of his officers.

Hackett said the patrollers will "drive around and look for things that don't fit in. ... In the middle of the afternoon, you see someone carrying a TV out of a house to a car, that's something we're going to check up on."

Selectboard Chairwoman Merilynn Bourne applauded Hackett's initiative as a creative way to extend the police department's reach without further burdening the town's taxpayers.

In concept, citizen patrols seem fairly innocuous. In practice, however, they have the potential for disaster. A volunteer can be instructed to keep a distance, but what happens if that person is confronted with a situation that demands immediate attention? In some ways, that person's situation isn't any different from that of any other citizen who would need to decide whether to intervene. There's one crucial difference, though: The volunteer is acting in an auxiliary capacity to the local police department. Would the town then have to assume liability for the volunteer's actions? Would the town have to assume liability if the volunteer were injured? And even if the volunteer followed instructions and remained uninvolved, isn't there a possibility that a person committing a crime would notice the monitor (who will have a cell phone, a portable radio and digital recorder) and conclude that he posed a threat to the successful completion of his criminal endeavor? In that case, the volunteer's level of involvement would no longer remain under his complete control.

But even assuming that these concerns are all unfounded, isn't there a different, perhaps broader, problem with dispatching the neighborhood patrols? Yes, this program has been launched with the best of intentions, but there is something vaguely unsettling about asking neighbors to keep an eye not only on strangers but inevitably each other — especially when the catalyst is a crime wave that consists of a handful of burglaries and assorted minor crimes.

And, really, if the purpose is to have the police department notified anytime someone notices suspicious activity, isn't that what's supposed to happen under normal circumstances? Why not simply urge the good citizens of Cornish to behave like good citizens, which is to watch out for (not on) their friends and neighbors and call in the professionals whenever they have good reason to believe that something is amiss?

Nicknames lead cops to alleged vandals

By DAMIEN FISHER Bernice Johnson CHS alum
Staff Writer

Police arrested two young men who allegedly vandalized sections of the Cornish Recreational and Educational Association trail and the Cornish Elementary School play structure.

Cornish Police Chief Doug Hackett said Friday the alleged vandals' nicknames led police right to them.

Cornish Timothy Massey, 18, of Claremont, is reportedly also known as Chedda Bob and his 16-year-old juvenile accomplice is well known as Tall Boy Slim, Hackett said.

The pair is accused of painting "vulgar obscenities" in aqua blue tree-marking paint on trees and foot bridges along the trail on the weekend of April 15 and 16. The pair also is accused of painting graffiti on the Cornish Elementary School Gymnasium building and the school's new play structure. The names Chedda Bob and Tall Boy Slim were part of the graffiti, Hackett said.

Hackett said after the incident was reported he learned that the names come from the movie "8 Mile," starring rapper Eminem.

"After learning that, I thought it would be a common nickname," Hackett said.

Because of the connection to a popular movie, Hackett was afraid he would never be able to determine exactly who used those nicknames to deface the town's property. However, Hackett said Cornish police got numerous calls from residents about the incident that led to the arrests and reported confessions from both suspects. Hackett credited those calls in making the arrests.

"We got a lot of calls right after the incident," Hackett said. "One of the callers told us Mr. Massey goes by the nickname Chedda Bob."

The play structure, which cost \$50,000 new, was built last year. Much of the money for the project came from residents, who also contributed labor to build the structure.

According to Hackett, Massey and the juvenile caused more than \$1,300 in damage to the trail, gymnasium and play structure.

Massey, of Trinity Street in Claremont, is due in Claremont District Court on June 16 to be arraigned on two misdemeanor counts of criminal mischief. The juvenile known as Tall Boy Slim also faces two criminal mischief charges.



Massey

Man dies in rollover on Rte. 12A

Police: Car was submerged
in pond for about 16 hours

By DAMIEN FISHER
Staff Writer

The body of a Lebanon man was discovered Thursday morning in an overturned Ford Explorer that was partially submerged in Blow Me Down Pond along Route 12A. The car was likely in the water overnight, police said.

Cornish Authorities theorize Mathew Neily, 27, lost control of his car around 6:30 p.m. Wednesday while traveling northbound, flipped over the guard rail and landed roof down in the pond.

The car came to rest at the base of a 15-foot embankment and was not visible to passing motorists. The first report of the accident didn't come until a Cornish public works employee sitting in the tall cab of a road grader saw the car around 10:30 a.m.

Neily and his girlfriend, Elizabeth Burdette, 26, were living with her parents in West Lebanon and planned to move into a new house in Claremont this Sunday, she said Thursday evening. They bought the home last summer, and Neily had been working on it in his spare time.

"He learned how to fix it as he went," Burdette said at her parents' home.

The couple met at a summer camp in 1998, where they both worked as counselors. Burdette said Neily was a warm person who always looked out for other people.

"The kids loved him," she said.

Neily, who worked for Dartmouth College, was at the house in Claremont Wednesday evening refinishing the floors and was supposed to hang out with friends afterward, Burdette said. Thursday morning, Burdette got a call from Dartmouth saying Neily had not shown up for work.

Burdette, who works for the 21C program in Claremont, said she did not have Neily's friend's phone number with her, so she drove to her office to see if the number was there.

Driving on Route 12A toward Claremont Thursday morning, Burdette said she passed the accident scene but did not stop. Having no luck finding Neily or his friend, Burdette was returning home and again passed the accident scene.

"I was there when they were pulling him out," Burdette said. "I stopped and I saw it was Mathew."

The stretch of 12A where the accident occurred was nearly shutdown due to ice around 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Sgt. Doug Hackett of the Cornish Police Department responded to a report of two cars into the



MATT CLARY PHOTO

Tow truck operator Steve Plourde attaches tow chains to the Ford Explorer of Mathew Neily. Neily was found dead Thursday, some 16 hours after his car flipped over a guard rail on Route 12A in Cornish and landed wheels up in Blow Me Down Pond.

ROLLOVER FROM PAGE A1

embankment on 12A just south of the Blow Me Down Mill, which is south of where Neily's car left the road. Hackett said a third car slid off the road while he was on scene. There were no injuries or damage to the three vehicles at that location, Hackett said. Just before police closed the road, a state salt truck arrived and treated the pavement, which was the lone problem area reported on 12A in Cornish Wednesday night.

On Thursday, state troopers were chalking tire marks on the pavement as tow truck operator Steve Plourde from the Washington Street Mobil in Claremont and Cornish public works employees worked for nearly 90 minutes to pull the Explorer up the embankment.

Police did not give a cause of death or whether an autopsy will be performed.

Matt Clary contributed to this story.

Cornish Police Chief Gets Award for

By MARK DAVIS

Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — Cornish Police Chief Doug Hackett recently received a New Hampshire Congressional Law Enforcement Award for negotiating the peaceful surrender of an armed man who engaged in a five-hour stand-off and fired at police during a domestic dispute last year.

New Hampshire's congressional delegation gave Hackett an "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty" award for arresting Robert Shatney,

who fired several shotgun blasts while at home with his wife and three young children and later said that he had hoped police would kill him.

Hackett, who had no formal training in hostage negotiation, was a childhood friend of Shatney's. After talking to Shatney for five hours on the phone, Hackett convinced him to surrender.

"Everybody has bad days, and I am glad I was able to help him come out of a bad day," Hackett said in an interview.

Cornish Sgt. Corey Stevens, Claremont Police Sgt. Stanley Andrewski and officer

William Neilsen received a "Unit Citation Award" for responding to the scene in September 2011.

Additionally, Claremont police dispatcher Christopher McKay received an "Associate Service Award," for handling the 911 call from Shatney's distraught wife, who snuck out of a back window with her children and ran into the nearby woods.

Shatney's wife was "literally begging for help," while on the phone with McKay, Hackett said, and the dispatcher convinced her to get their children out of the home.

Surrender Negotiation

"It was extremely moving to listen to that afterward," Hackett said. "He deserves a lot of credit. He got those kids out of the house safely."

The awards were presented during a ceremony Monday night in Concord.

Others receiving recognition included Greenland Police Chief Michael Maloney, who was killed days before his scheduled retirement by a suspect during a drug raid, and Manchester police officer Daniel Doherty, who was shot five times while pursuing a suspect on foot and survived.

"It also makes you think that they probably went into their calls with the same mindset we did with ours," Hackett said. "You never know what you are going into any more."

Coincidentally, Shatney was released from prison and placed on probation the same day Hackett received his award.

Hackett said the men have spoken once since the incident, and are on good terms.

"He was the same Bob I remember," Hackett said. "Bob is a good guy."

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Celebrate the kickoff of Fire Prevention Week with a

Safety Services Open House

Sunday, October 4

12:00-2:00 pm

Cornish Fire Station

283 Town House Road

Cornish, NH

Eat lunch with members of the fire department, police department, rescue squad, and more!

Touch our trucks! See our equipment! Ask questions! Get a few goodies! Free lunch and drinks!

For more information contact:

Chantelle at chantelle.ornen@gmail.com or

Dale at dalehlawrence@yahoo.com





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Police Shoot, Kill Bear In Cornish

By JORDAN CUDEMI
Valley News Staff Writer 6/17/18
p. A 1

CORNISH — After consulting with a New Hampshire Fish and Game conservation officer, Cornish police on Monday night shot and killed a bear at a home in Cornish.

Cornish Police Chief Doug Hackett said the bear started to become a problem on Saturday when it killed at least one chicken at a home off Center Road and wouldn't leave the area when confronted.

The homeowner operates a daycare, and also has other livestock on the property.

"I responded four times on Saturday. There was constant conflict back and forth," Hackett said on Wednesday. "(The bear) was unafraid of humans."

Hackett declined to release the homeowner's name.

When reached by phone on Wednesday, a woman at the residence declined to comment.

On Monday, the bear continued to antagonize chickens in a chicken coop, prompting Fish and Game offi-

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cialists to link up with their partners at New Hampshire Wildlife Services to try and get the bear to move off the property.

Wildlife Services specialist Nick Kucia responded and set up a "Crittter Gitter" device, which sets off loud noises and flashing lights when movement is detected. He scoped out the yard to see what the owner would need for electric fencing; Fish and Game and Wildlife Services have a loan program that temporarily provides items such as fencing to assist the public in reducing nuisance wildlife damage.

Kucia had planned to return with fencing,

but before he or another official could get the fencing there, the bear had been shot, said Rob Calvert, Fish and Game's wildlife damage specialist.

Hackett said the bear was involved in "more conflict" on Monday, so after consulting with Fish and Game Conservation Officer Kevin Bronson, Cornish police Sgt. Corey Stevens shot the bear around 8:30 p.m. Neither Bronson nor Kucia could be reached for comment on Wednesday.

Hackett said he wasn't sure how many chickens the bear had killed.

When police arrived on Monday, Fish and Game Lt. James Kneeland said, the bear de-

fended its ground and wouldn't leave. If an officer deems a bear to be a threat or a perceived threat, the officer has the right to take lethal action, Kneeland said.

"People have the right to protect themselves and their property," he said.

Despite that, at least two Fish and Game specialists — New Hampshire bear project leader Andrew Timmins and Calvert — said they wish they'd had more time to intervene before the officer turned to lethal force.

Both men said bears too often are shot because they have killed some chickens, which is why Fish and Game and Wildlife

Services have collaborated to create programs meant to lessen those conflicts.

"Bears getting into chickens is a very common issue we are dealing with," Timmins said. "If we start trading bears for chickens, we won't have a lot of bears left in the future."

Calvert seconded that thought.

"I don't like to trade bears for chickens," he said.

The men urged people with chickens and livestock to set up appropriate fencing, for example, to keep conflicts to a minimum.

Calvert said he wished officials were able to get the fencing up at the Cornish

home sooner, or provide other means of intervention in the meantime.

Calvert sympathized with the homeowner, and said it can be very emotional to lose chickens.

The bear likely was a young male who was just starting to find his way, Calvert said.

"It's like the teenager that doesn't have its first job and the easiest thing is to sit on the stone wall (and go after a chicken)," Calvert said. "I am an advocate (for bears), but I understand you can't save them all."

Jordan Cuddemi can be reached at jcuddemi@vnews.com or 603-727-3248.

Policing 'a calling' for officers in Cornish

By ALLAN STEIN

CORNISH — As the last remaining part-time police department in Sullivan County, the Cornish department is able to get the job done with only three officers in a town of 1,640 residents and on a shoe-string budget.

The department's fiscal 2016 budget was only \$85,427, and \$7,400 was used for police detail coverage of the Cornish Fair in late summer.

"Right now, we do extremely well. What is nice is we are flexible," says Police Chief Douglas Hackett. "We have a very low crime rate, but we are not immune [to urban crime]. It's just on a smaller scale."

In 28 years, the town has had only three armed robberies and two calls for firearms displayed, one in which an officer was shot at.

The opioid epidemic, so characteristic of larger urban areas, is now just beginning to

creep into rural communities like Cornish.

The town recently experienced its first fatal heroin overdose, the chief said.

"It is changing. The crimes we think can occur only in the big cities are now filtering to the smaller towns. [The opioid epidemic] is small, but we are beginning to see it," he said.

Together with Sgt. Corey Stevens and Patrolman Eric Brann, the department responds to an average of 800 to 1,000 calls for service each year and handles about 92 percent of them.

The other 8 percent involves responses from state police or mutual aid with Plainfield police.

Though each officer works at a day job, he can be called to respond to an incident on a moment's notice.

Working part time as a police officer in Cornish also does not offer pay that is commensurate with the risks associated with



A Cornish police cruiser activates its lights.

Eagle Times, Special Section, Nov 29, 2018, p.6

FILE PHOTO

the job. One police officer earned less than \$5,000 one year "to come out and get shot at,"

Hackett said. So, what is it that keeps the Cornish police officers focused on the work they do?

"It's a calling — a natural desire to help people," Hackett said. "The three of us are proud [officers]. We have our

Christmas party together — the three of us and our wives. "But, you know what? When I do a good

Hanover, Lebanon May Join Forces

Communities Mull Combined Dispatch Center

By **JORDAN CUDEMI**
Valley News Staff Writer

Officials in Hanover and Lebanon are exploring the possibility of merging their dispatch centers and creating one regional communications center for police, fire, public works and emergency medical services calls.

Doing so could result in cost savings while providing better service to residents in Hanover, Lebanon and all of the towns the Hanover Regional Communications Center currently contracts with, Hanover Town Manager Julia Griffin and Lebanon City Manager Shaun Mulholland said recently.

Whether that would indeed be the case, though, and just what a potential merger could look like, will be at the center of a feasibility study an outside company will undertake soon.

"There are economies of scale that they can take advantage of ... and there are demonstrated examples where this works," Mulholland said, pointing to his experience as a former police chief in Merrimack County, which has a sheriff's department that uses a regional dispatch system, much like the Grafton County Sheriff's Department.



VALLEY NEWS — JENNIFER HAUCK
Hanover Regional Communications Center Communications Coordinator Doug Hackett, left, speaks with Dan Ventola of Consolidated Communications on Thursday in Hanover. Officials in Hanover and Lebanon plan to contract with an outside company to assess a potential merger of the Lebanon and Hanover dispatch centers. Ventola was doing work for the fire department.

In addition, "we think it might enhance the quality of service we provide," Griffin said, "but time will tell."

Mulholland and Griffin are finalizing the document that details the scope of the project and then will put it out to bid. The project asks a firm to

review Hanover and Lebanon's existing communications systems and come up with the pros and cons of

SEE DISPATCH — A10

The conversation about merging the dispatch centers came in June at a quarterly meeting of Upper Valley municipal managers. Several topics are mullied in those meetings, with an eye on ways to regionalize services.

"It is always wise to look at your options and examine whether efficiencies can be implemented," said Doug Hackett, the communications coordinator with the Hanover Regional Communications Center. "The goal here is to offer better service to officers, firefighters and the public. Whatever it takes to do that, I'm open to looking at."

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