

# CORNISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## VERTICAL FILES ON-LINE, PART I

The Cornish Historical Society has embarked on a lengthy project to digitize the vertical files at the History Center. In this way, the files will be available to everyone without having to visit the Center.

The files contain important documents for Cornish History, especially on a more modern level. Basically, non-book items, newspaper/periodical articles and pamphlets are included.

Inclusion for digitization is subjective in that certain material has been excluded. Items relating to Cornish Colony artists for example, covered in *Footprints of the Past*, have been included selectively. Items with great coverage have focused on representative articles and there may be cases where all the vertical file material should be consulted. Other exclusions include correspondence and auction photographs of works for sale.

This is still a work in progress and we would welcome any suggestions for improvement

Because the file is so large, covering well over six hundred pages, we have had to divide it in half. There is a limit to the MG size that can be uploaded to the town website. What follows is Part I.

To search, use Control-F.      For Mac users, Command-F

## Frances A. Ackerman, 87

### Ran Cornish school hot lunch program

**CORNISH** — Frances Alberta Bacon Ackerman, 87, of Center Road in Cornish, died Friday (Aug. 29, 2003) at Integrated Health Services at Claremont, surrounded by her family, following a period of failing health.

She was born in East Thetford, Vt., on Nov. 12, 1915, the daughter of Frank and Stella (Randall) Bacon, and had been a resident of Cornish since 1949.

She was raised in East Thetford, Vt., and graduated from Thetford Academy in 1932.

On Sept. 4, 1937, she married Norman Merrill Ackerman, who predeceased her on Aug. 24, 1994.

She was a longtime member of the United Church of Cornish. She will be remembered as a wonderful, caring person. For many years she raised chickens, ducks and geese.

She loved to cook and ran the hot lunch program at Cornish Elementary School for 29 years, retiring in 1986. She was fondly known as "Gram" to students and faculty alike.

At her retirement party, then assistant principal, Thomas "Tim" Luce, said, "When I came here, 'Gram' always made me feel I'm somewhat important. Then the more I thought about it, that is the way she made everyone feel."

She also worked at Kimball Union Academy during the summer months.

Members of her surviving family include three sons, Frank N. Ackerman, of Cornish, David N. Ackerman and his wife, Carol, of Claremont, and Richard B.



**Frances Ackerman**

Ackerman and his wife, Cathy, of Davenport, Fla.; two daughters, Joyce A. Bielarski and her husband, Tony, of Claremont, and Norma F. Garcia and her husband, Roberto, of Hartland; 19 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was predeceased by three grandchildren; a brother, Ernest Bacon; and a sister, Alice Wilmont.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday in the United Church of Cornish, with David N. Ackerman, her son, officiating. Interment will follow in Edminster Cemetery in Cornish. Friends may call at the Roy Funeral Home, 93 Sullivan St., Claremont, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the Cornish Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 235, Cornish, N.H. 03745.

## Sculptor Herbert Adams

Sculptor Herbert Adams (1858-1945) and his wife Adeline (Pond) Adams first arrived in Cornish in 1894 boarding with the Frank Johnsons. In 1896 they came bringing their artist friend William Howard Hart and boarded with S.A. Tracy. They also spent a summer in a little house on Freeman Road in Plainfield, the same house George deForest Brush rented. The house is now gone.

By 1903 they were owners of 105 acres of the DeGoosh farm on Stage Road in Plainfield. Charles Platt designed the house which was called "Hermitage." Friend William Howard Hart built a small house near the rear of the Adams house.

Some of Adams' important commissions include: The McMillan Fountain in Washington, D.C., the bronze doors representing "Writing" and a statue of Joseph Henry, both at the Library of Congress, a statue of William Cullen Bryant in New York City. Also "Primavera" which is in the Corcoran Gallery of Art and "LaJeunesse" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Adams created more than 160 commissions during his lifetime.

Adams won medals at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904, the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in 1915 and the National Academy of Design. He won a gold medal at the National Institute of Arts and Letters. For the exhibition of the Cornish Artists at Dartmouth College in 1916 he exhibited five works.

Adams was president of the National Academy of Design and also the National Sculpture Society. He was a member of the Art Commission of the City of New York, and a member of the Federal Commission of Fine Arts and a Trustee of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, just to name a few. He was president of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial from 1933 until his death in 1945.

While in Cornish Adams designed the bronze doors for the Mariners Museum in Newport News, Virginia. He produced a marble bas-relief of the Fraser-Campbell children entitled "Singing Boys" which is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Adams used a local model, Charlie Hill, for his statue of Captain Matthias Baldwin which is in Philadelphia. Albert K. Read, II of Plainfield posed for a statue of General Grant. This commission went to Henry M. Shrader. Kay Jordan Gary posed for a fountain statue when she was a very young child.

Herbert Adams was Frances Grimes' first sculpture teacher.

In the woods near his house and Hart's house, Adams built an outdoor amphitheater which



"ABE -- PLAINFIELD"

Albert K. Read, III (Abe) of Plainfield, modeled when he was a teenager.

became the site of many theatrical productions such as "Robin Hood," "Hanzel & Gretel," and "Folk Dance." Albert K. Read, II built the stone wall which formed the outdoor stage.

Herbert Adams played the part of Pan, the god of forests, pastures, flocks, and shepherds in the "Masque of the Golden Bowl" in 1905 at Aspet, the home of Augustus Saint-Gaudens. In "Sanctuary: A Bird Masque" performed in 1913 in Meriden, he took the part of Cardinal Grosbeak. President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson attended this performance.

For many years Adams was taxed for a horse and a cow. The summer of 1944 was the last summer the Adamses spent in the area.



**ALBERT K. READ, II** of Plainfield, posing for General Ulysses S. Grant statue.

# Saint-Gaudens Trustees Meet

## Elect Herbert Adams President; Memorial Attracting Many

CORNISH, Sept. 2—The annual meeting of the trustees of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial was held here on the week-end with the following members present:

Herbert Adams, William A. Barron, Horace Brown, Mrs. Lawrence Bullard, Winthrop Carter, Berry Faulkner, Phillip H. Faulkner, Alexander James, John O'Connor, Jr., Henry H. Reed, Homer Saint-Gaudens, Mrs. Ellen Shipman, Huntley N. Spaulding, George B. Upham and Lawrence Whittemore.

The following officers were elected to serve for the coming year: Herbert Adams, president; Royal Cortissoz, vice president and secretary; Phillip H. Faulkner, treasurer; Homer Saint-Gaudens, director; Mrs. Ida Metz Reed, assistant director.

During the year the memorial had an attendance of more than 4,000 persons, many coming from distant parts of the United States, Canada and foreign countries.

Mr. Adams, in his report of the activities, stated: "Realizing that the public schools in the locality lack certain advantages offered by museums in our great cities, the memorial, in cooperation with the school authorities in towns within easy reach of the memorial, has conducted an educational experiment. The idea was based on the fact that here, in the country, at the Saint-Gaudens memorial and museum, we have a most comprehensive collection of the work of America's greatest sculptor. Such a showing should be of real value to the younger generation.

"The plan adopted was for the schools to send pupils to the Memorial in groups of about 30. They are given free admission and are provided with an instructor. The trustees have been very fortunate in securing the services of Miss Frances Grimes for this work. Miss Grimes is not only a distinguished sculptor but was a most valued assistant to Mr. Saint-Gaudens. It has not been the purpose to give the children lectures on art or sculpture. Miss Grimes conducts the pupils through the various studios, talking with them about the pieces of sculpture, laying particular stress on the statues and on the portraits of historically important men, such as Lincoln, Farragut, Sherman and others. This is done in order to relate their visit to the memorial to their regular school work. If they incidentally acquire some little appreciation of good sculpture, so much the better.

"As an incentive to closer observation, the memorial has offered the pupils two prizes of \$10 each for the best essay on their visit. A total of 548 pupils have thus far visited the memorial during the year."

Tribune  
5/23/45

NEW YORK

# Herbert Adams Dies, Sculpture Society Leader

## Executed Many Memorials in New York Churches, Did Bust for Bryant Park

Herbert Adams, eighty-seven, a founder of the National Sculpture Society and its honorary president since 1933, died Monday in Doctors Hospital, East End Avenue and Eighty-seventh Street.

Mr. Adams specialized in portraiture for many years, but he also carried out many public commissions. Among these were memorials in St. Bartholomew's Church, Judson Memorial Church, Baptist Emmanuel Church, Brooklyn; the statue of William Cullen Bryant in Bryant Park; the Bullfinch Memorial tablets in the State House, the bronze doors representing "Writing" in the Library of Congress; the Junathan Edwards Memorial at Northampton, Mass., and statues and numerous public figures throughout the East.

He had been a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters since 1899 and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters since 1912.

Critics rated Mrs. Adams' medallions and other works among the best he produced, and he also was praised for his sculptures in color and for his experiments in combining marble and bronze, and marble and gilded wood.

Mr. Adams was born in West Concord, Vt., attended the Institute of Technology at Worcester, Mass., and the Normal Art School in Boston, then went to Paris, where he studied sculpture for five years.

Returning from Paris, he taught in the Art School of Pratt Institute for eight years and began his portrait sculpture, specializing in busts of women.

He was the winner of medals at numerous salons and expositions, including the Philadelphia Art Club, the Charleston Exposition, the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, the Panama-Pacific Exposition, the National Academy of Design and the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Adeline V. Pond Adams, who he met in Paris and a brother and sister.

Sculpture Society Leader



Herbert Adams

Major Paul B. Duke, 96

5/12  
Darius

Darius 5/13

**HELICOPTER CRASH**

**WYMAN, RAND**

**SEE POLICE FILE**

# Church to house Anglican parish

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**  
Contributing Writer

The sale of Trinity Church in Cornish is final, and the building is scheduled to become the formal worship home for a new congregation on Sunday, Aug. 1.

The historic building dates to 1808 and will house a new parish under the Anglican Church in America, a traditional and orthodox Anglican denomination. Originally an Episcopal Church, Trinity Church held its last services there more than two decades ago.

"We feel very excited about this beautiful New England church being

returned to traditional Anglican worship," said the Rt. Rev. George D. Langberg, bishop of the Diocese of the Northeast Anglican Church in America, in a news release.

The Rev. Dr. Brian Marsh will serve as rector of the parish. Sunday worship will begin at 11 a.m. The Church is located at 833 N.H. Route 12A in Cornish, just south of the covered bridge between Cornish and Windsor.

Resident Peter Hoe Burling, who purchased the church property in 1984 and recently conveyed the property to the town, said Friday that he received the deed this morning from the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire, and that it "recorded and conveyed all remaining interests."

"My deed of gift to Cornish was recorded next," he said.

According to the Cornish Selectboard, the deeds had to be filed in sequence with the Sullivan County Registry of Deeds before the transaction could be complete.

Burling said that letting go of the church was a very hard thing for him to do, but that he made the gesture because he thought it was time to see the building and property passed on.

"I think it's wonderful it's being used for religious services," he said.

Resident Clark Rockefeller, who was instrumental in buying the church, had announced at town meeting in March that he would buy

See **CHURCH** - Page A9

*Eagle 8-1-04*

## CHURCH FROM PAGE A1



DAVID BERGGREN PHOTO

**CHURCH** — Trinity Church will house an Anglican parish.

the church and pay the town \$110,000 to fund construction of its new police station.

On July 1 he gave the town a check for \$110,000 but had to wait to acquire the property until the deeds were completed. The church is now owned by the Trinity Church Cornish Trust, Rockefeller said.

Worship at Trinity Church Cornish will follow the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, an issue important to Rockefeller, who believes that the 1979 version of the Book of Common Prayer is substandard in literary value to the 1928 prayer book.

"It's really the Star Trek version," he said of the 1979 version, referring to a prayer for the galaxies.

"The '28 prayer book was a literary masterpiece," Rockefeller said.

The services will be seasonal from April to October because of the lack of a heating system, he said. Other groups, including organizations from town wanting to use the building for meetings, will be able to reserve space by sending an email message to [TrinityChurch@CornishColony.nh.us](mailto:TrinityChurch@CornishColony.nh.us) et.

In the past the Episcopal Diocese has held services at the church on a Sunday in September, and Rockefeller said that group would have the same opportunity as others to use the building.

The Anglican Church in America is the largest orthodox Anglican denomination in the United States and is a member Church of the Worldwide Traditional Anglican Communion, which has members in North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. Besides Trinity Church Cornish, several new parishes have started throughout Maine and New Hampshire over the last year.

The traditional style New England village style church, entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, dates back to the early history of the Cornish. Philander Chase, son of one of the town founders, established the original Anglican Parish in 1795. Chase later served as bishop of Ohio and founded Kenyon College.

**George Chappell may be reached by email at [gchap@sover.net](mailto:gchap@sover.net).**

# New Cornish Parish Draws 40 to Service

By JOHN P. GREGG

Valley News Staff Writer

**CORNISH** — The Anglican parish moving into historic Trinity Church attracted 40 worshippers to its first service last Sunday, according to the rector of the Cornish church.

"We had a festival Eucharist according to the traditional liturgy of the church, and found that the building itself was absolutely wonderful," said the Rev. Dr. Brian Marsh, the rector of Anglican Church of Good Shepherd in Charlestown and the new Trinity Church parish. "The acoustics were just terrific."

The Anglican Church in America denomination, which now occupies

one of New Hampshire's most historic religious buildings, is far more conservative than the Episcopal Diocese which oversaw Trinity Church for almost two centuries.

The Anglican Church in America traces its formation to the 1977 "Affirmation of St. Louis," which opposed the ordination of women and recognized the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer*, a major split from the Episcopal Church as it updated its prayer book in the 1970s and began ordaining female priests. (The Episcopal Church in the United States is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, which has a different archbishop than the Anglican Church in America.)

The Anglican Church in America does not allow commitment ceremonies for gay couples, differentiating it from the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire, which is now headed by the Rt. Rev. V. Eugene Robinson, the country's first openly gay Episcopal bishop.

"This was a group that developed its own identity around the traditional prayer book, around the traditional liturgy, and to maintain what we call the 'faith once delivered to the prophets,'" Marsh said of the Anglican Church in America. "What we were looking for (locally) was to find a good place to worship with people who were interested in worship using the traditional services."

Mike Barwell, a spokesman for Episcopal Diocese in New Hampshire, said several groups broke away from the Episcopal Church in the 1970s, in part because they favored the King James English of the prayer book, such as using the word "thy."

There were also several theological issues involved, he said, ranging from the institution of weekly holy communion services to Episcopals adopting more "responsive prayer" in which the congregation and a rector, often a minister, both participate in saying prayers aloud.

Ron Green, a professor of religion at Dartmouth College who has

See PARISH—

## New Anglican Parish in Cornish Draws 40 to

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

lowed the development of American churches, said. "The cleavage in the Episcopal Church began partly over the *Book of Common Prayer*, but also the ordination of women. ... Now it is being accelerated by the ordination of

Bishop Robinson and basically the whole question of the role of (openly) gay clergy in the church."

He also said an Anglican parish would find more "fertile soil" in a rural community such as Cornish.

"It's more a Cornish than Harover type of thing," Green said.

Although Barwell had not spoken to Robinson directly about the new Anglican parish, he said he did not believe the bishop would regret that had moved into the former Episcopal church. "He's very generous of spirit. He's not going to feel threatened."

## First Service

this at all," Barwell said.

Trinity Church, built in 1808, was home to an Episcopal church until 1984, when the dwindling number of worshippers prompted the church to close the parish and sell the building to Cornish resident Peter Burling.

Burling restored the church and kept it open as a meeting house, and agreed this winter to donate it to the town when fellow resident Clark Rockefeller proposed taking over stewardship of the church in return for a \$110,000 donation to Cornish to build a police office.

Rockefeller, who was visiting the church yesterday afternoon with his young daughter, said he left the Episcopal Church in 1991 because of his

unhappiness with the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*, which he said reminded him of "bell bottoms and lava lamps."

"I just got disaffected with the Episcopal Church after the '79 book came out," said Rockefeller, who said he did not begin talking to the Anglican church about moving into the building until after his Town Meeting offer.

"It's a church and should be used as a church," he said.

Rockefeller said he may join the Anglican parish next year and also said several attendees at Sunday's service "called themselves 'refugees' from the Episcopal Church."

Helen Lovell, a 90-year-old Cornish

**"I'm glad there are services here, and that it is being used and being cared for."**

Helen Lovell

ish resident who worshipped at Trinity Church when it closed in 1984 and is now an avowed member of the Sisters of St. Gregory, also visited the church yesterday afternoon and said "it hurt very much" when the Episcopal parish closed in 1984.

She said she does not plan to participate in Anglican services, but is comforted by the fact that a parish will be using the building.

"I'm glad there are services here, and that it is being used and being cared for," she said.

Burling said: "I'm delighted that there is a regular congregation that will be meeting there until the frost sets in. ... I do hope they will remember there is no heat in the building."

Services will be held in the church at 11 a.m. Sunday. Marsh said the Anglican parish hopes to hold services at Trinity Church into October.

## SPORTS

Ginny Prince

■ CORNISH VETERINARIAN

## Prince finally is getting the ride of her life

Former equestrian competitor has made the jump to fat-tired mountain bikes

By Peg Boyles  
Special to the Globe

**C**ORNISH — Growing up in Cincinnati, Ginny Prince was a "horse-crazy kid" who rode a bike a lot but pretended it was a horse. She later graduated to a real horse and began competing in equestrian events. By the time her love of animals had led her to veterinary school, Prince had worked her way into national-level competition in three-day eventing.

Shortly after moving to New Hampshire in 1983 to join a mixed-animal practice in Claremont, Prince acquired a new steed in the form of a fat-tired mountain bike. She got hooked on the new sport immediately, and soon began racing.

Last year, the 30-year-old Cornish vet became the undisputed queen of the Northeastern fat-tire racing circuit, winning every event she entered. This year, with a handful of new sponsors and a new training program, Prince intends to improve further and hit the national circuit of this young, rapidly growing competitive sport. In the process, she hopes to encourage others to give fat-tire cycling a try.

"I loved mountain biking from the start," says Prince. "It takes me everywhere I want to be — out in the woods, on trails, old logging roads, dirt roads — away from traffic and crowds. I love the technical challenge handling the bike on rough terrain. Plus, it's a down-to-earth sport. I have to admit I love getting dirty, playing in the mud." She laughs.

"Even all those years of training and riding horses, I never really stopped riding my bike. In college and vet school I used a road

bike as basic transportation, and to recover from all that studying. Cycling gives me an exercise high I don't get riding horses. In vet school I rode my first double century (200 miles) and entered a couple of novice road races."

As Prince began practicing veterinary medicine, she says she began questioning her continued involvement in high-level equestrian sports. "As a vet," she says, "I started becoming more aware of all the things that could happen to my horse during competition. If I'm in a bike race and crash going all out at breakneck speed, the only one I'll end up hurting is myself. Competing hard on a horse, I risk hurting or killing my best friend.

"I was also becoming disillusioned by the amount of money it took to compete at the higher levels of my sport. People who do well need more than talent and a great horse: They need lots of money. It takes a huge amount of time — not just riding and training the horse, but on paying an inordinate amount of attention to the details of personal grooming. I stopped having fun. I stopped enjoying the company of people who concentrated so much on the superficial details of appearance.

"I find mountain bikers a lot more fun to be around. They're relaxed, interested in having lots of fun, and not afraid to get dirty. There's a certain prestige in this sport to having a bike that's mud-spattered and used-looking — certainly the opposite of what you find in the equestrian world!"

Prince entered her first mountain bike race in September 1985. "I think I came in dead last, but I loved it," she says. "I was hooked."

Prince explains what hooked

---

**'Even all those years of training and riding horses, I never really stopped riding my bike. Cycling gives me an exercise high I don't get riding horses.'**

---

— GINNY PRINCE

her: "Mountain bike racing involves two different kinds of events: races and observed trials. The races are either time trials or mass start events of up to 30 miles, over dirt roads, trails or other rough terrain. They demand strength, speed and endurance. Observed trials test riders' bike handling skills. Riders negotiate a flagged track containing a series of obstacles, called 'problems' — a muddy streambed, a pile of rocks, some big tree roots. Trials aren't timed; the object is to ride over the course without putting a foot down, falling over or riding out of bounds. Riders are assessed points for errors."

Last year, Prince says, "I burned out on work. My friend and I were living in a tent, getting ready to build a house. My father got very sick and eventually died, and my horse, Igor, broke his leg and I had to put him down. We'd been together 10 years.

"I was working 10-12-hour days in the clinic, and on call half the rest of the time. Vets get called out a lot. I left my job in September and took a month off. At the time I was questioning whether I even wanted to stay involved in veterinary practice at all. I trained and raced hard all fall, which helped restore some of my perspective, then went back to working part time for a couple of small animal practices.

"Last winter, we made custom

studded tires for our bikes and had a lot of fun riding through the ice and snow. I also taught skills at Mt. Ascutney.

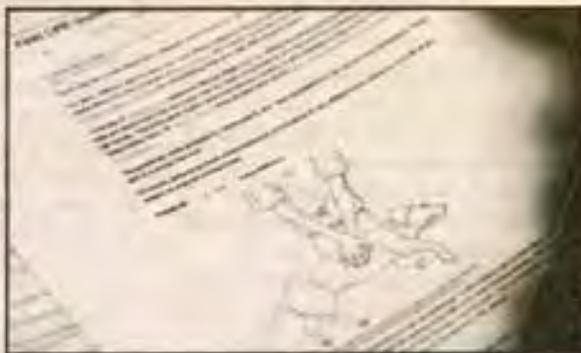
"That part-time vet work is now almost to the point where it's a full-time job. I'm aiming for a four-day, 40-hour job without a lot of call work. That way I can have more balance in my life and still enjoy my profession."

This year sponsored by F. Chance, the nation's premier mountain bike manufacturer located in Somerville, Mass., Prince plans to compete in the newly expanded circuit of fat-tire events around the northeast, then head west for the national and international off-road championships in California.

With the help of a trainer, often in the company of other fat-tire biking enthusiasts, or with her dog, she's working a new program of strength, skills, interval and distance training that has her on the bike 10-15 hours each week.

"Because of the varied terrain accessible by mountain bike, even the hardest training rides are just so much fun," Prince says. "I've learned a lot about the history of this area, riding up old logging roads and stretches of old logging railroad beds. Most people don't realize there are whole sections of some towns around here that were once thriving parts of their communities but are now abandoned, their roads grown over and inaccessible to automobile. Most hikers don't feel it's worth walking half a day to get in there, but I find it fascinating to bike into those sections and poke around the old cellar-holes wondering about the people who used to live there. "I want to help keep this sport as laid back and relaxed as it is now. It's just so much fun to out there in the woods, training with my dog and my friends, meeting the technical challenges of scrambling over rough terrain. It makes me feel like a 12-year-old kid again."

# Save The Pets



Information on reviving pets was passed out at a recent meeting of the Cornish Rescue Squad.

VALLEY NEWS PHOTOS  
— THEOPHIL SYSLO

Ginny Prince



Ginny Prince, left, a veterinarian, uses her dog Ida to help demonstrate the use of pet oxygen masks at the Cornish

Rescue Squad building recently. Cornish is one of a number of departments that have received pet-sized masks.

# Masks Come to the Rescue

## Pet-Friendly Devices Can Save Animals in Emergencies

BY OLIVIA DURR  
Valley News Staff Writer

A HANDFUL OF UPPER VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENTS are adding new medical equipment — oxygen masks sized for animals — that will help save the lives of family pets.

The devices, donated by a Lebanon medical supply firm and a local pet magazine, will give departments a safe and effective way to provide aid to pets suffering from smoke inhalation. According to the American Kennel Club, home fires affect approximately 500,000 pets each year.

A number of Upper Valley fire departments believe the masks are important tools. Ascutney Volunteer Fire Department Chief Darrin Spaulding said that eight years ago the department resuscitated a couple of pets with human-sized oxygen masks provided by the ambulance crew — “With these (new) masks, we can do it ourselves on scene.”

A similar need arose at the Randolph Center Fire Department a few years ago, when Chief Al Floyd responded to a fire where a family's dog was stuck inside the home. Floyd saved the dog, but was forced to revive it through mouth-to-snout CPR, a risky procedure between animals and humans.

Diseases such as salmonella and rabies can be passed from animals to humans during mouth-to-snout contact, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. People can also be bitten or scratched by a frightened animal during CPR.

The oxygen masks, which are priced at around \$100, come in three different sizes, said Jenna Rogers, a spokeswoman for Keene Medical Products of Lebanon. They fit any air-breathing animal, from tiny reptiles to large dogs.

The effort to get masks donated started with the Randolph Center

Fire Department, said Tim Hoehn, co-publisher of a pet and animal magazine, *4 Legs & a Tail*, based in Lebanon.

“People love their pets like they're part of the family,” said Hoehn, “and it's incredibly important that in the event of a fire, the firefighters can have the tools available to them” to help both humans and pets.

*4 Legs & a Tail* teamed up with Keene Medical to donate masks to fire departments and rescue squads in New Hampshire and Vermont that do not have pet equipment. The spread of these masks has been largely through word of mouth.

So far, Keene Medical has provided four departments, Ascutney,

Cornish, Randolph Center and Rutland Town, with a total of 12 masks (three of each size). Plans to donate to Peacham, Vt., and Northfield, Vt., are in the works, said Rogers.

“They're an asset,” said Deputy Chief Joe Aldsworth of the Randolph Fire Department. “They're a tool in the tool box and although we haven't had an opportunity to use them, we're all trained ... and each ambulance has a set.”

According to Jeff Katchen, vice president of the Cornish Rescue Squad, a dog succumbed to smoke inhalation in a fire a few years ago. He said they might have

been able to revive the pet if the squad had been equipped with the new masks. “That's one instance where we certainly would have used it. There's a potential at any time to use those masks.”

The squad has pet-related training every month. On June 26, its training included how to use the new oxygen masks.

“Being that pets are such an integral and personal part of the family, if there's anything we can do in those situations to revive, that's certainly something we'd want to do,” said Katchen.

Olivia Durr can be reached at 603-727-3234 or [odurr@vnews.com](mailto:odurr@vnews.com)



The correct use of a pet mask is demonstrated.

Evening Star, 1975 p. 2-1



-Polly Roger photo

*When all the men went 'Bull Moose'*

By CHARLOTTE POLLOCK  
Eagle-Times Staff

## Frances Arnold

"When you're a hundred years old, it makes quite a crash on the world. People think you're a freak. That's why you're here, isn't it?"

The words — with just a hint of laughter in them — came from the tiny woman sitting in a huge wing chair, her cat "Abigail" in her lap, and a roaring fire in the large, old fireplace in front of her.

"Well, I don't know why I agreed to this. I haven't anything interesting to say. Being one hundred years old doesn't give one any special wisdom you know."

A pair of very shrewd eyes looked to see how the visitor was taking this. At one hundred years of age, Miss Frances Arnold of Cornish, N.H. is every inch a lady, and obviously very much in charge.

It wasn't surprising to find out she had been a school teacher for many years in New York City, serving her last three years as the headmistress of the prestigious Bearley School for girls at the turn of the century.

"Now I don't want you to give me any 'airs' in this story you're doing. I was really just a school teacher at Bearley. When the headmistress died

suddenly, they asked me to serve as headmistress. And I did, for three years before I retired."

Sitting back in her chair, Miss Arnold said softly, "That school was my whole life. I went to school there from the time I was nine."

Miss Arnold was also a woman, who since the age of 15, had spent her summers, in Cornish, N.H. during the time of the so-called "Cornish colony".

"Only, don't you know, we called it the New York colony," explained the former school teacher. However, Miss Arnold does admit, "There were a few Bostonians who came there to live."

The colony began when Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the well-known American sculptor, bought a home in Cornish in 1885 from his friend and New York lawyer Charles C. Beaman. It wasn't long before the two men drew around them some of the most famous artists, musicians, and even lawyers and politicians of the day.

Miss Arnold's grandfather, Benjamin Green Arnold, was one of those drawn to the colony.

"Grandfather met the Saint-Gaudens in Rome. They convinced him he should come and live in Cornish."



**OVERBROOK FIELDS**, initially a summer residence now the year round Cornish, N.H. home of Miss Frances Arnold.

While her grandfather, a New York businessman, rented a house from Beaman, Miss Arnold and her mother eventually bought a small farmhouse which they called Overbrook Fields."

"Mother and I bought a tiny house and over the years added pieces to it until..."

Miss Arnold gestured around her to indicate what had resulted from that tiny house — a beautiful.

"The people who lived in the colony were like that, all of them"

Picking up another thought, "At that time the men went 'Bull Moose'. It was all they could talk about."

Bull Moose, the New York school teacher explained, was "when Taft and Teddy Roosevelt split the Republican party. All the men here were wild about Roosevelt. Judge Learned Hand, Mr. Burling (Edward Burling, a famous lawyer of the time) even my brother Henry was crazy about that man."

Miss Arnold herself was involved in politics.

"However, I was never a suffragette." She was quite specific on this point. "I just couldn't bring myself to do all those violent things — throwing ink, going into meetings and yelling and screaming as the men dragged you out. Why (according to Miss Arnold), they even chained themselves to doors."

rambling building with wide board floors and wall paneling.

The walls of her home are cluttered with reminders of her life — a plaque of her mother done by colony sculptress Frances Grimes, a photograph of architect and landscape gardener Charles A. Platt dedicated to her aunt, Grace Arnold ("there's one dedicated to me, somewhere around, but I put it away and you know what that means"), a drawing by Maxfield Parrish ("One of those funny drawings he did that just makes you want to laugh"). It is a comfortable, lived-in house.

Changing the subject, the tiny figure said "You know this is only one old woman's memories don't you? I realize the importance of talking to someone who was there, but it's been a long time."

For all that, Miss Arnold's memories of the colony life are sharp, and laced with a delicate humor.

"Maxfield Parrish? He was the funniest fellow, a wit."

She looked serious, "He didn't come from the gutter you know. He was from one of the best Philadelphia families, a much loved son he was. Fred was always doing."

(See WHEN, Page 4)

Asked if she were a believer in women's rights, she grew quite indignant. "Of course. Why I don't think a woman I knew in those days didn't believe in the vote for women...and we worked for it too."

"We did things differently though. If someone asked us if we were suffragettes, we said no. 'But,' we said, 'we believe in the suffrage movement for women.' And we talked to all the men we knew until they agreed with us about the vote for women!"

What does Miss Arnold think of today's women?

"Women who want equal pay for equal work are foolish!"

"Look for what you can do better than a man. Do that." She asked, "Why should a woman do the same as a man, when she could probably do something better if she put her mind to it?"

Miss Arnold  
Cornish, N.H.

Questioned about calling Parrish, Fred, Miss Arnold replied, "Oh, we didn't call him Maxfield. We always called him Fred. It was his name." She was right. Although known professionally as Maxfield Parrish, the artist was named Frederick by his parents. Later he took his paternal grandmother's maiden name, Maxfield.

Reminiscing, Miss Arnold added, "His mind was always active. Once I remember, we were playing tennis on grandfather's courts. The sky was so blue. The kind of blue you only see in New Hampshire and Vermont. Well, I really hit him a tricky ball. And, don't you know, he missed it. You know what he said to me? 'He...'"

Miss Arnold laughed, "Who could hit a ball when the sky is so blue? And he just stood there looking up at it."

FOLLOWING PAGES DEAL WITH CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS

## James Schubert



Multi-dimensional best describes the work of artist James Schubert who resides in Cornish, New Hampshire. Originally from Florida and an Upper Valley resident for the last eighteen years, he has enjoyed expressing himself through a variety of means.

His work includes pen and ink, en plein air acrylic, alkyd, water-color and also less traditional work in more experimental mediums. He is an experienced ceramic artist who has worked in both porcelain and stoneware. Additionally he designs one-of-a-kind, limited edition wooden jigsaw puzzles.

Receiving regional and national recognition, his work is included in corporate and private collections in the U.S. and abroad, and has been featured on ABC's Good Morning America, C. Paul Luongo's *America's Best 100, People, Gourmet*, and as an item in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

A member of AVA Gallery, work and artist may be seen at his third floor studio, 11 Bank St., Lebanon, N.H. Call (603) 675-6081.

*Art is really an expression made in a moment of good feeling, the idea being not so much to "make art" per se, but to be in the wonderful state that makes art possible.*





The Taylor Gallery  
Kimball Union Academy  
"OCULAR MEANS"

To display my art at Kimball Union is a means to make connections and I am grateful for the opportunity.

Putting to use my accumulation of left over house paint provided an economical way to explore varying degrees of artistic license.

That I have been able to explore color, space, and form in new ways has rewarded me with a fresh sense of artistic discovery.

The scientists, the teachers, the creatives, the students, who ask questions with a "beginners mind" and spend their lives seeking answers are to be celebrated, hence this suite of paintings.

Descartes believed that "wonderment is the first passion of all" and it is this that inspires me through the visual arts.

Supporting The Upper Valley Haven is another way of connecting with our fellow cosmic journeyers. Fifty percent of proceeds will be donated to this fine organization.

Thank you coming to the show!

Jim Schubert

January 11, 2018



KATHLEEN WELKER

photographer / photocolist

## Kathleen Welker

Kathleen Welker's photographs reflect far more than just her technical ability. She sees a subject with her heart in order to reveal its inner spirit and beauty. Her unique expression and imagination have created a style all her own. "The image that I create is a combination of some transformation, some extension of an image within myself, and what the camera sees. Then by the subtle manipulation of color I can create an almost timelessness illusion."

Kathleen is a native of California and has won numerous awards in photography. Her fourteen year career has concentrated primarily on photographing landscapes, architecture, and people, highlighted by her "people at work" series. She has traveled extensively throughout Europe and North America. She has drawn inspiration from the worlds of both photography and painting. People like Alfred Stieglitz, Berenice Abbot, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Paul Strand. Kathleen has a very outgoing personality and is always open to new ideas and different points of view. She not only is easy to work with but exhibits a most professional confidence in her abilities. Her many hobbies include antiques, classic cars, painting, cooking, and fashion.

Commercial clients: Glenlivet Distillery, AT&T, Maxwell House, New York Telephone, and USA Network.

**Represented by Diane Miller**  
301 E. 47th St. Suite 15K • New York, NY 10017  
(212) 644-7202

# Cornish artist presents 'a poetic view' of life

## Through photography, painting

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Photographer and photo-colorist Kathleen Welker of Cornish will present an exhibit of oil-painted photographs at the Mill Brook Gallery, located at the Cornish Town Office building on Town House Road, from Jan. 19 to March 9.

"My show will feature many Cornish scenes; my photographs are images of places and people that I feel represent a poetic view of Cornish," Welker said. The show will include photographs taken during all four seasons.

A local artist for nearly 20 years, Welker's original oil-painted photographs have attracted national attention. Her commercial clients include AT&T, Simon Pearce Glass, Maxwell House, New York Telephone, USA Network and Glenlivet Distillery. One of her paintings was recently chosen by Concord, N.H., attorney Terry Shumaker — the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago — to be part of a New Hampshire art collection that will travel abroad with him.

Welker's interest in photography began more than 30 years ago, very unexpectedly. While residing in San Francisco, Welker's mother presented her with a camera that she had purchased with Purina Cat Chow proof-of-purchase seals. Her love of photography grew from that time on.

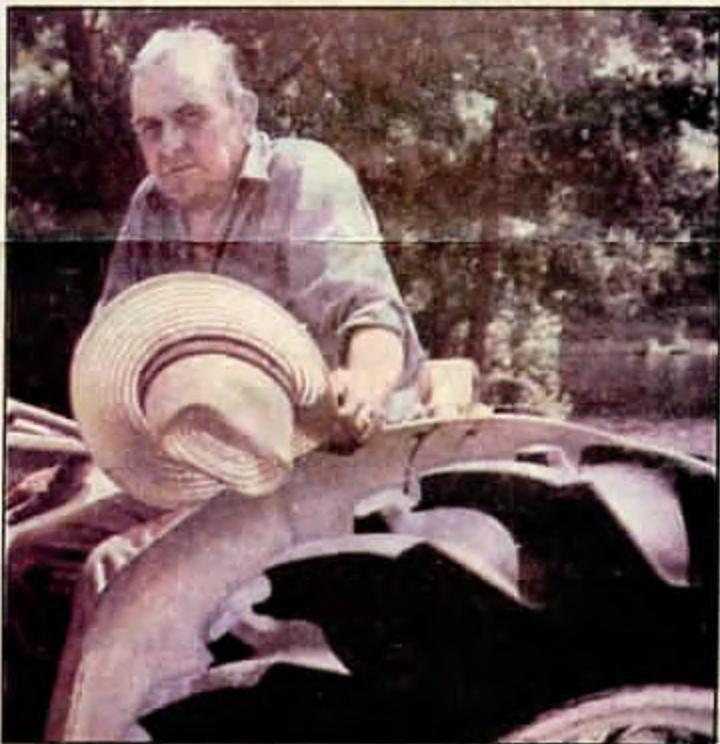
"I began taking pictures professionally about 20 years ago when my husband and I decided to travel across the country looking for a home. I took many pictures throughout the states," said Welker, who now lives and works in a rustic, restored farmhouse.

"I have been oil painting my images the past 17 years, creating some transformation from what the camera sees and an image within myself." Then, with subtle manipulation of color, she creates an almost timeless illusion.

Welker shoots her photographs with black and white film and prints them herself on matte-surface paper. Keeping a mental vision of the color seen on location, she then begins to paint.



CORNISH — Artist Kathleen Welker paints a photograph in her home studio. (Rebecca Denton photo)



Welker uses Marshall's oil paints, building the final effect in layers to achieve the illusion of depth in her prints. She paints in the fine details with brushes made of long-fiber cotton wrapped around wooden toothpicks, allowing time for drying between layers. This creates a translucent effect.

In addition to making her own prints, Welker uses her own formulas to mix darkroom chemicals, giving her more control over her work.

"Most images take me about five hours to paint," Welker

**A portrait of Lyscom Putnam, a Cornish resident and Welker's neighbor, may be included in the upcoming exhibit. (Rebecca Denton photo)**

said. "No two photos are exactly the same because I print and paint each individually. My goal as a photographer is to have my photographs not only reveal technical perfection but to express a feeling of personal vision and portray peacefulness, to give a sense of tranquility to those who view my work."

Her work reflects far more than just her technical abili-

ty. She sees a subject with her heart in order to reveal its inner spirit and beauty. Her unique expression and imagination have created a style all her own.

Welker loves to meet new people and has traveled extensively throughout Europe and North America, drawing inspiration from the worlds of both photography and painting.



Last fall Welker won an award for "Connecticut River Ice" in a contest sponsored by the Southern Vermont Art Center in Manchester, Vt. The piece will be included in the Cornish exhibit. (Rebecca Denton photo)

*Eagle Times*

1-15-95

# Color Photographs

## A Wise Purchase Or Something To Reconsider

some musings by larry welker

This would appear to be an appropriate place to mention some facts concerning hanging color photographs on your walls. I think we all find certain photographs that we would like to buy and hang in that perfect spot in the home or office. Should one simply overlook the fact that many color photo printing processes are simply not archival? Is this one of the reasons that color photography is shied away from by serious collectors? Perhaps, when taken with the fact that as such it remains a reproduction process whereby the artist may in fact choose to 'knock off' a few more prints.

Seems like a good time to mention that the work of my wife Kathleen is for all intents and purposes both 'one of a kind' and archival. The black and white silver print base for each photograph has been selenium toned (thereby depositing a far more stable metallic salt upon the porous salts of silver, preventing their 'tarnishing', as it could be referred to), and received an archival wash and mounted on 100% cotton, acid-free mount board. Even the mat board is of the same material. Each 'print' is painted by hand, color by color, this is not a 'knock-off' print process. In fact she tries very hard to make sure each successive print is as close to her chosen final version as she can make it. Fact is: no two are exact. I keep trying to tell her "Kath, just let each one come out different!". Will she listen??

The colors Kathleen uses are not semi-stable dyes, but rather pigments, very finely ground pigments in oil, not all that dissimilar from those used by the old masters. Her 'brushes' are actually pointed wooden toothpicks with a wrapping of long-fibre cotton. She achieves great depth by using a process referred to as "overpainting". Most of her 'prints' have to dry in stages waiting for the next color spectrum to be applied.

Well I hope you weren't bored by this little tech-side-chat. Some people do wonder a little into the how and why is it done. So now you've heard some of 'the rest of the story. enjoy



Nancy Wightman, Kathleen Welker  
**Two from Cornish**  
**show work at MAH**

WINDSOR — Color that's floral bright or last-light subtle is on display on the walls of Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center, where two Cornish women are exhibiting their art.

Nancy Wightman and Kathleen Welker recently put up displays in the hospital's corridors. Patients, visitors and staff are regularly drawn to the works that range from

local landscapes to vivid splashes of color.

Wightman, a founding member of Two Rivers Printmaking Studio in White River Junction, has etchings and oil paintings on view. The etchings are precise and fairly muted; the paintings are decidedly vivid.

Largely self-taught, Wightman said she didn't take her art seriously when

*East Firm Dec 30, 2006*

she was young; in later years she changed, taking courses in both printmaking and painting. She is also a retired LPN who worked at Mt. Ascutney Hospital for four years.

Welker is a photographer and photo oil colorist. She takes black and white shots and colors them with photo oil paints, using cotton

wrapped around toothpicks for brushes.

The exhibits will be up through January at the hospital, which regularly features the work of local artists. Also new are a number of signed works in the hospital's new addition that were donated by well-known printmaker Sabra Field of East Barnard, Vt.

EAGLE TIMES, Thursday, December 23, 1982 3

## Cornish woman fulfills dream

CORNISH, N. H. — Nancy Wightman fulfilled a dream last week when she finally saw in print a small newspaper, which took several weeks to complete. "I've wanted to do this for several years, but I always lacked the courage before," said Wightman.

Wightman has a talent for art work and her first issue includes drawings by her as well as several other Cornish residents. "I want to use the paper for a place that others may express their talents, lots of people do drawings as a hobby, this will give them a place to express themselves."

"When I was younger I always drew horses especially, but never felt I was an artist," said Wightman.

Wightman chose as the theme "Christ issue," and will follow a "town meeting" theme next time.

Several area residents wrote stories concerning past Christmas memories. The issue includes a calendar of events, several advertisements and a special recipe.

Wightman trained as a

profession. She and her husband Revilo moved to Cornish in 1966, where they have been involved in Scouting, the town's recycling center and she has been avidly interested in the Stowell Library.

At present she is assisting Norma LaClair in the production "Beat the Blues Variety Show, which will be held Feb. 19.

The Wightman's have four

children, Coburn, a student at Keene State College, Jason, a junior, and Nathan, a sophomore at Stevens High School. Their daughter Jennifer attends Cornish Elementary School.

The Cornish Quarterly is available at Cummings Market, Windsor, Paul and Carol's Market, Claremont and Powers Country Store, Cornish.

"Wightman trained as a nurse, but did not enjoy the...

## Opera house art

"The Baby" acrylic on canvas, by Sally Wellborn, will be on display along with some of her other recent works and recent works by Desiree D'Ambrosio Shafman, will be on view at the Claremont Opera House Atrium from Feb. 1 through March 31. An opening reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7. The atrium is open during opera house performances and by appointment at 603-542-0064.



High 1-30-03



## Opera house art

"The Baby" acrylic on canvas, by Sally Wellborn, will be on display along with some of her other recent works and recent works by Desiree D'Ambrosio Shafman, will be on view at the Claremont Opera House Atrium from Feb. 1 through March 31. An opening reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7. The atrium is open during opera house performances and by appointment at 603-542-0064.

### OPENING

Two Cornish painters, Sally Wellborn and Desiree D'Ambrosio Shafman, exhibit paintings inspired by the rhythmic patterns of everyday objects and events in a show titled, "Ancient Rhythms, New Arrangements," opening tomorrow with a 5-to-7 p.m. reception in the Claremont Opera House atrium. The exhibit hangs through March 31.

At the Library Arts Center in Newport, "All in the Family" — an exhibition of arts and crafts created by talented families in the greater Newport area — opens Saturday with a 3-to-5 p.m. reception featuring local musical talent. (The show hangs through March 8.) The reception will also feature the announcement of the winners of a "Give Us Your Best Shot" photo contest, with special mention going to successful entries in the "Family Photos" category. Photos will be accepted through tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and

That day in early May when the Gallaghers moved onto their new land was a bittersweet one indeed. Bill Gallagher recalled how elated he had at first been, standing there at the edge of the property

Sally and their two sons by his side. What he saw now made his hair stand on end:

47 acres of virgin New Hampshire hillside — no house, no buildings, no shelter of any kind — only pristine forest and unfenced pastureland. What had he done? 'A sobering and soul searching experience,' he said. 'A longed-for and cherished moment,' insisted his wife.

Valley News

May 31, 1982 p. 15

Sally Wellborn, Bill Gallagher



**CORNISH, N.H.** — Sally Wellborn, who died of natural causes on Monday, Oct. 23, 2017, loved to dance and make art and raise gardens. She was born in 1935 in Schenectady, N.Y., received a formal education at Emma Willard School and Vassar College and some brief technical instruction at Katherine Gibbs School and Boston's School of the Museum of Fine Arts. She married twice, mothered five sons, lactated for eight years and for nearly five decades, cooked every meal on a woodstove.

In 1969 she settled in Cornish with her partner, Bill Gallagher, where they fashioned a cow barn of hay bales and she began to practice some of the skills that were survival necessities for previous generations: general farming, domestic fuel production, herbal medicine-making, home birthing and home schooling, gardening and food preservation on a scale that for several decades satisfied the large part of her family's annual needs for vegetables and fruits, animal protein and dairy products.

Her commitment to improving and maintaining the health of the land manifested as contributions to local environmental protection efforts. She helped to found and edit *The Cornish Commongood*, served as a member of the first Cornish Conservation Commission, worked as an original organizer of *Working On Waste*, created mastheads, posters and signs for many counter-culture projects and occasionally marched, testified and trespassed in their service.

She felt strongly that gratitude and benign responsiveness toward



Sally Wellborn

our biological environment, including the species with whom we share it, is fundamental to wise public decision-making. But political action was never her medium of choice with which to express this belief. Her natural, creative connection with human society was quintessentially as an artist. She sometimes referred to her work in various media — painting, weaving, printmaking, sculpture, collage, writing — as her "real life." Her work was exhibited in local venues for 50 years. Her vegetable garden was admired for its beauty. The baskets she wove of foraged materials evolved into fiber sculptures, the houseplants of her windowsills into an indoor jungle, her observations into poetry and fiction.

She is survived by her husband, William Edward Gallagher of Cornish; and her sons and their families: Douglas McMullen Daniell, Susan Daniell and Owen Daniell of Eugene, Ore.; Alexander O'Brien Daniell and Rachael Wassenaar of Eugene; Matthew Wellborn Daniell of West Newbury, Mass.; Malaika Tabors of Cambridge, Mass.; Dillon Gallagher and Marie DeRusha of Cornish; and Gwyn Wellborn Gallagher and Heather Gallagher of Cornish.

Thanks to co-operative care from her children, spouse and Bayada Hospice, she had, for 18 days, ceased ingesting all food and most liquid, in an attempt to meet her death (tranquility) as a trusted friend. A private burial ceremony was held at the family graveyard at Many Summers Farm in Cornish. A celebration of Sally's life will be held outdoors next summer.

# PROFILE: SHERYL HAHN

Sheryl Hahn

Epochs In The Valley Sept 17, 1985  
p. 21

By Georgia Croft

CORNISH — Sheryl Hahn had the best of Long Island. She grew up there, near the sea, before creeping commercialism covered most of the open space with the steel-walled shopping malls, four-lane highways and acres of asphalt parking lots.

"Where my grandmother lived, it was very rural," she says. "It was on a dirt road, and she put up a garden in the backyard with tomatoes and things. There was even a little stream with frogs jumping around and watercress growing."

"I can remember going down to the stream with my grandfather to pick the watercress and watch the frogs. The next house down was a little farm. They didn't have a herd of cows, but there were two cows there."

"That wasn't so long ago, but now my grandmother's stream is a sump hole with a four-lane highway going through it."

It took a while for Hahn to get to Cornish, but when she finally did, it was like going back to the surroundings of her childhood. First, though, there were a couple of years of college and the obligatory 60s trip to California.

"I went to San Francisco because it was 1965, and I went in a Volkswagen because that was the thing to do," she says.

Hahn had dabbled in art all her life and in college had concentrated on art courses — primarily painting and drawing — but to support herself, she'd always worked as a waitress. The California trip, however, inspired her to make a change, and she took a job in a factory.

"It didn't last too long," she says. "I had an industrial accident. I caught my arm in a machine, and that was the end of my industrial career."

Extensive hospitalization and creative surgery were required to repair the damage, including the replacement of a bone in her forearm with a bone removed from her hip.

"I couldn't go back to work," she says, "so I went home. I was pretty degraded and depressed, sitting around with my arm in a cast and a brace, no income but Workmen's Compensation — and that wasn't much."

"I couldn't take another job until my arm healed, so finally my mom talked me into taking some night classes, just to give me something to do. One of the classes was in stained glass, and I sold my first piece before it was finished. That was the beginning, and I was hooked."

"A year before, at 26, I thought my life was finished — my arm in a brace, in a cast, and nothing in the future. Now I had a whole new world."

For the first time, Hahn regretted not continuing her college classes where she could have studied sculpting and jewelry making, but she concentrated on learning all she could about stained glass and soon had her own shop.

Now she works in a converted shed at the rear of a rambling white house in Cornish Flat where she lives with her dog, Jethro, and sells through the Vermont Craft Center at Windsor and the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen shop in Hanover, a couple of other crafts shops and through private orders, including orders for all the dining room lampshades at the Sheraton Inn where she supplements her income by still working as a waitress two nights a week.

Hahn came to Cornish from Pennsylvania where she went for a change after the Long Island shop became too commercial, too pressured.

"I had pictured Pennsylvania barns, but I ended up outside of Philly. It was almost like being in the city again. A friend of mine had lived in Plainfield, and he suggested I should come up here."

"Until then, I don't think I even knew there was a New Hampshire. I knew Maine was up here, but I didn't think much about New Hampshire or Vermont."

"But I came. I moved in January and spent the first year in Windsor. It was horrible, coming at that time of year. But then I began making some real good friends."

That was five years ago, and Cornish has now been her home for the longest period in any one spot since she left high school.

"I love it. It's very laid back. It suits my lifestyle. I can work at my own pace, and if I want to get faster, I can."

"Now I think, 'Oh my God. Winter's coming again.' But you know what that makes me do? It makes me sit down and do a lot of drawing, get a lot of designs down."

"I think, 'Oh my God, the winter. All that time.' But I never get everything done that I think I'm going to do. I end up over my girlfriend's house with a cup of coffee in front of the woodstove."

Hahn now has heat and insulation in her studio, but the first couple of winters, it was unusable.

"Everyone says you can put on more clothes, but my hands are still cold," she says. "You can put on six pairs of longjohns, but you can't put them on your hands."

The most important reason for heat in the studio is for the sake of the glass, though.

"Glass is moving," she says. "The molecules in glass are running a lot faster than in rocks or wood, so it gets



*ARTISTRY IN GLASS — An industrial accident gave Sheryl Hahn a new career and finally brought her back to the rural life she loves in Cornish where she works as a stained glass artist in a studio she converted from a shed. Most of her designs are drawn from nature and one of her favorites — a jack-in-the-pulpit — is visible in the window behind her. (Echoes photo — Georgia Croft)*

very brittle. It's not that I want to keep myself warm — I have to keep the glass warm so I can work with it."

The movement of molecules within what appears to be static glass is best illustrated, Hahn says, by the ancient stained glass church windows in Great Britain which have to be periodically rereaded.

"The panes get real thin at the top because the molecules run to the bottom. It takes 400 or 500 years for it to happen, but it happens.

"The windows get loose in their lead channels and rattle at the top, so they have to reputy them.

"I see it happen a lot faster than that right here. I'll score a piece of glass and then throw it in a box for a couple of weeks. When I take it out, it won't break on the score — it'll break somewhere else. I think that's one of the neatest things about glass."

And Hahn thinks that just about everything about glass is pretty neat.

"When I get started talking about glass, you can't stop me. I can go on for hours."

Her shop is filled with sheets of all kinds of glass — "There are thousands and thousands of different kinds of glass to choose from. What I have here represents only about 200. I'm low right now." — and although she's never watched a glassmaking operation, she knows how each is made.

"I'm what you call a voracious reader. I read everything. And I've read and read about glass," she says, holding up a clear sheet filled with tiny, seed-like bubbles.

"This is seedy glass," she says. "It's made with potatoes. They get the melted glass really hot — about 2,400 degrees. We're talking about hot. Then they throw in a bunch of potatoes and as they disintegrate, they give off gas. That's how these tiny bubbles are made. From the lowly potato.

*continued on page 2*

# Social Commentary,



*Sleep*, cast acrylic and wood, by Barbara Cieslicki

By REBECCA DENTON

Valley News Staff Writer

Barbara Cieslicki obviously had some fun creating the sculpture that fills the main gallery at AVA Gallery and Art Center in Lebanon. Her works — made with a diverse array of media, ranging from cast iron and cast acrylic to sticks and material — are tongue-in-cheek, often not-so-subtle, and have light-hearted titles that belie the dark pieces they describe.

"My biggest challenge," Cieslicki says, "is trying to not blud-

## With a Sense of Humor, at AVA Show

### ART NOTES

geon people over the head with what I'm saying."

While most of the Cornish artist's pieces make pointed social statements, they do so with an air of humor that softens the blow a bit.

Take *A Shell of Her Former Self*, for instance. It's an imposing, life-sized work that grabs your eye right off. An empty plaster mold of a woman's body covered with crude copper leaf, the figure stands upright and (seemingly) surveys the room with hollow eye sockets. She is misshapen and bul-

bous, with drooping breasts, hunched shoulders and a pot belly. "She's sort of deflated," said Cieslicki, 48. "It happens to all of us, and we live in our skins. Hopefully you make peace with how you evolve, and hopefully you can attain a sense of grace with aging."

Her show at AVA is called "Contain Yourself!," which stems from Cieslicki's awareness of tensions between the pressures of social conformity and impulses of rebellion at work in our culture. She bucks the system herself with

Some other pieces include *Sleep*, a pile of bones made of cast acrylic; *It's a Heady Responsibility*, a cynical, off-beat look at men and their traditional role in society; and *Fences*, a work made of mild steel and sticks suspended from the ceiling.

A jewelry maker for 25 years, Cieslicki embraced sculpture in her early 40s as a creative outlet — a different sort of release than her jewelry design allows. "When you make jewelry, you're doing that in aid of enhancing the wearer," she says. "I don't want people wearing my autobiography on their ears or chest."

Cieslicki continues the theme of social roles and the tensions they create in *It's a Love Story*, one of her most literal pieces. On copper plates she has written a story of romance between two teenagers — "a jock, a big shot football player, a major cheese" and a girl with a cleft palate "who nobody can stand to look at." Toss in some incest, an alcoholic mother, rape and suicide, and you've got yourself a love story, soap-opera style — and with no ending. "It's very dark," she says, "and popular culture revolves on cliffhangers, so I would never, ever finish the story."

VALLEY NEWS — THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2000

### Art Notes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

the autobiographical work *Her Little Black Book*, a wooden shelf lined with 13 tiny men "trophy" made of cast acrylic. The little figures are flexing their muscles, falling, or running with mouths screaming silently. Some don't have arms. Others are missing ... well, certain other parts. "There are little men like that running around in the world that I know," she said. "People say men have little black books, but women do, too. We all have trophies."



GEORGE CHAPPELL PHOTO

**FAMILY AFFAIR** — Altogether 13 paintings and collages and one collection of baskets are on exhibit for the month of January at the Cornish Town Offices. Local artist Annabelle Cone straightens a painting on the wall during the hanging of the exhibit Friday night. Entitled "From the Same Palette," the exhibit features the paintings and collages of Cone and her daughters Rosalie and Clara Lipfert. The works represent collages of her children's paintings from their early childhood. The paintings were done inside and in the summer outside on recycled wood scraps found in the barn. Artist Nancy Wightman helped hang the pieces. The exhibit is part of a monthly series started by the selectmen to encourage local art.

# Remembering an Artist

By DAN MACKIE

Valley News Staff Writer

True to his life, Aidron Duckworth had the last word.

The Meriden artist and teacher died Oct. 30 of a heart attack, the same day one of his regular letters to the editor appeared in the *Valley News*.

The tone was serious. "It is very difficult to see oneself or to have any sense of oneself outside the culture and environment experienced during the brief span of time life allows us," he began. The subject: the contrast between Americans' sense of themselves as peace-loving people, while giving the president a 90 percent approval rating as bombs fall on Afghanistan.

That could be an unpopular view in these times, but Duckworth wasn't afraid of that. "It was suggested to me recently that I am a curmudgeon. This may well be true," he conceded in another letter to the paper, in 1999.

Curmudgeon, artist and teacher, Duckworth "was very important to the

community. He leaves a huge void," said Bente Torjusen, director of the AVA Gallery in Lebanon. "He was a tremendously committed instructor and very devoted to his students."

And they were devoted to him as well. Some of his adult students studied with Duckworth for 15 years or more, a rarity in the fluid world of art.

Duckworth came to the Upper Valley in the early 1980s, when he tried to establish an art school in Cornish. He spent the rest of his years going to his students, with art classes throughout the Upper Valley.

"He had a way of encouraging and challenging you," said Elizabeth Mayer of Norwich, one of his early students. "He's done a huge favor for so many in the Upper Valley in the art field."

But, she said, "He did make me nervous, because he always told the truth. If he didn't like what you were doing, he'd say so."

Libby Gardner, a longtime student of Duckworth's, said he was "simply a superb teacher." He would tell students,

MASTLANDS

## for Whom Art and Truth Were Paramount

"You've got to look. You've got to look."

Her group of about 12 students met with Duckworth regularly for about 15 years. "We've decided to keep right on meeting," she said.

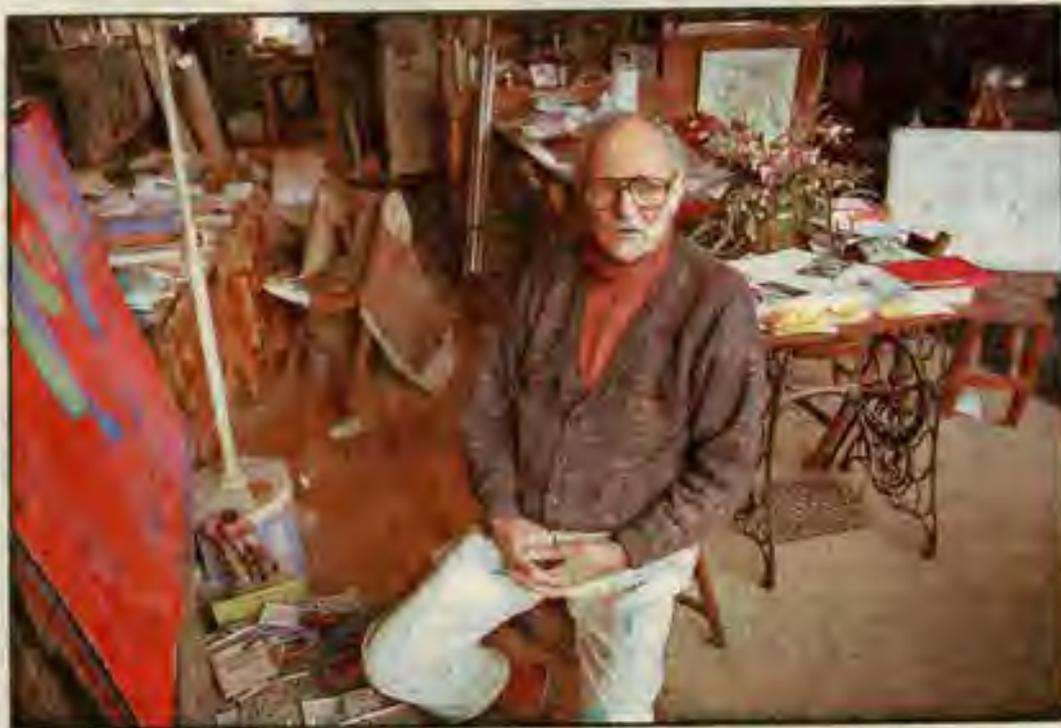
Duckworth lived in an old schoolhouse in Meriden that was dominated by his art, not modern conveniences. He heated it with a wood stove, and close friend Grace Harde said friends knew to dress in layers when they came for dinners at which he served "rich and complicated" food.

Harde said Duckworth has left the house and his art work — she said as many as 1,000 pieces are there — for a museum. Details will be worked out in the coming months.

Duckworth's obituary contained details of his life that caught many friends by surprise. They knew by his accent that he was from England (he was born in 1920), but not that he had studied engineering as a young man, and that he'd spent years in the military.

He was among the British soldiers

See DUCKWORTH—C5



Aidron Duckworth in 2000. He left his art work and house to be converted into a museum.

VALLEY NEWS FILE PHOTOGRAPH

\*Owned Mastlands

Valley News Nov 8, 2001 p. C1

# Aidron Duckworth: Art and Truth

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

who were rescued at Dunkirk and he served with Montgomery in North Africa. He later became an intelligence officer in London.

There, he spent his lunchtimes wandering through museums and galleries and decided to become an artist.

He was a sculptor first, and then turned to painting. A *Valley News* feature story published last year said his art "has varied drastically over his half-century career, ranging from stark black-and-white self-portraits to acrylic collages brimming with near-neon color, and from realistic pen-and-ink drawings of sunflowers to huge, bright whimsical caricatures of worldly men and women." Some of his work, the story said, had "an orgiastic, sexual quality" that offended conservative viewers.

"I can't help that," Duckworth responded. "I don't paint for other people; I paint for me."

He wasn't sorry that his art hadn't made him a fortune. "I don't make a lot of money, but I manage to pay my bills. I never have very much left over, but that's all I ask. I just want to be able to go on painting."

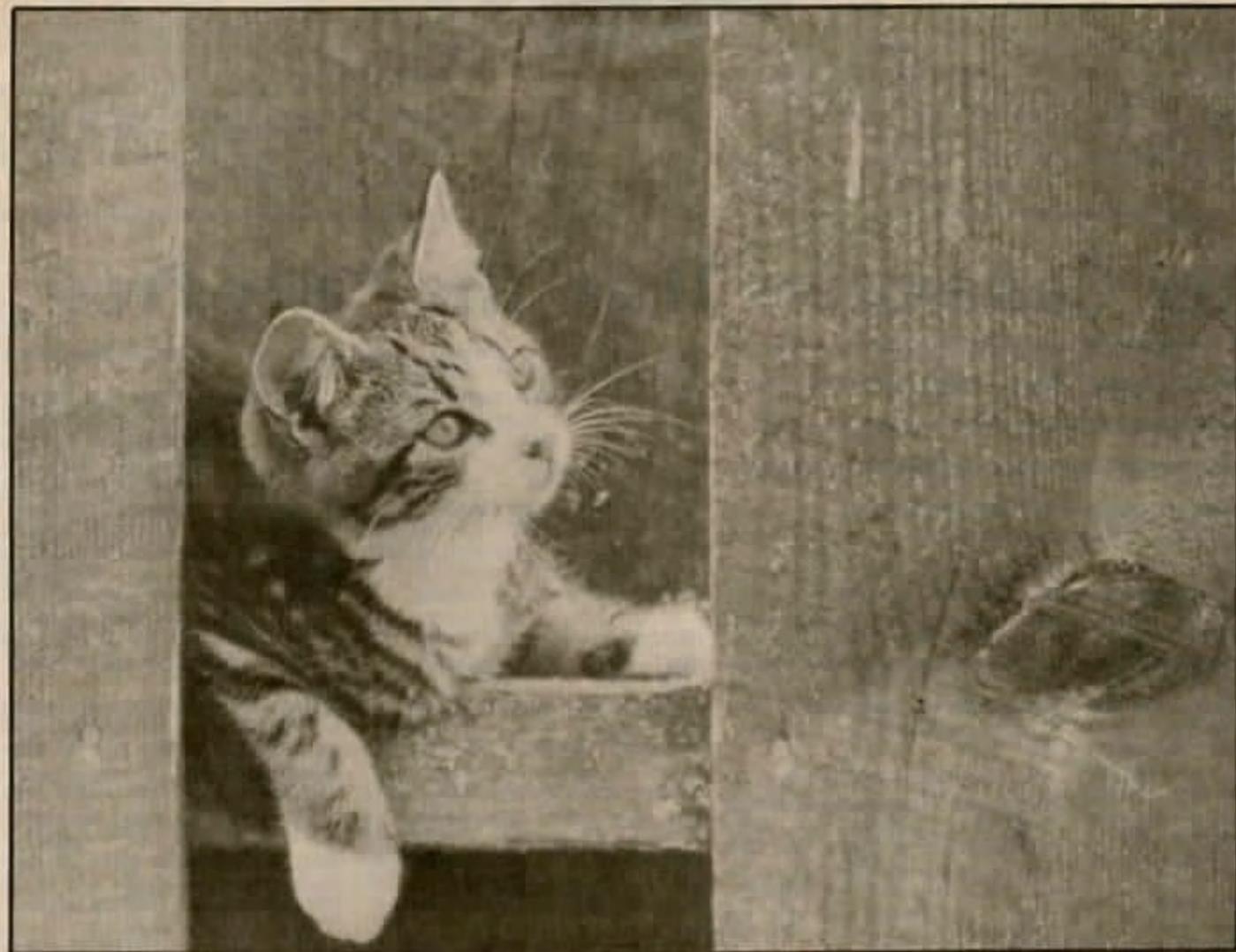
Hardie said Duckworth was totally committed to his life as an artist and

was rigorous and demanding.

"He could say things that were insulting or offensive in his honesty," she said. "That's not the way society

glues itself together, unfortunately. But that's the role of the artist.

"He was a man apart. He wasn't part of the pack."



### 'Frisky'

This is the third place black-and-white \$50 prize winner in the *Valley News* Photo Contest. Plainfield Elementary teacher Polly Rand took this shot of her kitten, *Frisky*, playing in the backyard. Though photography is only a hobby, Rand develops her own 35mm film and has won prizes and honorable mentions in Cornish and Springfield, Vt., contests. *Frisky* dates back to last summer; the subject is now a full-grown feline. Winners were chosen by attendees of the Upper Valley Home And Trade Show in March. A total of 583 photographs were entered by 227 individuals. More contest winners will appear on the feature page every day this week.

# 'Throwing' together some pottery

Cornish women turn a hobby into a profitable business

## Business profile

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

**CORNISH** — Pottery is one of the oldest of human crafts. In fact, in prehistoric times, crude bowls were shaped with other pottery and one of the first inventions made by man was the potter's wheel.

Cornish potters Suzanne Lupien and Janice Orion made their own kick wheel from recycled wood. Their kick wheel is nearly 3 feet in diameter and spins much like the table of a phonograph.

Lupien became interested in potting while a student at Hanover High School. A group of women, who were members of the Hanover League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, volunteered to teach students about the use of clay and Lupien has been interested ever since.

After high school, Lupien studied in California. She attended summer school under Marguerite Wildenhain, a famous potter from Bauhaus Art School in Germany, during the 1920s.

Lupien began making pottery in Bradford, Vt., in 1978 and has been at it ever since. She met Orion at a Chinese exercise class.

"About a year ago Orion was laid off from her job at an Antiquarian Book and Map Dealership, and I said, 'Let's make some pots so we can make some money,'" said Lupien.

She moved a gas-fired kiln she had built to Orion's home on Old Turnpike Road, above Cornish Flat, and began teaching her how to throw simple pieces, "the way I had learned," said Lupien.

Orion, a British translator, learned quickly and as interest increased, the two decided to go to England and visit one of the most well-known potteries in Cornwall, The Michael Cardew Potteries.

"The pottery had a huge, two-chambered, wood-fired kiln, and they were shorthanded, so we got to fire some pieces," said Lupien. "It was exciting. Some



**SUZANNE LUPIEN** throws a pitcher with the use of an old-fashioned potter's wheel, operated with her feet to make pottery similar to how it was done hundreds of years ago. (Ruth Rollins photo)

wood-fired kiln of our own.

"We make high fired utilitarian stoneware at reasonable prices that people can afford to buy, utensils that you can eat out of and function properly. It takes a lot of skill to make functional pieces that, if broken, can be replaced inexpensively."

The women "throw" many items, including coffee pots, mugs, casseroles, soup bowls and bean pots and feature a child's tea set, "which, when given to a child, teaches them to be careful when handling," said Lupien.

To do this, a suitable mass of clay must be mixed, adding just enough water so that it can be kneaded, much like bread dough, "to get the air out," said Lupien. "It takes a lot of physical work."

Next she throws a lump of clay on the center of the potter's wheel and to keep her hands from sticking to the clay, dips them in water.

Lupien then plunged her thumbs down into the middle of

spun around by the use of her feet, it is gently shaped into a pitcher, cut from the wheel with a piece of wire and put away to dry and harden.

Pottery is always dried before it is fired to be sure it has kept its intended shape. "The bisque firing is what takes the time, as well as the glazing, which is done with different materials and colors. We use seven or eight different glazes, none with lead," said Lupien. "It is important to us to keep technology simple, to preserve the spirit of potting. The simpler we keep it, the more

human spirit can express itself."

The potters work 10- to 12-hour days, especially in the summer when the pots dry out so quickly. They will be holding a large sale next month. Their showroom, which boasts rows of pots set on planks, the potter's wheel, neatly organized tools and many bags of clay, is open seven days a week.

The potters sell at the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen in Hanover and at a gift shop in Grafton, Vt. They also fill many private orders.

# Using a 2,000-year-old recipe, Cornish papermaker mixes pulp and culture

By CASSIE D. LAVERTUE Staff Writer Angie Follensbee-Hall

CORNISH — Cornish artist Angie Follensbee-Hall remembers the exact moment she uncovered her true sensibility and decided to become a practitioner rather than a teacher of the arts. She was sitting in a classroom at Elmira College in New York, watching a video about Christo, a modern fabric technician whose creations have covered some of the world's largest sculptures and architectural pieces, including Paris' Arc de Triomphe, when the revelation hit her.

"It was a real turning point," said Follensbee-Hall, who went on to graduate from Plymouth State College with a fine arts degree in 1998. "I've always admired the life of the artist — to make art, sell it and live that way."

It's a pattern of living that Follensbee-Hall, 24, is just starting to carve for herself. A former painter, Follensbee-Hall has traded in her brush for a mold and deckle and recently turned her attention full time to papermaking, an art form she stumbled upon while taking an art education course at Elmira. The transition from painting on canvas to producing handmade paper isn't as abrupt as it may seem, she explains.

"I was working texturally with the paintings, but working toward papermaking," said Follensbee-Hall, who made her first piece of homemade paper in 1996 after reading up on the process in library books. Later, at Plymouth State, Follensbee-Hall was concentrating on her senior painting thesis and struggling with the medium. "I was building up images and then putting color on it ... so a lot of what I do now, that's a relationship between the painting and the paper and the built-up surface — not in the images, in the surfaces."

Her wrangling with paints didn't go unnoticed by her Plymouth professors who encouraged her to incorporate both art forms into her work. What Follensbee-Hall came up with were a series of three-dimensional pastels and oils whose contours were made using modeling paste and papier-maché. Some were framed and put into shadow boxes, and she sold a number of them on display at the Dirt Cowboy Cafe in Hanover in 1998.

"That was the first show that encouraged me," she said of the Dirt Cowboy exhibit. "I thought, 'I can do this.'"

Follensbee-Hall said she produced about 200 of these paper pastels and eventually "ran out of steam." A handful are stuffed away in her parents' basement in Claremont; others are hanging at the Amoskeag incubator offices in Manchester, N.H. A select few, the ones that Follensbee-Hall says she still likes, hang on the walls of the Cornish home she refinished with her husband, Josh, a music teacher in Hanover. They blend the-

(See PULP - Pg. 18)



**ARTIST AT WORK** — Above, Angie Follensbee-Hall uses a mold and deckle to make a piece of homemade paper at her Cornish home. Below, paper samples made by Follensbee-Hall using abaca (top), cotton (middle) and sisal (bottom) pulp with extracts of blue cornmeal. (Cassie D. Lavertue photos)



# Molding art into everyday life

Ara Cardew is enthusiastically continuing a family craft

by RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

Ara Cardew molds art into everyday life while he molds his many clay pottery items.

"I'm a third generation potter, my grandfather taught me," he says. The pride rings in his voice.

There are very few potters among potters working in the craft today.

Ara Cardew was born in Richmond, England, in 1962, the grandson of the famous Michael

Cardew, owner  
Wenford  
Bridgwater Pottery

Cornwall,  
England.  
Michael

Cardew was  
famous around  
the world for

throwing pots  
on the wheel  
and demon-

strating his  
knowledge and  
talent.

Though Ara  
Cardew started  
his life in a dif-

ferent career, he soon realized making pottery and carrying on the tradition was what he really wanted to do.

"I grew up surrounded by pots," he says.

His knowledge and expertise throwing pots has afforded him a life of carrying out family traditions that both his father

I apprenticed with my grandfather while at home in England and worked with my father, staying there for six years after my grandfather's death."

Cardew arrived in the United States to make his home five years ago and settled in Quechee, Vt., for a year.

"An old friend, Miranda Thomas, who was also taught by my grandfather in England, had a shop in Vermont. She invited me to come. So I left England and moved to the United States,

bringing my family here with me."

His family includes his wife Deborah; daughter, Sophie; and son, Thomas.

Cardew has been employed at Miranda Thomas Pottery in Bridgewater, Vt., as a master potter the past five years. He has more than

20 years experience in stoneware and porcelain pottery production — throwing, firing, glazing and decorating. He uses the English slipware tradition in decorating. Both he and Miranda learned this method from his grandfather during early years in England. But he has his own style when decorat-

*Pottery has a rich and ancient history. Prehistoric man shaped all his pottery by hand. One of the first inventions made by man was the potter's wheel which was run by using a foot pedal.*



**MASTER POTTER** — Ara Cardew masterfully forms the clay on his potter's wheel into a one-of-a-kind vase. (Ruth Rollins photo)

# Exhibit gives Cornish artists a chance to show their work

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — When Polly Rand came up with the idea of having an art show at the new town office on Town House Road last June, she had no idea what the response would be, but the word is successful.

The show has given Cornish artists the opportunity to share their work and helped make the entry hall an attractive

place to visit.

"It gives townspeople a chance to enjoy and appreciate art," said Rand.

There have been three showings, with the current showing of paintings and drawings to run until Jan. 15.

A variation from the paintings and drawings is planned for the weeks between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26, when photographs taken by Cornish residents will be hung in the office.

"I want to let people know early," said Rand, "so they will have time to get photos framed and ready to hang."

Guidelines for the exhibit are photos that are 5-by-7-inches or larger, framed and ready to hang. Artwork is left to the discretion and responsibility of the artist. There is no special theme and two photos from any person living in Cornish will be accepted.

*By Ruth Rollins 12-4-85*



Native New Hampshire, mask made of wood by Augie Dworak

# 5 Faces In The Grain

By NANCY SERRELL  
Valley News Staff Writer

The essence of the old Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge abides in several recycled objects made from wood salvaged during the bridge's recent reconstruction.

Nancy Norwalk of Plainfield used a piece to frame a Sabra Field woodcut of the historic structure; Chesterfield Associates, the firm that engineered the rebuilding project, made several models from the discarded timber, including one now in the collection of the Cornish Historical Society.

A Cornish wood sculptor, Augie Dworak, has carried the process back one step farther, finding his inspiration in the wood itself.

When Dworak learned that the salvaged wood was available, he was doing research into the history of the wood mask, a form he thought was well suited to the discarded pieces. The challenge of working with this primal art form, he says, was "how to make that leap to the 20th century and still have relevance."

He began carving the spruce pieces, pleased by the thought that the wood had a long local history; then he proceeded to remnants of Douglas fir.

Eventually, he produced a series of five wooden masks he calls The Bridge Edition.

The forms in the series grew from the way the wood responded to his tools, and from themes suggested by the bridge and its surroundings. *Vermont American* was prompted by the conflict between progress and the environment faced by a new generation of Vermonters, *Native New Hampshire* by the amusing thought — suggested by plate tectonics and by crossing state lines on the bridge — that New Hampshire was once part of Africa.

The mask Dworak calls *Spring Heron* grew from his research into the trees used for the Cornish-Windsor bridge.

Dworak believes the spruce, which dates from the bridge's 1866 construction, came from trees that grew near Cornish Flat, although some people (mostly Vermonters) assume the red spruce used for the bridge grew on Mount Ascutney. In any case, there is

(Continued on page 28)

— MASKS

# Masks

(Continued from page 21)

strong evidence to suggest that the timber came from spruce trees growing in high elevations near the bridge, on either side of the river.

The Douglas fir sections, from the 1930s reconstruction, came from the Pacific Northwest.

Why, Dworak wondered, had the wood been shipped clear across the country when spruce still grew in the highlands nearby?

His conclusion — that by the 1930s cutting a huge 200-year-old tree and shipping it cross-country was less expensive than cutting and sawing

the smaller trees available locally — disturbed him.

What was true in the '30s remains an economic reality today, he says, and accounts for the rapid depletion of the old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest, one of the most important natural resource losses of our time.

Only 10 percent of the country's old-growth forests is left, Dworak says. But if the cutting is slow or stopped, natural processes can bring about a restoration.

*Spring Heron* is a statement of hope, he says, "a fitting inspiration for an old Douglas fir."

# Cornish Artist Riffs on the Past



By **NICOLA SMITH**  
Valley News Staff Writer

Adam Blue, an artist and education director at the AVA Gallery and Art Center in Lebanon, has put a unique spin on an American icon: the tractor.

Over the years Blue, who grew up in the Bay Area of northern California and went to college at Dartmouth, became fascinated by tractor pulls at classic New England fairs, the pride and affection that farmers felt for their

**Adam Blue**  
VALLEY NEWS — **JAMES M. PATTERSON**

mechanical beasts and the care they lavished on them.

Blue began taking photographs of tractors, and then turned them into prints filtered through a Pop Art lens, with the tractors taking on the brilliant primary colors of a Warhol silk screen series.

"It's a passionate yet slightly esoteric interest," said Blue in an interview at Vermont Law School in South Royalton, where an exhibition of his work, including "Pop Art Vintage Tractors," runs through March 4 in Oakes Hall.

What emerges in the prints is the personality of the tractor, odd as that may

ART N

# SE-UP

VALLEY NEWS  
THURSDAY  
JANUARY 28, 2016

C

ENTERTAINMENT

## and Future of Farming and Food

sound. Blue noticed that the tractors, seen head-on, began to look as if they had faces, an optical illusion augmented by Blue's choice of colors. Blue

does his work on computers using Photoshop and other programs.

In the post-war era the tractor, in form and function, demonstrated the "ascendance of the American capacity to produce," Blue said.

Blue is also showing two other print series, "An Organic Palette," and "Cookbook 2314," both of which tie into larger themes of sustenance, pro-

SEE ART NOTES — C3



*Blue Tractor*, a print from Adam Blue's series "Pop Art Vintage Tractors," is included in a show of Blue's work at Vermont Law School.



EXHIBITORS — Sarah Munro-Dorsey, left, gets acquainted with Carol Lummus at the reception held Wednesday in honor of their

joint show at Windsor House. (Bertha Emond Photo)

Carol Lummus

## *Artists meet for first time*

WINDSOR, Vt. — The artists represented in the current exhibition at the Windsor House met for the first time at the reception Wednesday afternoon.

Carol Lummus is represented by intaglio prints and Sarah Munro-Dorsey by paintings on silk. The artistic association was the idea of Sally Newbold, director of exhibits at the Vermont Craft Center.

Lummus is a resident of Cornish and has illuminated a number of shows in the area. She has had solo exhibitions in such places as Louisiana, Missouri, Virginia,

Washington, D. C., New York and Sicily.

Among invitational shows, she has participated in the Society of Arts and Crafts show, Boston; Appalachiana Inc., Bethesda, Md., and the Instituto Brasil-Estados Unidos Cultural Exchange, Brazil. She has also received several awards, and was given a New Hampshire Commission on the Arts grant in 1980.

Munro-Dorsey lives in Plainfield, Vt., and has had shows at the Wood Art Gallery, Montpelier, at the Montpelier Conservatory, and at Goddard College, where she is artist-in-residence.

In 1974 she was awarded a scholarship for the fall program at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She has studied multimedia picture making with Anci Sloviack; life drawing in pastel, oil, acrylics and watercolor with Jim Gahagan, and sculpture in bronze and aluminum casting, plaster and clay with sculptor Peter Ruddick.

Munro-Dorsey is manager of "The Artisans' Hand" Montpelier.

The show may be seen daily from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sundays from noon - 5 p.m., through Sept. 3.

# Cornish Sculptor Dies

Lawrence J. Nowlan Jr., of Cornish, works on a 12-foot-tall clay sculpture of 1939 Heisman Trophy winner Nile Kinnick in his Windsor studio in November 2005. Nowlan died Tuesday of natural causes.

VALLEY NEWS  
— DAVID M. BARRERA

**PAGE C1**



*Valley News Aug 11 2013*

Nowlan



**TWIN CITIES MEET** — Cornish students gather with their French counterparts in front of the Saint Gaudens monument which is dedicated to Franco-American friendship, during a recent visit to St. Gaudens, France. (Courtesy photo)

## Local students visit 'twin city' in France

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Twenty Cornish Elementary School eighth-grade students recently traveled to France to continue their "twinning" experience. They spent seven days in southern France near the Pyrenees Mountains, in the towns of Aspet and St. Gaudens, the ancestral home of Augustus St. Gaudens, the American sculptor and a resident of Cornish during the early 20th century.

The students and five chaperones stayed with French families with whom they had corresponded. While there they met with the mayor, spent time in the local school, College Leclerc, and visited the medieval castle town of Carcassonne.

During the visit, a special ceremony was held by the association of the Friends of Augustus St. Gaudens, who wanted to pay homage to the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks in the presence of the American and French students.

Students from Cornish and College Leclerc assembled on Barbastro Square at the steps of the Saint Gaudens monument dedicated to the Franco-American friendship to observe a minute of silence for America.

Following the commemoration, a small reception was given for the students at the town hall. Mayor Phillip Perrot gave the students a biography of Augustus Saint-Gaudens and told the sad story of the monument for Saint-Gaudens, which had been taken apart by the Germans during World War II, so the material could be used for cannons.

Cornish student William Sharff, 13, was inter-

---

*During the visit, a special ceremony was held by the association of the Friends of Augustus St. Gaudens, who wanted to pay homage to the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks in the presence of the American and French students.*

---

viewed by the local paper. The city totally enchanted him, he said. "It is beautiful, especially the roofs and the countryside is stunning, with the sun and snowy mountain peaks nearby."

Sharff, who had visited Paris and Nice with his family previously, said, "Saint Gaudens is a big city, compared to Cornish." He has had three years of French and managed quite well, but said, "To ask for a postcard is easy, but I have difficulty conversing in French."

The students also took a trip on TGV (a high-speed train), spent four days visiting the sites in Paris, enjoyed a nighttime boat trip on the Seine river and a day trip to Versailles.

The cultural exchange and sister city relationship between Cornish and St. Gaudens began in 1995 when five students and two teachers made the pilgrimage following a great deal of fund-raising.

The 2002 exchange was mostly funded through a three-year Federal grant that ends this year. Volunteers are raising money for a scholarship fund to allow the exchange to continue, regardless of student financial circumstances. *Base Times June 11, 2002*

# French visitors receive warm Cornish welcome

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — More than 100 Cornish residents gathered at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site recently to meet visitors from France.

The 12 French visitors included a professor of art, a banker, a teacher for disabled children and a selectman who represented the mayor of Aspet, France who traveled to Cornish to continue the exchange process between the two towns. Aspet is the ancestral home of famous Cornish sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The exchange began in 1989 when Françoise Saradet visited Cornish with the goal of establishing the sister city relationship.

Aspet Selectman Jean Claude, who is second in command in the town, greeted

those present through interpreter Anna Belle Cone. He presented Cornish selectmen Stuart Hodgeman, Robert Maslan and Larry Dingee with a painting of behalf of the mayor of Aspet.

"I came to the United States once before. The hospitality and friendship was so wonderful on my first trip I promised myself I'd return. This trip has been an immense joy for all of us. It is a little bit like a dream," said Claude. "We have received an incredible welcome."

"We hope to tighten our relations more tightly in order to have further exchanges with students. It is very important for the future," he said.

Cornish selectmen presented Jean Claude with a bronze medallion designed by Susan Lupien. It was placed in a

beautiful maple box made by Dale Shafman.

During introductions, the visitors were presented T-shirts sporting a picture of "Aspet," the residence of Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

A buffet of favorite dishes topped off the evening. The event was organized by John Dryhout and Caroline Storrs.

Other events held for the visitors throughout the week included various trips, an American Thanksgiving luncheon, and an evening with members of the Cornish Historical Society and "The Heath Sisters" concert at the Plainfield Town Hall.

The four Cornish students who made the trip to Aspet, France, in 1995 with Storrs, helped throughout the week. The visitors were the guests of several local families.

The Capt. William Atwood House

When Cornish was first settled by families from Massachusetts and Connecticut in 1763, it was laid out as a 25,000 acre town, chartered by then colonial Governor Benning Wentworth, later succeeded by his nephew John Wentworth. Benning granted, on behalf of King George III, the land to a group of proprietors who held shares in the proprietorship. The land was divided into 100 acre lots, which were then divided into blocks of 25 acre parcels, the basic units of ownership.

The area now called Cornish Flat was in the seventh range, second division and was the property of Elias Martindale. Martindale was one of the proprietors and an early settler as well. Lt. Elias Martindale (d. 1826) is buried in the Cornish Flat Cemetery. On June 23, 1800, Martindale sold 25 acres from his 100 acre lot to Edward Kimball.

Edward Kimball (b. 1763, Bradford Massachusetts) married, in 1785, Sarah Emerson. Kimball was a soldier in Col. Wentworth's Regiment in September 1779, then of Pelham, N.H. It is interesting to note that Pelham, once a part of Dracut, Massachusetts was incorporated again in 1810 when it was part of Rockingham County, NH; since 1824 it has been part of Hillsborough County, NH. Although Kimball died in Cornish in 1814 his burial place has not been located.

The sale of the property is recorded in the deed dated April 22, 1815 in the records office of Cheshire County at Keene, New Hampshire (Cornish was a town in Cheshire County before the creation of Sullivan County. All deeds that were registered prior to its creation are found in the Cheshire County Records). The 1815 transfer was to William Atwood. Since the Town History records Kimball's death as 1814, the record of the deed transfer is apparently posthumous.

Capt. William Atwood (1773-1842) came to Cornish in 1810 from Pelham, New Hampshire where he was born. He was married to Elizabeth (or Elira) Hall in 1799. She died in 1831 and he married again, Mrs. Betsey (Tyler) King in 1834. Atwood came from a family of blacksmiths. His title of Captain is no doubt derived from a commission in the New Hampshire Militia. Cornish was part of the Fifteenth Regiment of New Hampshire Militia and had three companies; one was artillery and two were infantry. The Fifteenth Regiment with six others made up the Fifth Brigade, Third Division of New Hampshire Troops from 1820 to 1850.

Prepared by John Dryflout  
Cornish, NH  
for Susan D. Van Rensselaer  
August, 1987

\* John Wentworth, the of Sonmerick  
Colonel of the 2nd NH Regim  
a patriot, and contempora  
of the last colonial gover  
by the same name.

copy to Cornish Hist. Soc., 1987

Atwood probably built the house now owned by Charles Aiken as well as an adjacent brick shop, the first blacksmith shop in Cornish (no longer extant). This shop was the location of a number of blacksmiths including among others: Stillman Colburn, Samuel Sherburne and Charles Sturtevant. The Cornish History records (Vol. 2, p.7 ) that he also built "...the two story dwelling house at the south end of the Common." The only other two story building south of the common is the one recently owned by Donald Saunders and that house is known to have been built by another early settler Newton Whittlesey.

It is possible that the house was built in 1815 or 1818. Since the deed was recorded in 1815, one might assume that the documentation of the transfer preceeded the construction. On the other hand it is also possible that the Captain may have been acquainted with Colonel William Abbott of Boscawen who designed and rebuilt the Baptist Church (moved from the Center of Town) in 1818. (Major and Colonel) William Abbot (Abbott) is recorded as being a part of the 21st Regiment. *Perhaps the house was built about the time the church was moved, e.g. 1818.*

One of William Atwood's children, Sarah a daughter by his first wife, married Henry Gould(1810-1905) in 1834. Henry Gould apparently received the house from his father-in-law. Henry and Sarah Gould gave the property to the United Baptist Convention in 1900 and it was deeded to them on his death in 1905.

The property remained in the ownership of the Baptists and for a time was the parsonage.

In November, 1946, the New Hampshire Baptist Society deeded the property to Mabel Augusta Seale who held it until its purchase in April 1972 by Susan Davis van Rensselaer.

## Cemetery at 4 Creamery Rd., Cornish, NH

I have lived in the house at 4 Creamery Rd for 35 years, and have often wondered about the small cemetery on the property.

It contains 2 graves: Frances Janette Atwood, 1832-1847, and her sister, Rhonda Maria Atwood, 1830-1848.

As far as I can determine, our house, built by Lumen Mitchell in 1880, is the first house on the property. Why are these 2 graves there, alone??

I got out my Cornish History, Vol II, pages 7 & 8, and looked up 'Atwood'..I found

1) William (3)Atwood (Joshua,2, John1)brother of Joshua, 3-2, tenth son and seventeenth child of Joshua and Mehitable (Seva) Atwood, **born Feb. 17,1773 in Pellham**. He came to Cornish Flat about 1811, where he **spent the rest of his life**. A blacksmith, and built the brick shop still standing (1903). He died March 7, 1842.

2)William(4)Atwood (William,3, Joshua,2, John1), eldest son and third child of William and Elizabeth (Hall)Atwood.; born Sept 15, 1806 and died in Gorham, 1859. He followed his father's trade of blacksmithing most of his life; wed Nov. 25, 1828, Rhoda Jackson of Cornish, dau. Of Capt. Perez and Lucy (Hunter) Jackson.

His children: Mehitable H, b. Sept 1829; Rhoda Maria, b Dec. 6 1830, d. July 11, 1848; Frances Janette, b. May 28, 1832, d. Aug. 20, 1847; Daniel Jackson, b. May 28, 1833, became a lawyer, d. Dec. 12, 1861.

I then looked in Cornish History, Vol I, pages 185-186, Blacksmiths.

At the Flat was Capt. William Atwood. He came from Pelham, NH to Cornish in 1811. He built the brick shop that is still used as a blacksmith shop (1903). He did a large business in this line, employing several different young men who became skilled workmen in the trade. He continued at this until age and infirmity compelled him to retire. This shop has since been used by scores of men of this trade, and the property has changed owners many times.

William Atwood, Jr. Worked at this trade on the hill east of the Flat, and afterwards

built a shop on the site now occupied by the Cornish Creamery. This shop was used many years and was then torn down.

The Cornish Creamery was built in 1888.

What is now Creamery Rd was the original Rt 120 'back in the days'.

Almost 30 years passed between the death of William Atwood, Jr. and the building of the Creamery, and no date is given when the blacksmith shop was torn down...was it torn down to build the Creamery??? No one knows, but it does answer why the two girls are buried where they are....

*Laura Fette*  
8-26-16



Thursday, September 15, 1983

# The Windsor Chronicle

Ellsworth Atwood

## OBITUARIES

### Ellsworth Atwood

Ellsworth H. Atwood, 83, Cornish Flat, died last week at Newport Hospital. He was born in Beekmantown, N. Y., March 12, 1900, son of Orrel F. and Huldah E. (Scribner) Atwood, and was a Cornish Flat resident for most of his life. His wife, Elsie M. (Wessell) Atwood, died Sept. 19, 1950.

He was an automobile mechanic and operated a garage in Cornish for more than 40 years, retiring in 1969. He was fire warden and fire chief for more than 30 years, and supervisor of the checklist for more than 40 years, as well as former superintendent of the Cornish Cemetery Department.

He was educated in Cornish schools and graduated

from Stevens High School in 1920, and later from the Cincinnati, Ohio, automotive and tractor school.

Mr. Atwood was a member of Park Grange, Sullivan County and the New Hampshire State Grange. He was a life member of the New Hampshire Fire Chiefs' Association and the New Hampshire State Firemen's Association, as well as the Sullivan County Law Enforcement Association. He also belonged to the Grafton-Sullivan County Forest Fire Wardens Association.

He is survived by a son, Leland E. Atwood, a grandson, Eric L. Atwood, and a granddaughter, Jill M. Atwood, all of Cornish Flat; two sisters, Beulah K. Cunningham and Hazel G. Atwood, Alliance, Ohio; and cousins.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday at the Stoughton-Davis Funeral Home by the Rev. Ronald P. Prinn, rector of the Union Episcopal Church. Burial was in Union Cemetery.

# 'She Loved to See Kids

BY PATRICK O'GRADY

Valley News Correspondent

A LIFE

**CORNISH** — On a typical mid-winter's Friday afternoon inside the lodge at Ascutney Mountain Resort back in the 1980s, youngsters from Cornish Elementary School would be around the fireplace, warming up with hot chocolate after coming in from a ski lesson.

**JANET E. AVERY**  
1942 — 2016

Others would be peeling off gear after clomping into the lodge in their ski boots. In the midst of it all was a cheerful Janet Avery, making sure kids had hot chocolate and checking to see if everyone had mittens and hats.

If you were a kid in Cornish during the

1970s and 1980s and eagerly anticipated skiing on Fridays, you probably have Avery to thank.

For 16 years Avery, who died Dec. 31, 2016, in Florida at age 74 from cancer, was chairwoman of the Parent Teacher Organization's ski program, spearheading its growth from a handful of students when she took over to well over 100 by the time she was finished in 1989.

"I think the last year there were 125 kids," said Jean Duval, a close friend of Avery's and a chaperone with the ski program for nine years when her children participated. "It never would have blossomed into what it was without Janet."

Skiing was a regular activity for Av-

## Happy and Having Fun'

ery, her husband, Richard, and three children, Lori, Rich, and Barbara, and she relished the opportunity to share that enthusiasm for the sport with other children.

The more kids Avery could introduce to skiing, the happier it made her.

"No child left behind. That was huge for Janet," said Duval.

After she took over, participation kept growing along with the number of volunteers eager to help.

"Maybe it was her enthusiasm for doing something for someone else," said

her daughter Lori, of Grantham, about why the program became so wildly popular. "She was in her element with this program. She loved to see kids happy and having fun."

Avery grew up in Lebanon — though she was born in Three Rivers, Mass. while her parents, Wilbrod and Marie Gagner, were on vacation — and graduated from Lebanon High School. In 1962 she was married to Richard Avery and they would eventually settle in Cornish Flat, where they lived until moving

SEE A LIFE — A4

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH

Janet Avery accepts her Outstanding School Volunteer Award in 1988 for her work with the Parent Teacher Organization's ski program at Cornish Elementary School. Avery ran the program for 16 years, taking it from a handful of students to more than 100 by the time she finished in 1989.



## FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH

**Janet Avery in her high school senior portrait in 1960.**

belonged. It was unique and special and the kids wanted to be part of it.”

Lori recalled a time or two when the principal approached her mother and said “Janet, I have a kid...” and before he could finish, Avery would say, “I’ll take care of it.”

Avery arranged for scholarships and would ask some families if they were able to pay for all or part of another child’s participation, Chandler said.

Avery’s commitment to making the ski program a centerpiece of winters in Cornish introduced a lot of children to skiing and made it a lifelong pursuit for them that they otherwise may never have experienced

“We weren’t skiers,” said Duval, adding that her daughter went on to become a ski instructor and was on the National Ski Patrol at Storrs Hill. “It all came about because of that program.”

Kay Kibbie, a neighbor of Avery’s and a volunteer, said she got a lot of them into ski racing.

When Avery’s obituary appeared, Lori said she heard from several people who told her, “Oh I skied today and was thinking of your mom. She was the best.”

The ski program organizing started in the fall right after Christmas the family kitchen table became “PTA Ski Program Central,” Lori remembers.

Her mother would field phone

calls about signup or maybe from a parent searching for a size 6 boot. Avery got to know each child’s size and ability so she could connect parents whose child had outgrown their equipment with parents she knew would need something for their child.

Then came the first day when a caravan that included one bus, several cars and a truck with skis and other equipment, headed off from the school to Ascutney Mountain Resort.

Avery always showed up at the mountain with a bag full of hats and mittens, Duval said.

“If a kid needed something, she had it.” At the lodge, Avery made sure no child went without.

The lodge ran “a tab” for hot chocolate and Avery would settle up as they got ready to leave,” said Lori.

“She always had money in her pocket or brought along extra sandwiches and food. That was who she was.”

While Avery loved volunteering – “she always wanted to do more than her share,” said Rich – her family came first.

“Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, sports (soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, Babe Ruth), cheerleading, it didn’t matter, she was there for us,” said Lori. “Later on, that same dedication went on with her grandchildren.”

Ryan Follensbee, her first grandson, said his grandmother scaled

back some on volunteering as her grandchildren got older and she was equally devoted to each and every one, attending important milestones in their lives, even though some lived out of the area.

“She always hit the big seminal events and traveled great distances,” said Follensbee. “It could be to New York, Maine or Florida. She was always there, and sweet as ever.”

While the ski program earned Avery public recognition, she was known to many others for small acts of kindness.

The Avery children remember a neighbor who husband had died and because she never learned to drive, was dependent on others. Their mother became the woman’s guardian.

“She did a lot for other people. That was her nature,” said her daughter Barbara, who lives in Florida.

Family friend Ruth Rollins described Avery as a “real go-getter in Cornish,” filled with kindness.

“She was just a really nice person,” Rollins said, who remembers Avery doing a lot for another neighbor who was legally blind.

“If he had an appointment, she would take him,” Rollins said. “She did an awful lot for him.”

“You do things for people who can’t always do for themselves. Janet was like that.”

A burial service for Avery will be held June 22 at 1 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Lebanon.

*Patrick O’Grady can be reached at [poqclmt@gmail.com](mailto:poqclmt@gmail.com)*

# A Life: Janet E. Avery

Valley News 5/1/17  
P-A 12 A9

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1  
to Florida two years ago.

Avery worked for a time at Woolworth's and Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital until deciding to become a full-time mother when her son was born in 1965. From 1986 to 2004, she was the catering director at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

The ski program was one of several volunteer efforts that Avery joyfully undertook. Her daughters were both Girl Scouts and she was a Scout leader. Her husband was a Boy Scout leader while son Rich was a Scout.

"She was not in the Boy Scouts but she was a support system for a lot of activities," Duval said.

Avery began running the ski program in the early 1970s and over the years built a strong relationship with owners of the Ascutney ski area, scheduling lessons and more, such as "Coke Day," with free skiing and cake.

In 1988, Avery was honored by the New Hampshire School Volunteer Program with an Outstanding School Volunteer Award for her work coordinating the program between the school and ski area, bringing together other volunteers, teachers and parents and arranging for transportation, equipment and more.

"It took a lot of people and they cared about the program because they saw how much she cared," said Rich.

Sue Chandler, who ran the program for a number of years after Avery, said it has become an institution in Cornish that continues today and its impact on the Cornish community cannot be overstated.

"It was not just the school but a whole community endeavor," Chandler said. "Cornish really supports it. It is an amazing program. Sometimes we had 50 parents helping out."

Chandler called Avery a "distinctly strong force" for the program and nominated her for the



volunteer award. Avery's deflected the praise and credited many who made the program successful, including Betty Macy, who worked with her.

"Janet was always very humble," Chandler said. "And she was worthy of that award."

The program's growth was likely because Avery wanted it to be inclusive, not exclusive, which is not easy with an expensive sport. Avery didn't want any child left behind, said those who remember her philosophy.

"If a kid wanted to go skiing, they went skiing," said Lori, who became a ski chaperone when she was older.

"She made an expensive sport inexpensive for the youth in Cornish," added Rich. "The youth wanted to be part of something that was successful and to belong and she made everyone feel like they

## In Memoriam Backofen

Walter Alan Backofen, 80, died at home on December 2. Born in Rockville, Connecticut, on December 8, 1925, he was a son of Walter Paul and Bertha (Paul) Backofen. Early work experience was found in his father's meat and grocery business. He graduated as valedictorian from Rockville High School in June of 1943 inducted to its superbly academic faculty, entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology within days, and soon enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In February of 1946 he graduated from MIT with an Ensign's commission and a Bachelor of Science degree in Metallurgy. By September 1946, he was back at MIT as a graduate student/instructor in the Department of Metallurgy. In 1950 he married Elizabeth (Lib) Wood Warren of Orange, Massachusetts, and received his doctorate with an appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Metallurgy.

Next came twenty-five years of teaching, research, publishing, and consulting to industry and government while living in delightful old Marblehead, Massachusetts. He designed new courses and a new laboratory, found great students and sponsors, became recognized for bridging theory and practice over a wide range of real-life problems—from automotive wampings to orthopedic implants and the Star Wars defense shield—and advanced to tenured full Professor of Metallurgy and Materials Science. He belonged to the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers and the American Society for Metals and Materials, and was elected to membership in Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Xi. He was the first in his field to receive its three principal achievement awards—for teaching (Bradley Stoughton Award, 1958), research (Howe Medal, 1964), and professional leadership (Campbell Lecturer, 1973). He was a popular speaker in his profession and pioneered as a popular science lecturer on live television for the fledgling Channel 2 of Boston first broadcasting from the roller skating rink across Mass. Ave. from MIT.

A paper he wrote in 1964 on "superplasticity" identified the ability of metals, temporarily given a near nano-size grain structure, to behave like silly putty. That paper was recognized for its seminal influence on a now burgeoning global industry at an International Conference on Superplasticity held in Chengde, China, in June of 2006. A Gordon Conference at Kimball Union Academy introduced him to the Upper Valley and Dartmouth College as a sabbatical site. There he wrote a book on his technical specialty, Deformation Processing, in a systems-analysis context that redefined an ancient field for modern times and gave him the leisure to reflect on old interests in other subjects. This eventually brought him back to the area with his unfailingly supportive wife, where the two of them, together, turned the old (ca. 1790) William Gage place in East Plainfield into Hill Farm, to manage a square mile or so of unpoached woodlands, preserve a broad cross-section of period outbuildings and accessory structures, and grow apples (about 30 unique varieties), blueberries and Christmas trees for self-serve customers. He was the first to speak of "Disneyfication" as the trend in such ventures, no matter what William Safire says.

A protracted high-stakes law suit with a Christmas tree customer who fell on icy ground had a silver lining for New Hampshire farmers as a class. Finally dismissed with prejudice against the plaintiff, the publicity prompted Governor Meldrim Thomson to remind the state of an apparently forgotten law passed in his administration that studded farmers from whimsical suits of this kind, his protection for diligent farmers has been recognized ever since.

In partnership with his wife, he also ran an American art and antiques business that uncovered the Bartlett-Kimball Circle of Queen Anne style in New Hampshire furniture-making from ca. 1760 to 1820. To share the eclectic mix of new information this produced, the Lord Timothy Dexter Press was founded in 1988. The result was new chronology and restitutions for old discoveries, an invigorated market, and more quantitative analysis among furniture connoisseurs.

With a knack for problem-solving and help from marvelous librarians at Dartmouth College—the jewel in the crown of the College—he turned up other untapped primary sources in New Hampshire history that became more grist for the Lord Timothy Dexter Press. Studies of recent interest addressed early American feminism and marital fertility in New Hampshire, the New Hampshire invasion on a personal-rights interpretation of the Second Amendment, mass hysteria in Linfield's Shaker culture, the proper context of the fateful Claremont school-funding controversy, and the professional experience and family life of Meriden, New Hampshire's greatest early physician, folk-artist, and social commentator, Elias Frost. Details on these and other discoveries can be found on-line at lordtimothydexterpress.com. In only recent days he was approached about reviewing books and evaluating articles being considered for publication in the Journal of American History. Ideas intrigued him. He had no patience with ideologues.

He leaves his wife, a teacher, Albert H. Backofen of Greenfield, Massachusetts, and two foster sisters, Dolores Harriman of Rockville, Connecticut, and Lois Shelly of Belleaire, Florida. There will be no service. His ashes will be scattered at Hill Farm. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Upper Valley Humane Society (300 Old Route 10, Enfield, NH 03748) where he found his last dear cats, Donk and Whitey. For any who do not share his enthusiasm for cats, no better alternative charity would be the Dartmouth College Library System, in care of Julie Blann, Baker-Berry Library, Dartmouth College, Box 6025, Hanover, NH 03755.

# Nonprofits Raise Money by Offering

By JOHN P. GREGG

Valley News Staff Writer

For many a harried holiday shopper, gift-wrapping can be a godsend.

That's one reason why several stores in the Upper Valley offer gift-wrapping services, sometimes with a twist.

At the Borders bookstore in West Lebanon, for example, several nonprofit groups rotate shifts at a table near the entrance, offering gift-wrapping — with paper supplied by the store — in exchange for some friendly banter, and, implicitly, a small donation to the group.

The *Valley News* stopped by the store recently to talk present wrapping with Linda Copp of the Lebanon-based City Center Ballet as she was cutting, folding and taping.

Copp, a Cornish resident, offered up some secrets of the technique. What follows is an edited version of that conversation:

**Valley News:** How long has City Center Ballet been doing this?

**Linda Copp:** Last year was the first year we did it. We found that what it brought for us was a nice awareness. People stopped and they asked about the ballet company, and that's one of the biggest and hardest things with nonprofits is (people) don't know about the nonprofits in the Upper Valley. There's a lot of them.

So every opportunity that you get to put your face out there is good to do. It's an easy task.

The best part (personally) is you get to see what people are buying. I found something for my nephew today that a gentleman put on the table, and I said 'Oh, that's perfect,' and they said, 'We thought so.'

**V.N.:** What makes for a good wrapped present?

**L.C.:** Well, there are some people who come up with some challenging things from Borders. The coffee mugs, those are challenging. The books are very simple to wrap, they really are.

**V.N.:** How long does it take you to wrap a book?

**L.C.:** You'd have to time me, but I think I can do it in under a minute.

**V.N.:** What's the technique for wrapping a book?

**L.C.:** I used to work in retail, so I always find that I fold one edge so that I have a nice smooth edge on one side. Then I push my inside paper in, so I make two triangles, put the two triangles together, fold down the edge, and put on the tape, because tri-

See Q&A—B5



LINDA  
COPP

Linda Copp, art director at City Center Ballet in Lebanon, talks to a customer before gift-wrapping a book at the ballet center's free gift-wrapping table at Borders Books in West Lebanon last week.

VALLEY NEWS — JEFFREY PORTER

Valley News 14 Dec 2008

# a Finishing Touch



CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

angles are the strongest shape.

**V.N.:** How do you feel when someone gives you a sloppily wrapped present? Does it bother you?

**L.C.:** Yes, I like presents neatly wrapped. I did one this morning for a gentleman: He had two books that didn't quite match each other and every time I folded it, the top book would rip the paper, so I said we're starting over. I'm doing two and putting them together.

**V.N.:** Do you feel more pressure about your gift-wrapping because ballet is this artistic discipline?

**L.C.:** I think I like being very precise. It's a technical thing. I think we use our technique.

**V.N.:** What do you do for paper cuts?

**L.C.:** I have gotten one here ... (At the ballet), we make all of our own costumes. It's easy on the costumes, because you just kind of wipe it off on the lining (laughing). You can't do that here.

**V.N.:** What's the most popular wrapping paper, generally?

**L.C.:** This year it's the green one that says "Happy Holidays" with the gingerbread man on it. They really have a lot of Hanukkah paper this year. There is something for every-

one.

**V.N.:** What's a typical donation for wrapping a gift?

**L.C.:** I think we usually get about a dollar a package, which is nice. Last year someone dropped a \$20 in, but in this economy, I don't think it's going to happen this year.

**V.N.:** Are there people who don't leave a donation after you wrap their presents?

**L.C.:** I think there's only been on one or two occasions where someone has not given anything, and that's OK.

**V.N.:** Does this actually raise a fair amount of money for your group?

**L.C.:** Not a fair amount of money, but right now, everything helps. Basi-

cally, funding for the arts is totally nonexistent. Grants that we would have been able to get are now going for people who need food and fuel, and we recognize that as an organization.

We're redoing a ballet that we have all the costumes for, so we're not having to raise \$90,000 to do a ballet this year, but we still have expenses that need to be paid for. If we get \$200 out of a couple of days here, I'll be a happy person, and the awareness, for me, is what's even better.

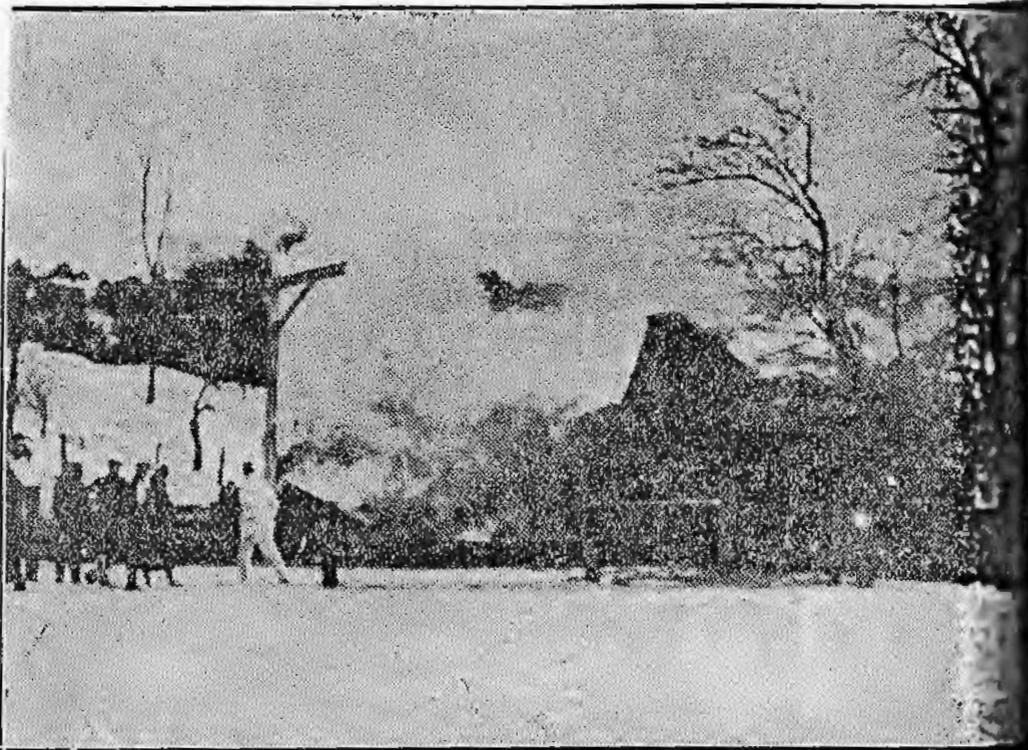
**V.N.:** Do you leave wrapping of presents at home until the last minute?

**L.C.:** I like to wrap a little as I go.

My daughter is even better. When she gets it, she wraps it and puts it away.

**John P. Gregg can be reached at [jgregg@vnews.com](mailto:jgregg@vnews.com) or (603) 321-3213.**

# Scene of Fatal Wreck at Balloch Station



age.  
The five men, together with one other who escaped injury, were in the station when the crash came and four of them pinned down by debris were slowly burned to death as fire starting from an overturned wood stove in the depot swept through the ruins.

## Four Killed.

The dead are:  
Oscar Sylvester, Louis Marcotte and Ernest Smith, section hands, all of Windsor, Vt., and Harold Leonard, Cornish, Highway Department employe.

The injured man is George Pasco of Windsor, section foreman. Three of his ribs were broken and he suffered numerous cuts and bruises.

Remj Moquin, of Claremont, the sixth man caught in the crash, was thrown free of the falling timbers and returned to aid in releasing his foreman from the wreckage, the others trapped by masses of wood and iron slowly burned to death while horror stricken spectators attracted

(Continued on Page Fourteen)

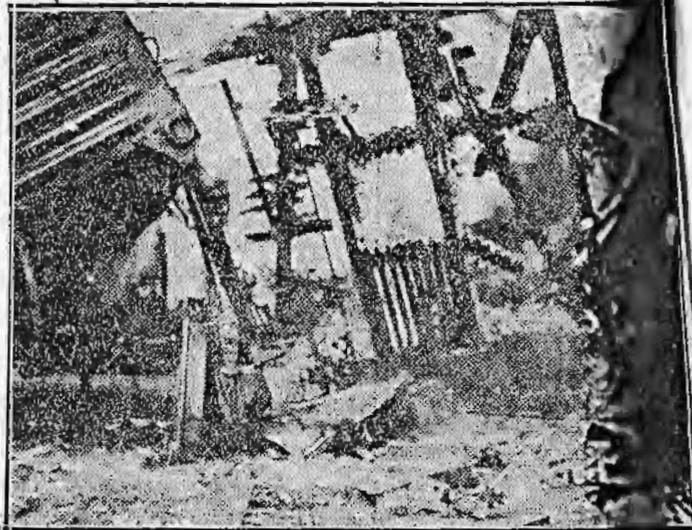
Feb. 1928

## CLAREMONT TRAIN WRECK BRINGS DEATH TO FOUR

Accident Blocks Line from  
White River Jct. to  
Sherbrooke

Special to The Union.

CLAREMONT, Feb. 11.—Four men were burned to death and a fifth was severely injured this afternoon when a freight train on the Connecticut and Passumpsic division of the Boston and Maine railroad left the rails at Balloch's crossing, four miles north of here, sending a string of heavy box cars crashing through the little railroad station at the crossing which burst into flames which swept the debris and tangled wreck-



Photos show fatal wreck scene at Balloch station on Claremont branch of Boston and Maine, where four men were burned to death and cars of freight jumped track, crashed into the station they were in and the building on fire, trapping the men. Upper photo shows general view and lower picture shows burning ruins of station.

W. William Scrapbook

# Woman and Baby Burned To Death On Cornish Road

May 15, 1929

## Pair Trapped In Blazing Cottage Near Windsor, Vt.

**Mrs. Mercedes Gibson, 20, and Year-Old Daughter Perish in Flames This Afternoon—Brother Critically Burned in Attempt to Save Pair—County Officials Investigating Tragedy**

Windsor, Vt., May 15—Mrs. Mercedes Gibson, 20, and her daughter, Elizabeth Anne, one year old, were burned to death this afternoon in a fire of unknown origin in their cottage in Cornish, just across the river from this town.

Robert Fecteau, aged 15, a brother of Mrs. Gibson, was seriously burned in an attempt to save the woman and her baby. He was rushed to the Claremont General hospital where his condition is critical.

The fire, of unknown origin, is being investigated by County Solicitor Howard H. Hamlin and Sheriff Emery B. Monta of Claremont, together with Medical Referee F. P. Claggett of Newport, who was summoned to the scene.

The blaze apparently started about one o'clock in the one room camp which is the residence of the Gibson family, a small building 12 by 18 feet on the Cornish Mill road just off the main highway leading from Claremont to Plainfield. Mrs. Gibson was in the house alone with her baby, Mr. Gibson being at work at the National Acme plant at Windsor.

First news of the fire was brought by Robert Fecteau, who ran into his own home, some 200 yards from the Gibson cottage,

blazing from head to foot after an unsuccessful attempt to rescue his sister. He had succeeded in dragging Mrs. Gibson as far as the door, where her body remained, charred beyond recognition. The baby's body is in the ruins and has not yet been located.

Mrs. Henry Fecteau, the girl's mother, rushed to the scene from her own home, but the Gibson cottage was completely enveloped in flames and she was helpless to aid her daughter and granddaughter.

## Third Body Found In Cottage Ruins

(Special at 4:00 P. M.)

A new angle was given the tragedy late this afternoon following the arrival of Dr. F. P. Claggett of Newport and Dr. Samuel H. McKewen of Windsor at the scene which mystified officials in charge of the investigation, when a search of the debris revealed the presence of a third body, that of an adult, in the ruins. Effort was being made to identify the body, which was believed to have been that of a neighbor who was an intimate friend of Mrs. Gibson.

# Cornish Mourns Death of William Wallace Balloch

1931

## Life-Long Resident Succumbs to Pneumonia After Outstanding Career of Public Service

Cornish, Jan. 9—This little town experienced a severe loss this week in the death of William W. Balloch, for over a half century a leader in civic and social activities. It marked too, the end of a long career fruitful beyond the average in unselfish service and devotion to family, community and State.

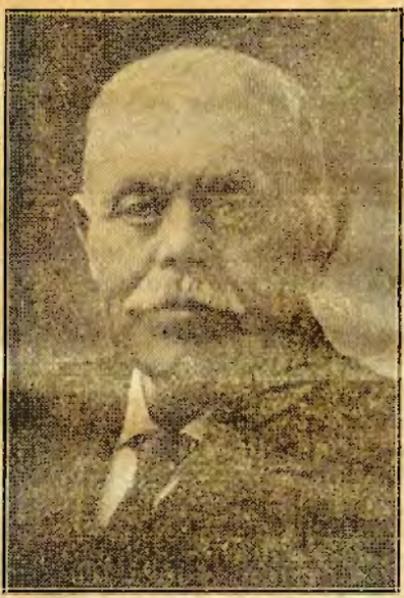
Mr. Balloch's death occurred at his home here Sunday morning. The immediate cause was pneumonia, but he had been in failing health for some time.

William Wallace Balloch was born at the Balloch homestead in Cornish, Oct. 29, 1856. He was the son of William and Nancy Fleming Balloch and he lived his life to its close in the place of his birth.

On the paternal side he came of sturdy Scotch ancestry. His great grandfather, James Balloch of Antwerp, Sterlingshire, Scotland, came to America in 1790 and established his home on the farm which Mr. Balloch has so successfully carried on during his active years.

On Oct. 18, 1893, Mr. Balloch married Lucia Read Davis, who with her son, survives him. He is also survived by one niece Miss Bessie Bugbee of Marshalltown, Iowa, and two nephews, William Bugbee of Cornish, and William Leslie of Kansas City.

Mr. Balloch received his education in the public schools of Cornish and at Kimball Union academy at Meriden. He was known throughout the community as a man of genial disposition and his hospitable nature made his home a delight to family relatives and friends.



WILLIAM W. BALLOCH

absolute integrity brought him many public offices of trust. He served the Town of Cornish as selectman for a period of 21 years and gave unstintingly of his time and effort in the fulfillment of the duties of the office. He served with distinction as commissioner of Sullivan County for six years and represented the Town of Cornish at the General Court in 1897, 1927 and 1929.

Always interested in the advancement of agriculture, he had served as president of the Sullivan County Farm Bureau and the Sullivan County Farmers' Exchange, and also as a director of the New England Milk Producers' association. In addition to his many other duties he was for 44 years station agent at the Balloch station

of the Boston & Maine railroad. The Cornish Bridge company and the Windsor County Trust company of Windsor, Vt., both profited by his services and he was vice president of the latter institution. At the time of his death he was acting president of Cornish Old Folks' association, which office he had held for some ten years.

ere certainly e people; as larks, or the ernment, so nit, provide sses as satis- and this the o do. onomic cent- ent existing m operating institutions uders of eco- system up to imposed by nks to solve banks with ements, and ore intimate ance. Like- associations, es, and the ed by State k, and Wis- ng districts, the rate of y called the ongress, the oated, but it gram should The Federal rovement of interest of all king; to the

# Bank opens Cornish branch

CORNISH, N.H. — The Cornish Branch of the Claremont Savings Bank officially opened at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Powers Country Store, Cornish Flat.

Bank officials attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony included Robert Love, president; Robert Winniett, head of operations; Beverly Thorn, in charge of marketing, and Albert D.

Leahy Sr., chairman of the board of directors.

Town officials on hand were Selectmen Myron Quimby, Michael Yatsevich and Stanley Colby; Duane Allen, fire chief; Bernice Johnson, town clerk, and Peter Burling, town moderator.

Plans have been carried out over the past year with Sandra and Donald Powers to

place the branch office in the old fashioned setting of their country store, located on Route 120.

The bank, which will be open from 2-7 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays will offer Statement Savings, Now Checking and long term certificates. Savings bonds and traveler's checks may be purchased and loan payments may be made and checks cashed.

Customers may apply for cards to utilize "Connie" the 24-hour teller.

Donna Companion will serve as manager with Jean Duval assisting.

The grand opening will continue through Saturday with several gift certificates being awarded and coffee and doughnuts available.

# Help Us Celebrate Our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Cornish



Jean Duval and Lorraine Brasseur welcome you to the Cornish Branch Office

## Join Us For Our Open House Celebration From March 25 through April 6

Monday-Friday 2PM-6PM Saturday 9AM-Noon

Sign up for Door Prizes of \$100, \$75, \$50 US Savings Bonds



## Claremont Savings Bank

Route 120, Cornish Flat at Power's Country Store  
(603) 542-7728

A Full Range of Deposit Services for Individuals and Small Business

Checking, Savings, CDs, IRAs – 24-Hour Banking  
Jean Duval, Lorraine Brasseur





**COMING DOWN** — This barn is being dismantled and moved from Newport to Cornish (Christian Berkey photo)

John Rand, Polly Rand

## Newport barn heading to Cornish

By **CHRISTIAN BERKEY**  
Contributing Writer

**NEWPORT** — If you drive westbound down Route 11/103 between Newport and Claremont, you might notice a weather-worn old barn off to the side, a few hundred yards before the Pepsi bottling plant. What you might not have noticed, but certainly will over the next few months, is that this barn is being systematically dismantled.

John and Polly Rand of Cornish are buying the barn from its present owner, Theodore Cole of Newport. The

barn will be moved, beam by beam, to the Rand's property in Cornish. The whole process began when Cole was informed by the state of New Hampshire that Route 11/103 was to be widened sometime in the next few years. Basically, Cole's options were to tear down the barn or sell it to someone like the Rands.

"Me being the persnickety cuss that I am, I wanted to give the barn to someone who would appreciate it, and put it up to show it off, maybe even embellish it," Cole said.

The barn itself was built sometime after 1830. Neither Cole, who has owned the property since 1970, nor the Rands know the exact date of its construction. Polly has done some research into the previous owners of the barn but has not

found the exact date that it was built. The Rands are hoping that a little publicity might bring some information to light about the history of the barn. If anyone has any historical information, old photographs, or any anecdotes about the barn, they are invited to contact the Rands.

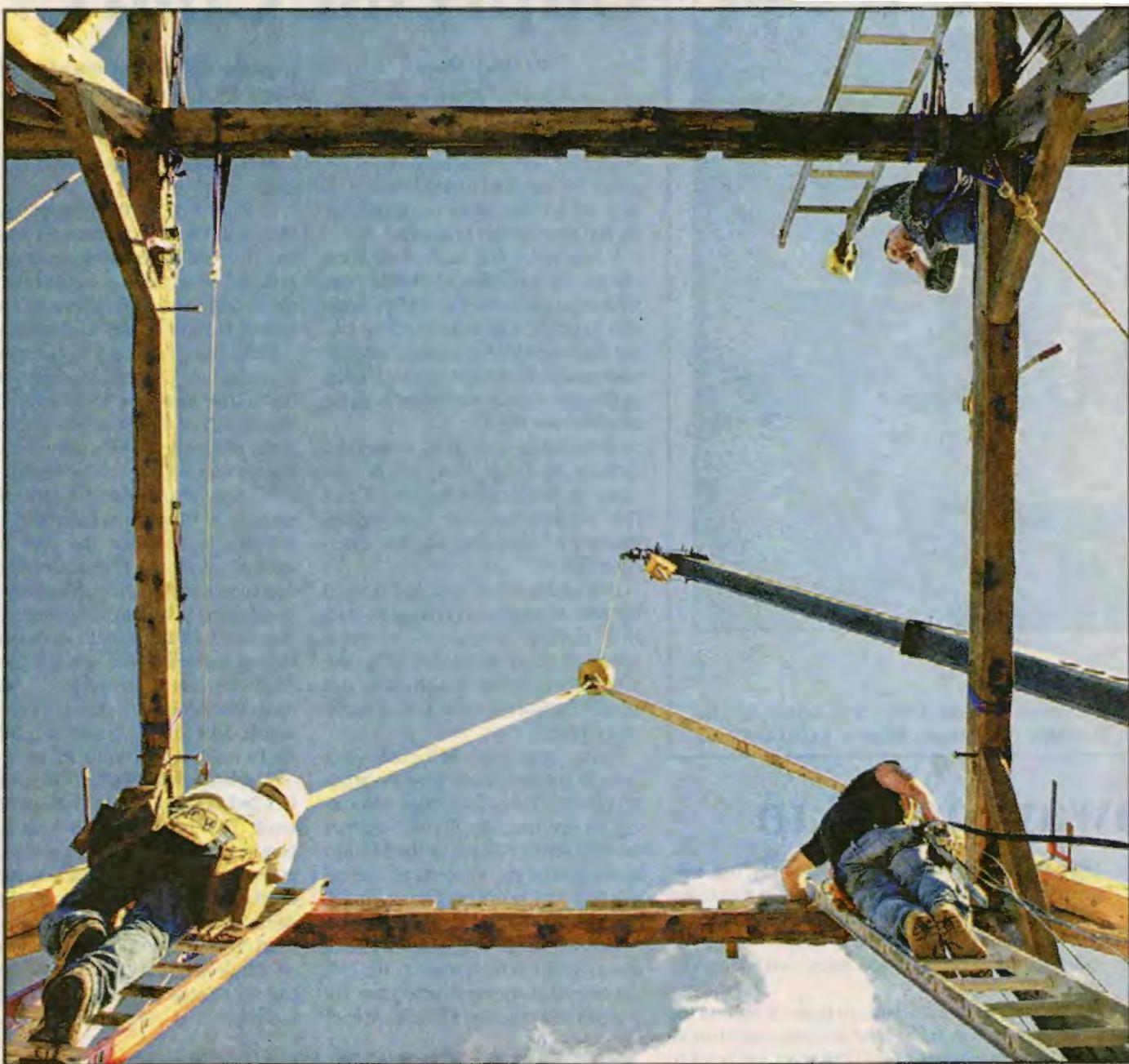
Cole began advertising the barn in *Yankee Magazine*. He received over 60 calls about it, some from as far as California. Cole found the perfect match for the barn in John and Polly.

John, retired since September, and Polly, retired since June, want to move the barn to their property in Cornish and rebuild it into a garage, with a woodworking shop for John in the back.

Of course a three-story barn is a little too much to house just a garage and a woodworking shop. But decades of harsh New Hampshire weather have rendered parts of the barn into rotten wood, useful only as firewood. The barn is now 72 feet long, 40 feet wide, and three stories tall. When reassembled in Cornish, it will be 40 feet long, 48 feet wide, and only 1 1/2 stories tall.

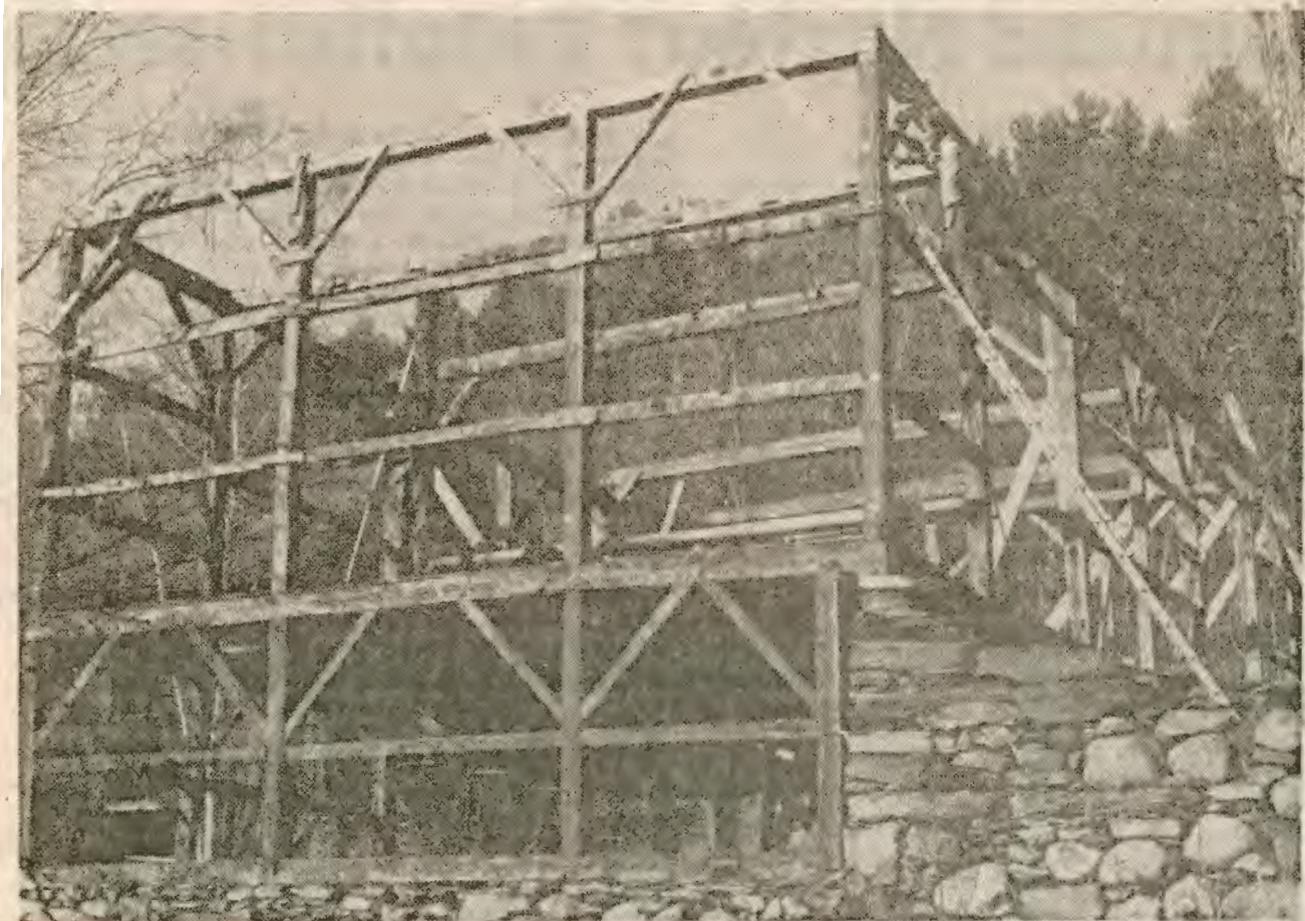
The process of disassembling an entire barn is a bit daunting, and the Rands know it.

John and Polly Rand 10-19-07



### Renaissance Barn

Richard Thompson of Cornish Flat, right, Jim Lukash of South Cornish, bottom right, and Greg Walker of Grantham erect an 1898 Newport barn on John and Polly Rand's Cornish Flat property. VALLEY NEWS — TOM RETTIG



## *Barn Razing*

**MICHAEL J. GREGOIRE** of East Woodstock, Vt., drills out an old peg in a 160-year-old barn being dismantled piece by piece on the George Edson farm in Cornish. The barn will be reassembled elsewhere by The Barn People of South Woodstock, Vt., a firm which converts old barns into dwellings.

(Photo by Brad Hills)

I have been asked to tell you about Robert LeMoyné Barrett and his glass house. He was born in Chicago in 1871 and died in 1969 in California, at the age of 98. His family was in the business of road-surface materials and roofing paper.

Robert Barrett attended Phillips Academy, and then entered Harvard. However, he quit after a few months, and made his way to British Columbia. He lived among the Indians there. Following a few months there, he visited Cornish, staying in a tepee. He was very much attracted to the Cornish hills and valleys.

When 26, in 1897 he went to Norway to get practical experience in geography. While there he wrote: "The Sundal Drainage System in Central Norway", and "Features of Norway and its people". Barrett did finally re-enter Harvard, and graduated there, completing his formal education.

Barrett was curious about the world, and went to London, to Russia, Asia, The Tianshan Mountain range, also to southwest America -to New Mexico and California. William Davi, eminent geographer and geologist, accompanied him to the Himalayas, and later to the Gobi Desert. Mr. Barrett wrote a book about the Himalaya Mountains. The Cornish Library has a copy of it.

In 1911 at age 40 Barrett came to Cornish to stay quietly. He bought 171 acres in the northwest part of town, becoming a neighbor to the Fitch family. In 1913 he gave the town library trustees \$1,000. for their expenses. He met Katherine Ruth Ellis of Charles City, Iowa, a Vassar graduate who had studied seven languages. He hired her to be our Librarian, falling in love with her. She enjoyed his gypsy-style life, and climbed mountains and travelled. Katherine wrote "Strength of the Hills" about Cornish, "Red Shores", a book of poetry, and "The Trenchant Wind".

Both were interested in children and in education. They loved walking all around Cornish, and visited our many schools. They kept their eyes open, then bought needed supplies, leaving them on the school steps at night. The three Fuller sisters from England were hired by Barrett to come and teach singing games and folk songs to the school children. I remember Mom playing these songs on the piano, and singing them to us children as we grew up.

Mr. and Mrs. Barrett also had a portable "Pasture School" built up on Spaulding Hill, just outside Cornish Flat. They hired Alice Jesseman to teach Math, English, wood-working, literature and music appreciation to seven teen boys with potential, a few weeks during the summer. The teens were: William Chadbourne, Jack Dinkle, Donald Emory, Lewis Fitch, my uncle, Laurence Hunt, Dayton Johnson and Stub Weld.

In 1919 and 1922 the Barretts made two camping trips to the Sierra Mountains for three months each year. They used 26 burros to carry necessary supplies, taking two to four teens, one being Lewis Fitch. Quite an experience for the youth!

Katherine Barrett became tired of the gypsy-style of living, so Robert decided to build them a house, atop a hill on his property. There was no road to the top of this hill, so a large engine was brought to the foot, to transport the lovely teak wood, that became their Japanese-style home. Several local carpenters were hired, Conan's Dad, Charles Johnson was one of them. The four corners of the roof turned up. The ridgepole had two strong hooks in it, and the Barrett's bed contained legs on but one side, there being two rings on the other side. They took the bed to the roof, hooked it thus to the ridgepole, and loved sleeping under the stars.

The house was square, with a large fireplace in the center. One open side faced the kitchen area, the opposite side the livingroom area. There, a large square door in the floor could be opened by a leather ring, and the well for their water was there. In the kitchen floor a similar door in the floor led to stairs to the cellar. Small squares could be opened in the floor, which showed a metal box containing their butter, milk and such. The deep cellar kept these boxes cool.

There were no chairs. When one approached the house, shoes had to be removed and slippers were furnished. Guests sat on pillows. Panes of glass were in all four walls. To find the door, one had to know a section that would slide. The Barretts ate from extra thin wooden dishes, often using chopsticks. They visited our farm often, and I remember their giving us children some of the wooden dishes to play with. Someone in Plainfield cooked meals for them, which were delivered by a youth, walking up through the woods. They were able to divide the large room into smaller rooms, by sliding curtains on a runway attached to the ceiling.

When I was about three years of age, when visiting Mom and Dad on the farm, they asked to take me home with them. I am told I had golden curls and blue eyes, and they had taken a fancy to me. Mom said all right, expecting me to stay overnight. Mom truly got quite concerned because they kept me up on their hill a whole week.

Again, a year or so later, I was playing by myself in our yard. Dad had just gone up to the cow barn. All of a sudden I looked up and saw this huge man with lots of hair (though a bit of bald on top), a large beard, and very, very broad shoulders come marching into the yard, turn and head right up toward the cowbarn. He wore only tan shorts and brown sandals. I ran, crying, into the house to tell Mom I was afraid, as my Daddy was alone up there. Mom was shelling peas, and who was helping her, but Katherine Barrett. They laughed, and I was embarrassed --which made me remember this incident, clearly. When about twelve I was climbing up through the woods toward the glass house, when I found a wallet containing about \$15.00 and some cards. I wrote to Mr. Barrett in California, enclosing the cards and asking him

who I should send the wallet to. He wrote back, saying he had given that young man that money for his education, and if he was so callous as to lose it, he wanted me to spend the \$15.00 any way I wished. I bought a spring coat and hat with it.

After marriage, and becoming Cornish Town Clerk, I again wrote to the Barretts asking about the two file cabinets that they had up in the glass house. My office was in my home, and the town had no files for my use. Mr. Barrett wrote back to me, saying if Conan and I could get the files down off their hill safely, the town could have them. We took a sled, ropes and blankets, and did procure the files. These were given to the town when I no longer was the clerk.

The last time I wrote to the Barretts was because some youngsters had been up on Barretts Hill, and tore the phone off the wall, plus doing other damage; also hedgehogs had been chewing on the steps and foundation. His reply was that he had contacted a gentleman in Plainfield, asking that he take down their home, as he did not wish to have it molested. I now wish I had kept the letters that he wrote to me.

Bernice Fitch Johnson

# Robert L. Barrett

Robert LeMoyne Barrett (1871-1969) was the last of the founding members of the Association of American Geographers. Barrett was born in Chicago where his father dealt in road materials and roofing paper. He attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts and then entered Harvard where he spent one semester. He then departed for British Columbia where he lived among the Indians.

He returned to Harvard and acquired a B.A. degree. In the summer of 1897 he went to Norway for field work and returned again in 1898. The experience resulted in his publishing "The Sundal-Drainage System in Central Norway." Later Barrett wrote, "Features of Norway and its People." Both writings were published in trade papers.

Upon his return from Norway he entered his father's business but soon quit traveling to Russia, London, and via the Volga River and the Caspian sea to Tien Shan. Later travels took him to the southwest USA and Baja, California. Diaries and photographs resulted.

Davis, one of Barrett's Harvard professors, persuaded Barrett to finance an expedition to inner Asia, taking Ellsworth Huntington with him. The two men, plus extensive retinue,

journeyed through the Himalayas, parting company in 1905. Barrett remained south of the Tarim Basin on the Himalyan slopes taking measurements with his photo-theodolite. Barrett journeyed through Chinese Turkestan to the Gobi Desert. His father fell ill while on a trip in India and Barrett spent nearly a year there taking care of him. The expedition was reported in The Bulletin of the American Geographical Society and the Geographical Journal.

Robert Barrett first appears on the Cornish tax records for a poll tax in 1911. In 1915 he owned 171 acres, 3 horses, 2 mules, 3 cows and 9 sheep.

April 4, 1913, Barrett offered the trustees of the Stowell Free Library in Cornish \$1,000 a year for library expenses, much of which would go toward salary for a librarian to keep the library open every weekday. Katherine Ellis from Charles City, Iowa, a Vassar graduate and a brilliant woman who spoke seven languages, was hired by Barrett. Robert Barrett married Katherine Ellis on June 29, 1913. Katherine continued working as librarian. Together they established a Library Book Wagon, Cornish Library Club, Cornish Girl War Workers of

Dingleton Hill. It was most often referred to as the "Glass House" because the outside walls were sliding glass panels so that you could open up and have an open air house without any obstructions. All the material for the house was brought up to the top of the hill by cable from the farm below. There was a central fireplace in the middle of the house. All the partitions were on tracks and could slide back to make one large room or close off sections at will. There was a deep cellar with a big trap door in the floor near the fireplace. It had a dumb waiter type of elevator to bring heavy items up from below.

There was a small platform on the ridge pole of the roof. The platform was large enough for several people to sit on cushions or make a bed so they could sleep under the stars.

Another description of the unorthodox house describes the side walls as being made of moveable glass panels. Teak, a wood strongly resistant to insects was imported from Florida for the house. The roof was a Japanese styled one curved up at the ends. There was a special platform on the roof, giving a broad view of Mount Ascutney and the surrounding areas. After

World War I. The Barretts also brought the three Fuller Sisters to Cornish from England to teach singing games and folk songs to Cornish children.

Barrett established the Pasture School in Cornish for outstanding students. The Pasture School was held in a small portable building with open decking in a pasture on a high hill near Cornish Flat called Spaulding Hill. William Chadbourne was fortunate enough to have been invited to attend in the year 1918-1919 along with Dayton Johnson, Jack Dinkle, Lawrence Hunt, Stub Wells and Donald Emery. They were instructed in mathematics, English, wood working, literature and music appreciation. The school provided a two year course in one.

In 1922 Robert and Katherine Barrett took a group of Cornish students on a High Sierra camping trip. William Chadbourne, Alice Jesseman, a teacher at the Pasture School, Lewis Fitch were among the group. Twenty-six burros were used for the three month trip.

When Robert Barrett first arrived in Cornish he lived in a tent. After he married Katherine Ellis they built a pagoda type of house designed and built by Japanese workers brought over from Japan. The house was built on the highest part of

the house was finished, the Barretts often ate meals on the roof and Barrett slept there at times, using special hooks installed for his hammock. A cableway was built to transport construction materials to the site at the top of the mountain.

Barrett didn't want a road to his house, but a new road had to be built to the bottom of the hill for the teams of horses and oxen from Windsor that carried the large steam engine used for the cableway.

A V-shaped tower, about 40 feet high was constructed on the bottom of Barrett's hill, and a similar, but smaller one on the top. A single cable was used to deliver the construction materials. Of special note were the closet spaces and cupboards constructed to be lowered down into a cellar blasted out of solid rock. The closets, hidden by trap doors in the floor, could be brought to the main floor by pressing a button that engaged a gravity-powered pulley system.

The Barretts did very little cooking for themselves. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest French were living in the old Oscar Johnson home while Mr. French was running the farm for the Barretts. Mrs. French did the cooking for the Barretts and the meals were packed on the two mules, named Jack and Jenny. The mules then transported the meals up the hill to the Barretts. Could be the fore-runner of meals on wheels?

Robert Barrett's sister, Adela lived at the foot of the hill from the glass house. She was a sculptress. Another sister, Juliette Barrett Rublee, lived on Platt Road and was married to George Rublee, a member of the Federal Trade Commission.

The Barretts eventually made their home in California and the glass house was dismantled after repeated vandalism.



**ROBERT LEMOINE BARRETT.**  
(Photo courtesy of Saint-Gaudens N)



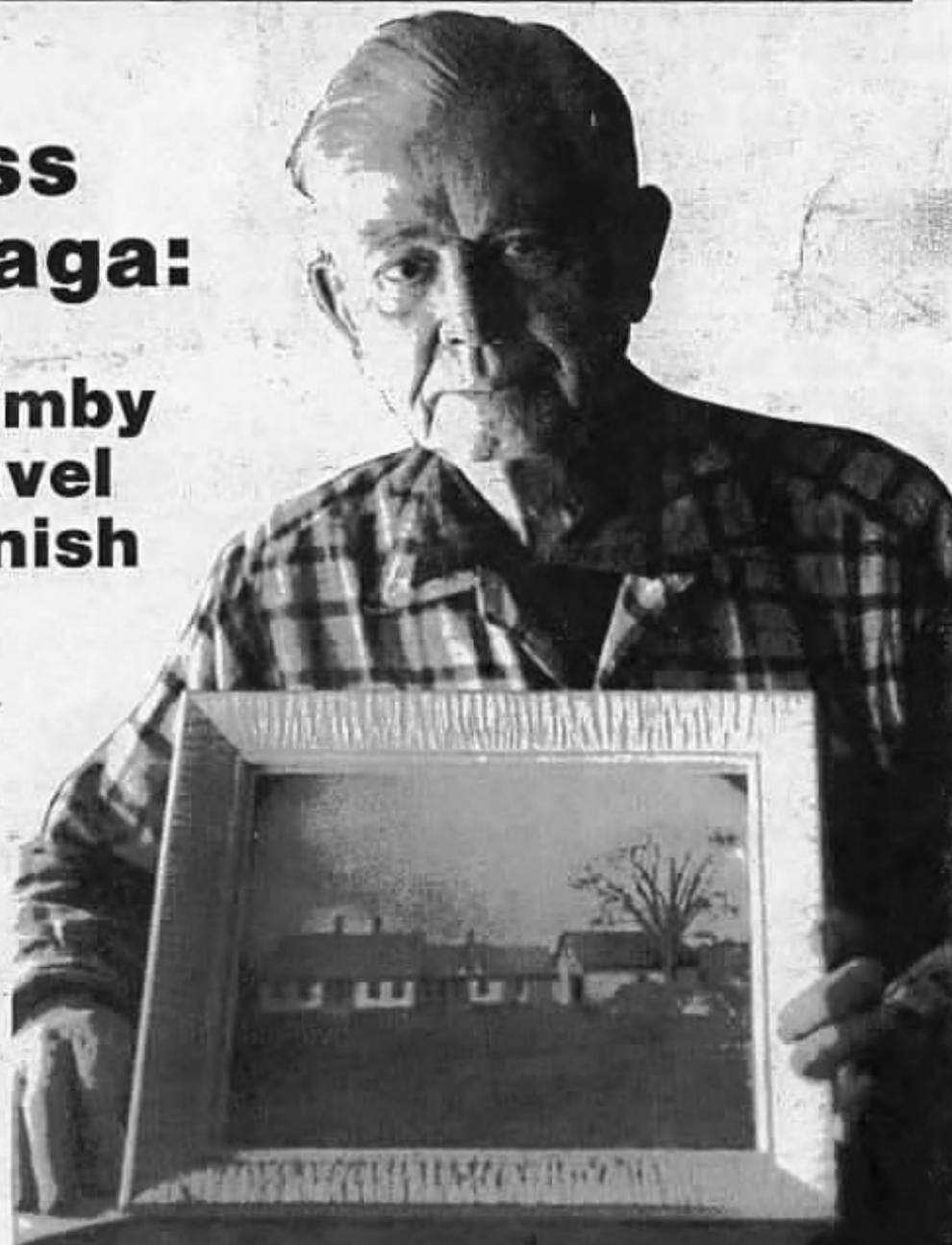
**THE GLASS HOUSE.**  
(Photo courtesy of Albert K. Read)

# IMPACT

Robert Barrett

## **The glass house saga:**

### **Arthur Quimby helps unravel an old Cornish mystery**



By Michelle McDonald  
See page C-3

# Who was this free-spirited man who built a glass house in Cornish 70 years ago?

Robert Barrett moved to Cornish, N.H., on the heels of an era marked by an influx of artists, attracted by the famous sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens.

By MICHELE McDONALD  
Eagle-Times Staff Writer

CORNISH, N.H. — Through a field and thick woods, beyond a logging road fallen into disuse and up a steep hill stands a little-known monument to this town's past.

Only rubble remains now to hint at the story of a glass house and its builder, a man surrounded by an aura of mystery.

Robert Barrett moved to Cornish in the early 1900's. His arrival in the town came on the heels of an era marked by an influx of artists from throughout the country, drawn to the Cornish colony after the famous sculptor

Augustus St. Gaudens made his home here. Longtime Cornish residents remember Barrett as a solitary figure. Visions of the lone man snowshoeing through snowy woods, wearing only moccasins and loincloth, or riding his donkey through summer fields, barefoot and clad only in shorts, dominate the memories of those who were children at the time. Some Cornish residents call Barrett a nudist; everyone who knew him agreed he wore as little clothing as possible.

Barrett reputedly followed Isadora Duncan, a woman who revolutionized dance of her era, around the world! to watch her performances. Duncan is famous not only

for her free-style of dancing, but also for the loose, transparent veils that were her costume.

Barrett spent his first winter in Cornish at the tip of the pinnacle now called Barrett's Hill in a teepee. He was not one for socializing — he only visited his sister, Juliette Barrett Rublee, who moved to Cornish in 1907 with her husband, a respected New York lawyer.

A well-traveled man, Barrett brought a librarian from the Midwest to Cornish, after one of his excursions.

His marriage to the librarian, Katherine, may have been the impetus for the construction of the "The Glass House." Katherine Ellis Barrett didn't want to live in a tent.

With family money behind him, Barrett was able to build a house unlike any other to grace the hills of Cornish. The Barrett family was a rich one, having made a fortune from a successful roofing business.

Designed by an architect brought to Cornish from Japan, the houses' sidewalls were made of moveable glass panels. Teak, wood strongly resistant to insects, was imported from Florida for the house. The roof was a Japanese styled one, curved up at the ends.

There was a special platform on the roof, giving a broad view of Mount Ascutney and the surrounding areas. After the house was finished, the Barretts often ate meals on the roof and Barrett slept there at times, using special hooks installed for his hammock.

Arthur Quimby, a former Cornish resident now living in Plainfield, N.H., remembers the cableway built to transport construction materials to the site at the top of the mountain.

Barrett didn't want a road to his house, but a new road had to be built to the bottom of the hill for the teams of horses and oxen from Windsor that carried the large steam engine used for the cableway.

A V-shaped tower, about 40 feet high was built on the bottom of Barrett's hill, and a similar, but smaller one on the top. A single cable was used to deliver the construction materials.

Quimby was especially impressed by the ingenious closet spaces and cupboards constructed to be lowered down into a cellar blasted out of solid rock.

The closets, hidden by trap doors in the floor, could be brought to the main floor by pressing a button that engaged a gravity-powered pulley system.

Inside, there were many fireplaces around a huge central chimney, surrounded by screens.

The Barretts didn't often cook, but rather they had their meals delivered to them by donkeys and often left in a fireless cooker at a tree near the house. A family living in a house also owned by the Barretts, at the foot of the hill, did the cooking.

Quimby was befriended by Barrett as a boy and young man. Although he calls Barrett a recluse, Quimby says those who grew to know him were very fond of him.

Quimby remembers sitting on the south side of the hill with Barrett and other boys, learning about nature, the stars, and even letters from the Greek alphabet.



The glass house in its prime, provided a comfortable place for Tharon Tewksbury, Oscar Johnson and George Tewksbury. The photo was taken in the early 1920's by Vera Tewksbury Johnson.

"He was very good to young people," Quimby recalls. "Plenty of people were very grateful to him."

Besides taking an interest in the Cornish school and library, the Barretts financed trips for some Cornish youngsters to other parts of the country.

Long before ecology or the environment were concerns of most people, Barrett was a dedicated conservationist.

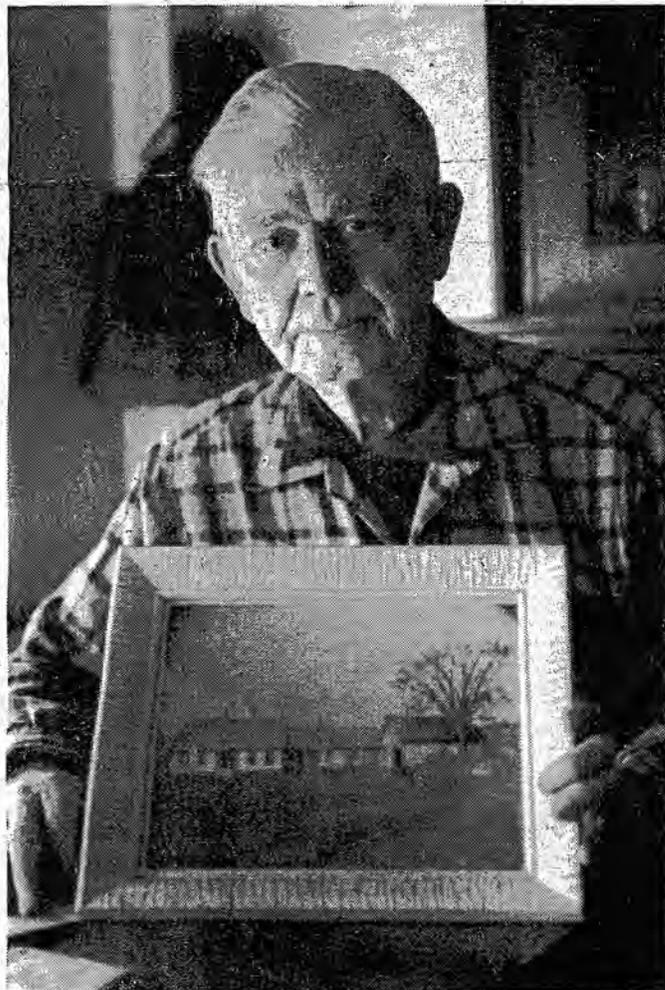
In an act considered unusual by his neighbors, but not uncharacteristic of the colorful man, Barrett bought a single-pine tree, a giant of its kind, from his neighbor William E. Westgate.

The tree, measuring 12 feet in circumference, still stands today. It is owned by the Quimby family, as is Barrett's hill, fitting because Westgate was Arthur Quimby's grandfather.

Unofficially considered the oldest tree in Cornish, the pine is the only one of about 30 giants to survive the hurricane of 1938.

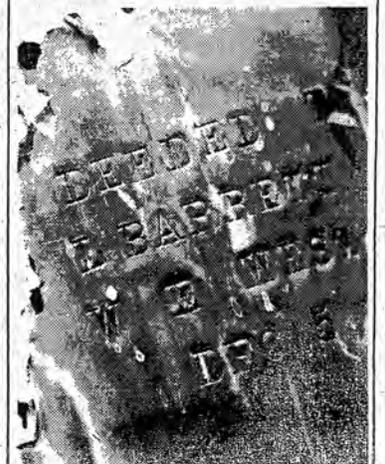
Please turn to the next page

Remains of the old copper plate, making the huge pine tree Robert Barrett bought from W.E. Westgate, are now in the possession of Arthur Quimby, Westgate's grandson.



The house in the old photograph, shown by Arthur Quimby, was at the bottom of Barrett's hill. It was the home of the French's, who cooked for the

Barretts, for some time. Oscar Johnson, son of Edward Johnson, the man who originally owned the house and the hill, also lived there for a time.





The system that allowed closets and cupboards to be hidden beneath the

floor, returned to the main floor by the push of a button, is revealed here.

## HE WHO LIVED IN A GLASS HOUSE LIKED TO GO NUDE

*continued from page C-3*

"The hurricane mowed down everything in its path and that tree just stood there and took it," Quimby remembers. One of the most romantic stories centering around the Barretts is told by Quimby's wife, Marguerite.

Marguerite, a Cornish native, was a fine singer, renowned locally for her beautiful voice. The Barretts, being music lovers, had designed the forest around their glass house to resemble the Black Forest in Germany.

One part of the Black Forest was reputed to have near perfect acoustics. After clearing out all the brush, and trimming the trees to symetric shapes, the Barretts asked Marguerite to come to the glass house to sing.

One evening she remembers singing from the rooftop perch while the Barretts, enchanted with the music ran from tree to tree, listening.

Years later, after singing at a school benefit in Washington D.C., Marguerite Quimby was approached by a stranger impressed by her voice.

The stranger said she had heard a voice like Quimby's only once before, years earlier in Cornish, New Hampshire. The woman told Marguerite Quimby of a moonlit night and a lovely voice seeming to come from the middle of the forest.

The woman had overheard Marguerite singing for the Barretts.

The grove of pruned pines was also a casualty of the 1938 hurricane.

The circumstances surrounding the Barretts departure from Cornish are not clear. In the book, "A Brief History of Cornish," Hugh Mason Wade says, "Their association with Cornish ended unhappily when a library trustee objected violently to a book they had given to the library: "The Glass House" was repeatedly vandalized in their absence.

Quimby does not remember any such incident.

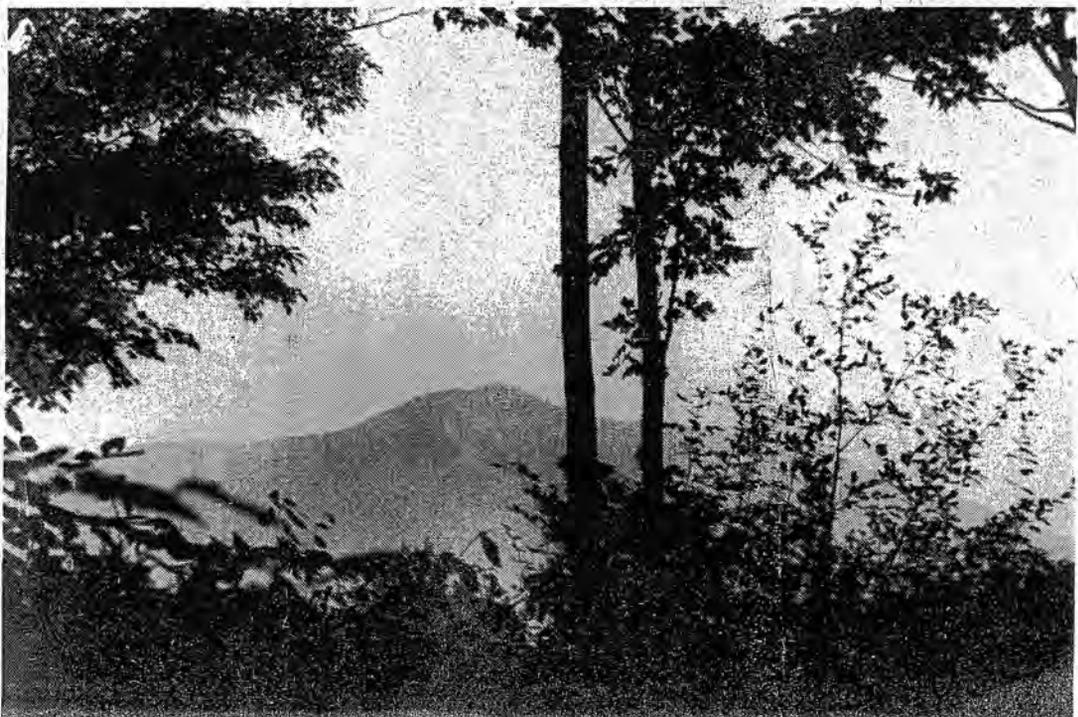
"I think it was mostly a question of life getting stiff on the hill," Quimby says. "The house stood vacant until hedgehogs and vandals created so much damage Barrett ordered it taken down."

The Barretts moved to California and later died there. Both the house at the foot of the hill and the glass house are now gone. The magic the Barretts brought to Cornish, however, should not be forgotten.



Parts of the brickwork and wooden

smashed glass and the cellar hole mark the site of the once-fine glass house.



Brush has grown tall at the top of the pinnacle where Barrett built his glass house. The view of Mt. Ascutney through the trees hints at the panoramic vistas once seen here.

**A**

ctress Ethel Barrymore came to Cornish June 2, 1906. According to poet William Vaughn Moody, Miss Barrymore arrived with a full complement of sensations, including a railroad wreck."

Miss Barrymore rented the Fuller house on Rte. 12A in Plainfield across the road from where Moody was staying. The night she arrived a large party was held to introduce her to members of the colony. She was not expected to stay long by reason of Cornish's "dulness." However, she did stay through the fall foliage season. The Fuller house boasted of a large swimming pool, under a vine-covered pergola, with Greek pillars. "Bathing suits are furnished by rotation of peg, and the fit shall be as God wills." The pool was described in Frances Duncan's article "A Swimming Pool at Cornish" published in Country Life in America for July, 1906.

As Moody became better acquainted with Barrymore he describes her as "The best fun in the world, quite unspoiled, and a first-rate fellow." On July 7th Moody and Barrymore had attended a large dinner party and musical at musician and composer Arthur Whiting's home. Following the party Miss Barrymore gave Moody a lift home in her trap.

At Miss Barrymore's tennis parties, Will Moody, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Harding Davis, and Harry Fuller could be counted on to play, with Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Adams and Howard Hart looking on.

Ethel Barrymore felt it a great privilege to be let in Augustus Saint-Gaudens' studio to watch him work on his wonderful Lincoln.

During Ethel's stay in Cornish that summer Kenyon Cox was painting a mural decoration for the new Essex Co. court house in Newark, New Jersey. He painted her head for the figure of "Justice." Cass Gilbert, the architect, objected to the portraiture as the murals were supposed to be only decorative. Cox had to alter the features so that they would look like nobody in particular. Miss Barrymore was fascinated by Cox's enormous studio, with its tall door to enable the murals to be removed, and by his climbing up on ladders to paint the huge murals.

Artist Frances Houston painted Ethel Barrymore's portrait during the summer she spent in Cornish. It was the artist's last work, as she died in October of that year.

Thackeray's comedy, "The Rose and the Ring," was performed by the children of the colony in Mr. Henry O. Walker's studio followed by tea being served on the lawn. Ethel Barrymore "coached" the children, Mrs. Kenyon Cox arranged the costumes, and Mrs. Lucia Fuller painted the scenery. It was a benefit for St. John's Guild which profited by \$260.00.

Ethel Barrymore saw much of the Maxfield Parrishes that summer. She was fascinated by Stephen Parrish's elaborate flower gardens which she thought more beautiful than either Charles Platt's or Norman Hapgood's.

Barrymore relates in her Memories how Mrs. Winston Churchill asked her if she would drive her beautiful horses in the horse show. Barrymore had never driven at all, but had seen many horse shows, so she said yes and won the blue ribbon. Reflecting on this incident years later Barrymore said "How extraordinarily cheeky I must have been!"



GILDED FRAME is examined by E. W. Bartlett.



AT WORK on a reverse painting on glass is Cornish's oldest resident. Artist paint on rear of the surface. (Daily Eagle Photos—E)

## Cornish Man, 88, Excels At Unusual Craft

Betsy Eggert

CORNISH, N.H. — Being old may be a good reason to take life and work a little slower. But one man, who received the Boston Post Cane award for being the oldest resident in town, does not feel this is reason enough to retire from his work or play. He is E.W. Bartlett of Dingleton Hill in Cornish.

Bartlett has lived in the same house his grandfather built in 1826, for the past 88 years. As a boy, his main delight was to sketch flowers and landscapes. He also did portraits of friends and relatives who came to his home. Oftentimes he would sketch his teacher standing at the blackboard while he was attending classes in the district school. Walking the mile walk back home, sheep, cows and horses did not escape his gaze and soon appeared on paper, to be later finished on canvas.

About 50 years ago, Mrs. Louis Saint-Gaudens, a close acquaintance and friend, who was associated with Saint-Gaudens Memorial, asked him why he did not take up glass or mirror painting because of the demand for it. Bartlett recalls how she was a critic of his work and how she helped him get started in reverse painting in which craft he

the next part. After the picture is completed in oils, the back of the glass is covered with another paint to seal it. This whole process may take from one month to six weeks, depending upon the specifications of the picture.

### Other Work

Besides doing reverse glass painting, Bartlett also does work ranging from portraits done in pencil and india ink to the antiquing of clocks and mirrors. For the antiquing jobs he does, Bartlett makes his own patterns and designs. Frames of the mirrors are often done in black enamel and gold leaf paint. Many times a whole frame will have to be rebuilt. This he does by using a glass scraper or sandpaper to remove old paint and then applying five or six coats of varnish.

Bartlett also has been active in photography. This was one of his earliest trades. Besides this he has also done work in woodcarving. Portraits of Lincoln and others along with frames that are reminiscent of 100 years ago, hang in his home.

His works have been exhibited at Saint-Gaudens Memorial in Cornish, and at many area fairs. People send work to him from many miles away as he is believed to be one of the few persons in the area quite accomplished in this unusual work.

Bartlett's reverse painting on glass is done differently than the painting on canvas. The reverse painter must hold the brush behind the picture, and he works looking through the glass. An outline of the picture is done in charcoal or pencil as the first process. One detail of the picture is then done in oil and allowed to dry completely before going on to

placement Eagle

c. 1962

Bartlett + 1965

xx



Eagle Review  
 8-21-01

**BAT HOUSE** — The Cornish town hall is home to one of the state's largest known bat colonies. (Robert North photo)

# State targeting Cornish town hall's bat problem

By **MATT DeRIENZO**  
 Staff Writer

**CORNISH** — The swing of a hammer today will kick off efforts to remove 100 Halloween's worth of bats from the attic of the Cornish town hall.

A bat house the size of a small school bus will be built next door in hopes that one of the state's largest known bat colonies, about 3,000 to 5,000 strong, will gravitate to the custom-built quarters.

It's a project of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and Cornish Conservation Commission, with nearly \$10,000 in funding from sale of the state's moose conservation license plates.

The bats have been an issue in Cornish since town offices moved into the former Grange hall about six years ago. Told of the bat colony's ecological importance, selectmen agreed to let the bats be. Conservation Commission members have monitored the sit-

*"There have been times when they're hanging from the ceiling, in doorways, or crawling out from under a desk. They're here, all right."*

— **Cornish Town Clerk Reigh Sweetser**

uation and helped with clean-up of bat guano, small, super-concentrated pellets that make excellent fertilizer, according to Conservation Commission member Don Snowden.

The smell of bat urine and the creepy presence of so many of the little creatures, on the other hand, have sometimes been an unpleas-

(See **BATS** - Pg. 8)

## BATS

From Page 1

ant interruption for town workers.

"There have been times when they're hanging from the ceiling, in doorways, or crawling out from under a desk," said Town Clerk Reigh Sweetser. "They're here, all right."

Snowden feels that bats get a bad rap, and he's pleased that a solution could be found that preserves the colony's habitat.

"People are afraid of things they don't know about," Snowden said.

Bats are nocturnal and secretive, he said, but they eat tons

of the local environment.

The attic of the Cornish town hall is home to an important "maternal colony," he said, where young bats are raised.

The bats arrive in April each year and leave in October to hibernate in caves and mines in Vermont and New York. A bat expert who has been working with the Conservation Commission believes that other bats stop at the

Cornish site in the spring and the fall as they migrate between their summer and winter homes.

colony," Snowden said.

The new bat house, which will be constructed on site today and Wednesday, will be designed with the many narrow crevices that bats like to attach themselves to, Snowden said.

The transition from Town Hall attic to the new bat house could take two to three years, he said. Eventually, steps will be taken to prevent the bats from entering the attic in the springtime.

*Matt DeRienzo can be reached at (603)543-3100, ext. 112, or by e-mail at*

# Battison proposes second museum for Windsor

By PAUL CLIFTON-WAITE  
Staff Writer

WINDSOR — Ed Battison's dream of an all-encompassing museum will have a chance to be realized.

Battison won zoning and planning approvals Monday to create the Franklin Museum of Nature and Human Spirit in a large, dilapidated sawmill on his Ascutney Street property.

Battison plans to refurbish the 112-foot by 34-foot mill, and said Monday work will begin next spring. In the interim, he will work on getting tax-exempt status and more investors for the project.

For him and the town, it's sort of deja

In 1964, Battison founded the American Precision Museum on Route 5. Although far from a national attraction, it has provided what many consider to be the pre-eminent showcase of the area's birth of the machine tool industry.

Battison, 78, served as its director until 1991.

"The idea is not to compete with the Precision Museum, but to supplement it—to give a broad view," Battison told members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Battison said the museum will highlight both the visible and the invisible world, from the atom to the curiosity of mankind. It is to be multifaceted like

its namesake, Benjamin Franklin, he said.

It is expected to attract no more than 40 cars a day, however.

Battison said it will also be open on a seasonal basis to start. The limited scope of the project appeared to smooth the way with local regulators.

The Zoning Board granted a conditional use permit for its operation in a dense residential area. Afterward, the Planning Commission gave approval to his site plan for the project. The review took less than an hour.

The votes were 5-0, with member Allyn Barraby abstaining in both votes. No strict conditions were placed on the project, which would feature 15 park-

ing spaces in a stone lot.

"It's a great hurdle to be passed and I do appreciate that they didn't give me a very tough time," Battison said. "I think they realize what I do is not for myself."

Battison served several years as a curator for the Smithsonian Institute in Washington. He has gained fame for his work, and WCVB, Channel 5, Boston, at 7:30 tonight will air a show about Windsor that features an interview with him.

Putting together another museum in his hometown is an admittedly tough task, Battison said.

(Please see MUSEUM-Pg. 6)

## MUSEUM

From Page 1

"Money isn't easy to raise. I've talked with a person down in D.C., who says they're anxious to give money because they're interested. But I don't count my chickens before they're hatched," he said.

Winning tax-exempt status is a complicated process, he added.

"I don't remember the paperwork being more than two pages," he said. "It's nine pages now, and you've got to project your income ahead for years, which is impossible to do."

So far, Battison has three incorporators on board.

# TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY

AMERICAN PRECISION MUSEUM • SPRING 2009

## Edwin A. Battison, Museum's Founder Dies

Edwin Alfred Battison, the museum's founder and first director died January 12, 2009. He was born in Windsor in 1915 and was the Curator of Mechanical



Ed Battison in 1966.

Engineering at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of History and Technology in Washington, D.C. until his retirement in 1973.

Battison had to forego attending college because of the Great Depression, and he began working in the machine tool industry, which prospered in the Connecticut River corridor of Vermont known as Precision Valley. He first worked at Cone Automatic Machine Tool Company (the forerunner of Cone Blanchard) in Windsor and then with the Fellows Gear Shaper Company in Springfield, Vermont. He spent his life collecting the best examples of evolving technology and artifacts from the American industrial revolution, especially watches and clocks.

Wanting to know more about cataloging his collection of clocks and watches, Battison contacted the Smithsonian. The staff soon realized he knew more than they did. Later he was offered the position of Assistant Curator of Horological and Small Machines. As Curator of Mechanical Engineering for the Smithsonian, he traveled abroad and gained a global perspective on industrial history. As an outgrowth of this research, he edited, for American publication, two

Russian histories. One was a description of factories in the Urals and Siberia in 1735, the other a history of metal cutting machines up to the middle of the 19th century. He also wrote the catalog essay for a 1973 Yale University exhibit on the American Clock, 1725 - 1865 and taught a course on technology at the University of Pennsylvania. He published research that disputed the previously accepted view that Eli Whitney conceived and brought to practical fruition the idea of making muskets with interchangeable parts. By examining some of the mus-

### Museum's Founder Dies from page 1

kets, he demonstrated that Whitney's claims were unfounded. His research was published in 1966, the year the American Precision Museum was founded, in the *Smithsonian Journal of History*.

That same year Battison enlisted the help of U.S. Senator Ralph Flanders to save the building that now houses the American Precision Museum. The building, which dates from 1846, once housed the Robbins and Lawrence Company, one of the earliest manufacturers of firearms using the concept of interchangeable parts.

Battison worked tirelessly to build a collection of machine tools to rival that held by the Smithsonian. He acquired working models, including the famed Aschauer Workshop collection, as well as rifles, sewing machines, and typewriters of historic significance to Windsor and the Precision Valley. He also collected library and archival materials to support his collections and authored *Muskets to Mass Production: The Men & The Times that shaped American Manufacturing*, published by the American Precision Museum in 1976.

From his Washington years, he learned the importance of recognition of the site's significance as a means of ensuring its long-term preservation. The National Park Service designated the Robbins & Lawrence Armory a National Historic Landmark in 1966. In 1986, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers recognized it as the First International Mechanical Engineering Heritage Site and Collection.

Battison directed the museum until 1991 and served as a Trustee until July 2006, when the museum honored him by naming him Founder, First Director and Trustee Emeritus.

Despite failing health, he continued to pursue his passion for collecting and history. He founded a second museum in Windsor a mile upstream from the American Precision Museum at the Ascutney Mill Dam and factory sites. The Franklin Museum of Nature and the Human Spirit houses his personal collection of 80 years, his research and papers, including diaries he began in 1924.

Museum Founder Dies (continued on page 3)

AMERICAN PRECISION MUSEUM



Shops of Robbins & Lawrence Company in Windsor, Vermont in 1849.



WAR WHOOP AND TOMAHAWK broken to harness by Ernest Harold Baynes in 1905. Photo courtesy of Cornish Historical Society.

# Ernest Harold Baynes

By Virginia Colby

Ernest Harold Baynes was born May 1, 1868 in Calcutta, India, the son of John and Helen Augusta (Nowill) Baynes. His father was in Calcutta engaged in a foreign shipping business, but returned to England with his family and eventually emigrated to the United States and settled in Westchester County, New York, where he believed he could find a greater scope for his talents. He had a very inventive mind and perfected many processes connected with photography, which later would prove to be of great assistance in the career of Ernest Harold Baynes.

As a young child animals held a very strong fascination for him. Upon leaving College of the City of N.Y. he worked as a reporter for the New York Times while continuing his interest in nature. By 1900 Baynes was lecturing and writing magazine articles on wildlife. He wrote nature articles, illustrating many of them with his own photographs, for the New York Herald, Country Life in America, Nature Magazine, Scribner's Magazine, and Century Magazine. In 1901 he married Louise Birt O'Connell of Boston. They moved to Stonham, Mass. where Baynes continued writing and observing wildlife.

The Blue Mountain Forest Reservation in Sullivan County, N.H. was established by Austin Corbin in 1890, comprised of 24,000 acres surrounded by a fence eight and one half feet high and thirty-six miles long. The park contained herds of deer, elk, wild boar, buffalo and a large variety of birds. Austin Corbin learned of Baynes' wish to settle near such a reservation, and offered him a house and the use of the park. The house was situated in the north-western section of the park, about two miles from Meriden Village. The Bayneses occupied the house which they called "Sunset Ridge" in 1904.

Baynes became acquainted with the animals in the park making friends with a wild boar, fox, bear and others; using their antics as subjects for magazine articles and books. He authored such books as Wild Bird Guests, Jimmie (a young bear), Polaris, and War Whoop and Tomahawk. The latter was a book about two buffalo calves who were broken to yoke and trained to pull carts. They were driven by him in the 1905 county fair in Claremont. Baynes championed the national campaign to save the almost extinct buffaloes, eliciting the help from President Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt had visited Corbin Park in August of 1902 on his trip to Cornish and Windsor. Baynes was instrumental in the formation of the American Bison Society in 1905, which got Congress to provide refuges and ranges for herds whose nuclei often came from Corbin Park. He had help from

outdoor bird sanctuary on September 12, 1913, with a number of the artists colony taking part or as patrons of the production. The play was attended by President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson with their daughter Margaret singing the prelude, while her sister Eleanor took the part of "Bird Spirit." A few of the more prominent people dressed as birds and acting in pantomime included Herbewrt Adams, Kenyon Cox, Mrs. A. Conger Goodyear, William Howard Hart, Stephen Parrish, Mrs. Maxwell Perkins, George Rublee, Mrs. Louis Saint-Gaudens and Ellen Shipman. Others included Eleanor Wilson, Witter Bynner, and Juliette Barrett Rublee. It was a great success and received national coverage.

In commemoration of the masque Mrs. Louis Saint-Gaudens modeled a bronze bird bath depicting the characters in the play. Architect Charles A. Platt designed a martin bird house. The following year the masque was performed at the Hotel Astor in New York City using the original cast. By 1933 when the Meriden Bird Club marked their twentieth anniversary of the first performance of Sanctuary the play had been performed hundreds of times across the country leaving in its wake 110-125 bird clubs.

Baynes decided to move out of the park and create his own sanctuary so he bought the Lewin Farm on Prospect Mountain. He dug a cellar which can still be seen (1984). He planned to fence the entire acreage, but died before he finished the house.

When Baynes returned from his long campaign for the birds in the fall of 1916, he rented the house artist Everett Shinn had built in 1902 in Plainfield. Some of his good friends, Percy MacKaye, Herbert Adams, William Howard Hart and Louis Evan Shipman were all nearby. He was also a short distance from the one hundred and eighty acres he had bought on Prospect Mountain.

Baynes became embroiled in the vivisection controversy which consumed much of his time and energy. When he read of the cruelties of vivisection he was ready to fight. He wisely studied all sides of the matter so he would prove effective against an unnecessary and cruel practice. In pursuing this study he discovered that the anti-vivisection literature was distorted, untruthful and out of date. He realized within his own family that with the knowledge later obtained by means of animal experimentation his little brother might have lived. Baynes took up the cause of animal experimentation. For while he had difficulty getting a publisher to print his articles. Finally, the Woman's Home Companion had the courage to print his articles and expose the untruths the anti-vivisection societies were promoting.

He was instrumental in organizing, in the fall of 1925, the "Friends of Medical Progress." Baynes' opinion was that animals could be used for medical research in a very humane way, without pain and suffering, to the benefit of mankind.

Baynes' syndicated newspaper columns appeared in newspapers across the country entertaining and educating the public in the ways of nature. His magazine articles were illustrated with his remarkable photographs, most of which were taken in Meriden and Corbin Park.

Baynes died in Meriden, N.H. on January 21, 1925, having lived in the Plainfield Meriden area 21 years. The following spring his ashes were sprinkled over his favorite spot in Blue Mountain Park.

# Cornish hopes to baffle beaver

By GEORGE CHAPPELL

Contributing Writer

CORNISH — The board of selectmen is trying to outsmart local beavers by installing baffles in their dams in a project that is likely to take two years to complete.

For the past few Sundays, selectman William Gallagher, members of the conservation commission and a handful of local residents have been preparing beaver dams for installation of a water control device known as a baffle.

The baffle is a pipe through a dam that allows for water control without having to rid an area of

---

*"I prefer to call it a 'beaver deceiver.'"*

— Skip Lisle

---

beavers, according to a statement in the 2002 town report. Local officials began making plans for the beaver baffles last year and expected to begin construction of the beaver baffles this spring.

If a baffle works, a pond will not rise as a result of the blockage, Gallagher explained Friday. The

group is working on two sites on the brook flowing through the Cornish recreation area property and plans afterward to move to a site in the Jackson Road area. A dam at Tandy Brook Road was pulled down this spring.

"Beavers have caused the town a problem," Gallagher said Friday. "They block culverts, build dams in wetlands, causing ponds to rise up and threaten roads, and complicate things for farmers."

"Our goal is to make peace with the beavers," Gallagher quipped, adding that Cornish has dealt with the beaver problem for several

years.

"We have tried short-term solutions like trapping, shooting, relocating them, and pulling dams apart," he said.

"We want the beaver to remain but not block the water," he said.

According to the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension office, the beaver has both positive and negative wildlife uses. Their ability to construct and create substantial impoundments can drastically change the ecology of a wooded

(See BEAVERS - Page 1)

*East Times Jul 8, 2002*

## BEAVERS

From Page A1

and a natural marsh.

A 50-pound rodent with four oversized front teeth used in felling trees and brush, the beaver is credited with creating water fowl habitats in the state and creating food in aquatic plants growing along the edges for ducks, mallards and moose.

At the same time, the beaver's abilities can cause flooding and damage roads, forests and farm lands, according to the cooperative extension office.

This week, selectmen asked Road Agent Tom Spaulding, who just joined the project, to keep track of the time and money highway department employees spend on the baffle construction. Selectmen want to know the actual costs related to the project.

Selectman Larry Dingee said that beavers and road agents are old enemies of one another because of the road flooding problems the animals' dams create.

In addition, the town hired

Skip Lisle, a former Maine wildlife expert now living in Grafton, Vt., to be a consultant on the project.

"This is the first time we've hired someone to help us," Gallagher said.

Lisle said the pipe system he builds in the dams actually "sneaks water away from the beaver."

"They don't sense the water moving through the pipe, so they don't try to clog the leak, and the water can flow through the dam," he said.

# PROFILE: EVA BERNARD

By Georgia Croft

PLAINFIELD — The last Edsel. The last voyage of the Queen Mary. The last episode of M\*A\*S\*H.

All of these passages were noted and duly mourned or celebrated.

But the last of the one-room schoolhouses? Hardly noticed, they just gradually disappeared.

Consolidated, amalgamated, absorbed, they became part of comprehensive systems. Their students went off to larger, more modern buildings. Their functions changed to quaint housing, commercialism or curiosity.

Like her students, Eva Bernard went off to a bigger school when, in 1955, the eight one-room schoolhouses in Cornish were consolidated into a single, central building.

What Bernard remembers most about the change is a sense of relief at no longer being the only one responsible now that eight teachers were together in one building.

For the 25 preceding years, she had been the only one responsible for all of the children in the eight grades at the Tracy School in the northwest corner of Cornish, close enough to the town line that she could walk to school every day from her home in Plainfield.

It was a quarter century that began when she agreed to substitute at the school for three weeks and stayed. That was after she had given up teaching for 10 years with no intention of returning.

Looking back 55 years to the day she re-entered the classroom, Bernard guesses that, "Teaching evidently intrigued me. That's why I went back."

Bernard had not left teaching because of any particular dissatisfaction. It was just that she had started so young, and there was an urge to try other things.

Her first schoolhouse was in Plainfield.

"I was just 17 years old. I graduated from Kimball Union Academy and went right up there to Black Hill and started teaching."

She had been a boarding student at KUA, only because rural travel was so difficult and uncertain in the early 1900s.

"I came home every weekend. I could have lived at home except that getting back and forth wasn't like it is today. The road between Plainfield and Meriden wasn't paved, and they didn't plow the roads then. They just packed down the snow.

"When it melted in the spring, it all just went down into the roads and turned them into deep mud. No one could travel on them."

At KUA, she lived in Rowe House, an ell of the headmaster's house where his wife served as matron.

"She used to tell us, 'It isn't the things

you do, dear, but the things you leave undone that give you a bit of a heartache at the setting of the sun.'"

It wasn't her scholarship that led her into teaching: "I don't think I was anything extra. I think I became a teacher because I liked children."

And at Black Hill, she found that she even liked children who were bigger than she was, as were most of the seventh and eighth grade boys.

"They were the regular age for their grades. They were just big. But they weren't hard to teach. They were very interested. I never had any problems with discipline, and I think that's because they knew I liked them, so they liked me."

The year at Black Hill was followed by a year at Mascoma, and then Bernard went with her sister to work at the home of a famous landscape gardener in New York. That was where her former KUA classmate Edward Bernard finally convinced her to marry him, and she returned to Plainfield to begin raising a family.

For 10 years, Bernard occupied herself mainly with her husband and two daughters, working briefly in the office at the Sullivan Machine Co. in Claremont where her husband was employed as a design engineer for hoists.

"I thought I'd never go back to teaching until I got called to substitute for three weeks."

And that was the second beginning of a teaching career that didn't end until 1964 when Bernard retired as the teaching principal of the Cornish School.

Looking back on her years in the one-room Tracy School, Bernard says the mantle of responsibility she wore never really struck her until the schools were merged into one.

"Someway, I never thought of it. I knew I was responsible, but it didn't burden me."

Probably that's because her days were so full and interesting. With the number of students ranging from 28 to 40, a few at each grade level, and the task of teaching all subjects to each grade level plus supervising the children at all activities throughout the day, there wasn't time to worry about anything that wasn't actually happening at the moment.

Teaching them required a lot of planning, Bernard says, because children who were not having lessons had to have interesting and educational seat work to occupy them while others were being taught.

At the same time, though, the constant teaching going on in the schoolhouse gave all the children something to occupy them when their own work was



**LONG-TIME TEACHER** — Eva Bernard spent most of her long teaching career in an eight-grade, one-room schoolhouse in Cornish, one of eight that were closed when the consolidated school was built in 1955. Although she had little education beyond high school, she spent more than 34 years educating children and retired as principal of the Cornish school. (Echoes photo — Georgia Croft)

finished.

"I think the children were more interested then than they were later in single classes," Bernard says. "When they weren't in class themselves, they were hearing someone else's lessons."

"The first graders heard it over and over and over, so by the time they were eighth graders, they really had learned."

The children were actively involved in the operation of the school as well as in its educational processes.

Although there was a janitor who cleaned the outhouses and started the fire in the schoolhouse's big, square wood-burning stove each morning, the older boys went with buckets each day to a nearby farm to bring back water to fill a large, earthenware crock that kept the children supplied with drinking water all day.

They drank from cups each child brought to the school, to be kept there, marked with the child's name, and used daily.

Older children helped younger ones with their work and even helped teach some subjects.

"I'm not musical at all, but I always had children who were, so when it came to teaching music, there was always someone to help."

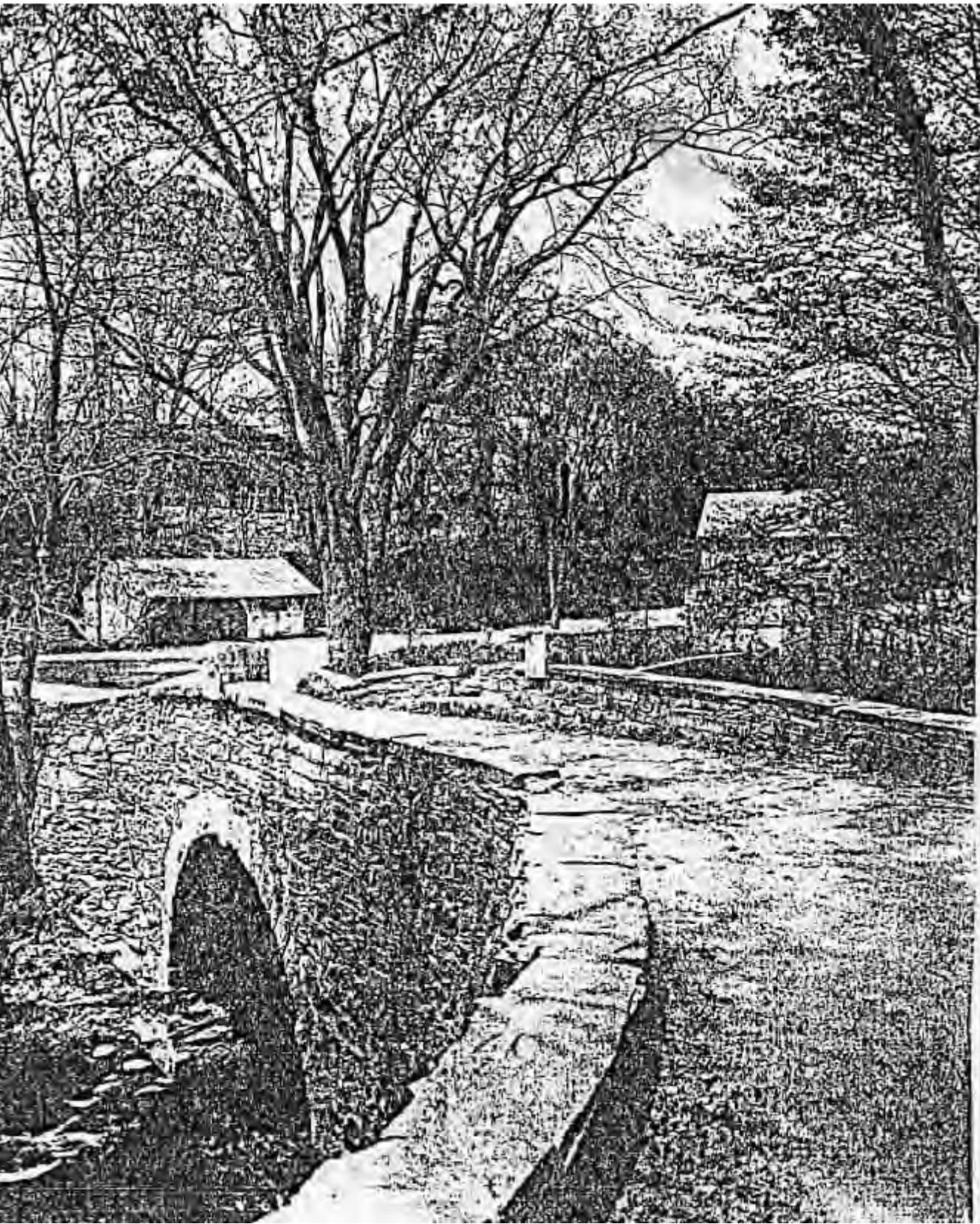
Bernard even involved the children in keeping order in the schoolroom.

"When I had a troublesome first grader, I'd seat them beside an eighth grader."

"Of course, if I had a troublesome eighth grader, I'd have to take care of him myself. But I didn't have many

BLOWME -  
DOWN  
MILL  
A D 1891





## Sudden Death of the Well-Known Lawyer.

**Charles C. Beaman**, the well-known lawyer and member of the law firm of **Evarts, Choate & Beaman**, died suddenly from heart disease, Saturday evening, at his home, No. 11 East Forty-fourth-st., New York. Mr. Beaman had been ill since Wednesday. He leaves a widow and four children,—Mrs. Edward Holmes of Boston; Misses Helen and Margaret Beaman and William E. Beaman.

Charles Cotsworth Beaman was born at Houlton, Me., May 7, 1840. He was the son of a Congregational minister, the Rev. Charles C. Beaman and his mother's maiden name was Mary A. Stacy. He was graduated from Harvard in the class of '64, and for three years he taught school in Marblehead, Mass.

He next entered the Harvard Law School, but left it at the end of two years, to become the private secretary of U. S. Senator Charles Sumner. In this place and as clerk of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, he spent several years in Washington.

It was while he was associated with Mr. Sumner that his attention was directed to the Alabama Claims controversy, and after an exhaustive study of it, he wrote in 1871, "The National and Private Alabama Claims and Their Fitful and Amicable Settlement." The following year President Grant appointed him solicitor for the United States before the Geneva Tribunal of Arbitration.

It was in 1868 that Mr. Beaman resigned his places at Washington and came to New York to begin the practice of law. In 1873 he formed a partnership with Edward Nicoll Dickerman, the famous patent lawyer, with the firm name of Dickerman & Beaman. One year later he married the daughter of William M. Evarts, but it was not until 1879 that he dissolved the firm, in order that he might enter that of Evarts, Southmayd & Choate. In 1884 the firm became as it is at present, Evarts, Choate & Beaman. At the time of his death Mr. Beaman was the active member.

In 1887 Mr. Beaman was chosen one of the overseers of Harvard University to serve six years, and to this post he was re-elected. From 1883 to 1885 he was president of the Harvard Club in New York. His other clubs are the Century, University, Union, Players, Rockaway Hunt, Commonwealth, Mendelssohn Club and Union League. He was vice-president of the Bar Association and the New England Society.

Mr. Beaman was a man of the highest position personally and socially, while professionally he ranked among the most successful lawyers. During his connection with the firm of Evarts, Choate & Beaman he rarely appeared in court. He was the consulting member, and many of the firm's great cases owe their successful determination to him.

Mr. Beaman owned a farm in Cornish, just across the Connecticut river from Windsor, where the Evarts summer home is situated.

• Beaman, Blow-Me-Down



# MISS MARY BEAMAN TO WED AUGUST 31

## Escapes Fire



**WILLIAM E. BEAMAN**

Mr. Beaman escaped with his life when fire destroyed his home at Cornish early yesterday.

# BEAMAN MANSION IS DESTROYED BY FIRE

Owner Has Narrow Escape  
from Flames; Jumps  
from Window 1926

## BUILDING HOUSED LARGE COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS

Special to The Union.  
CORNISH, Feb. 3.—William E. Beaman, former representative in the State Legislature from this town and a well known figure in Granite State political circles, was trapped by the flames at Blow-Me-Down Farm here early this morning and escaped death by leaping from a second story window into the deep snow as fire destroyed the Beaman mansion, one of the show places of the upper Connecticut valley and housing a collection of priceless paintings and art objects.

### Near Windsor.

The fire started between one and two o'clock this morning in an unoccupied section of the Beaman home, a 40-room mansion located about a mile north of the Windsor, Vt., toll bridge on the New Hampshire side of the river and comparable in interest and reputation with Winston Churchill's famous Hurlakanden House nearby, destroyed by fire two years ago.

The house had been in the Beaman family for 42 years and its contents, all of which was destroyed together with the building, included many valuable paintings, fine collections of bronze, antiques, Oriental rugs and silver and a unique collection of autographs of famous men and women.

### Aroused by Farmhand.

Mr. Beaman was aroused by a farm hand, William Wilder, but so rapidly did the fire spread that before the two could descend the stairs the lower floor and staircase were in flames. Lacking time even to throw on outside wraps, the men leaped from a second story window into a snowdrift, finding themselves scantily clad in temperature registering between 10 and 20 degrees below zero.

Mr. Beaman suffered frostbitten feet and both were badly chilled by exposure to the coldest night of the winter.

Aid was summoned from Windsor, Vt., a general alarm being sounded in that town at 2 o'clock, and firemen came through the drifts with hose and other apparatus, utilizing the farm pumping station to save the barn and other buildings.

The present owner of the property was a member of the State Legislature from this town in 1915 and 1917 and an unsuccessful candidate for the State Senate in 1919 and 1921, being defeated at the primaries on both occasions. He has taken up temporary quarters at the Windsor house in Windsor, Vt.

Mr. and Mrs. William Evarts Beaman announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Mary Stacy Beaman of Cornish and New York, to Eric Lagercrantz of Djurholm, Sweden and New York.

Miss Beaman attended Concord Academy and Princess Meatcheisky's School in Paris. She studied at the Sorbonne, Radcliffe, and Black Mountain college and for the last four years has lived in New York. She is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cotesworth Beaman of New York and of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Phelps Benjamin of Preston, Conn. She is also the great-granddaughter of the late Senator William Maxwell Evarts, Secretary of State under Hayes.

Miss Beaman came out in Boston. She is a niece of Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Holmes.

Mr. Lagercrantz is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf Lagercrantz of Djurholm, Sweden. He graduated from the School of Administration and Business of the University of Stockholm and has been connected with banking circles in Stockholm, Hamburg, Paris, and London. At present he is the American representative of the Goteborg Bank, Stockholm.

Mr. Lagercrantz's father is president of the Stockholm Mortgage Bank which was founded by his grandfather. He is the nephew of Mr. Lennart Palme of Carmel, Calif., and a great-nephew of Herman Lagercrantz, former Swedish minister to Washington.

The wedding is planned for the thirty-first of August.

The wedding of Miss Evelina Mary Marcou, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Marcou, to Gordon Albert Laurie, son of Mrs. Nora Barnes Laurie of East Barnard, Vt., was solemnized last Saturday evening, Aug. 16, at 7:30 o'clock in the Bryant Memorial Parsonage with the Rev. Marshall Eck as officiating clergyman, in the presence of the bride's family. The young people expect to live in East Thetford, Vt., where Mr. Laurie has employment.

# Lewis Estate At Cornish Set For Development, Sale—Smith

James Campbell Lewis

**CORNISH** — The 1,014-acre estate of the late James Campbell Lewis is quickly losing its individuality.

William A. Smith of Plaistead, one of the two men who bought the estate, announced Thursday that parts of the Lewis property have been or will soon be sold and that he and his partner, Nicholas Boles of Manchester, N.H., are planning a 45-acre housing development on the east side of Rt. 12-A.

Four buildings from the original Lewis complex are also being relocated.

Lewis, an eccentric millionaire recluse, died in 1970 and Smith and Boles purchased the estate's land and buildings for a quarter of a million dollars. Another consortium, also headed by Smith, purchased the Lewis antiques which were auctioned off in six sales last spring and summer.

The main house of the estate will be sold to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Stearns of Hopkinton, N.H. The 55-acre parcel will include the barn and caretaker's cottage.

## Raise Horses

Mrs. Stearns, daughter of H.P. Hood of milk and ice cream fame, raises thoroughbred horses and has future plans of establishing an exclusive riding school here. Her husband said Thursday that he plans to train race horses in

Cornish and that the road around the main house can be converted into a half-mile track.

The Stearns are erecting a 250-foot by 70-foot structure which will house an indoor riding arena and will hold 30 horses.

The so-called Cornish Gallery, a large yellow house located on Rt. 12-A north of the main Lewis complex, and 27 acres of land have been purchased by Phileas Dantos, owner of the Hotel Coolidge in White River Junction. A major renovation project is now underway at the Gallery.

William Bulkeley of Hartford, Conn., has purchased a 325-acre parcel and a 60-acre parcel of land on the south side of the St. Gaudens Road which runs northeast off Rt. 12-A.

One of the original buildings on the estate, a salt box house, is being relocated on an open field between the Connecticut River and Rt. 12-A, across the highway from the estate of L. D. Pearson. Also being relocated there will be the Lewis laundry which will be restored to its original function — A studio. Smith said five or six additional house lots could be located in the field.

A guest house within the main complex and the red building near the entrance to the Saint-Gaudens Road will be relocated on a 45-acre parcel of land on the east side of Rt. 12-A, across

the highway from the Cornish Gallery.

## Housing Project

Smith, an auctioneer and appraiser, said that he and Boles, a Queen City drug store chain owner, plan to put the housing development there, pending approval of the Cornish Planning Board.

"We don't want anything less than two acre sites — and possibly five acre sites," said Smith of the proposed development. He added that the development would have its own water works from a nearby spring.

He said there's a "hold" on the 40 acres of land which includes Blow-Me-Down Pond and Mill. Officials of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site have expressed an interest in purchasing the property for its nearby facility. Officials must receive Congressional approval to purchase the land.

Two 34-acre tracts in the pond-mill area have not yet been sold.

Smith and Boles are retaining the 25 acres along the river from the main Lewis complex south to the Windsor-Cornish covered bridge and have not yet decided what to do with this tract.

The men are also holding 50 acres of river frontage behind the Cornish Gallery and another 20 acres — the so-called Murcer Meadow.

Crews are expected to be moving the houses sometime next week.

# Antique Dealers, Collectors Pay

## \$143,000 At Cornish Auction

Blow-Me-Down Beaman  
By **SID LEAVITT**

Valley News Staff Writer

**CORNISH** — Antique dealers and collectors from two nations sat in folding chairs beneath a canvas canopy and quietly shelled out \$143,000 Friday at the first of six auctions to sell off the **James Campbell Lewis** collection.

A similar amount of money is expected to change hands today, said auctioneer William A. Smith of Plainfield, a former school teacher who now heads the syndicate which bought the early American antique collection, one of the finest in the country.

After today's sale, Smith will hold four more days of auction July 21-24 to sell the remaining antiques from the 1,000-acre estate off Rt. 12A, where Campbell, an eccentric millionaire recluse, lived 25 years before his death last summer at 82.

More than a third of the money paid out in Friday's six hours of auction went for ten 18th century Queen Anne Rhode Island chairs, sold for a total \$53,600. One of the set, the only arm chair, brought \$15,000.

### \$51,600 Haul

An anonymous New York dealer bought nine of the chairs for \$51,600.

Other top prices brought among the 300 items sold Friday were for a Queen Anne chest-on-chest, \$9,000; hickory

and pine writing chair, \$6,000, and a carved American eagle, \$5,000.

Smith said another Queen Anne arm chair and an 18th century Massachusetts block front chest, both museum quality pieces, are expected to bring top dollar in today's auction, scheduled to run from 10 a.m. until the next 300 pieces are sold.

Most of the 600-plus people who turned out for Friday's sale paid little attention to the picturesque view of Vermont's Mount Ascutney across the river from the rolling estate. Those in the shade of the canopy paid close attention to Smith's quiet auctioneer's patter, scribbling in their catalogues and making the barely perceptible head nods and hand movements by which only the moneyed buyer signals his bid.

### Curious Awe

On the fringe of the crowd, however, some particularly high bids brought noises of awe and shuffling among the local spectators.

One husky native in the gallery turned to his friend and remarked, "I'm out of the bidding. I spent my dollar on lunch."

A policeman had an animated discussion with another onlooker, then turned away and muttered, "If they can't afford the \$4 catalogue, they shouldn't be here."

Beyond the main estate house and the canopy beside it, vehicles from national moving companies stood in the parking lot, waiting to carry off a valuable purchase to the buyer's destination.

Autos in the lot carried registration plates from New England, New York, New Jersey, British Columbia...

An indication of the interest in the Lewis collection is that dealers, collectors and spectators Friday morning paid a total \$1,700 for the privilege of previewing the items to be sold. The money was donated to the Lebanon Regional Training Center for handicapped youngsters.

Smith and nine other men, formed in a corporation known as JCL Inc., bought the contents of the estate in February for a half million dollars.

Because the collection of early Americana couldn't be insured in full, the group split it up into smaller collections, stored them in various safe places, and finally got all-risk insurance from Lloyds of London.

If the remaining five days of auction keep pace with the opening day, JCL Inc. stands to gross more than \$800,000, or 160 per cent of its original investment.

Smith also is a member of another consortium which recently bought the Lewis real estate at a quarter million dollars.

Lewis, a retired corporation executive, spent a lifetime collecting rare and valuable antiques. His wife, also a noted collector of and expert on antiques, was known in her earlier years as a New York dress designer, credited with the costumes for "Gone With the Wind."

Toward the end of his life, Lewis rarely was seen by neighbors in Cornish, preferring to remain at his mansion behind locked doors.

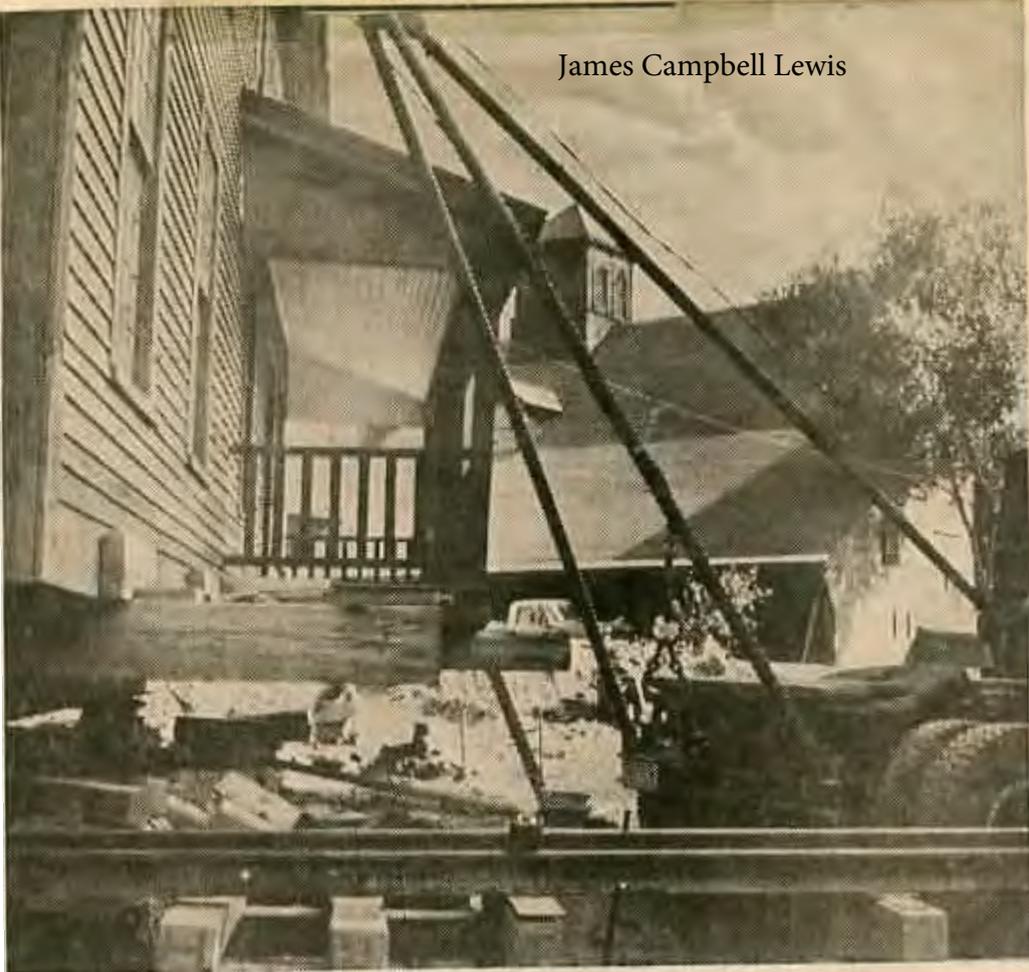
He kept hunters and fishermen off his property, even taking ads in local newspapers to threaten prosecution of trespassers.



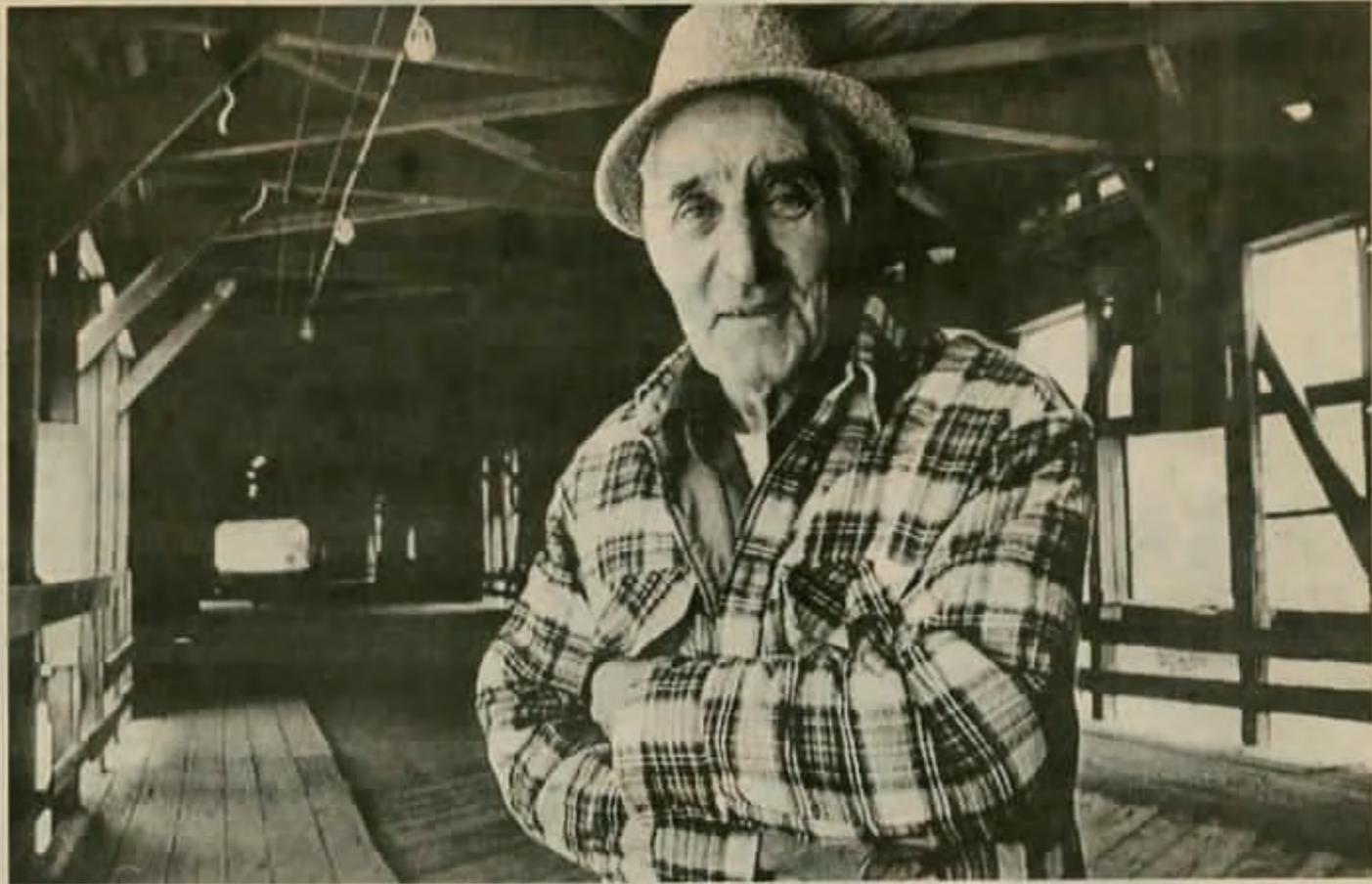
Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or a reference, including the word "LEAVITT" written vertically.

Friday, October 22, 1971

James Campbell Lewis



**ON THE MOVE** — A salt box house on the former Cornish estate of the late James Campbell Lewis is readied for relocation. William A. Smith of Plainfield, one of the owners of the property, announced plans for the development and sale of the 1,014-acre estate Thursday. (News



AP

Graton, the likely restorer of the Cornish-Windsor Bridge, poses in a bridge in Bath, N.H., which he's fixing.

# The Covered Bridge Man

Milton Graton

# Milton Graton Dedicates His Life To Preserving History

By GEORGE ESPER

AP Special Correspondent

ASHLAND, N.H. — Stoop-shouldered, shuffling along, Milton Graton is the last of a kind, a legacy of a fading Americana he's dedicated to preserving.

At age 78, when most people have retired, he is still building and restoring covered bridges.

In the last 30 years, he has put up seven and renovated 25 more in the Northeast, including New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and New York.

Graton also has been a consultant on plans for restoring the 121-year-old Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge, and is considered the likely choice for restoring the bridge with money approved the state Senate yesterday. The project will be sent out for bids, but only to bonafide experts on old covered bridges, of which there are very few.

"I think he's fabulous," says Marion Meyer, of Norton, Mass., president of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc. "He's the only person in the country who knows how to repair wooden covered bridges."

Only 893 authentic and historic covered bridges remain in the United States, according to the 1980 edition of the *World Guide To Covered Bridges*, the latest available. Six states account for more than three-fourths of these bridges: Pennsylvania, 231; Ohio, 157; Indiana, 103; Vermont, 100; Oregon 54; and New Hampshire 52.

Meyer says members of the society and historians estimate there were about 10,000 authentic covered bridges in the United States at the turn of the century.

"We lose some through arson," she says. "We lost a lot of them because they were on roads that had to be heavily traveled and public authorities didn't think twice about destroying them. The New England bridges especially were built for one-way traffic, although five double-barreled ones are left in the country."

Graton is doing his best to save this piece of vanishing Americana for future generations. Until six years ago, he rose before the sun and worked well into the night, as late as 9 p.m. Now he quits about supper time. He has taken two days' vacation in two years. But his wife, Doris, understands. She is a partner in the business, taking care of the books.

Of his work, he says, "I have nothing better to do. I have to keep busy doing something and I can accomplish as much as I did 10 years ago. . . ."

His reward is a sense of accomplishment — saving "a bridge that's almost ready to fall into the river."

His workshop, in three barns behind his home, is a museum of the past. The barns are filled with sawdust and timbers, a 40-foot trailer for hauling the timbers, a 1949 International truck, a 1955 Caterpillar tractor and antique tools his grandfather handed down, including a chisel more than 100 years old and an adz, an axlike tool for smoothing wood.

He works on his word, preferring no government contracts and no bonds.

"And none of their specifications either. They're not going to write a mess of stuff that they don't know what they're talking about and have us follow their specifications. They know what they read in a book someplace but they can't tell a piece of green wood from a piece of dry wood."

The only specifications he follows are those of the bridges built as far back as 160 years ago.

Working in the rigging business after World War II, he was asked to move a bridge that had been closed and ended up buying it for \$50.

"I had to take it out of the river even though I had no use for it," he recalls. "That was the first experience I had. When I took it apart, the joints all looked nice and white after 100 years. I thought the stuff should be saved. When you can see the traces of good workmanship all through it, you shouldn't let their work go

to hell."

He has learned not by doing but by undoing.

"You undo the work of the old masters and see how they left it 100 years ago and they went home and died. It's nice to admire what they did. Make a new piece for a broken one or rotted piece, to replace that piece."

Graton's work is so revered for its gracefulness that he currently has three-quarters of a million dollars in business. "Even if you're a pick and shovel man, you should have some eye for grace."

He says a typical rebuilding job would cost about a quarter of a million dollars, depending on how big the bridge is. Two of the bridges he is currently working on that fall into this range, he says, are a 400-foot bridge in Bath, N.H., and a 124-foot bridge in Ware, Mass. Working under his close supervision are eight carpenters and laborers.

While driving around, Graton stops at his bridges to look after them, cleaning away the dirt holding the moisture that threatens to rot away the wood.

At one stop, he inspects the 292-foot Blair Bridge in Campton, N.H., not far from his home. He rebuilt the 118-year-old bridge in 1975.

"See how that car rides smoothly," he says as an auto passes through. "If you went through with a pickup before we fixed it, you couldn't stay on the seat. It was in terrible shape. We put in all new timbers on the bottom that cross the bridge from one side to the other and all new floor planking. Wherever it was sagged down, we overhauled it."

Another stop is the 66-foot Bump Bridge, also in Campton, which he built with his 50-year-old son, Arnold, a partner and his heir apparent — though Graton has no plans to retire.

"My wife says I'll stop climbing around when I get to be 80. I'll keep on doing the same thing. I'll be grounded, that's all. You work without climbing."

# Cornish bridge needs repairs

## Blacksmith Shop Covered Bridge

Dear Editor:

The Cornish Historical Society is pleased to be presently working towards restoring the Blacksmith Covered Bridge of Townhouse Road in Cornish. Graton Associates of Ashland, New Hampshire, well-known experts on covered bridge repair, has given us an estimate of \$12,200. The vertical posts and lateral bracing, walls, roof and floor need to be repaired or replaced to open the bridge to vehicle traffic.

Cornish is fortunate to be the home of four covered bridges, all of which are listed in the National Registrar of Historic Places. The Blacksmith Covered Bridge is an excellent example of multiple kingpost bridge truss construction. It was built by James Tasker who was born in Cornish and who also built the Cornish-Windsor bridge across the Connecticut River.

We have applied to the State Historic Preservation Office for federal funds in the amount of \$6100. If we get the grant, we will have to raise matching funds to reach the total of \$12,200. However, since President Reagan has cut back on federal financial support of historic preservation, it seems unlikely that we will get the grant, which means that we'll have to raise the full amount.

The Preservation Office in Concord sent us a list of some sources of foundation funding for preservation projects. We have sent letters to each foundation asking for financial support. We were very pleased to receive \$500 from Eva-Gebhard-Gourgard Foundation in New York.

We still have a long way to go to reach the \$12,200. We'd like the public to be aware of our fund raising efforts, to enlist any help we can--financial or otherwise. We have been told by Mr. Graton that if much more time passes, the bridge will be beyond repair. It was recently the victim of vandalism. Before the bridge finally rots away or is destroyed, we felt we had to try to let the public know what is happening here. It would be a shame for this grand historic site to collapse from neglect and a lack of funds for repair.

Caroline Storrs

Secretary

Cornish Historical Society



**BRIDGE DEDICATION** — The Blacksmith Shop Covered Bridge was re-opened during a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony in Cornish Sunday. (Photo by Brad Hills)

## Cornish Covered Bridge Reopened

By BRAD HILLS

**Union Leader Correspondent**  
**CORNISH** — The 102-year-old Blacksmith Shop Covered Bridge was re-opened to non-vehicular traffic during a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony Sunday afternoon.

The 96-foot-long bridge of multiple kingpost truss design was repaired during the summer by Milton S. Graton Associates of Ashland, nationally recognized covered bridge builders.

"I stand in support of this type of restoration throughout the state of New Hampshire," said District One Executive Councillor Raymond S. Burton of Bath during the program that was sponsored by the Cornish Historical Society.

Also on hand was Majority Whip Sara M. Townsend of Meriden, who represents Cornish in the State House. "I salute Cornish for this restoration," Mrs. Townsend said.

The span, which has also been known as Kenyon Hill covered bridge, was situated near a former blacksmith shop. It is located in Cornish City on the Town House Road and spans Mill Brook.

The bridge was built in 1881 by James F. Tasker, a Cornish resident who could neither read nor write. Tasker is also credited with building the three other covered bridges that are situated in the Sullivan County community.

Tasker's great-grandnephew, a resident of Connecticut, attended yesterday's ceremony and was introduced with other guests by Caroline Storrs of the historical society.

The Blacksmith Shop Covered Bridge was named to the National Register of Historic Places on June 3, 1978.

Graton was awarded a \$30,000 contract to repair the Blacksmith Shop and nearby Dingleton Hill covered bridges this summer.

Graton Associates jacked up the bridge and relaxed its stresses, repaired its stone abutments, leveled the bridge and installed new bearing shoes, repaired and replaced deteriorated floor joists, truss members and other structural components, replaced the plank flooring and sidewall sheathing and improved roadway ramps or approaches.

Graton, who was present yesterday, is still working on the Dingleton Hill bridge.

Aid for the restoration of the two bridges was provided by the New Hampshire Historic Preservation Office, the Putnam Foundation, the Cecil Howard Charitable Trust, the Eva Gebhard-Gourgaud Foundation and the Town of Cornish.

Cornish Selectmen Cheston Newhold, Michael Yatsevitch and Myron Quimby participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the conclusion of the dedication.

Sunday, December 16, 2001



**READY FOR RESTORATION** — A contract has been signed for the restoration of the Blow-Me-Down Covered Bridge in Cornish. (Ruth Rollins photo)

## Cornish selectmen sign contract for bridge work

By **RUTH ROLLINS**  
Contributing Writer

**CORNISH** — Cornish selectmen have signed a contract with Richard Thompson of Sunrise Woodworks to restore the Blow-Me-Down Covered Bridge at Squag City, in the North end of Cornish. The bridge has been closed to vehicular traffic for several months.

The company will be responsible for furnishing all the labor, material and

equipment necessary to restore the bridge, using materials acceptable within the trade.

A payment of \$70,000 will be done in several segments, including engineering reports, completion of truss repairs, floor repairs, abutment work and upon completion of a successful inspection by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

Work should be completed by Oct. 1, 2002.

John Tasker

Hillsborough

Hyland E. Tasker

his wife  
from marriage  
Columbia Conn

Houghton, Wally Wallis  
Elsie, Clarence  
Government

Richard Roy Bridge Assoc  
N.H. Covered Valley Covered  
Conn. River Bridge Assoc.

Peter Burling

THE UNION LEADER, MANCHESTER, N.H.



AS DIGNITARIES and spectators crowd around, a 1915 Model-T Ford carrying Phillip Burling and Jean K. Burling, the state's first woman district

## Tasker Bridge in Cornish Reopened After Five Years

By JIM LINEHAN

Union Leader Correspondent

CORNISH — The 103-year-old Tasker Covered Bridge over Blow-Me-Down Brook was reopened Sunday.

About 100 people braved the cold and wind to attend the 2 p.m. ceremony. They heard Town Moderator Peter Burling make note of the need to "keep

faith with our heritage."

The bridge on Mill Road was built in 1877 for \$528 by James F. Tasker. Two of his descendants were present at yesterday's ceremony. John Tasker, 81, of Hillsborough is a nephew of the bridge builder and Hyland Tasker of Columbia, Conn., a second cousin.

The bridge was declared unsafe

about five years ago. Milton and Arnold Graton of Ashland, nationally recognized covered bridge builders, worked about three months on its restoration.

The \$4,000 restoration was made possible with the aide of funds from the New Hampshire Historic Preservation Office, the town of Cornish, the Corn-

ish Historical Society and private contributors.

Selectman Myron Quimby cut the ribbon to reopen the 91-foot span and the first car to roll across was a 1915 Model-T Ford carrying Phillip Burling and Jean K. Burling, the state's first woman district court judge.

# Saint-Gaudens contributor honored

Eric Lagercrantz, Max Blumberg

WINDSOR — Last weekend Bertha Frothingham hosted the visit of Eric Lagercrantz of New York, a donor to the Windsor Library in memory of his wife, Mary Beaman, Bertha's cousin of Cornish.

On Sunday afternoon, Aug. 27, Lagercrantz was honored for another contribution, also in memory of his late wife, which made it possible for the trustees of Saint-Gaudens Memorial to purchase the Blowmedown farm two years ago. The purchase included 50 acres overlooking the Connecticut River.

Since then, John Dryfoot, curator of Augustus Saint-Gaudens Historic Site in Cornish, researched and subsequently published a book on the Beaman family, also made possible in part by Lagercrantz. The limited edition of "This Land of Pure Delight" was premiered at the well-attended reception held next to the accompanied exhibit at the gallery last Sunday.

The 150-page book covers the life of Charles C. Beaman (1840-1900), who was founder of the Cornish Art Colony, and his New Hampshire country estate, Blowmedown Farm. The connection with Windsor and Bertha Frothingham is the Evarts family: Hettie Sherman Everts, daughter of New York Sen. William M. Evarts, married Charles C. Beaman. Mary Beaman Lagercrantz was Charles Beaman's granddaughter.

Poet Frank Anthony of Windsor interviewed Lagercrantz to commemorate the Lagercrantz-Beaman contributions and their connection to the Cornish Art Colony. The interview will be archived in Dartmouth College's special collections at Rauner Library, along with others representing 20 years of documented celebrities from Margaret Mead to Archibald Cox and C. Everett Koop. Anthony was founding producer of the spoken word for Vermont Public Radio.

A short version of Anthony's interview follows:

Frank Anthony: When did you first come to this country from Sweden and why did you choose to come to the United States?

Eric Lagercrantz: That was in 1939. I had been spending a year each in, first, Paris, then in Hamburg, Germany and then in London and Scotland, improving my knowledge of international banking. And gradually I felt that now I only had America to



Eric Lagercrantz listens while Max Blumberg, a trustee of Saint-Gaudens Memorial, formally accepts a gift in memory of Lagercrantz's wife, Mary Beaman. The gift made it possible for the Saint-Gaudens Memorial to purchase Blowmedown Farm, the property that had been owned by her grandfather, Charles C. Beaman. (Photo courtesy of Susan Anthony)

add to that list of training.

FA: What was the heritage of your grandparents in the old country, as you remember it, maybe in a special way?

EL: I had a wonderful grandfather, my mother's father, who had developed a new bank in Stockholm. He gave all of his interest at that time, then later on became interested in planning a new subsidiary outside of Stockholm, and he knew that America was way ahead when it came to planning subsidiaries outside large towns. So he visited the United States twice to learn about how subsidiaries should be organized and then started one outside of Stockholm in town called Djursholm. That is where I was born in 1911.

FA: His influence made a difference in the way you shaped your destiny.

EL: Yes, indeed. When I came over here in 1939, I had an interest in a new development in the field of business accounting ... that is when I met my wife in 1939. How we then got married and how we developed a whole new acquaintance, the family tie, which also led us to Cornish. Her parents were living in Cornish at Blowmedown Farm. Just across the river from Windsor.

FA: What has given you the

greatest satisfaction in your life?

EL: Well, I think it was the very fact that I could have come over here and find out a little more about what my grandfather had so interested in, in American subsidiaries of towns, of communities, but the most important impression was received through my wife's family here in Cornish. It was, I think, something that I would not have experienced.

FA: What was it like with your schooling in Sweden?

EL: When you go through your school you end up with what they call student qualification. And you wear a white cap. But then I found it necessary to go through a school of business and administration after my school, and that was important in order to be confident in handling and working in banks. From there it all became practical experience, training and working in a number of different banks.

FA: Do you believe in life after death, and if you do, how do you value earthy love as compared to the love of the creator?

EL: I certainly believe in life after death and can only say that it is very much influenced by my deep interest in anthroposophy. I became a follower of

the anthroposophical movement in Europe. I became acquainted with Steiner's books (Rudolf Steiner) back already in 1919 when I worked in Hamburg. This has been a continuing interest in my life. I look upon anthroposophy as a wonderful gift that more and more people are becoming acquainted with. But it takes a long time for a movement like anthroposophy to spread around the world.

FA: I believe that is the first time I have heard of the word. It must be more European.

EL: It is indeed very European. Steiner was a German philosopher and he graduated at an institution in Austria where he grew up and then later on in Germany. Unfortunately Steiner died in 1924, but he lived long enough to inspire a very large group of interested, what you might call believers. It is today very well known. Anthroposophy is something that a number of people here in the United States are interested in, and are aware of, and it is also an important movement to most Europeans. It is completely, what you would call, philosophical.

FA: But they do believe in life after death?

EL: Indeed they do, and they can give you a great deal more other than understanding what that is, life after death, and all that surrounds us living human beings.

FA: What would you tell young people they should do to have a worthwhile life?

EL: What one should become aware of is that there is nothing unimportant that happens to an individual that is not going to be of consequence to his and his surroundings. Therefore you must always be aware of the importance of learning as much as possible about your surroundings. That is my feeling.

FA: How do you feel about the book on the Beaman family?

EL: I'm very thrilled about it.

FA: What do you feel to be the most important aspect that is to be learned from preserving the material and keeping it for the future?

EL: I think the very fact that this book has now been written and published by John Dryfoot will really leave a very vivid impression of how both Windsor and Cornish developed over the end of last century, or should I say, the end of the 1800s and the first half of 1900s.

# Nonprofit Donates 43-Acre Farm to Saint-Gaudens Historic Site



Blow-Me-Down Farm in Cornish has been donated to the nearby Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, on Route 12A. One of the farm's previous owners is said to have persuaded sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens to move to the area. VALLEY NEWS — JENNIFER HAUCK

## In Cornish, a Gift and a Burden

By BRET YAGER

Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — The Saint-Gaudens Historic Site has accepted the donation of the 43-acre Blow-Me-Down Farm, which previously belonged to a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the memory of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the famed sculptor.

Saint-Gaudens Superintendent Rick Kendall called the farm a great asset with lots of potential, but said the National Park Service has yet to formulate a plan for its nine buildings, fields and Connecticut River frontage across Route 12A from the Blow-Me-Down Hill and the historic site.

Cornish residents greeted the transfer with

mixed reactions: Some lauding the effort to preserve history for the greater good; others lamenting the loss of \$17,000 in annual property taxes.



Kendall

A variety of possible uses for the property have been batted around, said Kendall, who took over as head of Saint-Gaudens in January. The farm could give room for an expanded sculptor-in-residence program, and the large red barn could be fitted for studios. The massive mansion could also house artists and sculptors in residence, he said, and the old dance hall could be a community meet-

ing space, but not until suitable heating is installed. River access for canoes and leasing the land to an outside vendor are also on the table.

The property will be open sporadically for walking tours while the plan is formulated, and during a commemoration and deed transfer ceremony July 11.

The farm was the residence of Charles Beaman, a New York City attorney who introduced Saint-Gaudens to the area and helped establish the Cornish Colony, a group of artists, writers, musicians and art patrons who gathered from the 1880s through the 1930s. The Saint-Gaudens Memorial, a nonprofit formed 90 years ago to maintain a living

# Cornish Nonprofit Donates Blow-Me

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

memorial to the sculptor, acquired Blow-Me-Down Farm in 1998. Plans for the transfer, announced this week, have been in the works for months.

In 2007, the Saint-Gaudens Memorial requested proposals for uses of the farm. While the proposals ran the gamut, none resonated with the memorial, Kendall said.

One thing is clear: The buildings — including the red barn, the Chauncey cottage, a dance hall, butler building and blacksmith shop — will need a great deal of restoration work, the exact scope and cost of which is yet to be determined.

"Taking on management of the additional structures is not going to be cheap, but it's going to greatly enhance the value of the site," Kendall said.

Townhouse Road resident George Aldrich worried about the cost of project, but from a slightly different perspective.

"I hate to see something taken off the tax rolls because my tax rate goes up," said Aldrich. "I'm kind of skeptical when people donate property, because every time it costs money, no matter how you look at it."

To plug that gap in taxes, a five-acre portion

of the original 48 acres was subdivided and will be sold for residential use, Kendall said.

The parcel in the property's northern corner is on a bench above the river. A one-time, change-of-use tax was assessed on the five acres, to the tune of \$9,000.

The property won't generate the taxes that the farm did, but with a house on the land, it should generate substantial revenue for the town, former Selectboard Chairwoman and current Cornish resident Merilynn Bourne said, noting that she would personally have preferred a conservation easement that kept the larger farm parcel on the tax rolls and also guaranteed its continuation as a working farm.

"But I think the park plan will keep it pretty much as it is," Bourne said.

Don Snowden, a member of the town's conservation commission, called the Blow-Me-Down Farm an integral part of Saint-Gaudens, and said he's glad it won't be broken up and sold.

"There's always people that think everything should be on the tax rolls, but they don't look at the common good," Snowden said. "It will become part of the national

## Blow-Me-Down Farm to Saint-Gaudens Historic Site



Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site Superintendent Rick Kendall walks by Blow-Me-Down Farm in Cornish yesterday. The farm has been donated to the site. VALLEY NEWS — JENNIFER HAUCK

overwhelmingly not in favor of the plan."

Bourne also recalled the rumors of paved parking lots and masses of tour buses. The fears never materialized; the visitor center was never built.

But worries about long-term plans for the area appear to have lingered for some.

"It would have a significant impact on the town and we'd love to have some input," Hammond said.

Kendall said the site's long-term management plan, created in 1996, may be amended. And while it is too early to know what form the collaboration will take, the community and Selectboard will have a seat at the table when the fate of the Blow-Me-Down farm is determined, he said.

The future of the property will be decided, he said "by a large cast of individuals."

*Bret Yager can be reached at [byager@vnews.com](mailto:byager@vnews.com), or 603-727-3209.*

park system, and that's a good use for it."

Selectboard Chairman John Hammond said there are questions about what preservation should mean.

"In the mid 1990s, they came out with a

long-term plan to turn the Blow-Me-Down Mill into a visitors center, really changing the feeling of the property," Hammond said. "The Selectboard held a hearing and there was a pretty strong turnout, and people were



*Opera North, Blow-Me-Down Farm*

COURTESY

Blow-Me-Down Farm at St. Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish. The dance hall and casino are seen in this National Park Service photograph.

# Opera North selects architect for Blow-Me-Down Farm preservation project

CORNISH — Opera North has selected architect R. Andrew Garthwaite, AIA of the Norwich, Vermont-based firm Haynes & Garthwaite to undertake the preservation and rehabilitation of the historic Charles C. Beaman House at Blow-Me-Down Farm in Cornish.

Under an agreement forged last summer between Opera North and the National Park Service, Opera North is responsible for stabilizing and repairing the Beaman farmhouse, parts of which date to the late 1700s, in order to adapt the building for future use as a base for Opera North's activities at Blow-Me-Down Farm.

"I particularly value the buildings and landscape of New England and seek to reinforce the sense of place in each design and look forward to returning the Beaman House to its former life as a center of music, performance and delight," Garthwaite said in a press release.

The first phase of Garthwaite's work will address issues related to the current condition of the building and the preservation of the historic site, including improving drainage, repairing deterioration, and making it more weather-resistant. The scope of the work will also include addressing ADA compliance to make the building safer to use for all members of the public.

Phase Two of the project will focus on reviewing and updating systems, including electrical, plumbing and roofing, as well as limited interior repairs.

An Upper Valley native, Garthwaite is a graduate of Haverford College and the Yale University School of Architecture. He worked in London for the renowned British architect John Simpson before returning to the Upper Valley as partner in Haynes & Garthwaite. The firm works with a wide variety of clients and projects, with special affinity for the local historical and material culture of New Hampshire and Vermont towns. Recent projects include comprehensive renovations of the 1928 Federal-style Dartmouth College President's Residence, the restoration of the Lyme Academy exterior to its 1838 appearance and the rehabilitation of the interior for use as an historical society museum and community arts center (winner of the 2002 New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Preservation Achievement Award).

The firm also handled the restoration of two important Cornish Colony artists' residences, including a classical house, studio, gardens and grounds designed by Charles Platt in 1896, using the same materials, details and themes as the original to preserve and honor Platt's work while accommodating new use.

In making the announcement, General Director Evans Haile said, "In addition to his commitment to the natural and built landscape of the Upper Valley and his award-winning results, Andrew has devoted time to talent to many historical projects in the area. We

are delighted that he has joined our exciting next chapter at Blow-Me-Down Farm."

Blow-Me-Down Farm, adjacent to the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, was the historic home of Charles C. Beaman, a New York City lawyer responsible for bringing Augustus Saint-Gaudens and many others to Cornish. The result was the Cornish Colony, an extraordinary group of visual artists, writers, architects, landscape designers, musicians, and others who lived and worked in Cornish and nearby Plainfield from 1885 until 1935. The group included such notable people as Maxfield Parrish, Ethel Barrymore, Percy Mackaye, Ellen Shipman, Paul Manship, Charles Adams Platt, and novelist Winston Churchill.

Opera North is a premier professional summer music festival of the Upper Valley. Founded in 1982 and based in Lebanon, New Hampshire, it is the only full-time professional opera company in the tri-state area of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Summerfest 2018 - Opera North's 36th season - will run July 13 to Aug. 11 and will feature an immersive circus-themed show, "Singers & Swingers," at Blow-Me-Down Farm in Cornish, two mainstage productions - Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffmann" and Rossini's "Barber of Seville" - at Lebanon Opera House, and a series of concerts at landmark locations around New Hampshire and Vermont. For more details, visit at [www.operanorth.org](http://www.operanorth.org) or call (603) 448-1141.

# Saint-Gaudens Proposal for Blow-Me-Down Mill i

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

that collapsed in 1967 to make a meeting spot for people interested in learning more about the flora and fauna of the area.

It would also create what Dryfhout characterized as much-needed office space on the second floor of the mill, along with a parking area to the north and a walking trail to make the area more accessible to Saint-Gaudens visitors. It would also have bathroom facilities to accommodate visitors.

The mill now is used for storage.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$527,000, and park officials have applied to the state of New Hampshire Scenic Byway program for a \$421,000 grant to help fund the project, with the remaining \$106,000 to come from park service money. The proposal to convert the mill isn't the only plan under consideration.

During the two-hour meeting, Dryfhout and his staff presented a series of options for the property.

The options include leaving it untouched, renovating the building for limited use, and lastly — the plan that seemed to be favored by the park service — to reconstruct the ell, renovate the building and create the environmental center that's been envisioned since the presentation of the park's general management plan that was published in 1996.

The plan, contained in a book-size document, lays out options for the expansion of Saint-Gaudens, which was the home and studio of noted 19th-century sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The \$10.6 million proposal has met with concern from some area residents, who over the last few years have said that the plan to more than double the size of the park would be out of character for the site.

Despite the fact that the park service outlined the future use of the mill in its management plan, many in the audience objected to what they thought was the suddenness of

the proposal and perceived aggressiveness of the park service in trying to push through the plan.

"My perception of this is this is a done deal," said Margaret Cassidy of Plainfield. "You are here to tell us what you are going to do."

Dryfhout denied that the plan had been finalized. "I can honestly say we are just starting this process and we are looking for feedback at this point," Dryfhout said.

Jim Brown, a neighbor of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, said he supports the park, is proud of it and enjoys being a neighbor.

However, he said he does not support the conversion of the mill because he believes it will change the park's character.

"It is small, quiet and delightful and I think it should stay that way," Brown said. "This project is undiscussed, unplanned and unwarranted."

Peter Burling, a Cornish resident

LOCAL & REGIONAL — PAGE A9

## s Panned

and a representative to the New Hampshire House representing Cornish and Plainfield, said that it might be better to wait to develop the educational and visitors center until another site can be found, perhaps on the Connecticut River side of Route 12A.

"It's a beautiful spot," Burling said of the mill and the adjacent pond. "It should be left a beautiful spot."

Burling said that he had many residents call him to voice disapproval and urge him to help oppose the project. "I was completely in the dark about what was being planned," Burling said. "I got calls from people who said something was going on and they wanted me to stop it."

Burling, who is a member of the Cornish volunteer fire department, said the town might not be able to handle the extra burden additional visitors could put on the police and fire departments — especially in light of the fact, he said, that the federal government won't pay for ser-

vices needed to accommodate additional visitors.

Cornish resident Bob Michaels said he was confused why the park service would want to change the park's focus from concentrating on an artist and his home to becoming an environmental center that would include a visitors' center as well.

"I appreciate (the park) for what it is," he said. "My concern is for what it might become." He added that converting the mill would distract from the area's natural beauty.

The only person to speak in favor of the proposal was Cornish resident Ned Swanberg, who said he was a naturalist who favored the study of the natural resources afforded and protected by the national park.

"It is an outstanding site for an ecology center," Swanberg said. The presence of a variety of flora and fauna in a natural setting, plus an existing building and room for the ell addition where a prior building sat, also lent itself to the suitability of the

site for the park service's proposal.

"It would be a great site," Swanberg said. "I think it would be great to take advantage of a beautiful setting."

Dryfhout said it will likely take about three months or more to make a decision on what alternatives would be best to pursue, during which the public comments from the meeting as well as any written statements the public may submit to the National Park Service will be considered.

Additionally, there will have to be a study conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act, and an archaeological study will also have to be completed before any construction can be done.

"This is not something that will happen overnight," Dryfhout said. He said some park service projects take upward of five years before they receive funding and are completed.

"It was important for this meeting to take place," Dryfhout said. "With this information, we will continue with the process."



John Dryfout stands in front of the Blow-Me-Down mill in Cornish, which he had hoped to convert into a hydroelectric generating station. (Valley News—Tom Wolfe)

## Hopes Dim For Blow-Me-Down Power

By RICK MINARD  
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — Converting the historic Blow-Me-Down Mill on Route 12A into a hydroelectric generating station does not make good economic sense, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) concludes.

The dam could produce about 244,450 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year, but it would lose money for the first 12 or 13 years of its 30-year life.

John Dryfout, the mill's manager, had hoped for a more positive outlook when he asked DOE to do a "paper reconnaissance" study of the dam's power potential. The results of the study were announced this week.

A paper reconnaissance study of-

fers rough estimates of the costs and benefits of hydro development. It is based on photographs, and written descriptions of the dam and its water supplies. DOE makes no on-site investigations for these preliminary reports.

The Blow-Me-Down Mill and dam are owned by the National Park Foundation and are supervised by the National Park Service as part of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site.

Dryfout, the site's superintendent, envisioned generating electricity in the mill to reduce electricity bills in the Saint-Gaudens mansion and studios. One building that houses some of the artists' sculptures has to

be air conditioned at a cost of \$200 per month, Dryfout said.

Although the preliminary study showed the dam would not be worth restoring, Dryfout said he hasn't given up on the project.

"I'm going to pursue it," he said. "It would be a great teaching thing, too."

The mill building was built in 1891 to grind grain into flour. The dam was washed away in the hurricane of 1938, Dryfout said and was replaced a few years later. The new dam apparently did not include the channels and gates needed to operate a mill or generate

(Continued on Page 8)

— DAM

(Continued from Page 1)  
electricity, however, and the dam's owners gave most of the heavy equipment inside to the government's scrap metal salvage operation during World War II.

The present dam is about 14 feet high. The Army Corps of Engineers lists its drainage area as 28 square miles, a figure which yields an annual average flow rate of 56 cubic feet of water over the dam each second.

Those figures determine the dam's maximum power potential: 56 kilowatts, according to the DOE report. In the course of a year, the dam could turn generators about half the time and produce about 244,450 kWh.

The report estimates that purchasing and installing turbines, generators and all the other equipment needed to produce electricity would cost \$162,000. Dryfout said the price would probably be higher since the mill pond would have to be dredged to improve its water storage capacity.

The power could be sold for \$18,823 per year, the report says. Its economic analysis includes rate increases of 5 percent per year and capital costs of 8 percent per year.

Mark Leary, a member of the hydro project's Boston staff, said some of these assumptions are optimistic. Nevertheless, the costs outweigh the benefits for the Blow-Me-Down mill.

DOE's economic analysis figures that any project that would lose money for more than 10 years is not economically feasible. The Cornish site would probably lose money for 13 years — almost half of its estimated economic life span, Leary said. Using cheaper, used equipment could improve the outlook.

DOE will complete this type of analysis for any dam owner free of charge. Leary said the Boston office will probably do about 100 this year. If the first report looks promising, further studies are recommended.

Any dam capable of producing more than 100 kilowatts is eligible for low interest federal loans.

# CORNISH FAIR

Cornish Fair

**See digital vertical file, available on the CHS collection page at the town website**

# Corn's late, boars on time

By **RAYMOND HUGHES**  
Contributing Writer

CLAREMONT — Whether it's a compliment to the sweetness of Jim Amsden's corn, or his proximity to a game trail out of what was once known as Corbin Park, the wild boars that plagued his corn patch last year are back — and they've brought friends.

Amsden, who owns Elton's Uphill Vegetable Farm on Route 103, claims he lost at least \$12,000 in corn last year, and indications are there is more damage this year.

Other farmers in the area have been visited, too, this year, but say it's hard to tell where the boar damage stops and the raccoon damage begins.

Amsden's close neighbor, Ben Nelson of Beaver Pond Farm, says he seems to be having success controlling the boar with an AM radio and an all-night station, but the raccoons seem to like the music.

"We've got a lot of raccoon damage," Nelson said. "Fish and Game gave us permission to hunt them. We had a boar earlier and he got at least 15 bushels of corn the first night. But I got a shot at him just around dusk one evening, and I haven't seen him since."

Nelson says he is fortunate for that, adding, "One boar can do in one night the damage five 'coon can do in a week."

While Amsden acknowledged raccoon are responsible for some of his damage, they are easily enough trapped. So this year he's constructed two of his own boar traps. A hunter on site last week, who wished to remain anonymous, only chuckled.

Looking at a fresh set of tracks, he noted that the animal is about 3 feet hind to fore-hoof, possibly 5 feet overall, and could easily weigh 300 pounds. Wild boar, he says, are "well armed" with tusks, and a snout calloused from rooting in the



**DIFFICULT CATCH** — Cornish resident "Junior" Blanchard shows off the head of a 116-pound boar bagged with a 12-gauge shotgun three weeks ago outside Corbin Park. "There's more out than people realize," he says. Boar can reach 500 pounds, and are considered by many to be the most difficult and dangerous hunt. (Raymond Hughes Photo)

rocky New Hampshire soils.

It was agreed the boar could demolish the plywood and wire cage.

Tracking throughout the morning further revealed a number of wallows in the marshes on Amsden's property, and a well-used path headed straight toward Corbin Park. Black hair snagged on a barbed wire fence, and numerous piles of

scat confirmed that it was a boar "high-way."

"Last year, it seemed we were visited several times," says Amsden, looking out over an acre that should have yielded 250 bushel, but lost 200 to boar. "This year, it's more like there are a couple of fami-

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

es. But the state's stand is that the boar isn't a native species, so technically there is no season and I can shoot them.

"The problem is they're nocturnal and you can't shoot at night."

Of course the standard thing in years past was simply to blame the Blue Mountain Forest Association, the current owners of Corbin Park.

Slightly over 100 years ago, a Newport man, Austin Corbin, bought up to 65 or so farms in Croydon and turned them into a private hunting park. He stocked the 25,000 acres with hundreds of species of wild game, among them, 14 of the now infamous European wild boar. It was fenced then, and today is enclosed by almost 40 miles of chain link fence.

Most of the problems are traced to the 1938 hurricane that blew down much of the fence around the private preserve. But it is fairly agreed upon by local hunters that the way they get out now is through the holes poachers make in the fence.

All the signs indicate the hogs roaming this area are wild, not just feral pigs. And as far as hard evidence, Cornish resident "Junior" Blanchard has it. He shot a small one, 116 pounds, about three weeks ago just outside the park.

"We've been looking since January, but didn't see any sign until spring. We'd seen this one, a bigger one and 12 piglets (a 'drift'). I've only ever gotten two, but I've seen plenty. I want to get the other one. She's maybe 250 to 300 pounds."

Blanchard says they're good eating, and uses a 12-gauge with a slug.

You need something with knockdown power — you have to get bone. I hunted over by Elton's once this spring and saw signs. This year a lot of the fencing was damaged around Corbin Park for some reason.

"They're fixing it, though, and when I see big holes, I try to close them back in. There are more pigs out than people realize. They'll roam 6 to 8 miles, move more in the cold weather, and every five or six days they'll come back to where they got out. You need patience, time, and a good area."

Up on Brokenridge Farm in Cornish, right next to the park, Fred Sullivan didn't even need much patience last year. One of his hands was actually after a coyote, and he was using a dead calf for bait. Sullivan says they learned boars eat meat, so he ate the boar.

"It's good eating as long as it's the right season and they're feeding on things like corn. But they make a helluva mess. We haven't had problems this year because the corn's not ripe yet. We lost two to three acres of

our 100 in corn to boar last year."

Sullivan says he's shot 15 or so over the years, and they'll go back to the park if you're pushing them hard.

"They know where they're protected," Sullivan says. "My father got one 350 pounds. But that was back when you could hunt nights."

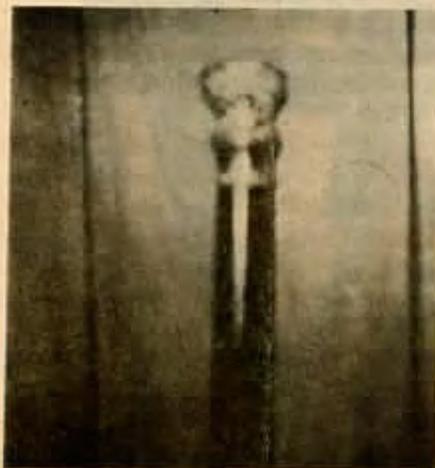
And that goes to the crux of the issue for Amsden, Nelson or Sullivan: How far can a farmer go to protect his property? Hunting at night is illegal except with a .22 long rifle for raccoon. But, as Amsden emphasizes, boar are nocturnal, too.

The bottom line, Amsden says, is that if the state is going to make the rules, they should be responsible for either the damage, or controlling the problem.

"I feel like I can't even go after them," Amsden says. "Sure it's illegal to hunt at night, but they're nocturnal animals, they're wiping me out, and I've got to do something. I can't even file for damages."

# THE BOSTON POST CANE

Apr 3, 1987 p. 11



THE BOSTON POST  
CANE



SELECTMAN FRED SULLIVAN presenting  
James Fitch with the Boston Post Cane in  
1977. (Photo by Helen Lorell).

Lorell

EAGLE TIMES, Monday, July 27, 1992 -

## Cornish honors Seymour Smith as oldest resident



CANE PRESENTATION — Seymour Smith, left, receives the *Boston Post* cane from Cornish Selectmen Robert Maslan, center, and Michael Yatsevitch. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Cornish Old Home Day was celebrated Sunday at the United Church of Cornish for the 116th year, with 80 people attending.

Following a time for visiting by friends from many New Hampshire towns, and Vermont, Connecticut and California, a dinner was served by members of Park Grange.

Highlighting the afternoon session was the presentation of the *Boston Post* Cane to 98-year-old Seymour Smith, the oldest Cornish person.

Smith was born in Bermuda, while his father was a member of the British Army. He later entered the Scottish Army, with the Gordon Highlanders, serving with a Machine Gun Company during World War I. He later served in the Near East, under Allenby, and retired as a major.

When he came to the United States, he first settled in New York. When he retired, he moved to Florida, where he and his wife, Alice, still spend the winter months.

He has spent a portion of each of the last 35 years in Cornish, where he has been an

avid gardener until having eye sight problems.

The cane presentation was done by Selectmen Michael Yatsevitch and Robert Maslan.

Rev. Dale Nicholas, pastor of United Church of Cornish, welcomed those present, with the response given by Josie Stone Beebe, Goffstown.

Following the reading of the secretary report by Ruth Rollins and the treasurer's report by Marjerie Kidder, President Clara Weld read letters from several unable to attend and thanked many who had helped with preparations for the event.

A special memorial service was held for the 29 persons who have died since last July, with Bernice Johnson and Margaret Kenyon placing flowers in a bouquet for each while the names were read by Weld.

A bouquet was also placed in honor of the 12 babies born to Cornish residents since last July, with Johnson reading a poem about children.

Among those attending the *Boston Post* cane presentation was Seymour Smith's grandson, Scott Smith, Boston, and his fiancée, Karen Anderson.

# Cane award presented to Hazel Cheever, 97

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — As the oldest resident, Hazel Cheever, 97, a lifelong resident of Cornish, was presented the prestigious Boston Post Cane during a presentation made at her home Tuesday morning, by Selectmen Larry Dingee and Robert Maslan.

Mrs. Cheever was born in Cornish, June 5th, 1901, daughter of Joseph and Florence Hilliard. She married Horace Cheever on June 30, 1928 and the couple has made their home here ever since.

They are the parents of three children, Eugene Cheever of Newport, Oregon; Bettyann Abbott, of Cornish; and Helen Rogers, of South Royalton, Vt. They have 13 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild, Nicole Sue Benware, of Claremont.

The year has been a special one for Mrs. Cheever, who celebrated her 97th birthday and

her 70th wedding anniversary during the month of June, with many well wishes from friends and loved ones.

The Boston Post Cane was used as a publicity gimmick by the old Boston Post newspaper, beginning in 1909. Considered a New England newspaper at the time, the company decided it could push its name further by sending out the canes.

The ebony gold capped canes were sent to more than 400 cities and towns in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Town officials had the stipulation that they were to be held by the communities oldest man, and passed on after the death of the holder.

The tradition is still carried out in a number of communities, but in others it has died out or the cane has been lost and gone out of circulation. Since the 1930s the cane goes



Selectmen Robert Maslan, left, and Larry Dingee, present Hazel Cheever, 97, with the Boston Post Cane award for Cornish. The award, which dates back to 1909, is given to the oldest resident of a community on New England. (Ruth Rollins photo)

(See CANE - Pg. 6)

## CANE

From Page 4

to either man or woman.

Cornish residents that have had the cane in the past have stated they did not enjoy growing old, but were real honored to be the Boston Post Cane holder. Mrs. Cheever was pleased to receive the cane.

"This will be a nice thing to have to keep my memory jogged."

Cornish Selectmen have felt the original cane, which used to be given to recipients, is such a treasure that a replica engraved cane is presented to recipients. The original is kept in storage, to avoid the loss of such a valuable historical item.

# 95-year-old woman presen

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

**N**inety-five year old Myrtle Feary, Cornish's most senior citizen and a resident for more than 50 years, was presented the prestigious Boston Post Cane, during a presentation at her home Tuesday by Selectmen

**Cornish** Robert Maslan and William Gallagher.

Feary was born in Franklin, Mass. on Nov. 14, 1907, the daughter of May and Marvin Newell. Following her marriage to Arnold Feary the couple made their home in Acworth for 12 years before moving to Cornish, where she has lived ever since. "It is wonderful to have help so I am able to stay in my own home," she said.

Feary remembered New England during the Great Depression. "Farms could be picked up for nearly peanuts, and several small farms lined our road. Many had a dozen cattle or less but the farmers shipped their milked."

Her husband, who died sev-

eral years ago, was an executive with Proctor and Gamble. He gave up a suit and tie to become acquainted with farmers. Even though he did not farm, he was hired by the Dairy Herd Improvement Association. The association tested milk, hay and several others aspects of dairy farming.

"He reported to the University of New Hampshire and they to Washington. Many improvements in farming were begun during those years," she said.

The Fearys had no electricity. They cut their own wood and grew their own vegetables.

"When I married, I had to learn to use a wood stove. I did not know how to cook. I went to a butcher shop to get meat. I told the butcher I did not how to cook it and he explained just what to do and it came out good. So, I went back to the butcher and did the same thing, until I learned."

"We had three children who walked two miles to school daily their first six years of school in Acworth," she said.

"When we moved to New

Hampshire my family said 'poor children.' They thought we were going to be hillbillies like the ones on TV. Well, I will tell you my children got a darn good foundation going to one-room schools," she added.

Her son has a doctorate and has worked in cancer research. Her two daughters work in social services.

Feary's activities include talking with friends on the phone and visiting with those that stop by. She does much reading from books distributed by the Bookmobile project at George Stowell Library in Cornish Flat.

"Everybody ought to take advantage of the Bookmobile," she said. "They bring books of my favorite authors and their visits mean so much to me."

The Boston Post Cane was used as a publicity gimmick by the *Boston Post* newspaper as early as 1909. The paper was one of the most well know area in the area. The company decided it could be even more popular by sending out canes to communities.

The ebony gold capped canes were sent to more than 400 cities and towns in

Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Town officials were told to present the cane to the oldest man and it was to be

# ted with Boston Post Cane

passed after that person died.

Though the paper went out of business in 1956, the tradition has still been carried out in some communities. In others it has died out or the cane has been lost and, therefore, is no longer in circulation.

The cane presentation has been a tradition in Cornish right along. Since the 1930s, however, cane has been presented to either men or women if they are the oldest citizen.

Feary was pleased to receive the cane, even if it isn't the original one.

Cornish Selectmen have felt the original cane, which used to be given to recipients, is such a treasure that a replica engraved cane is presented now. The original is kept in storage to keep it



RUTH BOLLINS PHOTO

**OLDEST RESIDENT** — Selectmen Robert Maslan, left, and William Gallagher present the town of Cornish's Boston Post Cane to Myrtle Feary recently.



"The Old Chase House, Myrtle Feary



COURTESY PHOTOGRAPH

Bernard "Bud" Stone, left, a Cornish resident for more than 60 years, was presented the Boston Post Cane as the town's oldest citizen on Nov. 10 by Selectboard members Scott Baker, Ginny Wood and John Hammond.

## Cornish Veteran Honored

### Selectboard Recognizes 'Bud' Stone as Town's Oldest Citizen

By KELLY BURCH

Valley News Correspondent

**CORNISH** — Bernard "Bud" Stone, 93, has been awarded the Boston Post Cane recognizing him as the oldest citizen in Cornish.

"I didn't think I'd ever live this long" Stone told his caretaker Ruth Rollins when town Selectboard members Scott Baker, Ginny Wood and John Hammond presented him with the cane on Nov. 10.

The passing of the Boston Post Cane has been a tradition in many New England towns since 1909, when Edwin Grozier, publisher of the now-defunct newspaper, gave canes to 700 towns around the region. The canes were to be presented to the oldest male citizen until the time of his death. Today, canes are often presented to the oldest citizen, male or female.

Stone was born on Aug. 19, 1924, in Cornish. He attended Windsor High School as a member of the class of 1942. During the spring of his senior year, on April 1, 1942, he was drafted into the service, "which was no April fool's joke," he said.

Since Stone was drafted just a month before graduation he did

not receive his diploma until decades later, said Rollins, 89.

"He had hoped all through his years he would get it," Rollins said in a telephone interview.

Stone served in the Army as a tank driver. He was sent overseas soon after his training ended.

"We were put on a ship that was no cruise ship, which took 13 days on rocky seas, many of us ill all the way," he told Rollins. However, that was just the beginning of the discomfort ahead as his division crossed through Belgium and France.

"It was rough, wet weather conditions, deep mud and raw cold. Minefields tearing tank tracks and bogie wheels off made for a miserable bloody struggle and continued costly advances," Stone said.

Stone was seriously wounded and his friend was killed during the Battle of the Bulge, which proved to be a turning point during the war.

"We slept in pup tents next to our tanks and when shelling began we crawled out of our tent, with no way to get into the tank," he said.

He underwent surgery in a tent hospital, and again in France, before being hospitalized for two months in England. He still has

shrapnel from the battle in his body.

When the war ended, Stone was given the Purple Heart and honorably discharged.

His injuries from the war sometimes interfered with his ability to hold a job, although Stone worked intermittently as a carpenter. He worked for 10 years at LaValley Building Supply in Newport before his retirement.

Stone never married or had children. Since 1976 he has lived with Rollins and her family and has become an extended family member, she said.

"My family all love him. The nieces and nephews all call him Uncle Bud," she said. "His own family, his dad and mom, were very special to all of us."

Stone has been a member of the Plainfield Blow Me Down Grange for 75 years and very involved with the Cheshire-Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge for 60 years. He also served the Masons at the state level.

"As a member of the Masons he always visited every lodge around and was just an exceptional Mason because he was so involved in it," Rollins said.

Stone became the oldest citizen in Cornish when Helen Lovell died on Sept. 27 at 103.



Merilyn Bourne is the LISTEN's new executive director. She ran the center's thrift stores and retailing for five years. VALLEY NEWS — TONY MORRIS

Merilyn Bourne

# New Chief Aims to Broaden LISTEN

By KRISTINA EDDY

Valley News Staff Writer

LEBANON — Merilyn Bourne, who has been in charge of LISTEN's thrift stores since 1996, has been named the agency's new executive director.

On Feb. 1, Bourne took over the top position at the agency dedicated to helping Upper Valley residents achieve economic independence through self-help programs. She had been filling in as interim director since Lorna Watson resigned the post in September.

Bourne said her priorities include increasing the agency's profile, expanding fund raising with an eye toward establishing an endowment and branching out to offer clients help with getting education to secure better-paying jobs.

"We don't offer assistance with education right now and education is key to everything," Bourne said in a recent interview.

In the two years after Bourne, 54, joined LISTEN as retail program director, thrift store revenues increased by about 30 percent, from \$600,000 to \$800,000 a year, Bourne said. Revenues from the stores in Canaan, Lebanon and White River Junction fund roughly 80 percent of LISTEN's programs.

"What you generate determines what programs you're able to fund," Bourne said. The more money the stores make, the more money the agency has for services including housing and fuel assistance, a food pantry, a big sibling program, budget counseling and summer camp placements.

"Retail has two goals: To be a service to the public, to low-income (people) or anyone who's smart enough to use us, and at the same time to fund the programs of the agency. And one of those objectives cannot get in the way of the other." On the day of her interview, Bourne

was wearing a fashionable walking suit she got at one of the thrift stores for \$12.

In her time with LISTEN, she has overseen the opening of a new thrift store in Canaan, the centralization of donation distribution and the move of the White River Junction store to a better location. She also saw to it the stores got wheeled clothing racks so that it would be easy to change the displays around and entice even regular cus-

tomers in to browse through what may appear to be lots of new items.

Bourne said her new job is a "natural progression." Her confidence in herself and the agency's 30 or so existing staff members comes through clearly. The new job "presents a challenge, but I'm up to the challenge because I'm working with a group of people who support me in that challenge." She said she will go out in the community

**Bourne's priorities include raising LISTEN's profile, establishing an endowment and helping clients get education to secure better-paying jobs.**

to talk with small groups and various organizations about LISTEN. "When you tell the community what you're doing and what you need, they seem to be more than willing to help

... I see my job as going out and advocating more and more for the agency — this is what we do and this is how we do it and this is how you can help

Bourne, a Cornish resident for 30 years who was a partner in the former Art Bennett's sport shop in Hanover, said, "I am amazed that I'm here. I love this organization. I am extremely lucky to work with the people that I do and I feel a great honor to have been entrusted with this position."

# Merilynn Bourne

EAGLE TIMES

Page A4

2-15-04



LOCAL NEWS

## Cornish selectboard candidates says she can offer a different perspective

Marilyn Bourne thinks adding a woman to the selectboard would add some diversity of perspective and experience and is vying for the three year position, which for the past several terms has been held by Robert Maslan.

She has been a resident since 1971, with four of her children graduating from the Cornish Elementary School and two grandchildren attending currently.

Over the years she has served as assistant town moderator, finance committee member, been a director of the Cornish Fair, a PTO officer and member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the volunteer fire

department.

"I am proactive and highly motivated to make a difference in the community," said Bourne. "I feel it is time to make the office of the selectmen more accessible to working families and individuals, who may find it difficult to have their needs met, or their voices heard, during the current hours of operation. I wish to use my strong managerial skills to serve the best interest of the town's people, as they define that need."

"As the executive director of a well established Upper Valley non-profit (LISTEN Community Services) I have solid experience with the successful management of

annual agency budget in excess of \$1.3 million dollars. I direct 35 employees and have consistently provided these valued individuals with guidance, support and opportunities for professional and personal growth." Bourne feels her daily contact with clients served by LISTEN, which is a human services agency, keeps her keenly aware of the needs of citizens and that she is well qualified to deliver assistance in the most efficient and effective way. She is a board member of Twin Pine Housing Trust, Fannie CLAC and the Allwin Initiative for Corporate Citizenship at Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College.



Country Calendar July 1905 p.262

## THE LARGEST HERD OF BISON IN THE WORLD

THIRTY HEAD, RESCUED BY THE LATE AUSTIN CORBIN, HAVE THRIVEN AND MULTIPLIED—A STRIKING EXAMPLE OF THE LITTLE ATTENTION NEEDED TO PRESERVE THIS NOBLE ANIMAL

By ERNEST HAROLD BAYNES. Photographs by the author



THE American bison, but a short time ago the most numerous large mammal of the age, roaming over a large part of this continent in no one knows how many millions, may now be classed among the rare animals; it is doubtful if there are more than six hundred individuals in this country today, outside of public parks and zoological gardens. That there are even so many is due to the timely activity of a very few men. Just before the completion of the disgraceful massacres which wiped out this once mighty race from its native plains, some of the last remnants were snatched from the hands which sought their destruction, and put practically under lock and key, where, for the time being at least, they were safe. Among the men who were determined to save them was the late Mr. Austin Corbin, who placed about thirty head in his game-preserve near Newport, New Hampshire. This herd has increased, until today it numbers over one hundred and sixty pure-bred, healthy animals, exclusive of the many calves which were born this spring. It is now the largest herd of bison in the world, and here is its story.

the Blue Mountain Forest, better known to many as Corbin Park, the largest fenced game-preserve in America. This park is surrounded by a stiff

wire fence, eight and a half feet high, somewhere in the vicinity of thirty miles long and inclosing twenty-four thousand acres. Roughly speaking



BIG BULL "RAIN-IN-THE-FACE"—HIS HEAD IS SAID TO BE WORTH \$1,000

One bright morning in 1890, the farmers working in the fields near the road between Newport and Croydon Flats stopped their oxen for a minute to gaze in wonder at a passing herd of the strangest "cattle" they had ever seen. Great brown beasts they were, with burly, horned and bearded heads, short, powerful necks, high, rounded humps and short tails, ending in a tuft of hair. These creatures were pictures of prodigious strength. From their mighty fore-limbs hung banners of long, dark hair, which waved in the breeze as they passed along with a majestic stride befitting the grandest animal which ever trod the soil of the American continent. They were the Corbin herd of bison, on their way to a new home in the Blue Mountain Forest.

If we walk or drive out of Newport toward the north, we see, across a broad stretch of flat-tish country, a long line of deep blue mountains. It was in this direction that the bison were making their way, for these mountains constitute the Croydon Range, which extends the length of



**A LITTLE STAND OFFISH** — Cree, one of the James McSwain's five buffalo, adopted a not unusual pose for her photograph. Buffalo don't see well, which explains why she looks near sighted. (News photo—Tom Ahern)

## Bison-Tennial In Cornish—

corral to see the strange beasts, have also caused a few problems. A car got stuck and ended up spraying ice over the cow, making the bull mad.

"He got really out of hand," she said, speaking of Yute.

"He didn't go through the fence — I don't think he would do that," she said. But the buffalo, like the famed Superman who "was more powerful than a locomotive," could go through a regular fence easily.

### Steel Fence

Because of this, McSwain figures he'll put up a fence made of steel I-beams this summer, just to make sure the buffalo don't stampede on out of the corral.

Mrs. McSwain, who'd like to add a Yak to the family menagerie some day, said her family has wanted to get a buffalo "right along."

"It is an unusual pet," she agreed, but said, "We wanted to preserve a part of American heritage.

"It was how to get them here that was the main problem."

Two smaller buffalo, or buffaloes, according to the dictionary, were the first occupants of the corral, which is in full view of the picture window on the front of the McSwain house.

They came from Nebraska, but the McSwains brought them from a man in Middlebury, who combines an antique dealership with his buffalo business. They trucked them down in a pickup truck.

They also came ready-named: appropriately Buffalo Bill and Calamity Jane.

The "big" three of Yute, Shawnee and Cree (who has an 8 tattooed on her, making her name Cree-eight) came this winter from a family in Springfield who decided they'd rather take a vacation than stick around the house, bringing grain and water for buffalo.

A cattle truck was needed to transport these three.

"I don't think I'd attempt to put a rope or a harness on the bigger ones," said McSwain, noting that a buffalo can get skittish even with people it recognizes.

As far as the McSwains know, they're now the only buffalo owners in New Hampshire. There is one family near the Canadian border in Vermont that also keeps buffalo, they said.

McSwain has built a shelter for the buffalo. "But you can't make a buffalo go in," he said, explaining that the animals' thick hide keeps them warm in any temperature.

The McSwains know a family that tried to build a small hut for buffaloes. But a bull didn't like the shelter and proceeded to tear it down.

The tough animals need something to rub against anyway — a problem the McSwains solved by sinking the butt of a thick log in the ground in the middle of the corral.

### Room To Roam

The other requirement is enough room for the buffalo to roam.

They have to run until their tongues hang out or else they get lungworm, a buffalo disease.

Buffalo have a strange way of running though.

"All four feet are off the ground at the same time," she said.

"They're much faster than a cow and so agile that they can be going full speed and turn on a dime," said McSwain. "They can also jump like a deer."

They also live twice as long as a normal cow, (about 40 years), can calve until they're 30 years old and grow until they're eight. They easily reach six feet in eight.

### Red Tape

A hassle is the "red tape", a bureaucratic disease and not a buffalo worm. Because they're considered wild animals, all sorts of permits have to be obtained, said McSwain.

Eventually, as baby bulls are born, the McSwains will probably have to slaughter them. It takes about 25 cows to satisfy one buffalo bull, who gets jealous of other bulls.

Right now, the McSwains, like proud parents, are looking forward to a contented herd.

They should be — both Shawnee and Cree-

eagle 6-23-05

# Cornish worries about impact of housing growth

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**  
Contributing Writer

The Cornish Planning Board on Thursday discussed the need to consider the town's readiness for a major subdivision on the scale of a 29-home development planned in Meriden.

"I've been on the board almost 20 years, and I don't think we've ever discussed it," said John Hammond.

Connie Kousman said people "wouldn't like it."

Anne Hier said the board

has never considered anything as big as the Meriden proposal. The largest subdivision ever presented in Cornish was for seven lots, and the board in May approved a six-lot major subdivision on East Road for the Hier Development Group.

The board agreed that development is coming because of the housing shortage in the Upper Valley. Cheston Newbold said he had heard estimates of a 1,500-home housing shortage at the moment, with the prospect

See **HOUSING** - Page A8

## HOUSING FROM PAGE A1

getting worse.

Planners also pointed out the building growth in Claremont to the south, placing Cornish in the middle of two population density regions.

The development in Meriden, proposed for a 50-acre tract behind Main Street in the village, would have 35 homes, including apartments in six of 29 buildings. Meriden already is zoned to allow planned residential development, a form of clustered housing, and the developer wants to use the zoning to create a village concept.

Local residents there are

concerned about traffic safety, particularly for the nearly 300 students at nearby Kimball Union Academy who walk back and forth from their dormitories to classes several times a day.

"Where in Cornish could we have clustered housing?" asked one member. "In the Flat?"

Newbold said he thinks clustered housing is an obsolete concept, but he was told that it has experienced a resurgence in major development because of its efficient use of housing and open space.

"I can't believe that anybody wanting to live in Cornish would want to live in a clus-

tered housing development," said one board member.

Hammond said there are several parcels in his area on Route 12A that could be developed.

"We might not like it, but legally we can't stop it," Peter Storrs said of the inevitability of a building boom spreading south from Hanover and Lebanon, N.H.

After further discussion, the board decided it should begin to prepare for the likelihood of an onset of major subdivision proposals.

*George Chappell can be reached by e-mail at [gchap@sover.net](mailto:gchap@sover.net).*

(Continued From Page 1)  
by Hugh Wade and Peter Burling. Wade averred the restaurant would lower adjacent property values.

Burling attested that the "heritage, history, architecture and traditions" would be marred by the restaurant.

"I have a vague malaise about the first commercial interloper," he added.

L. K. Little testified, "A little variance is like a little pregnancy."

Marilyn O'Grady asked if the development would affect the neighborhood taxes and was informed that it would not.

#### Parking

Guidelines for parking were also questioned. DeFeo said that there was ample space for parking to comply with the N.H. regulations of one space for every dining table.

Asked about the possibilities of expansion DeFeo said there would be "little if any... at most the piazza would be enclosed to accommodate more diners."

In response to future use of the site if the restaurant failed, DeFeo said they would be willing to have the former zoning ordinance restored.

Regarding the use of the house as a private residence, Sande Duckworth, the previous owner of the house said that it was too big to use as a residence.

DeFeo attested that the heating bill for the previous year was approximately \$4,000 and the tax bill was also \$4,000.

Stephen Tracy questioned the board's authority to grant a variance, but was informed by town attorney Robert B. Buckley Jr. that the board had the authority to both share the case and to make a ruling.

After all arguments were presented the board went into executive session and emerged with a 3-2 denial.

Hearing the board's decision, DeFeo asked if he could immediately apply for a rehearing, but was told that a consultation with his attorney was advisable first.

# 'Mastlands' Restaurant Plan Is Rejected By Cornish ZBA

By CATHERINE POMIECKO  
Valley News Staff Writer

**CORNISH** — The Zoning Board of Adjustment Monday night voted 3-2 against granting a variance in the zoning ordinance to Ronald Lougee for the establishment of a gourmet restaurant and inn at the "Mastlands" house, located on 27 acres of land in north Cornish.

The decision, which denies the establishment of the commercial property in rural residential area which can be reappealed within a 20-day period, climaxed a two and a half hour discussion of the proposed variance.

Anthony DeFeo, representing Ronald Lougee, proposed that "Mastlands," which was recently used as a residence and art study center, be turned into a gourmet restaurant to accommodate up to 48 diners, with a liquor lounge and six rooms available for lodging.

"We are not pushing it as an inn," DeFeo emphasized, "but a restaurant with fine food, reasonably priced, that would be open to the public."

The three stipulations for a variance in the zoning ordinance state that:

— There must be "special circumstances for which the

variance is sought, which are peculiar to such land or structure, and the application of the requirements of this ordinance will deprive the owner of such property of a reasonable use of it and will impose upon such owner a hardship not shared by owners of other property in the same district."

— That the variance will be the minimum variance and will grant "reasonable relief to owner and is reasonable use of land or structure."

— That the granting of the ordinance will be "in harmony with the general purposes and intent of this ordinance."

The three board members who voted against the appeal cited the "hardship" portion of the stipulations as their reason for voting against it.

Dennis R. Carroll, William S. Balch and Lewis Gage all said they felt that "hardship" necessary to the granting of the variance had not been sufficiently established.

The two members who voted to grant the appeal, Myrtle N. Feary and chairman George I. Edson, said they felt the proposal would not sufficiently change the present property to warrant denial. Edson added he felt the proposal was a "reasonable use" of the property.

Abutter Wilbur C. Overman said he was not anxious to see a restaurant established, but felt it would be better than letting

the house remain vacant and vandalized as it had been for so many years.

Regarding the question of water supply, which Overman would share with the proposed restaurant, he said he thought the spring was sufficient and would probably run "100 to 150 gallons per hour."

"As far as I can conceive it, it doesn't affect anyone but me really," he added.

A letter was read from another abutter, William H. Shurcliff, stating that he opposed the proposal because he felt the water supply was "precarious" and that the restaurant would fail due to future gas shortages.

DeFeo said that he had reached a "gentleman's agreement" with Overman regarding provision of water if the shared spring should develop problems, and that if the septic system failed, a state approved alternate system would be installed.

Other objections were raised

(Continued On Page 18)

— CORNISH



## Grace M. Bulkeley



**CORNISH** – Grace Morris Bulkeley of Cornish, age 98, died peacefully at her home Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017. Her health had been in decline for over a year, but she remained alert, cheerful and entertaining for numerous visitors. During the preceding holiday week she had spent time with each of her three sons and daughters-in-law and most of her nine grandchildren.

Mrs. Bulkeley, a native of West

Hartford, Connecticut, had lived in Cornish full-time since 1980. She was noted for her love of animals; she owned many through the years including horses, dogs, miniature donkeys, swans and peacocks. She also loved the coast of Maine and the wooded hills of New Hampshire. She preserved hundreds of acres from development, ensuring that viewers from the top of Mt. Ascutney would see an unspoiled view of the east shore of the Connecticut River south of the Saint Gaudens National Historic Site.

She was the widow of William E. C. Bulkeley, her husband of 42 years, who died in 1989. He had been a Hartford, Connecticut, trial attorney and lay leader of the national Congregational Church. She was the daughter of Shiras Morris, an electrical switch inventor and manufacturer, and Grace Root both of Hartford. Her father died unexpectedly when she was eight years old and she spent much of her life with her mother. A few years after her father's death, early in the Great Depression, her mother and she bought a hilltop property in Cornish known as Dingleton, as a summer house.

Mrs. Bulkeley spent much of her life preserving Dingleton House and its gardens. During her life, the house was the focus of a 1995 exhibition on architect Charles Platt at Dartmouth's Hood Art Museum. The house was also featured in the 2000 book, "A Place of Beauty: The Artists and Gardens of the Cornish Colony."

She was an avid horse woman and in her younger years won numerous ribbons in shows. She kept riding into her 80s. When living in West Hartford, she served as secretary of the Connecticut Humane Society for many years and was active in the parents' associations at her children's schools.

She became a vegetarian in mid-life, following a cross-country train trip in which she viewed dusty cattle feedlots on the Great Plains. She decided she couldn't justify the animal suffering involved in industrial agriculture, but she continued to enjoy eating lobster and seafood because she argued they would eat her if given the chance. She also enjoyed eggs from her own (extremely) free range chickens and milk from nearby dairies where she could see the cows grazing. She was known for her wry sense of humor. Many of her far flung nieces and nephews, grandchildren, and grand nieces called her regularly to chat and update her on their lives. When someone told her that reaching her 98th birthday was "quite an achievement," she replied: "Yes. You can do it sitting down."

Mrs. Bulkeley leaves three sons: William M. and his wife Debra of Boston; Jonathan A. and his wife Ginger of Cornish; and Alan S. and his wife Susan of Weathersfield. A fourth son, Benjamin of Brunswick, Maine predeceased her in 1980. She also leaves seven granddaughters and two grandsons.

Funeral arrangements are private. The family plans to celebrate her life with a memorial service in June. Memorial donations in her name may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society or the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

[Return to top](#)

[Login](#) to post comments

# Jean K. Burling was a N.H. 'first'

By MARGO HOWLAND

CLAREMONT, N.H. — When Plainfield attorney Jean K. Burling was named Special Justice of the Claremont District Court in April 1979, it was a New Hampshire "first."

Although other women had been named to the old municipal court, they were not lawyers. Mrs. Burling was the first woman judge in New Hampshire.

"There were no judges at all who were both attorneys and women," she noted in a recent interview.

Shortly after Mrs. Burling's appointment, Gov. Hugh Gallen appointed Patricia McGee as a special justice of the Exeter District Court. This year he appointed Linda Dallanis, Nashua, as the first woman superior judge in New Hampshire.

Neighboring Vermont has no women judges at any level of the court — a lack which received renewed attention in Vermont newspapers when President Reagan appointed Arizona Judge Sandra D. O'Connor to the United States Supreme Court. Soon afterwards, Associate Justice Robert W. Larrow announced his retirement from the high court bench.

Gov. Richard Snelling, who has already appointed more judges in Vermont than any other chief executive, announced that he wanted to see applications from practicing lawyers, as well as judges, in considering Justice Larrow's successor.

Judge Burling said that Gallen was concerned about the absence of women judges

in New Hampshire and "committed himself to finding qualified women to fill the appointments."

But until Gallen's office contacted her about an appointment to the bench, she said, "I had never given it a thought."

Not only that, but the judgeship that was open was one her husband, Atty. Peter Burling, had been "actively interested in" and had in fact been nominated for, by the Executive Council.

That nomination was vetoed by lame-duck Republican Gov. Meldrim Thomson, and a sort of standoff ensued, with the council refusing to confirm any of Thomson's appointments and the departing governor refusing to approve any of the council nominations.

When Gallen took office, Jean Burling said, it was assumed that the appointment would come up again. The vacancy was because of a retirement held by a member of Burling's law firm, in which Albert D. Leahy Jr. was a member and the presiding judge, "and these things tended to flow from one member of the firm to another."

But instead of approving Burling, Gallen's office called to say the governor wanted to name a woman judge — and he wanted to appoint Jean Burling. That is, if she wanted it.

"The governor's office made it clear to us that it was up to us to decide. It was a very difficult position to be placed in," Jean Burling recalled, laughing.

They gave it some thought,

she said, "and I accepted the position I was approved by the council and that was that."

Unlike her husband, Jean Burling is not a member of the firm of Leahy & Demault. She practices law by herself in Plainfield.

That decision, she said, was one reached after a considerable amount of thought about husband-and-wife law firms practicing together. One of the factors which was considered in reaching the decision, she said, was that if one member should leave — the law firm would lose two instead of one — a sizable loss to a five-member law firm.

"In 1973 there were no husband-and-wife law firms in New Hampshire. None of us had any experience with it. It was felt by others in the firm that it was an experience they were not ready for," she said. "It's worked out very well. I

find I work better on my own," she said.

Most district judges in New Hampshire are part-time.

"The vast majority of district judges are part-time appointments with a law practice. This enables them to continue their law practice with a special justice to lend a hand in carrying on the duties of the court," Judge Burling said.

The state law provides for three categories of district judges: presiding justice, associate justice, and special justice. The legislature establishes which towns and districts have which judges, and most have a presiding justice and either a special or an associate justice.

Judge Burling is assigned one day per week, usually Tuesdays, to preside in Claremont District Court, and fills in on other days that Judge Leahy isn't available.

# Country Lawyers

A look at the work—and rewards—of three small-town barristers



by David C. Allison

**P**LAINFIELD is a one-street hamlet with a grange hall, a general store, and one lawyer. Jean K. Burling hung out her shingle there in the spring of 1977—the first lawyer ever in Plainfield, New Hampshire. In fact, she is the first woman lawyer to open an office in all of Sullivan County.

Newport is bigger, and its main street has a green, a flock of shops, and a dozen lawyers, because Newport is the county seat. Lawyer Jon S. Auten has practiced there for six years, in a second-floor office across from the county courthouse.

Claremont is the biggest place around, triple the size of Newport, with considerable industry and half the people in the county: 15,000 of the 30,000 population. Another dozen lawyers work in Claremont. Albert D. Leahy, Jr. is one, in the firm of Leahy & Denault, biggest in the county, five partners.

It is said that being a lawyer in this part of New Hampshire is like working in an African diamond mine: maybe you do have most of the fun, but somebody else gets most of the money. This is the story of three such lawyers and what they do.

City people see the country lawyer as a crusty, lovable Old Timer out of Norman Rockwell—part Robert Frost and part Oliver Wendell Holmes. There are lawyers here who fit the image, but the work of the law gets done mostly by others who are younger. Burling and Auten are in their thirties; Leahy is forty-four. And the age drops each year as new people enter the field. In 1961, when Leahy took the New Hampshire bar exam, forty others took it with him. A decade later, when Auten took it, the number had almost doubled. And this year it took another jump to around 120, or triple the number of young lawyers since the early 1960s.

The lawyers themselves wish it would stop. They agree there is plenty of work to do, but not enough to feed them all.

Here are the realities. A first-year country lawyer has two choices: work in an established practice or work for himself. If he elects the established practice—and if he is lucky enough to find one that will take him on—his annual salary will be \$8,000, maybe a bit higher. But not much higher. His being there costs the firm another \$4,000 in overhead, so he must generate at least \$12,000 during that first year simply to justify his presence. Or better: he should generate \$16,000, if the senior partners are to feel he was worth hiring in the first place.

The first-year lawyer who goes into practice for himself must bring in even more. A \$16,000 gross income will barely pay the rent and all other costs of the new venture. To earn for himself the same \$8,000 as his

salary counterpart, he must bring in well over \$20,000. His overhead expenses will be \$12,000, minimum, and his furniture, law library, office equipment—all the essentials of a new practice—will cost that much again.

Probably the richest lawyer to practice in Sullivan County was a legendary, turn-of-the-century figure named George Upham, who one day chucked his local practice and moved to Boston. Only then did the money roll in, and later Upham came home rich. He reported that a legal transaction in the city was no harder to handle than a New Hampshire sheep sale, and that the recompense was somewhat better.

Every lawyer here today knows the Upham story and its moral. But money is not the primary thing. "I have enough money to live on," Jon Auten says. Last year—his fifth full year of practice—Auten netted about \$14,000. Jean Burling's first year cost her more than she earned. As she observes, "I could not do it without other income." She practices in the expectation that her small office will grow and thereby lead her into areas of law she regards as fallow here, notably sex discrimination and female juveniles. Albert Leahy's personal income is among the highest of the lawyers in the county, what with sixteen years of practice in the biggest firm hereabouts. But it is below the level of his Harvard Law classmates (reportedly \$70,000) and his annual gross to his firm is below the big-city average too. Big city law firms today count on each lawyer generating an annual gross income of \$150,000. Conservatively, the estimate here is one-third that much, perhaps half.

**B**EING A NEW LAWYER is difficult for Jean Burling. Her practice is not known; she was not yet even listed in the phone book when I found her. A few clients—mostly women—having somehow heard of her, come timidly, not sure that they should. Others come skeptically, doubtful that she can help. Others resent her being thrust upon them: these are the female juveniles in trouble, and she is their court-assigned attorney.

Her office is a small frame house toward the south end of Plainfield, with an old-fashioned front porch and flower boxes perched along the railing. Inside there is still the feeling of somebody's home, not the musty air of old law books and old leather

chairs and old, leathery lawyers who smoke cigars and remember Clarence Darrow. She handles wills, divorces, the day-to-day work of most lawyers here, the work that helps pay the bills. But much of her work thus far has drawn her into situations where the payback has turned out to be experience rather than money.

One was a case of sex discrimination, her client a professional woman who had been passed over for promotion at a nearby hospital. Another was a case of rape and robbery at gunpoint where the convicted felon, a local businessman, served just a week in jail and then was released, while his victim—later to be Burling's client—was sent away ignorant of any civil recourse she might have. In each case, Burling knew her chances were slim of winning commensurate compensation, either for her client or herself. In the sex discrimination case, she managed after many months to elicit a small offer from the hospital; a few thousand dollars. Her client refused the offer as insufficient, however, so their next step was to go to the federal government's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, where the case was considered and then turned down for lack of evidence. This sent the hospital's offer out the window. The options, more than a year later, were to appeal to the federal court or to drop the case. Burling's client decided to go no further, and there the case ended, with nothing for the client. The woman who suffered the rape and robbery got substantial retribution: Burling's damage suit against the woman's assailant helped drive the man out of business, and the plaintiff was awarded \$400,000 damages by the New Hampshire Superior Court.

Jean Burling will probably represent many such women. She is not a crusader—in fact, she was "pushed into" her first women's rights case, representing the woman who claimed sex discrimination in her job at the hospital. "She just came to the house one day," Burling says. But she will continue, for at least two reasons. One is "Because the rights of women is an area of law that interests me." The other is simply that Jean Burling is here, a lawyer to whom women will go with their problems and complaints. Male lawyers represent women ably and conscientiously, just as they represent men, yet the fact stands: Jean Burling takes cases that might otherwise not be

taken at all, cases where a woman's rights are possibly violated and the woman does not even know she has such rights. Nor is the woman alone in her ignorance. Few lawyers of either sex are likely to know of those rights either, for this particular field of law is new—a foreign territory to all but its few practitioners.

Jean Burling decided to become a lawyer during her first year after college (Wellesley). "I had no skills," she says. "The discipline of law school appealed to me." She earned her law degree at Boston University, passed the New Hampshire bar in 1973, the same year she and her husband Peter moved here from Boston. (He is also an attorney, in the Claremont firm of Leahy & Denault.) That first year after her bar exam was discouraging: she could not find a job. In fact, the tight lawyer market, rather than personal zeal, compelled her to practice on her own.

She does not consider herself a woman's lawyer, nor will she restrict her practice to women's issues. But she believes her gender is sometimes an advantage, notably when the client is a woman, and especially when the woman is seeking a divorce. When the woman's lawyer is a man Burling says, there is often an emotional reaction—a transference: the lawyer becomes the client's surrogate husband—in fantasy, her new lover. She manipulates him—purely a sexual thing. But when the case is over and the woman feels she should have been awarded more, her lawyer is suddenly the bad guy—"just like my ex-husband." "When I am her lawyer," says Burling, "we avoid all that. But I do wonder: what will it be on that day when my client is a man?"

Her most difficult cases are the juveniles, from the standpoint of her own emotions and "my middle-class values of good parenting." Then her personal feelings get in the way of her legal sense. "I want kids to have opportunity for normal lives. Yet I know I must temper that. The law does not provide for that." She becomes angry when she speaks of the inadequacies of juvenile care. "The facilities for children in trouble are terrible. There are too few foster homes. There is no way to stop the chain of child abuse that goes on and on, from one generation to the next." But who is there to be angry at? Burling adds: "The welfare department . . . the courts . . . the police . . . they all know these kids. And they



Peter H. Burling driving the Morgan horse, Windrush Holiday in a New England Gentleman's Phaeton, circa 1890. An exhibition of New England carriages from the collection of Peter and Jean Burling will be on view in the Carriage House and Stables at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish through October 31.

## Carriages on exhibit.

Cornish- A loan exhibition of "New Carriages from the Burling Collection" will be on view at the Saint Gaudens National Historic Site through October 31. The exhibition marks the opening of the recently restored Stables and Carriage House of the historic property.

Peter Burling, a Claremont lawyer and Cornish resident with his wife Jean, also a lawyer and New Hampshire judge, have been collecting horse-drawn vehicles since 1968. He purchased Austin Farms in Cornish two years before, and completely rebuilt the farm buildings and brought livestock and horses there in 1970.

The loan exhibit includes two New England sleighs; one of the mid-nineteenth century came from the Weld family of Cornish and has painted decorations attributed to Charles Ingalls of Windsor who was active from about 1850 through the 1900's. Taught by his father who was also a coach painter, Ingalls instructed Blanche Wood of Cornish who continued decorative painting until her death in 1976.

Another sleigh, made about 1870, came with the property. Both vehicles were restored by Ed Rouse of Loudon, N.H.

A "Rockaway", built by William Gray of New York City, about 1901, is a four wheel vehicle that was used as a Mount Monadnock Station Hack. It could be pulled by a single horse, or by changing the shafts, by a pair of horses.

The "Basket Phaeton" is a fancy vehicle used by a lady or gentleman for Sunday driving with a single horse. It had a seat for the groom in back. The groom's job was to act as a brake.

The "Governess Cart" is a pony cart with two facing side-bench seats. It has a special rein-holder so the driver, sitting sideways, can control the pony and the children at the same time.

A Mahogany four wheel carriage is part of the permanent collection of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. It was made by the French Carriage Co. of Boston, about 1900.

# Cornish voters approve most articles, including high school study committee

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — Many of the 142 voters attending the annual school district meeting Saturday came with one thing in mind — restoring some of the cuts made by the Cornish School Board members during budget reduction sessions held over a period of three months.

The \$1,318,199 budget was amended by \$32,693 during the afternoon business session, by a vote of 87-50.

During the budget sessions, knowledge of a 330 percent increase in payment to the New Hampshire Retirement Fund found the board placing \$16,476 in the budget for this purpose.

Gov. Judd Gregg signed legislation Wednesday which reduced the percentage increase of contributions and when voters learned of this, they voted to re-allocate \$14,000 of this amount into restoring cuts.

Voters strongly indicated to the board that a teacher position, and music and art, which had been cut to half-time, should be restored, which was already the aim of the board members.

A special item in the warrant calling for payment of health insurance for three support staff members was approved.

However, \$18,000 in busing costs (one of the cuts made in early budget sessions) for students attending Stevens High School was not restored.

Those attending voted 97-3 in favor of publicly supporting the court challenge by school districts as to the constitutionality of New Hampshire's method of funding public education through near total reliance on local property tax.

An article, by petition, to require that final teacher pay contracts be signed by the board only after the money had been



**APPRECIATION** — State Rep. Peter Burling is thanked by Ray Evans, Cornish School Board chairman, for his 18 years as Cornish School District moderator, during the annual school district meeting held Saturday. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

appropriated at school district meetings, was defeated.

A proposal by Leonard Rudolph to form a committee, comprised of board members and citizens, to investigate alternatives to the present high school situation and report back at next year's school district meeting was approved. Alternatives to busing high school students was also to be investigated.

Opening the meeting with a flag salute, moderator Peter Burling recognized the passing of Norman Chabot, a longtime advocate of education for Cornish youngsters.

Chabot and his wife, Shirley, were a prime force in residents of Cornish approving the construction of the Cornish Elementary School gymnasium, a facility which is used for both

school and town events.

Later in the meeting, Louis Haas, who has given much time and effort as a watchdog to both school and town budgets as a member of the Cornish Finance Committee, received a standing ovation and words of praise.

Also receiving a standing ovation of thanks was state Rep. Peter Burling, who has served the school district as moderator for the past 18 years. Burling did not file for the position this year.

Balloting throughout the day found Joan Baillargeon and Brenda Jordan, incumbent school board members, holding the position for another three years. Brent Edgerton is treasurer and Kathryn Patterson, clerk. George Edson was voted in as the moderator to replace Burling.



**SURVEYING THE WRECKAGE** — Cornish fireman Peter Burling looks over a truck owned and driven by Steven Ferland, Hemlock Road, Claremont, that failed to negotiate a right hand turn on Jackson Road, Cornish, Wednesday afternoon. According to police, Ferland drove over a dirt embankment after leaving the road,

with the vehicle coming to rest on its side. Ferland was taken to Valley Regional Hospital by Golden Cross Ambulance, where he was treated and released. The accident was investigated by N.H. State Trooper Russell Conte. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

*Essex Times Sept 11, 1986 p.3*



d  
P  
v  
w  
G  
w  
w  
c  
w  
r  
p  
M  
d  
o  
v  
e  
v  
c  
w  
F  
w  
c  
h  
a  
q  
s  
p  
b  
s  
s  
r  
f  
c

**BICENTENNIAL GARB** — Moderator Peter Hoe Burling and other Cornish residents displayed colonial attire at Tuesday's town meeting. Story on page 6. (News photo—Chris Williams)

# Enough of Politics—Peter Burling Enters

## ART NOTES

By ALEX HANSON

Valley News Staff Writer

**Y**OU'D THINK THAT serving 14 years in the New Hampshire House, including a stint as Democratic leader, and another four in the state Senate would have inured Peter Burling to the pressures of public life. But showing his paintings isn't like debating health-care spending.

"This is very new for me," said Burling, a Cornish resident who decided not to run for re-election last year. "I'd probably rather address the Republican National Convention."

An exhibition of Burling's work opens at Windsor's Mt. Ascutney Hospital tomorrow with a reception from 4 to 7 p.m.

*Winter Run: Taking on Water* is among works by Peter Burling of Cornish that will go on view tomorrow at Mt. Ascutney Hospital in Windsor.

Burling has made art throughout his political career, but between traveling to Concord and family obligations, he hasn't had time to seek instruction. He also combined art and politics, albeit not in the way those two strands are usually woven together. His art didn't amplify his political views; it distracted him from political activity he could n't abide.

"I discovered while I was in the Legislature that one way to get through the occasional interminable monologue was to have a sketchbook with me," he said. By the time he got to the state Senate, he was working in a sturdy, hardbound sketchbook, an unmistakable sign that his vote probably wasn't up for grabs. "I'm afraid I may have annoyed my colleagues," he said.

Diane Liggett, a Cornish painter who organizes the art shows at Mt. Ascutney Hospital, said she kept running into people who said that they had a painting by Burling. He made gifts of his work to friends, constituents and other people in public life, Liggett said. Finally, she went to look at his

*Valley News*

## rs a Different Sort of Fray

work "and I really liked what he does."

Burling works mostly in acrylics, occasionally in watercolors, and also makes reliefs with Sculpey, a commercially available material that can be baked hard in a conventional oven.

I haven't seen the work to be mounted at Mt. Ascutney, which is being put up just today. Liggett said the 17 to 20 paintings in the show are of ships, trains and landscapes, each rendered in their own way. "His work is wonderful," she said. The ships are proportional and highly detailed, the trains are more emotionally expressive and the landscapes come off as "somewhat primitive," she said.

"My work is naive, it's romantic, it's not subtle, and that's the way I feel about the things I like to paint," Burling said.

The show includes four or five maritime paintings, including paintings of the Carpathia, the ship that came to the aid of the Titanic, and the Coast Guard cutter Tamaroa, of *The Perfect Storm* fame. "I have a huge fascination with ships that have

a sort of heroic history, a romantic history," he said. The romance of trains has Burling in its grip too. He's also the chairman of New Hampshire's Rail Transit Authority.

If you attend the reception tomorrow night, don't be surprised if the public persona looks a bit anxious. "It's one thing to talk about political ideas on your feet, it's another to put your art out there to be judged," Burling said.

Liggett said she'd do what she could to put him at ease. "I said, 'Don't worry, I'll have it all set up for you. All you'll have to do is smile.'"

### OPENINGS AND RECEPTIONS

The Picture Gallery at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site opens "Hybrids," paintings by Andrew Tavarelli, with a reception on Saturday, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tavarelli, a professor and assistant chairman of the fine arts department at Boston College, will give a talk about his work at 5 p.m. His recent work consists of witty mash-

See ART NOTES—C4

28 May 2009

# New Hampshire Couple Impressed After Lunch With President Carter



Peter and Jean Burling of Cornish, N.H., dined with President Carter at the White House last week. The Burlings came impressed with the president and said he didn't attempt his candidacy. (Photo by Walker)

By NANCY WALKER  
Windsor County Bureau  
CORNISH, N.H. — Peter Burling was confined to bed early last week suffering with a slipped disk. His telephone rang and with some effort he managed to answer it.

"This is Ms. Ingersol. I'm the social secretary at the White House. President and Mrs. Carter would like you and your wife to lunch with them Friday."

Burling, an attorney with the Claremont firm of Leahy, Denault, Moody & Burling, immediately called his wife Jean, also an attorney and a district court judge in Claremont.

"We hooted and giggled and decided to go, come what may. I would get better and we would both straighten out our schedules for the end of the week," he said.

Why they were invited to dine with Carter is a bit of a mystery to both Burlings.

"I don't know why we were invited," said Peter Burling, who is becoming increasingly more involved in the Democratic party in New Hampshire.

"The five other guests at the table supported Carter in 1976. He wasn't attempting to sell anyone on his candidacy and he was very interested to find out what's going on in New Hampshire; what the people feel. After all, the New Hampshire primary is very important to the White House," Jean said.

The couple arrived at the southwest gate of the White House and proceeded through two security gates. As they disembarked from their cab and started up the driveway it occurred to them that they were walking up to the White House and not just any other house.

"It was boggling and wonderful," Peter said.

Soon they were met by a protocol officer who ushered them into the diplomatic reception room. "It was an exquisite oval-shaped room with hand-painted 19th Century wallpaper. The furnishings were 18th Century and it had beautiful Chinese and Persian rugs," he said.

The Burlings and five

other guests were briefed for an hour. An employee of the National Security Council talked to them about foreign policy focusing on Iran and Afghanistan. An assistant to the president addressed domestic issues, primarily energy and inflation.

On the stroke of noon President Carter entered the room, Peter said. "I think he's a much more impressive man in person than he is on T.V. He made everyone feel at ease, as much as one could, and he had a charming quality."

"He was shorter than I thought. Otherwise he was exactly as I expected. He was earnest, as he approached each person and he listened very carefully. He has personal appeal and was very warm, sensitive and interesting," Jean said.

The group took a small elevator to the third floor, the family's formal living quarters. Following a tour of the Truman balcony and an introduction to Annette Carter, the president's daughter-in-law who was filling in for Mrs. Carter who was campaigning in New Hampshire, the gathering had fruit juice in the presidential dining room.

"A photographer appeared, from out of the woodwork, and took pictures and then a butler appeared with a seating chart as the group started into the dining room," Peter noted.

"I looked at the seating arrangement and saw I was on the president's right — the place of honor — and Peter was on Annette's right. I looked for someone to share my astonishment with. Peter was way behind me and I couldn't even roll my eyes," Jean said.

The president said grace,

while everyone joined hands. "I looked up and there was my wife holding hands with the president," Peter said.

Four butlers served the nine diners and they ate consommé, red snapper fresh peeled asparagus green salad, croissant and poached candied pears. "Peter was so excited he forgot to eat his lunch, I ate all of mine," Jean said.

The conversation flowed naturally and the topic of discussion touched on the extraordinary paintings in the White House, the Ayatollah Khomeini's pro-state trouble, the education of Bani-Sadr and politics. "He (Carter) made it very clear that he was not leaving the White House until the hostages were released," Peter said.

Burling credited his wife with asking the best question of the day: "Isn't it difficult for you to run the administration and run for office at the same time," she asked.

"I thought he really responded. He said, he didn't think an incumbent Democratic president should be challenged by someone from his own party," Peter said.

Promptly at 1:30 p.m., the president rose to leave and explained he was to meet with the King of Spain.

Their reactions to the visit were of astonishment, excitement and the sense of history of the White House which Jean called a "real national treasure."

"I was very conscious of trying to paste down images for we were living an experience that we'll look back on decades from now. The president impressed and moved me," Peter said.

Rutland Daily Herald  
Feb 20, 1980

# Sullivan Races:

Valley News Wednesday, November 9, 1988

## Burling Wins On 3rd Try

For Peter Burling - Elections see Vertical File at History Center

### Schotanus, Burling Win

On his third try, Peter Burling of Cornish has captured a seat in the New Hampshire House from Sullivan County's District 1. The Democrat finished a short distance behind the first-place finisher, Republican incumbent Merle Schotanus of Grantham.

Republican Philip Hastings, 22, narrowly missed a trip to Concord, finishing third among four candidates for the two available seats. East Plainfield Democrat Sandy Stettenheim finished fourth.

Burling, who had had two close calls in losses in 1980 and 1986, breathed a sigh of relief this morning.

"I finally made it," he said.

Schotanus, 57, took the younger Hastings under his wing in this race, sharing campaign literature and running for the House in tandem. Burling said he's run up against a plan like that before.

"It's that effort that beat me the last time. Sara Townsend carried Merle," he said.

But Burling made it clear that Hastings' political abilities shouldn't be downplayed. "Don't anybody underestimate Phil. He's young, but he's bright; he has his own ideas. I'm sure, if he hangs around the district, he'll be back," Burling said.

Burling said his three-part plan to manage growth in the district that covers Cornish, Grantham, Plainfield and Springfield includes passage of impact-fee legislation, consolidation and rewriting of zoning and planning legislation, and more money for the office of state planning.

Schotanus, a member of the House environmental and agriculture committees, said the four towns have a unique geography: four communities split by Grantham Mountain which are nonetheless "pretty much homogeneous."

"They're bedroom communities for larger communities: Hanover, Norwich and Lebanon to the north, Claremont to the south, and New London to the east," he said.

Schotanus said that one campaign issue that involved all four towns was kindergarten.

"All four were in favor of kindergarten, but the Democrats wanted a state mandate for kindergarten, while the Republicans favored local control with incentives," he said.

# A Year Of Lessons For

Valley News

Friday, May 26, 1989

## A Freshman Representative

By NANCY ROBERTSON  
Valley News Staff Writer

CONCORD — The big battles were over. All that was left was to dot the I's and cross the T's. Freshman Rep. Peter Burling, D-Cornish, ate lunch at the Statehouse cafeteria as the legislature prepared to take its last look at the budget on Wednesday. The wide-eyed wonder he brought to the Statehouse in January had mellowed, but his enthusiasm for the constitutional process had not.

On Tuesday he took the podium in the House and railed against the Republican leadership for letting the attorney general tack a complicated amendment about bail reform onto a bill at the last minute and circumvent the public hearing process. A week earlier he'd initiated a revolt against the same move when a last-minute amendment creating a fund to pay for low-level nuclear waste was tacked to a bill.

The House followed the Republican leadership, but Burling felt at least he'd stood up and made his point. "I'm comfortable with speaking and negotiating," he said Wednesday. "I'd just like to win a few more."

The odds are stacked against him. Burling is one of 117 Democrats in the 400-member House. You might say the Republicans are the dog and the Democrats the tail. If Burling and the Democrats won once in a while the tail would be wagging the dog.

"I'm glad I ran. I'm going to do everything I can to stay elected," he said. "My ambition is when my turn comes to have a position of responsibility in my party in the House."

It was a year of learning for Burling — lessons he could draw on in the future. Lessons like the brute strength of the Republican leadership is awesome, that the leadership doesn't have much respect for constitutional process, and that some of the representatives who get things done use straightforward methods that he can adopt.

The lessons he learned from the battle over the bail reform measure were fresh in his mind. Burling, who



File photograph

Burling hopes for a long tenure.

practiced law until he opened a bed-and-breakfast a few years ago, has had a lifelong love affair with constitutional law. The way the bail reform measure was passed "violated the spirit of the New Hampshire Constitution and what we stand for as representatives," he said.

A little background makes the whole thing more upsetting, he said. The state passed a bill two years ago to reform existing bail law. The 1987 law was poorly written and was heavily criticized. Late this session the attorney general's office offered a new bail bill.

The House Judiciary Committee decided the amendment was far too complicated to get the fair and thorough review it needed so late in the session, Burling said. The committee recommended repealing the 1987 law and giving the attorney general plenty of time to draft a bill that could be considered at public hearings next year.

But the attorney general's office didn't let the matter drop. It persuaded a conference committee to tack bail reform onto another bill as an amendment. The bill — and the amendment — passed both houses.

"Here we have a major bail re-

form bill," Burling said. "It's never had a hearing in the Senate. It's never had a public hearing in the House. Few superior court or district court judges have seen it. I don't think any defense counselors ever saw it."

Burling and other representatives who were outraged at the process tried to get the entire House aroused. "We didn't win, but that's proof of just how powerful the leadership of the House is. They say what they want and they get it, just by inertia."

The events stick in his craw. Last-minute amendments that circumvent the hearing process beg one question, he said as he let his hamburger get cold. "Is passage of a given fix-it bill at a given time more important or is the constitutional process — which is designed to be open and aboveboard?" he asked.

"I think people forget we hold these seats in trust for someone else. Part of that trust is we will provide for an open and fair process."

Another lesson Burling learned: "Working the back of the hall" makes a difference. The representatives who do it "aren't shy about it at all. They'll tell you, 'I really want your help on this bill. It's important to me. It does this.'"

Although he praised House Minority Leader Mary Chambers, D-Elna, for the way she separated personal issues from political differences, Burling said he was discouraged with the lack of party leadership. Democrats spent most of the session reacting to Republican ideas and initiatives, he said.

"The Democratic Party has a great deal of homework to do. We should be identifying what's important to us, working out issues, and working out tactics and strategies."

"When the political opposition does something you think is wrong — attack. Hit them where they're weak. Use the process. Designate speakers who can effectively make the points you need to make. What you don't do is take the defensive position and let the Republican Party roll all over you."

# House Passes Pro-Choice Bill

CONCORD (AP) — Anti-abortion activists took a blow from the House — but possibly not a lethal one — as lawmakers said yes to allowing abortions until the 25th week of pregnancy, and no to two anti-abortion measures.

The 212-148 vote yesterday on the measure allowing second-trimester abortions was — as a 59 percent margin — short of the two-thirds that would be needed for an override of Gov. Judd Gregg's promised veto.

The measure must pass the Senate before it reaches Gregg, something that has little chance of occurring before the legislature takes a two-week break starting Friday.

By a much wider margin Tuesday, the House rejected a bill that would declare that life begins at conception, and one that would bar the use of public money, employees or facilities to assist with or perform abortions.

During yesterday's passionate debate on the abortion-regulating bill, anti-abortion House members pleaded with their colleagues to think of the unborn.

"We are considering a law that would permit the execution of the unborn at any time . . . for any reason," said Rep. Kathleen Hoelzel, R-Raymond. "There is a pandering to women that is at least, in part, the reason this legislation is being considered. . . ."

"We understand the words liberty and freedom and the rights that are written into our Constitution, . . . but a woman's choice and her right, just like every other choice and right, are conditional."

Hoelzel said representatives should remember that rights bring responsibilities — in this case, responsibilities toward those who cannot speak for themselves.

"The word mercy is nowhere to be found in this bill," added Rep. Jacquelyn Domaingue, R-Manchester. "It is totally void of responsibility, compassion and mercy."

And Rep. Matthew Sochalski said the measure's restrictions easily could be abused. The Londonderry Republican said the measure's specification that the mother's life or health could be considered when allowing abortions after the 25th week could let women make weak claims that their mental health is endangered by an otherwise routine pregnancy.

"This bill creates abortion on demand in New Hampshire," he said.

But supporters of the measure, which follows guidelines for legalizing abortion set down in the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision, said their peers should remember that abortion never is a step taken lightly.

Rep. Thomas Gage, whose Judiciary Committee recommended the bill be passed, said he has female friends who have had abortions and "I have heard their agony and I know they never make this decision so lightly as for sex selection."

"This isn't easy. No one said freedom would always be easy," said Gage, R-Exeter. "Part of living in a free society is allowing people to make decisions in their private lives that we as individuals do not agree with."

Others pointed out that the bill does not legalize abortion. The procedure has been legal in New Hampshire since the Roe vs. Wade decision nullified three 19th century state laws making abortion a crime.

An attempt failed last year in the Senate to override Gregg's veto of a bill to repeal those laws.

Rep. Merle Schotanus, R-Gran-

tham, said opponents of the bill should have more faith in a woman's ability to make the best decision.

The bill, he said "simply gives a rational woman a legal framework within which she can make a rational decision."

"Every woman, rational as she is, has the inalienable right to control her own body, just as men do," Schotanus said.

The bill's author, Rep. Peter Burling, D-Cornish, told the House that citizens must be allowed to make the decision on matters that affect their private lives.

"Will we say to the women of this state . . . that we now deny them the right to control their own bodies?" he said. "This bill is valuable because it says to our citizens the right to choice is personal. . . . We know you will make the choice as wisely as you can."



## Burling's Bill

A bill sponsored by New Hampshire Rep. Peter Burling of Cornish, above, which would allow abortion through the 25th week of pregnancy, was approved by the House yesterday. **Page 8.**



# Amendment fails

## N.H. no closer to solving crisis

By **NORMA LOVE**  
and **HOLLY RAMER**  
The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — Rather than writing a final chapter in New Hampshire's school funding crisis, lawmakers posted a "to be continued" sign on the Statehouse door and left, probably until January.

The House rejected a constitutional amendment Thursday billed as the last, best hope for resolving the school funding dilemma this year.

"A bad decision is worse than no decision," said Rep. Mary Brown, R-Chichester, an amendment opponent.

Despite support from Democratic Gov. Jeanne Shaheen and Republican and Democratic legislative leaders, the amendment fell 44 votes short of the necessary three-fifths for passage. It won majority support, 192-153.

House Democratic Leader Peter Burling urged representatives to give voters a say.

"I want the help of my neighbors. I'm tired. I'm sad at the amount of anger we heap on each other and I'm frustrated," said Burling of Cornish.

All the Legislature had to show for the day, and the session, was a one-year, \$62 million increase in state aid to schools. Supporters said the money will show "good faith" to the state Supreme Court, which declared the present education financing system unconstitutional.

(See **FAILED** - Pg. 8)



Democratic leader Rep. Peter Burling speaks in support of a compromise amendment designed to solve the state's education financing problems. (AP photo)

## Vote down, but issue not over

*The failed constitutional amendment highlights the issues — and the stakes — in the education financing debate. Here is a detailed look based on a question-and-answer format prepared by The Telegraph of Nashua.*

**Q. What are the five principles of this amendment?**

A. They are:

1. It allows property taxes to continue to be

used to pay for public schools.

2. It makes state aid available to towns that would have to raise school taxes 5 percent or more above the statewide average rate necessary to pay for an adequate education.

3. It permits judicial review of the Legislature's decisions on school funding, but

(See **QUESTIONS** - Pg. 8)

eliminates an "adequate education" as a "fundamental right" in the constitution.

4. It gives school districts the right to enact local laws, so-called "home rule" authority.

5. It makes explicit in the constitution the state's duty to assure an adequate public education for all.

**Q. What is the cost of an adequate education?**

A. No one knows. A nine-member commission was to recommend a figure by Dec. 1. Lawmakers would use that next year to settle on a final cost figure.

**Q. What is the relevance of the \$90 million cost Gov. Jeanne Shaheen and others have attached to the amendment?**

A. The figure is based on an estimated \$5,100 per-pupil cost for an adequate education and a statewide average tax rate of \$15 per \$1,000 of property value needed to finance it.

Some conservatives insist the cost will turn out to be much higher.

Some Democrats worry the cost figure could be arbitrarily reduced during a recession.

**Q. How would the \$90 million be paid?**

A. Amendment sponsors have not offered any proposals and do not have to in conjunction with the amendment.

This decision lies with the next governor and Legislature. Shaheen has said she favors getting \$40 million from increasing the tobacco tax by 25 cents per pack and getting the rest from legalizing video gambling machines at race tracks.

**Q. Does the amendment bar the Legislature from approving a broad-based tax in the future?**

A. No, but the clear aim of the amendment's framers is to permit the Legislature to avoid a statewide income or property tax.

**Q. What happens now that the amendment has failed?**

A. The Legislature probably will ask for an extension of the Supreme Court's April 1 deadline for a new financing system, and the debate will continue.

**Q. Who supported this amendment?**

A. House Speaker Donna Sytek, R-Salem; House Finance Committee Chairman Neal Kurk, R-Weare; and Sen. Ned Gordon, R-Bristol, helped write it.

Gov. Shaheen; Senate President Joe Delahunty, R-Salem; House Democratic Leader Peter Burling of Cornish, and Senate Democratic Leader John King of Manchester support it.

**Q. Who opposed this amendment?**

A. Lawyers for poor school districts that sued the state over the present financing system call the amendment a deceitful attempt to deprive children of their rights and relieve the state of its constitutional duty to provide an adequate education. Lawyer Andru Volinsky says the amendment appears to give the courts authority to review school financing decisions, but actually gives legislators freedom to do as much or as little as they wish. Organizations representing school boards and school administrators oppose the amendment, as does the Children's Alliance of New Hampshire.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Jay Lucas opposes it, saying it would lead to a large tax increase. Also opposed are the Conservative Political Victory Fund, Granite State Taxpayers, Legislators for Limited Spending, the House Republican Alliance and the New Hampshire Advantage Coalition.

# Cornish Lawmaker Peter Burling Takes His Bow

By JOHN P. GREGG

Valley News Staff Writer

LEBANON — More than 150 friends and colleagues turned out Thursday night to celebrate and roast state Sen. Peter Burling, D-Cornish, as he retires from the Legislature after two decades of spirited battle on behalf of progressive causes.

But Burling, 63, isn't leaving the political scene — as a new member of the Democratic National Committee, he plans to remain a prominent voice in the Granite State and in steering the party.

Burling, in a phone interview, said the election of Barack Obama brings the party not only a talented new leader but a huge network of grassroots supporters who can be harnessed for

the greater good.

"You keep the Internet system up and running. You keep people focused on things they can do for the good of the country," said Burling.

"Coupled with that is all of us as Democrats need to remember we were elected in a time of national crisis, and our first priority is to address the national issues that trouble the country. They are health care, jobs, the economy — did I mention the economy? — and I think staying focused, staying smart and staying open so that people understand what it is we are trying to do," he added.

Burling plans to remain a determined advocate for New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary role, and also hopes to be reappointed to the New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority.

As a state Senate appointee, he has served as chairman of the panel, which has been working to establish a rail corridor linking Concord to Boston, via Lowell, with up to 22 commuter-rail trains a day.

"It is a project that generates wealth, it cleans the environment and protects the environment, and it moves people efficiently," he said.

Burling has no plans to leave Cornish — his

*See CORNISH—A5*

**Peter Burling, middle, introduces Matthew Houde, left, who was elected to replace Burling in the New Hampshire Senate, to Marlene Taylor, assistant to the Senate president, during a reception celebrating Burling's retirement from the Senate.**

VALLEY NEWS — JAMES M. PATTERSON



wife, Jean Burling, retired from her job as a Superior Court judge in January because of a medical disability — but has also let it be known that he would be interested in a federal appointment dealing with regional transportation issues.

Burling served in the House for 14 years, where he was the Democratic leader, and four years in the state Senate. He also spent two years in Concord as spokesman for the state Democratic Party.

Though often embattled and overpowered by what was for many years a Republican majority, Burling's accomplishments ranged from expanding kindergarten around the state to this year helping broker an overhaul of the state retirement system.

At the reception at the Courtyard by Marriott at Centerra, a friend read a resolution from Gov. John Lynch proclaiming it to be "Peter Hoe Burling Day" in New Hampshire, and attendees included House Speaker Terie Norelli and state Democratic Party Chairman Raymond Buckley.

Former Concord Mayor Martin Gross, a Democratic powerbroker, said Burling was often "the voice of one crying in the wilderness" — a play on Dartmouth's motto — in advancing progressive causes.

Burling also was an ardent recruiter of Democratic candidates around the state. Former Agriculture Commissioner Steve Taylor, a Meriden resident and Burling's cousin, said Burling was on par with Democrats Phil Hoff of Vermont and Ed Muskie of Maine in making New Hampshire a competitive two-party state.

Friends also lampooned Burling's vivid, at times flamboyant phraseology, noting he once tried to rally House Democrats by proclaiming, "I'm going to be the toughest bunny in the hutch."

Burling's affection for plaid shirts (he also dressed in Colonial garb as Cornish town moderator to celebrate the bicentennial in 1976) also came in for some comment.

"There's nobody else who could pull off presiding as moderator in Cornish in Edwardian garb," said Taylor.



Peter Burling smiles out from a button on his lapel during a reception to honor his service to the state at the Courtyard Marriott in Lebanon Thursday.

VALLEY NEWS PHOTOS — JAMES M. PATTERSON

And Buckley, who served as Democratic whip in the House when Burling led the party ranks, indicated that he often wanted to dole out some *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* fashion tips.

"Do you know how difficult it was to be his whip, and gay, and see him walk into the Statehouse?" said Buckley, who joked that Jean Burling,



Peter Burling hugs Nancy Cirone of Lebanon while greeting guests Thursday. Burling did not run for re-election in the senate this year and will now serve as a member of the Democratic National Committee.

thankfully, must have chosen her husband's more muted attire Thursday night.

John P. Gregg can be reached at [jgregg@vnews.com](mailto:jgregg@vnews.com) or (603) 727-3213.

**LAMBERT**





New Hampshire state Reps. Peter Burling, D-Cornish, center, and Sharon Nordgren, D-Hanover, socialize with other representatives in

Concord on Tuesday. Burling, House Democratic leader, is not seeking re-election. VALLEY NEWS — LAURA DeCAPU

# Burling's Voice Was Heard

By JOHN P. GREGG

Valley News Staff Writer

CONCORD — House Democratic Leader Peter Burling walked out of the House chamber Tuesday afternoon following a close, crucial vote on education funding and spun a thread of political optimism out of another legislative defeat.

"A rational Democrat could be pleased by this," the Cornish lawmaker told a reporter. "From a purely partisan perspective, the chasm within the Republican Party grows wider, and a whole bunch of Republicans who represent donor towns and poor towns are going to be furious about this, and they'll feel abandoned by their leadership."

The comment was typical for Burling, an erudite and tenacious partisan who has battled New Hampshire's Republican majority, with mixed results, for two decades.

After seven terms in the House, including the past eight years as Democratic leader, the 59-year-old Burling is not seeking re-election this year, and will take a breather of uncertain duration from politics. (Although lawmakers may return next month to take up gubernatorial vetoes, the legislature adjourned for the year this week.)

Asked how he would describe his tenure as

Democratic leader to an old friend, Burling said

**"I think he's been a great leader under the most trying times."**

Rep. John Cloutier  
D-Claremont

"Rich, challenging, scary, frustrating, invigorating, depressing. It is a job of extremes, but it is a job that puts me in the end at a place where I feel overwhelming affection and camaraderie for the people in my caucus. I have this rich sense of honor and the privilege that I've enjoyed for eight years."

With Democrats holding just 1 of the 400 seats in the New Hampshire House, Burling has given voice, if not often brought victory

to Democratic causes ranging from a state income tax to legislative redistricting. As t

See BURLING'S—

Valley News May 28, 2004

House Democratic leader, Burling both helped set the Democratic agenda and also wielded influence on committee assignments and other legislative functions.

Republican Sen. Bob Odell, a former House member who represents the Claremont region, said Burling has fought valiantly to ease the impact of the property tax on homeowners, but has also been the leader of "a permanent minority" in Concord.

"We see the economics of the people around us burdened by the property tax, and he certainly made that a major issue at every opportunity," said Odell.

But because Burling is in "such a distinct minority," Odell said, "except for the rare occasions, he doesn't have the opportunity to muster his troops to be a force in a decision. It's tough, and I think Peter, in the toughest situation, has done very well to be a good, solid, articulate spokesman."

"I think he's been a great leader under the most trying times," said Rep. John Cloutier, a six-term Claremont Democrat. "It's a tough job, and you're not going to please everybody. I think he's fought for the best interests of our state, and he's led our party well in the

House."

Burling has several victories of which he can be proud.

Working with Democratic Gov. Jeanne Shaheen in her first term seven years ago, Burling helped dramatically expand state funding for local kindergarten programs.

"We made it possible for school boards and school districts to vote for kindergarten without bankrupting themselves, and a great many did," Burling said. "We built kindergarten school rooms, and we provided kindergarten to kids. That means a great deal."

Following the banking crisis of the early 1990s, he helped establish a state Business Finance Authority that spurred job-related investments. He pushed for public release of the professional conduct files of John Fairbanks, the former Newport District Court judge who fled the state after being indicted on charges of looting millions of dollars from his clients' accounts.

And this year, he was a major force in pro-

tecting the Katie Beckett program, which provides Medicaid funding for home-health care for severely disabled children.

Hanover Rep. Sharon Nordgren, the deputy Democratic leader, said Burling has maintained unity and an "upbeat" attitude among their outnumbered colleagues.

"I think he's held the caucus together like it's never been together before," Nordgren said. "If we have an important vote, we only lose one or two people, and that's exceptional."

---

### Burling helped dramatically expand state funding for kindergarten.

---

But there also have been plenty of political setbacks. Democrats held 160 seats in the House four years ago, but have lost about 20 slots in each of the last two elections, prompting two other Democrats to challenge Burling for the leadership post in 2002.

And although he retained support — Burling said 115 of the 119 House Democrats would have backed him had he run for governor this year — he ultimately had to abandon a bid to unseat Republican Gov. Craig Benson after it became clear that some Democratic power

brokers, including Shaheen, preferred to field a candidate who had never called for broader-based taxes.

Burling, who often uses self-deprecating humor as a political foil, made an oblique reference to his standing in the state's Democratic hierarchy at a meeting Tuesday morning of the House Democratic caucus. After a colleague congratulated Burling for being the top vote-getter at the party convention last weekend to be a presidential elector, Burling joked, "After eight years, I get to say this: My real pride is I beat Jeannie Shaheen."

Although he will continue to support and campaign for Democratic candidates this fall, Burling — who graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School and is married to Grafton County Superior Court Judge Jean Burling — is also looking for a full-time job, with a salary.

The House leadership job paid only \$100 a year, and the Burlings' only child is about to enter college in California.

"Oh, yes, \$42,000 a year catches my attention," Burling said of the cost of college. "Let's not kid anybody. I'm not immune to the fact that medical care, insurance, and every-

thing else is going straight up."

To honor his years of political toil, Democrats created a Peter Hoe Burling Award for Legislative Service, and some Republicans have also extended a congratulatory hand. Before the House adjourned for the year Tuesday night, House Republican leaders allowed him to preside at the Speaker's podium, the summit he long sought but never reached.

"I ripped through about five bills," Burling said. "It helps to have been (Cornish) moderator for 31 years."

As Burling leaves the political scene, he says he does so both with a "clear sense of accomplishment" and with the knowledge that he "could come back to politics at any moment."

Told that sounded like both a promise and a threat, Burling replied, "Oh, yeah, and that's the way I mean it. The threat should be to those satisfied Republicans who aren't willing to see how desperately we need to change the path we're on. The promise is to my (Democratic) friends in here, that if you need something, I'll give it to you. If it's mine to give, I'll give it to you."

# It was an honor to serve

## To the editor:

For the past six years, it has been my real privilege and pleasure to serve the people of Cornish and Plainfield as their representative to the General Court.

I want to say that I will always be grateful to my neighbors for their gift of that opportunity, and for that terrific time in the Statehouse. I have always loved working for my community, and my hope is that I have served in a way that has given most of my neighbors some feeling of satisfaction.

I would also like to say that during the past six months, it has been my real pleasure to campaign throughout Senate District 8. I wonder how many people in our district really

know what a wonderful place this district is. I have met the most kind-hearted and generous people here in the last few months, and I have seen the most beautiful things as I have driven around.

I am so very grateful for all that I've been given: the support of family, the friendship of marvelous people, the best wishes of folks who struggle to make life better for everyone, not just the powerful. For all those acts of kindness that have come my way, I want to say thanks.

And to everyone in this district, I extend my wishes for the best of luck. There never was a place more deserving of good fortune.

**Peter Hoe Burling**  
Cornish

Eagle 11/18/94

1, 2004 News 5-11-04

# Peter Burling Won't Run For Governor, Re-Election

By JOHN P. GREGG

Valley News Staff Writer

House Democratic Leader Peter Burling, the Upper Valley's most prominent lawmaker in Concord, yesterday withdrew from the governor's race and also said he would not seek re-election to the legislature this fall.

"I am withdrawing my name from the race for governor. My reason for doing so is a conviction that this is simply not the time for me to be doing this, and please note the word 'me,'" said the 59-year-old Burling, who had never formally announced a run for governor, but raised more than \$100,000 in contributions and pledges for a challenge to incumbent Republican Gov. Craig Benson. Burling said he plans to return the donations.

Burling, an outspoken opponent of New Hampshire's reliance on the prop-

erty tax, has served for 14 years in the House, including eight years leading Democrats, who hold just 119 of the institution's 400 seats.

Burling worked behind the scenes for several months to try to recruit a strong Democratic challenger to Benson, then started to prepare for a run himself when no one else stepped forward. But then former Attorney General Phil McLaughlin also said he is likely to seek the Democratic nomination and appeared to garner more enthusiastic backing from party powerbrokers concerned about fielding any candidate who had supported an income tax in the past, as Burling had done.

While McLaughlin has said he would veto a sales or income tax, Burling has said all revenue sources should be "on the table" for discussion.

Tom Oppel, a Democratic consul-

See BURLING—A3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

tant from Canaan, said his party is well aware of how Republicans have used the tax issue as a political cudgel for decades in New Hampshire.

"It comes up again and again and again," Oppel said. "It's just pretty clear that it's an important issue and there's no doubt that there are a lot of people on the Democratic side who would prefer that, having that history, that Peter not be part of the campaign."

But Burling said he had drawn "a great deal of support across the political spectrum" and said his decision not to run for the corner office came down to his desire to focus on fielding a strong Democratic front in the remaining weeks of the legislative session, when such issues as education financing will be debated.

"I need to do this job of Democratic leader right, and the state of New Hampshire needs me to do that right," said Burling. "We face, excuse the expression, a hell of a fight to get what we want in the next month-and-a-half. I need to stay focused, and I need to stay in my office doing my job."

As for leaving the House when his term ends, Burling said he is "absolutely not burnt out" but wants to find a job with a paycheck. The duties of House Democratic Leader paid nothing more than the \$100 stipend given all House lawmakers, said Burling.

"Eight years is enough. The next



Peter Burling

there to do meaningful things and get paid for it."

The Harvard-educated lawyer ruled out a state Senate race — he has run and lost twice before — but said he may well return to public service in the future.

New Hampshire Democrats were quick to praise Burling for his work over the years.

"I think it's a great loss for the state. Obviously, I think if the timing were better, the race for governor was something we all wanted him to do," said state Rep. Sharon Nordgren, D-Hanover.

Nordgren, the deputy Democratic leader, said she is not interested in running next term for a leadership post and had yet to decide whether she will seek re-election.

Kathy Sullivan, the chairwoman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party, also praised Burling and noted that his only child is about to enter col-

lege.

"People should recognize what a great state rep he's been, and people should recognize how hard he has worked for the state of New Hampshire," Sullivan said. "I think it's more of a case of he just looked at it and said, 'You know, there are things I want to do, and this is the right time for me to do it.'"

State Rep. Connie Jones, a Grantham Republican who also represents the two-seat district representing Cornish, Plainfield and Grantham, praised Burling, saying "he tries to look out for the little guy."

The 62-year-old Jones, who also serves as a member of the Grantham selectboard, said she is uncertain about her own plans for re-election. "I'm having to give it a very hard look," she said.

Two local Democrats, banking on Burling's candidacy for governor, were already eying a race for a House seat.

Stephen Prichard, a retired family therapist and Presbyterian minister from Grantham who narrowly lost to Jones in 2002, said he is "disappointed" by Burling's departure from Concord. Prichard said he plans to run again for one of the two House seats in Burling's district. And Dr. Leonard Rudolf, an orthopedic surgeon from Cornish and former member of the school board there, also said he is "interested" in the race.

**FOLLOWING PAGE**

**HARRY BUTNAM**

**CORNISH FLAT, March 16**—Villagers who have mechanical troubles usually end up at the farm of Harry E. Butnam, jack-of-all-trades who fixes anything from a truck body to his own homemade wooden peg leg in his workshop on the Westpass road to Corbin's Park.

The possessor of a droll sense of humor and a mechanical turn of mind, Mr. Butnam, a bachelor-farmer, is famous locally for his skilled work with anvil and forge and has turned out many log scoots, cart-wheels, hand sleds and wooden truck bodies.

While deer hunting with his brother, Maurice, at the age of 19 in 1907, his breech-lock type shotgun accidentally exploded and the charge of 268 number six birdshot pellets (he counted a shell later) lodged in his right foot and lower ankle. The foot was amputated at Boston hospital.

#### Wears Out Wooden Leg

For four years Butnam hobbled around gamely on crutches until he raised \$85 to buy an artificial jointed wooden leg with a swivel foot. He used this willow leg for 10 years until it was worn out.

Not completely satisfied with the manufactured leg which had seen its best years he fashioned a peg leg from a willow tree growing near his 70-acre farm. This lasted until a second homemade leg was made a few years later of the same wood.

Neither of his first two legs proved sufficiently strong, so he went to work on his present peg leg, using wood from a butternut tree this time. After hollowing out the tree to the proper proportion he fitted it snugly to his lower leg and joined it to a leather support worn on the thigh by means of a movable hinge at the kneecap. Room for the knee was left by cut-

ting the wood and leather to fit the contour of the leg.

A leather strap running down from his left shoulder holds the upper leather part of the leg in place. Carefully held together with metal bands and rivets, the leg is encased at the bottom by an iron band taken from a carriage wheel hub. Cut down to proper size, rubber from the solid rubber tire of an old automobile serves as the bottom of the leg.

#### Another Leg for Summer

For warmth, he has lined his "winter" leg with sheepskin. A lighter "summer" leg stands ready for use in the house. Creepers for walking on ice also have been made for use with the "winter" leg.

Quiet, unassuming and a little bashful, Mr. Butnam lives his busy life at his birthplace near the Westpass entrance to the famed Corbin's park. When he isn't fixing sewing machines, clocks or blacksmithing, he is out cutting timber on his woodlots. He neither drinks nor smokes and says he has no time for movies, radio or other relaxations.

He and his brother Maurice, who is married and has two children, pooled their resources recently and now jointly operate the two farms. A horse and cow are the joint extent of their livestock resources. The brother works in a nearby sawmill and lives a short distance down the road. Until the death of his father, Albert S. Butnam, 81, a few weeks ago, Harry kept bachelor-house for two. Now he's alone and has to eat his own cooking with no comments from anyone else. But he says he doesn't mind it.

Money orders were first accepted by the U. S. postoffice department in 1864.

American men smoke an average of 100 cigars a year.

# Fashions Own Wooden Leg

## Jack-of-All-Trades Lives Alone on Farm at Cornish Flat

Harry Butnam



Harry E. Butnam of Cornish Flat, village handyman and jack-of-all-trades, shown in the kitchen of his home on the Westpass road to Corbin Park. His wooden peg was made by himself in one week from the wood of a butternut tree which grew near his 70-acre farm. Metal parts of leg were obtained from old automobiles.

## THE BUTTERNUTS

This house is really two houses put together by Charles Beaman's Boston architect, Daniel Appleton, who <sup>also</sup> combined <sup>three</sup> ~~old houses~~ <sup>own</sup> to make Beaman's residence, "Blowmedown." In both instances he set his own distinctive mark upon the remodeled houses, using gambrel roofs and Dutch doors, as well as outsized windows. The original rectangular farmhouse, whose main entrance is now the sidedoor between the dining room and the kitchen, ended at the present wall between the dining room and living room. Appleton's plans show two rather <sup>than</sup> one Dutch doors in the living room and another in the northwest corner of the library beside the fireplace. <sup>For</sup> The house was intended, as the plans state, as "A Summer Cottage for Mr. C.C. Beaman," - "cottage" being used in the same liberal way as it was in the Newport of that period, when it included houses of 80 rooms. The key distinction was a house intended as a summer residence. The old part of this house was built c. 1820 for use as a farmhouse by the Mercer family. Immigrants from Scotland who established a successful wooden mill on Blowmedown Brook at the site of Judge Learnded Hand's house. Appleton tricked it up a bit by adding the bay window in the dining room, the handsome woodwork throughout the front of the house, and a great 4-flue chimney, with fireplaces in living and dining rooms <sup>in</sup> and two upstairs bedrooms. It takes 35 feet of steel brushes to clean <sup>in</sup> this chimney from the ground floor. In the original farmhouse there are floorboards more than two feet wide, and early flat mouldings in the kitchen, as usual before it was possible to make curved wooden mouldings. These definitely date the house in the opinion of Mr. Ames of "High Court", a professional architect.

The remodeled house was first occupied by the Arnold family of New York, friends of C.C. Beaman, in 1891 after work had been completed under the supervision of "Superintendent Waite," the father of Ned Waite, a master carpenter of the past generation. His father was responsible for the building or rebuilding of many of the "Little New York" houses. The head of the Arnold family was Benjamin, coffee merchant and onetime mayor of New York City. The children included <sup>Henry?</sup> Grace, who had a good <sup>singing</sup> voice and was the star turn of many musicales given by the Arnolds, Charlotte, and Frances, as well as two married daughters, Mrs. Fraser Campbell, who occupied the adjacent cottage (much older than the main farmhouse, <sup>(c. 1750)</sup> barn-built with 6-foot ceilings), and Mrs. Clendener Graydon, <sup>Young</sup> Arnold Fraser Campbell, who lost an arm in the first world war, fluttered many girlish hearts in Cornish. Frances Arnold later rented a Mercer cottage near Judge Hand's, and subsequently moved it across the road and enlarged it to make the present residence of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Dennis. The "Butternuts", so named for six trees which were set out in front of the porch <sup>in 1890</sup> and of which only one partial survivor still stands, was the scene of weekly baseball games as well as musicales, and was one of the colony's social centers.

The Arnolds never owned the place, but only rented it. They failed to accept an offer to sell from Squire Willie Beaman, when he inherited the Beaman estate; and he sold it <sup>in 1918</sup> to Alfred Ebers Wade of New York, whom he had met in the 7th Regiment of the New York National Guard. After three years on the Mexican border where the federalized 7th had been sent to protect Texas from Mexican bandit raids, Mr. Wade was anxious to find plenty of room for four active young children and some peace and quiet for himself. He and wife began the treeplanting which has been

"Mr. Wade of N.Y. has purchased 'Butternuts'"

Vt. Journal Jan 18 1918 Vol. LXXIII #16

continued by his son Hugh, who inherited the place upon his father's death in 1949. He had been the only member of the family to continue living in Cornish after the family moved out of New York to New Canaan, Conn. After several years in the book publishing business in New York after finishing college, he has since made his year-round home here, except for teaching and diplomatic posts elsewhere.

The Mercer family came to this region from Scotland in 1818, and first located in Claremont. About 1830 the family migrated to Cornish and built Mercer's Mills in the western part of town, continuing the woolworking business they had started in Claremont. In the heyday of sheepraising in the region, they built up a thriving business, which continued until about 1887, when it first declined and then ceased. The grandson of the founder, William Mercer, born May 21, 1843, died on Sept. 19, 1895, leaving a sum of nearly \$7,000. to the town, whose interest was to be devoted to aiding both girls and boys of Cornish who wanted a high school education. Many Cornish students have been enabled to attend Kimball Union Academy, thanks to this bequest, and several to continue their studies much longer. Under the present owner the house has been used frequently for educational purposes, and it will be left to Dartmouth College as a center for Canadian-American studies and conferences.

The Wades changed the name of the place to "The Meadows," not caring for Squire Willie's jocular references to "The Nuts." Time has taken its toll of both butternuts and meadows, and the present owner expects the place will be known eventually as "The Beeches," after his replacements of the original butternuts.

Witter Bynner

# Footprints of the Past

by Virginia Colby

## Witter Bynner (1881 - 1968)

Witter Bynner, writer, editor and poet, met Homer Saint-Gaudens and Barry Faulkner while attending Harvard University. Following graduation in 1902 he became assistant editor and later literary editor of *McClure's Magazine*. All during his life he published poems, plays and stories. He lectured and taught English at the University of California, Santa Cruz, 1918-1919. In 1911 he gave the Phi Beta Kappa lecture at Harvard, and again in 1919 at the University of California where he read part of his poem, "The New World," published in 1915.

\*\*\*

In 1907, Homer Saint-Gaudens and his wife, Carlotta, invited Bynner to stay with them in "Barberry House" in Cornish, where he stayed 10 years. While in Cornish, he wrote a group of poems entitled, *Grenstone Poems*, which was a composite of two New Hampshire towns, Cornish and Chesham.

Bynner became active in community affairs, serving as the first vice president of the Cornish Equal Suffrage League, which was formed in 1911. Witter Bynner played "Stark" the plume hunter in Percy MacKaye's *Bird Masque*, which was performed in Meriden in 1913. For a costume he wore a tall feather headdress and a leopard-skin mantle.

Bynner was frequently listed in the Cornish Library Notes as having donated books, as well as those he authored.

In a diary entry for January 22, 1908, Stephen Parrish has the following to say, "Evening to Fred's to dinner (Homer Saint-Gaudens and Mr. Binner, poet and playwright. He entertained us with stories of the Southern Negroes, he had just come from Georgia." Bynner is mentioned in Stephen Parrish's diaries frequently during the year of 1909.

The death of Homer and Carlotta's son in 1913 inspired Bynner to write *The Little King*, which was published in 1914 and dedicated to the Saint-Gaudenes. In 1920 Bynner published "Saint-Gaudens," a tribute dedicated to the sculptor, in a collection entitled, *A Canticle of Pan and Other Poems*. Bynner was a friend of Isadora Duncan.

Bynner later moved to New Mexico. He died in New Mexico in 1968. The American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters states, "established by the Witter Bynner Foundation for poetry in 1979, the Witter Bynner Prize of \$1,500 is given annually to an outstanding younger poet."



Photograph of Witter Bynner  
in Sante Fe, March 1930.

By Alfred A. Knopf

# Cornish Approves Cell Tower

## Opponent Calls Height, 160 Feet, 'Excessive'

By JOHN P. GREGG  
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — After nine often contentious hearings since January, the Cornish Zoning Board of Adjustment last night voted 4-1 to approve a 150-foot Verizon Wireless telecommunications tower off Town House Road on Dingleton Hill.

The monopole tower, which can beam Verizon Wireless' PCS signal both along Route 12A and across the Connecticut River to parts of Windsor and Interstate 91, must be disguised as a tree using "stealth" technology. Allowing an additional 10 feet for fake branches, the structure could stand 160 feet high, some 80 feet above the tree canopy at the site, according to the board's decision.

"I think this is the best possible solution that we arrived at. Am I happy with it? I would still have preferred for it to be a little lower, but I don't think realistically that was possible," zoning board Chairman Karim Chichakly said after the meeting. "The point is, they're trying to provide service on 12A, and Town House Road, and 91, and if you drop the tower lower, the service wasn't there."

Chichakly and fellow panelists Jim Brown, Caroline Storrs and Bill Balch voted for the tower. Jason Bourne, who had frequently questioned the need for a 150-foot tower, voted against the variances Verizon Wireless was seeking.

"I feel that the height of the tower is excessive. It's detri-

See CORNISH—A3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

mental to the character of our town. It doesn't do enough to blend into our rural character," Bourne said after the meeting. "I would have supported a lower tower, but this is simply too high."

Dozens of Cornish residents, especially those in nearby Mill Village, had repeatedly argued that the tower conflicts with the rural character of the town.

The zoning board's 18-page decision, which includes 21 conditions on Verizon Wireless, acknowledged that the area is "rural," but argued the impact would be minimal.

"Rural" no longer means (if it ever did) a totally bucolic countryside with small villages and farmhouses dotting the hills of the Upper Valley. Today, "rural" necessarily means telephone poles, electric lines, cable lines, telephone lines ... — all of which are found in the immediately affected area.

A low lying tower adds little," reads the decision, which was drafted by Brown.

The board did require Verizon Wireless, which originally sought a 190-foot tower, to reserve one of the top three antenna sites on the structure for cellular phone service, which operates on a lower frequency than the company's specialized PCS service, and can therefore reach a wider coverage area.

Verizon Wireless' Manchester-based attorney, Linda Connell, said such provisions could conflict with contractual pledges several telecommunications companies have made with other providers to offer "co-location" space on a "first come, first serve" basis.

"We're glad to have a final decision. We do have some questions on what they did with co-location, I'll have to be looking at that detail of the decision," Connell said after the meeting.

Cornish resident Dillon Gallagher, a tower opponent, called the decision "very disappointing."

The zoning board last week had

delayed a vote on the tower to see if it might allow up to a 150-foot structure, but require a lower one if a test from a crane proved the lesser height workable. But Chichakly said the town's

attorney said there was "no legalism" under state law to allow permit.

John Gregg can be reached at [jgregg@vnews.com](mailto:jgregg@vnews.com).



MRS. VIRGINIA COLBY, coordinator of an effort by the Cornish Historical Society to index all gravestones in town, demonstrates the method workers use to clean old stones so inscriptions can be

read. Note the masking tape atop some stones used to mark finished stones by workers.

(Photo by Carol Carter)

Tuesday, June 14, 1977

Valley News — Lebanon, N.H.



**PEERING DEEPLY** — Ellsworth Atwood was one of several who began work indexing Cornish gravestones at the Cornish Flat Cemetery Mon-

day night. Atwood had to clean several layers of dust from this gravestone before the inscription could be read. (News photo Catherine Pomeicko)

# Gravestones Are Indexed At Cornish

CORNISH — Members of the Historical society began indexing gravestones in town cemeteries Monday night.

Some 11 volunteers began work in the Cornish Flat Cemetery and plan to meet once a week throughout the summer in the town's 10 large cemeteries and five or more smaller cemeteries located on private property within the town.

According to the project's coordinator, Virginia Colby, estimates of the number of gravestones in the town range from 1,000 to 2,000.

Mrs. Colby said there may also be smaller cemeteries located on private property in the town that the group is not aware of and asked that any persons in the town with a private cemetery contact a member of the historical

Armed with bug spray and index cards, volunteers began work in which the last name, given name and inscriptions on all gravestones are listed.

Mrs. Colby said all cards will be filed in alphabetical order by cemetery and probably kept in the town office.

Volunteers include Bernice Johnson, who will be in charge of the Cornish Flat Cemetery, Clara Weld for the Trinity Cemetery, Phyllis Hemphill for the Huggins Cemetery, Audrey Jacquior for the Parsonage Cemetery and Evelyn Lear, who will be in charge of the Edminster Cemetery.

Mrs. Colby said she would like to have picnic lunches each week before the weekly grave indexing.

The next meeting of volunteers will be Thursday at 10 a.m. in the Cornish Flat Cemetery. All materials will be provided.

According to Mrs. Colby, some of the older gravestones require cleaning before the inscription can be read and other gravestones have begun deteriorating. Rubbing for stones with worn inscriptions is also necessary in some cases, she said.

She said the group also plans to collate epitaphs on the gravestones.



**FACELIFT** — Edward Jones of Cornish recently refurbished the Old Whitten Cemetery on Whitten Road in Cornish. (Ruth Rollins photo)

## Cornish man finds stories as he fixes up old cemetery

By **RUTH ROLLINS**  
Contributing Writer

**CORNISH** — Cornish resident Edward Jones, who enjoys riding the back roads, recently noticed the Old Whitten Cemetery was in need of refurbishing and decided it was a project he would take on.

The private cemetery on Whitten Road is the burial ground for a family who arrived to settle in Cornish about 1772, moving here from Portsmouth, N.H.

John and Anna Whitten were the parents of 13 children, including quadruplets. They lived just a short while and were buried in this little cemetery.

"These children were named Beautiful, Wonderful, Strange and True," said Emily Johnson Abbott, the great-great-great-granddaughter of John and Anna Whitten. The names were chosen because "it was Beautiful to have the first child, wonderful that there were two, strange that there should be three and true that there were four," Abbott said.

The Whittens' daughter, Eleanor, married Ebenezer and Hannah Johnson's son, Nathaniel Johnson Abbott, who lives in Ascutney, well remembers this information given her by her grandmother Anna Isabel Lear Johnson and her parents, Oscar and Vera

Tewksbury Johnson.

It is believed that Ebenezer and Hannah Johnson and John and Anna Whitten are also buried in the cemetery, as well as one of the Whittens' sons.

The cemetery has only field stones for markers, with no inscriptions.

Jones and his wife, Bonnie, worked several days cleaning up trees and brush that had grown in the cemetery, and purchased a split rail fence to enclose three sides. A rock wall fronts the cemetery. They even placed flowers on graves.

A flag was also placed at the cemetery noting John Whitten's service in the Revolutionary War.

When asked why he would take on such a project, Jones said, "respect, we should respect our forefathers. Respect is what it is all about. I thought it would be a nice thing to do. The cemetery was cared for by abutting landowners for years, but for some time no one had worked there."

Several other people think it was a nice thing to do, including John Dryfhout, superintendent of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site and descendent Emily Abbott, who took a trip to the cemetery to see the work that had been done there.

# Sexton Grooms Tombs In Cornish

By PAT YODEN

Valley News Correspondent

An unusual historical restoration project has just been completed by Sexton Hollis J. Boardman Sr.

Assisted by Alonzo Spaulding and Stanley Woodward, Boardman has repaired more than 400 cracked and broken headstones, some of which are more than 200 years old.

"Some of the stones were split right in half, and some were actually buried in the ground," said Boardman. "It didn't seem right to let that happen, so I asked the town for some more money this year to fix them up."

Voters at Town Meeting last March appropriated an additional \$1,000 for the Cemetery Fund and Boardman's project. Boardman and his assistants have worked in the town's eight cemeteries all summer.

Buried stones were dug up, including one in several pieces with a large tree growing in the middle of it. Cracked and broken stones were repaired with a special type of bonding cement and bolts when necessary. A few stones were in such bad shape that Boardman had to reinforce them by bolting pieces of unmarked footstones across the back.

Boardman solved the problem of finding bolts that wouldn't rust or corrode by using brass bolts designed for use in toilets.

"They'll last forever," he said, "where steel will rust out in twenty-five years."

"People are more history-conscious today than they used to be," said Boardman, who believes that this may account for voters' willingness to spend extra money repairing old gravestones.

Boardman gets many calls from people seeking the graves of their ancestors, and often spends his days off looking for them. The task has been made easier by the fact that the Cornish Historical Society has alphabetically catalogued the stones in each cemetery.

Still, finding a particular stone can be time consuming, but Boardman doesn't mind spending his free time searching for other people's ancestors. In the course of his searching he has found many unusual stones.

The Whitten Cemetery on Dingleton Hill contains the markers of quadruplets born to John and Anna Whitten in the 1790's. The quads, who all died in infancy, were named Wonderful, Marvelous, Strange, and True. It is believed that they were all girls.

In Chase Cemetery stands a headstone marking the triple grave of two wives and one child of W. Moody Chase. "All Three Hid In This Grave," reads the grave marker. Rebeckah, the first wife died June 8, 1794 in her twenty-third year, just two days after her baby, whose name and sex are not recorded. Rhoda, the second wife, died February 21, 1796, at the age of 27.

Boardman, 69, is a Vermont native who has lived in town for 57 years. He has been sexton "on and off for fifteen years." He has also been a selectman, constable, a Cornish Fair director, a member of the planning board, and of "just about everything else except the school board." He enjoys his part time job in the cemeteries and is especially glad to have worked on the restoration project.



Pat Yoden

Town Sexton Hollis Boardman points to one of many deteriorating tombstones he has been restoring in Cornish's eight cemeteries.



**Tender Tender**

*Valley News June 20, 2002*

John Rawson of Cornish drinks milk on lunch break at Cornish's Child Cemetery, where his wife, father, grandmother, grandfa-

ther and uncle lie. He tends eight Cornish cemeteries and s he wouldn't be there if he didn't like it. VALLEY NEWS — TOM R



*Earle 4-30-03*

**SEXTON** — Cornish cemetery sexton Albert Earle takes a momentary break from his spring clean-up work Tuesday at the Flat Cemetery in Cornish Flat. The old graveyard is one of eight major burial grounds that Earle and his two

# 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.*

---

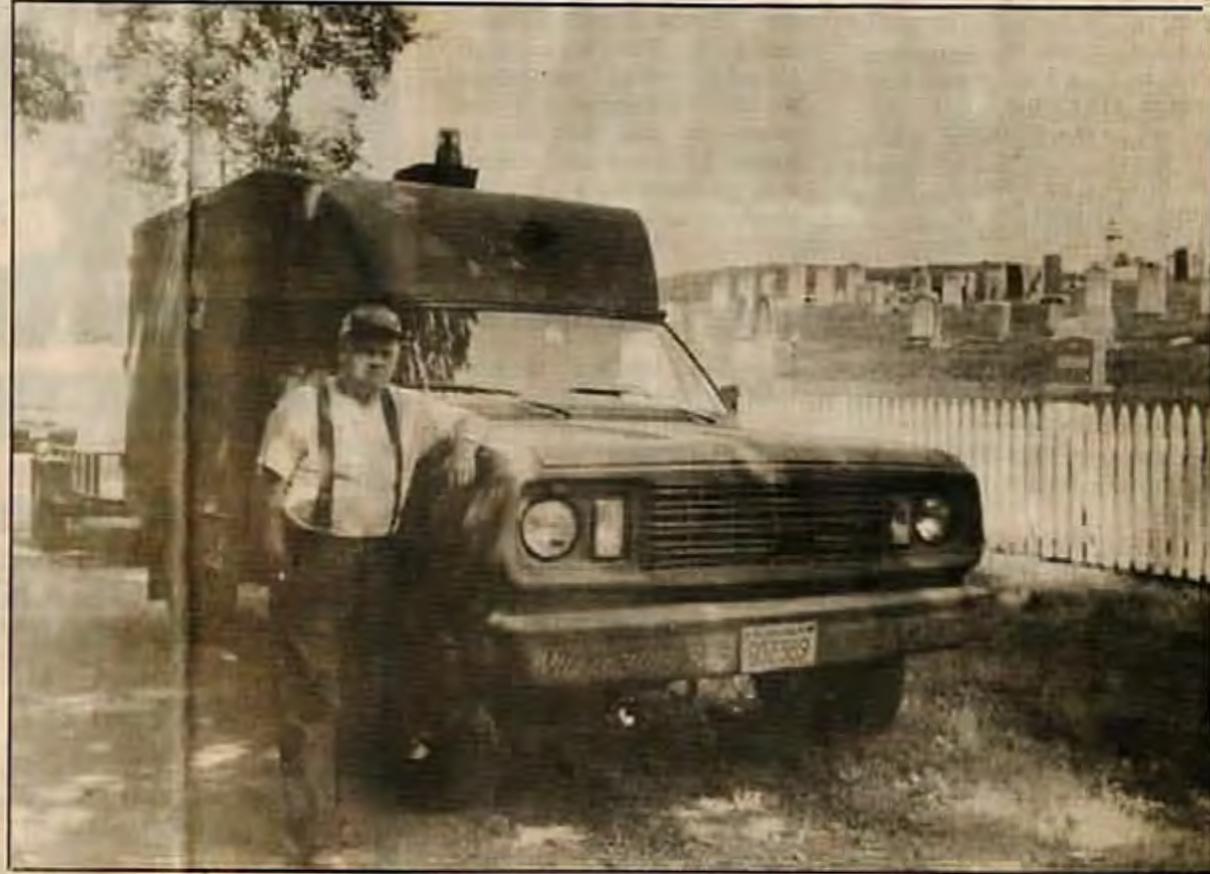
Osgood for an 18-month period, during which time it was supposed to be used for a drug bust of some sort by the Police Department.

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.

Police, Joe Osgood, Cemetery, Jack Rock



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

# Floorboards Give Way Into Cornish Cemetery

By PAT YOUSEN

Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — Last summer Juan Boardman made a historic discovery. He made it the hard way, feet first.

Boardman, the son of cemetery sexton Hollis Boardman Sr., was in a little-used storage shed at Comings Cemetery on Root Hill Road in search of equipment.

Time has not been kind to the shed's floorboards, and the floorboards were not kind to Juan. They gave way beneath him — and Juan found himself in a spot nobody would have expected.

Hollis Boardman had thought there was nothing more than a shallow crawl space under the shed. What Juan found was steps leading to a brick-lined vault that extends under the ground to the rear of the shed.

The vault is roofed with slate slabs and has sturdy wooden shelves around three sides. The entire structure appears to be in surprisingly good condition.

The vault's condition — and very existence — is a surprise, because it appears to be very old. People who have lived in town for years remember no mention of it; inside is a headstone dated 1826.

This is one historical discovery



Valley News — Pat Youden

Cemetery Sexton Hollis Boardman Sr. pauses on a descent into Cornish's old cemetery vault.

that will be more than a novelty. Boardman requested that the town appropriate money for the repair of the building and the

restoration of the vault.

The selectmen agreed to increase the amount budgeted for town buildings to cover the cost of

the project, and voters approved the request of Town Meeting in March. The selectmen plan to advertise for bids soon.

## Vault

(Continued from page 1)

that these towns do have accurate cemetery maps.

There's another advantage to spring interments. Relatives who can't get to a winter funeral because of weather conditions or distance can often make it to the interment in May or June.

Cornish's new vault may well serve an important purpose in town even if the renovation is never completed. It is sure to fuel tale-telling sessions for years to come.

"None of the past four or five sextons we've had ever knew it was there, and they go back at least forty years," says Selectman Michael Yatskevitch.

Selectman Myron Quimby, 81 and a lifelong resident, goes back further than that. He says that the building has been there at least 80 years. But he never knew about the vault.

The only clue to its age is the discarded headstone, which bears the name of Julia Robinson and a date of death of January 13, 1826. The stone was replaced sometime after Julia's death with a larger stone erected in memory of several members of the family.

That larger stone still stands. Julia and her husband Everett Robinson, their daughter Julia, and his parents David and Anna Robinson, are all listed on it. Anna died in 1842, David in 1851, the second Julia in 1852 and Everett in 1863.

Yatskevitch speculated that the discarded stone was placed in the vault when the larger stone was erected.

"It used to happen quite often that the family would put up a somewhat modest stone, and then later a more elaborate one," he said. "So the vault may date back to as early as 1842."

Comings Cemetery is located in the section of town called Cornish Mills. It was originally on the farm of Samuel Comings, who came to Cornish in 1773 and operated grist mills, carding mills, and carpenter shops nearby, as well as running a large farm. He died in 1796 and was buried on the family property, according to the custom of the time.

The Robinsons, who have left the vault's only clue, are family too, related to the Comings by marriage through Everett's sister, Sarah, who married Samuel Comings' grandson Uriel.

## ery Past

The vault will be used for its original purpose: the remains of people who die during the winter will be stored there until interment in the spring.

"We are now paying for the use of vaults in other towns during the winter," said Boardman. "Some are in Springfield, some in Charlestown, some in Claremont. And all the time this vault was right here and we didn't know about it."

Winter storage of the dead is a common practice in the Upper Valley, where deep snows prevent access to many cemeteries.

David Cilley of the Boardway and Cilley Funeral Home said that deep snow also makes it difficult to locate the desired lot. Many small town cemeteries don't have complete maps of the lots purchased by families or individuals.

A few Upper Valley town highway departments, like Hanover, Lyme and Norwich, do plow out cemetery roads for burials and use a snowblower to cut a path to the burial site and clear the site itself. Marcel Danais, of the Rand Funeral Home in Hanover, said

(Continued on page 12)

— VAULT



**HOME AGAIN** — William Conrad Chadbourne, 90, who returned to Cornish for a family reunion, recalls his childhood memories. (Ruth Rollins photo)

## Chadbourne chats about Cornish life

By **RUTH ROLLINS**  
Contributing Writer

**CORNISH** — When William Conrad Chadbourne's daughters learned there would be a Chadbourne Association family reunion in Maine, they decided it was time their dad came back to New England to visit the home he grew up in.

His childhood home is now the Chase House Bed and Breakfast, located on Route 12A in Cornish, which was the birthplace of former cabinet member Salmon Portland Chase.

Chase served as secretary of the treasury under President Lincoln, and on resigning was appointed chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. His portrait adorns the \$10,000 bill.

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

*16-23-75  
Eagle Times*

Chadbourne, 90, who now resides in Newport Beach, Calif., was not born in the house, but moved to the property that was owned by his grandparents when he was 7. He and his sister, Lura, and brother, Paul, grew up there. Paul later became a postal worker in Windsor.

William Chadbourne was born in a house off the Center Road, where he remembers his first car ride taking place.

"Our cow got sick and we called Dr. Nichols, who had a firewagon red Maxwell," he recalled. "When he was through, he asked if I'd ride to the foot of the hill to open the gate. That was my first ride in a car and he gave me three pennies. I bet they were Indian Head pennies. I'd like to have them now."

"The farm, which had 200 acres, was where my Dad was born — I'm not positive, but I believe my grandfather also," he said.

The Chadbourne family owned the property from 1818 to 1944.

"I remember tapping the maple trees out in front (several of which still stand), setting a large pan on bricks to boil down sap for maple syrup. It sure took a lot of sap."

Abutting property his father purchased had a series of barns and a carriage house, where he once painted his sister from head to toe with lead paint. "Even her shoes," said Chadbourne. "I remember when my mother appeared I ran down into the cornfield, but of course she could see the corn wiggling and knew right where I was. She switched my bare legs all the way back to the house. Of course, I knew it was wrong."

### School days

"I attended Number One School, which was one of 13 schools at the time," Chadbourne recalled. The school, which was located a short distance from their home, was later called the Chadbourne School, a one-room affair with eight grades that housed between 15 and 18 students.

"I went to a private school on Paget Hill for my eighth grade and first year of high school," Chadbourne said. "Alice Dickinson was my teacher." He

not only remembered his teacher's name, but the other boys who attended as well and what several of them had accomplished throughout their lives.

The school was run by the Barretts.

"I remember being dressed up as one of the Chase boys during one of the pageants the Barretts put together at the Town Hall area," Chadbourne recalled. "Paul Saint-Gaudens was dressed up as Davy Crockett. He was paddling a canoe down the little stream near the Town Hall."

This was during wartime and Chadbourne remembered belonging to a Victory Club. "We had a silver canoe as a symbol or badge to wear," he said.

Chadbourne also attended Stevens High School, graduating in 1922. Following a summer spent in the High Sierras of California, he decided to take up engineering.

"I wanted to go to California Tech in Pasadena, but the classes were filled, so I came home for a year and attended the University of Vermont in Burlington, where I graduated in 1928."

He received a United States Army commission at the university and was a second lieutenant in the Infantry Reserve.

"I moved to New York City where I landed a job in the Western Union Engineering Department, coming back to see my parents as often as possible."

He married Natalie Reynolds of Windsor in June 1930. She died in 1994, after nearly 64 years of marriage.

"We were married in Jackson Heights, N.Y. If we had gotten married at my home, everyone would have come for the wedding and stayed all summer. My parents were not in a position for that," said Chadbourne. "We did come back on our honeymoon and there was a reception for us."

In 1935 he went into active duty as a first lieutenant in the Civilian Conservation Corps at Fort Dix, N.J.

### Go west, young man

"After that we came home. I didn't find anything to my liking so we packed up and were heading for California. The 1938 hurricane held us up a

week, though. We left with our belongings on a one-wheel trailer attached to the back of the car." Their daughter was 6 years old.

In March he got a job with Douglas Aircraft in Los Angeles and when that ended he walked across the street and was hired by North American Aviation (now Rockwell International) where "I stayed for 30 years, retiring in 1970," said Chadbourne.

Soon after he was hired, he was transferred to Texas to set up a plant and it was then that his father joined him, while his mother stayed in Cornish until the farm was sold.

"We all returned to Los Angeles when I transferred back there," he said.

While he worked for North American Aviation he worked on the Apollo space project.

"My group designed the capsule that the astronauts rode to the moon in," said Chadbourne. "The service module which had the propulsion system and the fuel to bring the Apollo back safely from the moon."

He was presented with a one-inch section of the steel honeycomb of the basic structure of the heat shield as a souvenir, as well as signed letters from all the astronauts.

### Restoration

"Sometime after the farm was sold, asbestos siding was put on the house and the place became terribly run down," Chadbourne said of the Chase House. The last time I was in Cornish was when Peter Burling had bought the property and it was all torn apart. I came the day they found the stenciling which had been covered with layers of paint."

His daughters, Carla Borela of Fountain Valley, Calif., and Jeane Skriloff of Redondo Beach, Calif., had been to Cornish to visit the Chase House after it was restored and they knew their dad just had to see the results. He was delighted.

Chadbourne these days maintains his own apartment at a senior home in California, where he is on the menu committee, teaches a bridge class, keeps the books at the convenience store in the complex and often visits his daughters, where, he said, "I play with the computer."

# PRECEDENT SETTER

Leading the Supreme Court, Cornish-born Chase presided over the first impeachment trial

Salmon Portland Chase

By MICHAEL S. ROSENWALD  
The Washington Post

**AS** PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S SENATE TRIAL GETS SET TO BEGIN, the spotlight is inevitably turning — just as it did with President Andrew Johnson — to the chief justice of the United States, who must somehow preside over this very odd, kind-of-sort-of legal process of politicians sitting in judgment of the country's commander in chief.

In Trump's trial, it's John Roberts.

In Johnson's trial, it was Salmon Chase.

Chase — not to be confused with Justice Samuel Chase, whose nickname was "Old Bacon Face" — was an extremely serious and pious man. Some of his closest friends could not recall ever seeing him laugh.

"Chase neither drank nor smoked," the historian Doris Kearns Goodwin once wrote. "He considered both theater and novels a foolish waste of time and recoiled from all games of chance, believing that they unwholesomely excited the mind."

Born in Cornish to farmers, Chase was an Episcopalian and a Dartmouth College graduate. From early on, his parents hammered into his psyche that there was a bright line between moral and amoral.

Chase became a lawyer, eventually settling in Ohio where he defended runaway slaves. He was grumpy but popular. In 1848, the Ohio legislature elected him to the U.S. Senate — that's how it worked back then — and upon tasting political power Chase could not shake it.

Chase won two terms as Ohio's governor, then ran for president against Abraham Lincoln — losing, of course to the more affable Honest Abe.

Lincoln made Chase part of his *Team of Rivals*, the title of Goodwin's bestseller about Lincoln's presidency, appointing him Treasury secretary. Chase's contributions to the formation of the na-



Chief Justice Salmon Chase in a circa 1860-1875 photograph

nal banking system were celebrated years later when his portrait appeared on the \$10,000 bill.

Chase and Lincoln got along about as well as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. Lincoln always harbored the suspicion that Chase was a political opportunist. Chase thought Lincoln wasn't as anti-slavery as he was, there were disputes over war policy and personnel matters at the treasury.

Ultimately, Chase resigned — three times. Lincoln refused the first two, then accepted the third. There were no hard feelings from Lincoln, though.

In 1864, after the death of Chief Justice Roger Taney, Lincoln selected Chase as his replacement.

Taney wrote the majority opinion in what many historians consider the worst Supreme Court decision in history — Dred Scott v. Sandford, which held that those of African descent could not be U.S. citizens. Chase had defended runaway slaves. After emancipation, Lincoln saw Chase as an inspired voice.

Lincoln nominated Chase on Dec. 4, 1864. The Senate confirmed him that day.

On the evening of April 14, 1865, Lincoln was shot. He was pro-



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

**The Senate as a court of impeachment for the trial of President Andrew Johnson is shown in this circa 1868 "Harper's Weekly" print.**

nounced dead the next morning. His vice president, Andrew Johnson, became president. Chase swore him in. Three years later, Chase presided over Johnson's impeachment trial.

This was a confusing time. There were no precedents to follow. In fact, according to historian John Niven's biography of Chase, it wasn't even clear who should conduct the trial — the president of the

Senate (who was Johnson's political enemy) or the chief justice (who was supposed to be nobody's enemy.)

Chase consulted the Constitution, which said the "Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments." That meant the Senate's highest officer was in charge. But it also said, "When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside."

So Chase would preside. Next problem: The Constitution gives no guidance about what "preside" actually means. Chase took it upon himself, Niven wrote, to pressure the Senate to "be organized in some particulars as a court," and Chase "insisted he should rule on the competency of witnesses and on the evidence."

Johnson was on trial for, among other things, violating the Tenure of Office Act in 1867, which said the president couldn't fire important government officials unless he got the go-ahead from the Senate. Johnson had fired the secretary of war, Edwin Stanton, without consulting the Senate. Cue impeachment.

Chase thought the whole thing was much ado about nothing.

"Chase had profound misgivings about the trial," Niven wrote. "He considered the articles more of partisan rhetoric than substantive evidence for a conviction."

In a letter to Gerrit Smith, a fellow abolitionist and former congressman, Chase wrote that "the whole business seems wrong, and I had any opinion, under the Constitution, I would not take part in it."

Chase suspected the whole business would become a public spectacle. He was right then, and now.

*Valley News 4/18/20 p. C 1*

# Gen. Chase Papers Published at Cornish

CORNISH — The Cornish Bicentennial Commission has announced the publication of the General Jonathan Chase Revolutionary War Papers.

Contained in this volume are previously unpublished military papers, militia lists, returns and correspondence belonging to

General Jonathan Chase (1732-1800) of Cornish.

The original papers are in the custody of the New Hampshire Historical Society at Concord.

This publication is a bicentennial project of the Cornish Bicentennial Commission with monies from the town and a

grant from the State of New Hampshire.

This volume contains 229 numbered pages, plus a preface, six pictures, and an index with over 1,400 names. It is bound in firm Kroyden Flex mahogany cover stamped in gold. The price is \$7.50 plus 50 cents

postage. Checks may be made to Virginia Colby, White Swan Farm, RFD 2 Windsor, Vt. 05089.

# A story of Cornish and the \$10,000 bill

By FRITZ HIER

Special to the Eagle Times

**CORNISH FLAT** — The \$10,000 bill has had a checkered — and probably thin — career in these parts. But for Dick Lovejoy (Stevens High School, 1954), it changed his eating habits. At least temporarily.

After high school, Lovejoy won an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, and soon after his arrival at Annapolis he discovered that eating there wasn't quite like it had been while growing up in Cornish Flat.

Back in the 1950s, first-year cadets, or "plebes," at Annapolis faced the ritual of eating square meals — and not necessarily the hearty

(Please see CHASE-Pg. 6)

## CHASE

From Page 1

kind, mind you. At certain meals, plebes had to eat in a square pattern: fork into plate, right angle up to nose level, right angle into mouth, right angles back to plate. All very military.

On these ritual days, upperclassmen could ask plebes tough questions on remote subjects. If the plebe could answer the question correctly, he got a reprieve from eating the square meal. He also won the chance to put a question of his own to the upperclassman — and got a double reprieve if the upperclassman couldn't answer *his* query. Thus:

Upperclassman: "Cadet Lovejoy, I've got one for you. Whose picture is on the \$10,000 bill?"

Lovejoy: (without hesitation) "Salmon P. Chase, sir."

Upperclassman: (incredulously) "Holy cow, how'd you know that?"

Lovejoy: "Well ... and now, sir, where was Salmon P. Chase born?"

Upperclassman: "What do you mean? How should I know?"

Lovejoy: "Well sir, he was born in Cornish, New Hampshire."



**CORNISH NATIVE** Salmon P. Chase had his picture on the \$10,000 bill.

And so it was. Every schoolchild in Cornish, N.H., learns that its most illustrious son — Salmon P. Chase, U.S. senator (for Ohio), Abraham Lincoln's secretary of the treasury and chief justice of the Supreme Court — was born in Cornish and was the local boy pictured on the \$10,000 bill.

The odds on Cornish's Dick Lovejoy being asked that question by an Annapolis upperclassman were probably a million to one. Or, for plebe Lovejoy, at least \$10,000 to one — and he didn't have to eat a "square meal" for weeks.

□  
• The \$10,000 bill appeared only briefly, and all denominations more than \$100 were withdrawn from circulation in 1967.

• Salmon Chase, who was born in 1808 in Cornish, was also responsible for the exact wording of the motto, "In God We Trust," on all U.S. currency; and another Cornish resident, the sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, designed the eagle and double eagle on U.S. coins and bills.

*Fritz Hier is the late Dick Lovejoy's brother-in-law. Lovejoy died in 1987.*

*Dick Lovejoy at 17 returns  
Annapolis 1955*



**CHASE HOUSE DEDICATION**—National, state and local officials gathered with the Burling family to help them dedicate their new bed and breakfast establishment, Route 12A. Pictured at a presentation of a plaque are from left,

Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Paul McEachern, Jean Burling, Peter Burling and son Jonathon, and John Bond, U.S. Department of Interior. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

## Burling receives historic marker for Chase House

CORNISH, N. H. -- Peter Hoe Burling, owner of the Chase House Bed and Breakfast, was presented a bronze plaque acknowledging the building's historic significance and its status as a National Historic Landmark during ceremonies Monday.

The presentation was made by John Bond, Chief of Resource Preservation and Planning Preservation, Mid-Atlantic Region, National Park Service, United States Department of Interior.

The Chase House was the birthplace and boyhood home of

Salmon P. Chase, who served as Secretary of the Treasury under President Abraham Lincoln. He also served as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1864 until his death in 1873.

The Chase Manhattan Bank was named in his honor and the \$10,000 Federal Reserve Note bears his portrait.

Officially designated a National Historic Landmark in 1975, the building had fallen into disrepair. It was purchased by Burling in 1985.

Following a thorough research of the property Burling decided to establish the bed and breakfast establishment, one of the original uses of the building. Restoration to its present beauty took place over the past year.

The program included a short history by Burling of the building, the Chase family and the Chadbourne family who occupied the building later.

Paul McEachern, Democratic gubernatorial candidate for New Hampshire, then delivered a dedication address.

A reception and open house followed. More than 100 people attended.

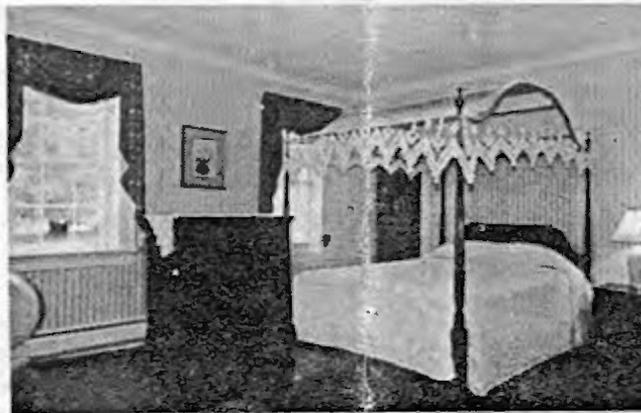
## The Chase House

### *A Step Back in Time*



After...

*"Today we're absolutely exhausted," said Hal, "but we're having fun."*



A guest room in the Chase House.

*"...The house was the first stage stop north of Claremont. They would change horses here...all the guys would come in here and lean on the bar and move their feet all around. There probably was lots of rum and strong drink."*

Chadbourne family owned the present Chase House from 1818 to 1944.

According to the owner, the house was the first stage stop north of Claremont.

"They would change horses here..., all the guys would come in here and lean on the bar and move their feet all around. There probably was lots of rum and strong drink."

Two bedrooms upstairs match the Federal period, while two more bedrooms in the back of the house are decorated with simpler furniture that reflects the "farm period" when the Chadbourne family lived there.

"We have paid a lot of attention to safety issues," he

(Example: \$3.50 for an oxcart, \$10 for a pair of oxen).

The Chadbourne family owned the present Chase House from 1818 to 1944.

"In its heyday, it was a tremendously successful farm," Burling commented. "It really should probably be called 'The Chadbourne Farm' because it was in their care for the longest time."

Paul Chadbourne, a member of the family, lives in Windsor, Burling noted.

"I get a great kick out of it because a lot of people who would have driven through Cornish, now are staying and exclaiming what a great place it is," Burling said of the



Before...

By Suzanne H. Blaise

CORNISH - The Chase House, a new bed and breakfast inn located on Route 12-A in Cornish, is turning many heads these days.

The striking white inn, with copper flashing above the doorway, is nestled in a country atmosphere and is owned by Peter Burling (who is running for State Representative of Sullivan County District I).

A year ago, restoration of the former gray house began. The first guests arrived last month.

The Chase House has a rich history. It was previously located across the road, about 50 to 60 yards away from its present location. It overlooked the Connecticut River, but was moved prior to the installation of the Sullivan County Railroad. The back portion of the house was built around 1767. The front part, according to Burling, was constructed between 1795 - 1800.

This home was built for Ithamar Chase, father of Salmon Portland Chase (whose history is impressive as well).

Salmon was born in 1808 in Cornish, where he lived until the approximate age of nine.

"Salmon Chase was a wonderfully interesting man," said owner Burling.

Salmon Chase opposed Lincoln in the presidential campaign of 1860. He was the man after whom the Chase

He founded the Republican Party, and he was the secretary of the treasury, making certain that "In God We Trust" is on our coins.

The extremely popular man died of a stroke in 1873.

The Chase family operated the Cornish house as a tavern from 1809 to 1818. Salmon's father, Ithamar, went bankrupt. When he did, an inventory was left behind. Owner Burling found that inventory in the Cheshire County Registry of Probate. It lists every piece of property in the house.

"We know what was in the house in 1818. We know pretty much what the Chadbournes (the family who purchased the Chase house) bought," remarked Burling.

Chase House.

One is immediately spellbound upon entering the house. Color schemes are breathtaking, and each room gives the visitor a unique sense of time.

The house is comprised of six bedrooms, an elegant parlor, a cozy breakfast room, with an old musket hanging above the mantle, a day room, and a kitchen.

The first downstairs bedroom on the left is decorated in the Federal period motif, with a large four-poster bed and furniture to complement the era. The bright maroon painted floor holds fascinating stories.

"This is the room that first gave me a hint this had been a tavern," said Burling. "I kept noticing these funny wear-marks on the floor, and finally one of the elder

"We have heat and smoke alarms in each bedroom, and fire doors. This place is designed to be as safe as we can possibly make it."

The Wallaces are local people, and add a comfortable, friendly dimension to the Chase House as innkeepers.

"Today we're absolutely exhausted," said Hal. "But we're having fun."

The couple cooks breakfast from scratch, serving overnight guests from 7:30 until 9:30 a.m.

"The guests are the nicest people you could imagine," remarked Hal. "And we've got them coming from all over the country," Marily added.

The Chase House is an elegant step back in time, and it's well worth the trip.

# Owning a country inn:

## *The work behind the image*



“Absentee ownership doesn’t work in this business,” said Ted Doyle. He and his wife, Barbara Lewis, own and run the Chase House Bed and Breakfast Inn in Cornish.

# Country inn, B & B industry is changing

by REBECCA DENTON  
Staff Writer

Foliage season is near, which means tourists will be flocking to northern New England in increasing numbers through October. Many travelers are seeking the classic "New England" experience, which often includes a stay in local bed and breakfasts or country inns.

The growth of Vermont and New Hampshire's bed & breakfast homes began more than a decade ago, while the industry itself has been around for at least a century, said Greg Gerdel, publications coordinator for the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing.

The large family farms of a century ago provided sanctuary to travelers along the early stage routes through the Green and White Mountains. As the profit margins of family dairy farmers began to shrink, the extra income from taking in guests became a critical factor in keeping the farm operation intact, Gerdel said.

Figures from a study prepared for the Vermont Agency of Transportation show that guest houses and bed and breakfasts made up nearly 50 percent of the accommodations in Vermont in 1994.

"Anecdotally, we've seen growth in both the numbers of bed and breakfast operations and the percentage of people using them," Gerdel said. "The main thing we see is the percentage of people who request information on bed and breakfasts."

A new lodging-industry survey is currently in the works through the

Vermont Tourism Data Center.

While revenue numbers for country inns or bed and breakfasts were not available through New Hampshire or Vermont state agencies, the inns are "an important part of the (New England) image," Gerdel said. "It's part of the ambiance and experience that we market."

In New Hampshire, about 600 lodging establishments are registered with the New Hampshire Lodging and Restaurant Association, and 25 percent of those are classified as bed and breakfasts or country inns, said Joe Antonelli, interim director of the New Hampshire Lodging and Restaurant Association. But many more of the smaller businesses are not registered, he added.

Bed and breakfasts are generally defined as homes with up to 10 guest rooms that serve breakfast. Country inns are homes with more than 10 rooms, but usually less than 20, serving meals in addition to breakfast.

Bed and breakfasts and country inns are still known for their down-home charm and friendliness, but the establishments are changing with customer demands — and with the advent of Internet marketing.

"The major change is the Internet and how people are making their travel arrangements," said Beth Steucek, executive vice president of the New England Innkeepers Association. The NEIA has its own Web site with links to members' Web pages, plus information about members' facil-

ities and on-line reservation capabilities to help market New England's inns.

The demands of guests are also shaping the future of bed and breakfasts and country inns: more people want phones in their rooms and access to fax machines, for example, Antonelli said.

"The amenities are beginning to get competitive," he said. "Now your smaller country inns are offering meeting spaces. Hotels have forced bed and breakfasts to upgrade their services to compete. People don't want to 'rough it' anymore."

Steucek said that more guests are asking for special amenities that they don't have at home, such as Jacuzzis or fireplaces in the bedrooms. "But those demands bring a higher rate," she said.

Robert and Suzanne Pearl, owners of the 16-room Juniper Hill Inn in Windsor, redecorate one room each year to keep the decor constantly "fresh," and most rooms include fireplaces.

"It has to be fresh," Robert Pearl said. "That requires investment. People are paying good money; they want the charm of an old home, but they want it to be well-maintained."

Increasingly, people are working while on vacation, some innkeepers say.

At the Chase House in Cornish, owners Barbara Lewis and Ted Doyle provide an office with access to the fax machine and color copier for guests who have work to do. They also serve many corporate guests, so most rooms have phone

jacks (with phones available on request).

They've found that guests want their own bathrooms, so by January each room will have a private bath.

At the Hartness House in Springfield, which also serves many corporate customers, all rooms are air-conditioned, with private baths, phones and televisions. And the inn offers traditional, Victorian-style rooms or less expensive, modern rooms to accommodate a range of client demands.

Each inn is different: Goddard Mansion welcomes children and provides children's books, games and rooms with children's beds or a crib; Chase House allows only children over 12.

But some bed and breakfasts have resisted change, sticking with the traditional beginnings.

Robert and Sylvia Morse of Springfield run a four-bedroom bed and breakfast out of their home — but only when it's convenient for them. They built the additional rooms on to accommodate their four children and 12 grandchildren, and they allow people to stay in them when their children are not visiting.

"We look at it as a hobby," Morse said of Baker Road Inn. She serves breakfast, but she doesn't spend a lot of time or money on decorations.

It's the way B & Bs began: a modest bed for travelers, with a hot meal to send them off in the morning.

Turn over for more

With so many jobs to do, and with surprise repairs popping up at the most inconvenient times, "finding time for myself, where I don't feel guilty about going off to have lunch with a friend," is one of the main challenges, she said. And the work is 'round the clock: "It's a challenge to be pleasant when the phone rings at 1 a.m. and they want a brochure," Albee said.

Like Albee, Barbara Lewis of Cornish ran the Chase House Bed and Breakfast Inn for a few years by herself after her husband, Bill, passed away. The Lewis' also had bought the historic Chase House as a retirement venture.

"It wasn't our lifelong dream," Barbara Lewis said. "It wasn't even a plan. Having done a lot of entertaining — and because it was already a working B & B — we thought, why not?"

Last year she remarried, and she and her new husband, Ted Doyle, run the business together. At ages 64 and 72, they are anything but retired.

"People my age who have retired cold turkey to sit on the porch and rock are all dead," Doyle said. "The best part is, we're our own bosses. It's hard work, but the independence of it is a payoff."

Lewis does all the cooking, while Doyle helps with the cleanup and table setting at night. He also does the payroll and entertains the guests.

They both welcome guests, give directions, answer phone calls and share office work. Their typical day begins at 5:30 a.m. and doesn't end until 10:30 p.m. — sometimes later during peak foliage season.

But they're not complaining. "Absentee ownership doesn't work in this business," Doyle said. "You need to be on the premises and live on the premises for it to work properly."

As for the rewards of owning a bed and breakfast or country inn, opinions vary.

"I can't speak for everybody," Doyle said. "It's quite possible to make money with a bed and breakfast inn. No one does it for the privilege of losing money," he added. "There's a personal motive there; it's a question of to what degree."

For Robert Pearl, the payoff lies in the lifestyle and long-term returns.

"You work long hours and your pay is not significant," Pearl said. "We're hoping it will pay off long-term, but you don't do it for the money. You could never calculate your return on investment short-term — you could put your money in the bank and make more."

Carolyn Hofford agreed. "You get into this business for a quality of life," she said. "With a 100-seat dining room (in the Hartness House), there is potential to make money, but become millionaires? Unlikely."

## Chase House In Cornish Expands With The Addition Of A House Moved From Corinth



*The recent addition to the Chase House provides two additional guest rooms as well as a new meeting and reception room.*

BY JOE EVARTS

The Chase House in Cornish, NH has reopened under new ownership. The bed and breakfast also has made several significant additions in the two years since Bill and Barbara Lewis purchased the building from the Burlings.

"The Burlings did a superb job restoring the original house into the bed and breakfast," Bill Lewis recounts. "They took time with each and every detail, from period wallpapering through lighting. We were interested in expanding, but building on that original restoration."

So the Lewises purchased a 30' by 40' house from Corinth, VT and brought it to the Route 12A location of the Chase House," Lewis explains. "Then, essentially, we built the exterior around that Corinth house."

"The first floor of the Corinth house rotted out, so we brought the second floor and installed it behind and on the second floor of an addition we made behind the original Chase House," Lewis explains. "Then, essentially, we built the exterior around that Corinth house."

The Lewises purchased the Chase House two years ago when they retired and moved to the area from Connecticut. "Barbara was in the music business—teaching and performance—for 35 years," says Lewis, who was in the elevator business and worked most recently as a consultant. "I've enjoyed this area since 1954 when I first came up to do some business in Hanover. When we decided to retire, we chose

the area because of the superb hospital, college, medical facilities and cultural offerings."

The Lewises have rebuilt the exterior throughout the building, adding sprinklers and an entirely new electric service and insulation. The most splendid addition is the section from the Corinth house. Original wide board floors and hand-hewn beams define the new 30' by 40' meeting and reception room created by adding the Corinth house to the Chase House. The spot has become a favored selection for dinner and luncheon meetings and for wedding receptions.

The addition also provides two additional guest rooms, bringing the total to seven double bedrooms, all with private baths, and one additional single bedroom. About the seven double bedrooms, Lewis says, "Private baths are a necessity in the bed and breakfast business. We often have guests arrive and say they have come to us because their original destination didn't have private baths for each room."

The careful addition and expansion of the original Chase House has been a labor of love for the Lewises, and they're both pleased to be open at last and experiencing a warm reception to the new facilities. "We moved here because we like the winter and the people," Lewis concludes. The new owners have integrated their desire to run an inn in their retirement with their love of New England, and the beauty and warmth of the Chase House bespeak the thoughtful and successful realization of that dream. □



The Chase House in Cornish is the birthplace of Salmon P. Chase, the namesake of Chase Bank. Salmon P. Chase was a senator and the 23rd governor of Ohio, the Treasury Secretary under President

Lincoln and the sixth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The most recent owners ran the house as a bed and breakfast and abandoned it in 2010. VALLEY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS — JAMES M. PATTERSON

## Chase Bank Selling the Childhood Home of Namesake

BY WARREN JOHNSTON  
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — When the world's oldest, largest best-known financial institution takes possession of somebody's house, it's hardly news in these days of economic turmoil.

However, there's a bit of irony when the bank pulls the plug on the birthplace and ancestral home in Cornish of its namesake.

JP Morgan Chase & Co. is selling the boyhood home of Dartmouth College graduate, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and Supreme Court Chief Justice Salmon Portland Chase,

whose portrait is one of a select few hanging on the walls of the reception area at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth.

Chase didn't start or have anything to do with the bank, but the institution has borne his name since its beginning in 1877. When Wall Street publisher and banker John Thompson established the bank in a one-room office in Manhattan, four years after Chase's death, he honored his friend by calling it Chase National Bank.

JP Morgan Chase recently took ownership of the house after owners Paul and Theresa Toms

handed over the property in lieu of payment on their \$1.1 million mortgage, a bank spokesman said. For about six years, the Toms operated The Salmon P. Chase House Inn bed and breakfast, in the 23-room, 10,600-square-foot house, which was built in 1766. The building has been vacant for a couple of years

and was listed for sale last year for \$1.6 million. Morgan Chase put the property on the market at the end of May, listed with just 36 of its 160 acres, for \$719,000, said Justin Ranney, the Coldwell Banker Realtor who is selling it for the bank.

Even though the dwelling has been empty for almost two

years, it's in very good physical shape, Ranney said, noting that the roof is standing seam, the wiring and heating systems have been upgraded to be energy efficient and the interior walls and floors have been restored, Ranney said.

"It's an incredibly important historic house in our area and needs to have someone occupying it," said former N.H. Sen. Peter Burling, D-Cornish, who purchased the property in the mid-1980s when it had fallen into disrepair, restored and sold it. "I have a long and loving relationship with that house. I'd love to see someone

**"It's an incredibly important historic house in our area and needs to have someone occupying it."**

Former N.H. Sen. Peter Burling, D-Cornish



The New Hampshire birthplace of Salmon Chase is now under the control of JP Morgan Chase and is for sale.

make their home there. The price is not out of the ballpark."

Although the house is priced well-below its assessed value of \$1.3 million, its size and layout with 10 bedrooms, 11 full baths, two half baths, two full and two partial kitchens may limit its appeal as a single-family home, Ranney said. The building also would be well suited for a "high-end" assisted living facility, dividing into three separate condominium or rental units or for another bed and breakfast or inn, he said.

Cornish selectboard member John Hammond, who owns neighboring property and has the Chase House's original land along the river, has another idea for its use.

"I wrote a letter to (JP Morgan Chase CEO) Jamie Dimon and suggested that the bank use it as a corporate retreat. It has a big central room that could be used for meetings, and it has all those bedrooms. It would be perfect for that.

"I thought it was a good idea, but I didn't get a reply or even an acknowledgement that they got the letter. I guess they have other things to worry about," including trying to explain a \$2 billion trading loss to Congress and stockholders, Hammond said.

The spokesman for the bank said he would not comment on Hammond's suggestion to use the house as a corporate retreat facility.

The recession that might have contributed to the financial woes of The Chase House Bed and Breakfast Inn was just the latest of many economic downturns that have had a notable influence on the long history of the house and Salmon P. Chase's life.

The house, which is a national historic landmark, is the only known existing building associated with the life of Chase, according to the 1975 National Register of Historic Places nomination form. Chase was born there on Jan. 13, 1808, and spent his first eight years in the house. His father, Ithamar Chase, was a very prosperous farmer, state senator and selectman sold the Cornish farm and moved the family to Keene, N.H., where he lost his fortune in the glass business during the depression of 1815. He died when Salmon was nine years old, leaving his family in near poverty.

After a three-or-four year stint in Ohio under the tutelage of his strict uncle, Philander Chase, the Episcopal bishop of Ohio, Salmon Chase returned to the Upper Valley and Dartmouth, where he graduated in 1826 during the stock market crash and recession. It was a difficult time to find a job, but because he had prior teaching experience at the Royalton Academy in Royalton, he landed a position at a boys' school in Washington, D.C., while he studied and read for the bar to become a lawyer.

Once he passed the bar in 1829, Chase returned to Cincinnati to practice law because he thought it would be less competitive than Washington. It still took him a few years to get his business up and running, and along the way, he developed strong anti-slavery views and built his law practice representing anti-slavery clients. Chase went on to be elected a U.S. senator in 1849, governor of Ohio in 1856, Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury in 1861 during the Civil War and the 6th Chief Justice in 1864. After a second stroke, he died May 7, 1873, at 65.

Chase played a significant role in the development of the federal banking system and establishing laws that govern the country today, said Chase biographer John Niven during a 1995 interview on the C-Span Booknotes show with host Brian Lamb.

As Chief Justice, Chase administered the oath of office to Andrew Johnson after Lincoln's assassination, presided over Johnson's impeachment trial and was probably responsible for Johnson's acquittal by one vote. In addition, he made key decisions about the reconstruction of the nation, about civil rights and business, Niven said.

And as Secretary of the Treasury, he also left a lasting mark.

"I think he was one of the great (Secretaries of the Treasury)," Niven said, pointing out that Chase founded the national banking system, funding it with \$3 billion or \$4 billion without causing excessive inflation or invoking controls during the Civil War.

Chase also can share some credit for leading the country into the Civil War, Niven said.

In reaction to Sen. Steven A. Douglas' pushing the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which opened new territories to slavery, Chase and other anti-slavery colleagues wrote a very widely circulated and popular document accusing Douglas of being part of a slave-state conspiracy. "So, the document he wrote was every bit as important as Douglas' Kansas-Nebraska Act in developing cleavage between sections of the country."

After the Chase family sold the farm in 1816, the house was the home of the Chadbornes, who farmed the land for more than 130 years, Burling said. "They were very prosperous, and I think the house ran down after they died off."

When they moved out, the Toms left a series of diaries in the house that were written by Ina Walker Chadbourne from

1922 through 1947 in which she noted the weather, her daily household chores, who visited and how much she spent at the Cornish store. For example, on Monday, Jan. 23, 1922, she wrote: "15 below here. Bill did not try to go to school as did not know what the roads were below here. Jim got a load of wood down this P.M. (I) baked one tin of biscuits, one tin of jonny cakes, two cream pies, five loaves of bread and one tin of rolls. Had a nap this P.M. I was so sleepy."

The diaries will be given to the new owner, Ranney said.

The Colonial-style portion of The Chase House in which Salmon Chase was born in 1808 was apparently built around 1790, according to the National Register nomination.

Until 1848, it stood on the opposite side of the current Route 12A when it was moved to make way for the new railroad line.

The oldest portion of the house has been restored in keeping with the 1790s with wide plank floors, four-panel doors and 12-light windows. Full baths have been added to the spacious guest rooms. The newer portion of the house features three suites and a 1,200-square foot lofted post-and-beam "gathering" room salvaged from a barn in Woodstock. The back portion of the house is a restored family quarters where the Toms lived. It features a large spacious modern kitchen and eating area, library-den and master bedroom and bath suite.

When Burling took on its renovation in the mid-1980s, the house was sided with asbestos shingles and "looked like a gray chicken coop. When I saw it after we took those shingles off, it was an August afternoon and in that honey syrup golden light. It was unbelievably beautiful. It was something you wouldn't believe had been so ugly," he said.

Warren Johnston can be reached at [wjohnston@vnews.com](mailto:wjohnston@vnews.com) or 603-727-3216.

**"I wrote a letter to (JP Morgan Chase CEO) Jamie Dimon and suggested that the bank use it as a corporate retreat."**

John Hammond,  
Cornish selectman

# Chaseholme to host 'Christmas

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — For those who enjoy the festivities of the Christmas holiday season, "a must" will be to visit the home of Anthony and Ann Neidecker, Route 12A, the home chosen for the 12th annual "Christmas in October."

"Christmas in October" is a fund-raising event that has been held to benefit Upper Valley Youth Services, a non-profit Lebanon agency that offers social services that help both children and their parents cope with problems and resolve conflicts by developing their skills, confidence and self-esteem.

The fund-raising event, which is in its 12th year, was conceived by Dottie Campion, Etna, and has involved from 60 people the first year to 600.

Tours of the Neidecker home, "Chaseholme" will be held from Sept. 29 to Oct. 7, with each room elegantly decorated throughout, from a well-stocked pantry to a teen-ager's room, especially decorated, complete with pictures of the Beatles by Tippy Wade, Sally Stiles, and Lucia Williams.

A living room, decorated by Fran DeGasta, has a wool Oriental rug, loaned by Cole's Flooring, and pillows and lace curtains, loaned by J.C. Penney. Of great interest in this setting is a painting of Saint-Gauden's gardens, done by James Schubert, Cornish, who also furnished a picture of Chaseholme, which hangs in the master bedroom.

The master bedroom is decorated to follow the theme of the event, "The Hunt," and includes riding outfits and various hunting items.

Another room is decorated to depict an art student returning to her childhood room, which has been decorated by Sally Newbold. Virginia Colby and Joan Littlefield have been responsible for the Maxfield Parrish Room, which boasts a large array of his work. An unusual shade of blue that Parrish



**VOLUNTEERS** Colleen O'Neill, left, and Linda Buzzell carry a Christmas tree into "Chaseholme" in Cornish recently, in preparation for the "Christmas in October" event.

used in many of his pictures is evident.

Among other attractions is a barn scene, which includes a large Holstein cow, with arrangements done by Anne GiConte, Sugar Pine Farm, Quechee.

As one travels throughout, live Christmas trees adorn every room, decorated with various decorations and ornaments, many of which will be on sale in the gift shop and the barn, which are filled wall to wall for the event.

More than 50 people have furnished items on consignment, including handcrafted items, books, stocking stuffers and ornaments. Art, glass, blue and white decorations, collectibles and food items are also for sale.

Several area restaurants throughout are providing hot and

cold drinks, sandwiches, soups and homemade goodies throughout "Christmas in October." An elegant afternoon tea will be served on the spacious south porch daily.

"Chaseholme" has played a prominent role in the history of Cornish for more than 200 years.

Built in 1797, visitors to this Georgian estate can see where runaway slaves en route to Canada in the mid-1800's were harbored. The original spit and bake ovens are still in the dining room and one window displays marks made from Indian arrows.

The property was first acquired in 1772 by Revolutionary War Captain Moses Chase, as a part of a 500-acre grant from the Province of New Hampshire.

The house itself was built in 1797 by Captain Chase's son,

# as in October' benefit



**"CHASEHOLME" in Cornish will be the site of the annual "Christmas in October" benefit beginning Saturday.**

Nahum, who married Deborah Freeman of Plainfield in 1793. He was given the land the year the house was built and lived there until his death in 1827, when Moses Chase II took ownership.

In the early 1880's, the property was farmed by Orville Williams, who died after being kicked by a horse, and the home was later purchased by Charles C. Beaman, a New York lawyer.

Beaman married Hettie Everts, the daughter of William Maxwell Everts, a Windsor resident who served as secretary of state under President Harrison.

"Chaseholme" was one of several houses purchased by Beaman, some of which were later sold to artists and writers of the Cornish Colony.

When the home was refurbished

by Beaman, a painted Eagle was discovered over the front door, which has been continued to be admired ever since. The house was rented or used as a summer residence until 1913 when Beaman's son, William Everts Beaman, a successful farmer and state representative, moved in.

In 1919, "Chaseholme" was sold to Helen Beaman Lakin and later bought by Edward B. Burling of the Washington, D.C. law firm of Covington, Burling and Acheson. It served as the boyhood home of Peter Burling, currently a state representative from Cornish.

In 1967, the home was purchased by Dean Pearson, a Dartmouth College professor, and his wife, Winifred, the parents of Ann Neidecker. The Neideckers inherited the property in 1979.

Tours and shopping will be available Saturday, Sept. 29, to Sunday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., except for Friday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The gift shop will be open Monday, Oct. 8, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and will feature many items used to decorate the house. Light lunch and refreshments will be available.

House tours are \$7, senior citizens, \$5, children under 12, free.

A special opening night party to preview festivities will be held today, 6-9 p.m., with tickets of \$20 available at the door.

The property is located on Route 12A, just above the Blow-Me-Down Mill, the first house on the right beyond Platt Road.

More than 5,000 people are expected to attend.

# CORNISH FARMER DIES AT AGE OF 87

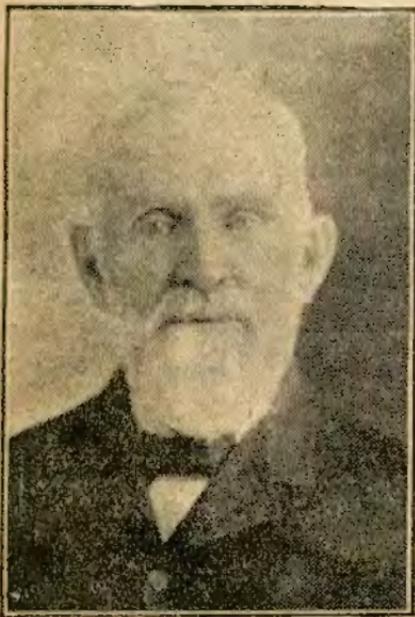
## Mr. Child, Former Member of School Board, Wrote Town's History

Special to The Union.

CORNISH, Jan. 23.—William Henry Child, one of the oldest and most respected citizens, died at his home, where he was born, after a short illness at the advanced age of 87 years and 1 month.

Mr. Child, with the exception of a few years spent in teaching in the middle west, has lived upon the old place occupied by his father and grandfather, five generations of the Child family having lived there.

In early life he united with the First Baptist church, becoming one of its most faithful workers, serving as



WILLIAM HENRY CHILD.

deacon for many years, and was superintendent of the Sunday school for 20 years.

In politics he was always a Republican. Born in Cornish, Dec. 22, 1832, son of Stephen and Eliza (Atwood) Child, and was educated in the public schools and K. U. A., Meriden, class of 1856. He was a member of the Cornish school board, 1886-96, member of Cheshire lodge, A. F. and A. M., of which he was master in 1869-70; district deputy grand master of the grand lodge of New Hampshire, 1871-72, and a member of the Sons of Temperance for many years, has been

a Patron of Husbandry since 1873, in which he took much interest. Was a frequent speaker at Farmers' institutes and other meetings on the advantages of tile draining of wet lands, having done much of this upon his own farm, as well as superintending that kind of work for others in his own and surrounding towns.

But what might be regarded as the crowning work of his life was the writing and preparation for the press, "The History of Cornish." It having commanded great commendation as one of the best town histories yet published.

He was also much interested in the "Old Home" or "Old People's association" as it is named in Cornish and was secretary of the same for more than 30 years.

He married on Jan. 1, 1857, Ellen Francis Leighton of Hartford, Vt., who survives him at the age of 83. They celebrated their golden wedding 13 years ago. Five children were born to them, one dying in infancy and the oldest son, William Palmer, having died some 10 or 12 years ago in Australia where he had made his home. There are three children remaining, two daughters and one son, Mrs. R. C. True of Lebanon, Mrs. A. W. Sibley of Worcester, Mass. and Edwin Leighton who resides in Pembroke. Three are also 10 grand children and three great grandchildren living.

The funeral will be held at his late home Saturday at 2 o'clock.

## SUE LANDON VAUGHN.

### Death of Woman Who First Expressed Memorial Day Idea.

WASHINGTON, July 24.—The woman credited with having first expressed the idea of a general Memorial day, Mrs. Sue Landon Vaughn, is dead here at the home of the Eastern Star, a Masonic order, on which she was dependent. She was a descendant of John Adams, the second President of the United States. On April 26, 1865, she led some southern women in strewing with flowers the Confederate graves in Vicksburg, and the date and custom were perpetuated in the south. Three years later, May 30 was adopted throughout the north as Memorial day.

to those present.

W. C. Couch was in Boston on business recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Chase and family also Miss Doris Williams motored on Sunday to Meriden to visit Miss Williams' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren J. Hall and Kathleen Hall are moving to their

William Child William Henry  
Child died Jan 21, 1920  
Manchester Union Leader,  
Jan 23, 1920

CORNISH

1931

Juvenile Grange Organized

Cornish Grange is very proud of its Juvenile Grange which was organized last Friday evening March 13, at Cornish Grange hall by Mrs. Lillian Foss Cooper of Rochester, N. H., Worthy Deputy of the Juvenile granges of the State. This grange is designated as Cornish Juvenile Grange, No. 8. There are 28 members from 5 to 13 years of age and 21 honorary charter members from the Subordinate grange. The meetings of this grange will be held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. The time of opening is 8.30 o'clock p. m. These dates coincide with the Subordinate grange, making it convenient for parents to bring their children.

The officers elected were: Master Ray Kiely, 12 years of age; overseer Dorothy Bartlett, 12 years; lecturer Frances Smith, 13 years; steward George Chabot, 10 years; assistant steward John Bayliss, 13 years; chairman, Olive Bayliss 11 years; treasurer, Donald Osborne, 12 years; secretary, Mary Kiely 11 years; gate keeper Robert Bayliss, 9 years; ceres, Virginia White, 11 years; pomona, Wilma Parvy, 12 years, Flora, Ethel Dustin, 8 years; lady assistant steward, Isabelle Osborne, 13 years old matron. Sister Emma Cunningham.

The installation ceremony was impressively and efficiently performed by Worthy Deputy, Mrs. Cooper, ably assisted by Worthy Deputy, Henry Kiely as marshal and Sister Kiely as Emblem bearer. To witness these little children, taking their different parts, touched the heart strings of those present bringing the realization that the future is in their hands. Mrs. Cooper's remarks were just wonderful so interesting and instructive. Music was furnished by the adult members.

With such a Matron as Sister Emma Cunningham, we feel positively... Mrs. A. H. Streeter has returned to her home. Streeter has returned to his home. Streeter has returned to his home. Streeter has returned to his home.

ANOTHER OLD COUNTY LANDMARK

THE OLD HILLIARD GUNSHOP

Gun Factory Near South Cornish. Was Birth Of Telescope Rifle. Made Own Machinery

On the old turnpike running from Windsor to South Cornish is located the old D. H. Hilliard gun factory which is now an historic landmark.

More than ninety years ago David H. Hilliard built and operated this factory for the purpose of manufacturing a rifle invented and patented by himself. It was a unique looking piece having a long octagon barrel and a heavy black walnut stock mounted with polished brass. The lock differed in the extreme from anything ever before produced, being what would be generally called upside down, the trigger being in the rear.

The machinery used to manufacture these guns was mostly originated and built by the late Mr. Hilliard himself. Today these are stored in the upper story of the factory and used but to make repairs on the original Hilliard guns, of which a number are still used in this vicinity, the owners declaring that they would not exchange them for more modern manufactured ones.

At the commencement of the Civil war, one of the first companies from New Hampshire was equipped with the Hilliard telescope rifle by order of Governor Barry. The members located in the vicinity were allowed to select their own guns and it was quite frequent that twenty or more were at the factory selecting and trying the rifles until they got one that suited their fancy. At this time the factory was taxed to its utmost capacity, being obliged to have extra help and run both day and night to fill orders.

Along in the fifties, Mr. Hilliard took his eldest son, Charles N., in company with him, and they continued...

Ball (of Claremont) rifle, which had been manufactured in Windsor. Of these they made two thousand, a large number being shipped to the West. They also made a combination rifle (the Hilliard) and shotgun, which had one barrel above the other and was considered a fine piece at that time.

At the death of D. H. Hilliard, the business decreased and, soon after Charles N. went to Connecticut. The business was taken in charge by a younger brother, George E. Hilliard, who for some time did odd jobs and repairing. The business, after coming into his hands, was somewhat changed, the manufacturing of guns being of secondary matter and he devoted his time to the manufacturing of patents of his own and others. Later his health failed, and he devoted practically all of his time to his position as postmaster..

The building itself, which is in its original state, is a two-story wooden structure, with a basement in which the engine and boiler were located. The first floor is benched on four sides, the center containing the lathes, drills and other machinery. The upper story was originally used for making the stocks, but later became a store room. On the walls over various dates are the names of Sullivan, Regant, George Hunt and Davidson, which are the names of some of the old employes.

Hilliard Gun Shop



The Hilliard Gunsmith Shop as it looked in 1921

# Susan Hilliard honored with surprise party

by RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Susan Hilliard has given a surprise party in honor of her 90th birthday on Saturday, April 8.

Lured to the Cornish Grange hall on the pretext that it was for a special Grange meeting, friends were doubly surprised to find relatives there from as far away as Toronto, Canada.

"I had no idea, it was such a surprise!" she said.

A buffet lunch and special birthday cake was served to the 80 friends and relatives attending. Music was provided by several members of Proper Focus.

Susan MacDonald Hilliard was born April 6, 1910, in York, Maine. She came to Cornish to visit her mother in 1935 and met a friend of his, Leroy Hilliard, who soon became her husband. She has resided in Cornish ever since.

She is the mother of Robert Hilliard, who resides at the family home, and Judith Sullivan of Easthampton, Mass. Another son, Kenneth, is deceased. She has nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

"I have seen many changes



**SURPRISE PARTY** — Susan Hilliard of Cornish recently celebrated her 90th birthday at a surprise party with her daughter Judith Sullivan, left, and son Robert Hilliard. (Ruth Rollins photo)

*Eagle Times Apr 17, 2000*

since first arriving at the big brick house (now the Ardinger home) where my brother lived on Jackson Road," Susan Hilliard said. "In those days, it wasn't

tarred and the mud was deep." Other big changes she noted included the small schools being consolidated, "and the students having a gymnasium."

She has been a member of the Cornish Grange No. 25 for more than 50 years, where she has held several offices, including Chaplain for many years. She is a member of the South Cornish Horticultural Club, the Cornish Economics Club, the Cornish Garden Club and Old Home Association.

She's also a member of the United Church of Cornish, serving as treasurer of the Women's Club, advisor to the Youth Fellowship, and helped to contribute for church suppers, for more than 50 years. She is presently a member of the church Mission Committee.

She was employed at Sylvan in Hillsboro, N.H., for some time and worked for several years as a cook at Alice Peck Day Hospital in Lebanon, N.H.

Among special guests were Helena "Danny" Hilliard and Horace Cheever, of Cornish; Mary and James Grenier of Lempster, as well as other relatives from Maine, Hampshire, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts and Canada.

She received numerous floral arrangements, gift certificates and money gifts.

# Robert L. Hilliard, 68

Elizabeth Times Oct 14, 2005

**CLAREMONT** — Robert (Bob) Leroy Hilliard, 68, of Claremont died Thursday, Oct. 13, 2005, at the Veterans Hospital in White River Junction.

He was born Nov. 6, 1936, in Claremont.

Bob lived nearly all his life in Cornish, residing in Claremont most recently.

Bob graduated from Cornish Elementary School and from Stevens High School in 1954.

He served in the U.S. Navy for three years, attaining the rank of Storekeeper Second Class (SK2), serving on the USS Maurice J. Manuel DE351, and the USS Yellowstone AD27, both having Newport, R.I., as home port. He also served one year in the Claremont National Guard.

He then attended the University of New Hampshire and Concord Commercial College.

Bob was employed at Coneamatic/Pipin, Cone Automatic Machine Co, Cornish Highway Department, US Post Office, Windsor, Goodyear Shoe Products in Windsor, Computac in West Lebanon, and for 13 1/2 years was Senior Computer Operator at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital.

Bob was a former member of the Windsor Lions Club where he represented Cornish.

He served as a Cornish Fair Director for 12 1/2 years and was treasurer for 8 of those years.

He was a former member of the Cornish Fire Department, where he held the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in Company No. 1.

He was the first certified emergency medical technician, ambulance in Cornish and was a charter member of the Cornish Rescue Squad where he helped preside over the initial problems in organizing and establishing the group.

Bob also served as chairman of the Cornish School Building Committee when one of the additions was put on the school.

He was a member of the P.T.A. and was a charter member and former president of trustee's for the Cornish Honor Society.

Bob was involved with Troop and Pack 332 here in Cornish for many years, serving as cub master, committee member, chairman of the committee, and acting scoutmaster. He also served as the scouting coordinator between the United Church of Cornish, the sponsoring organization and the Daniel Webster Council and was a Woodbadge trained leader (course NE 1-5).

Bob was always an active member of the United Church of Cornish where he served on the board of Deacons, served as a trustee, sang in the choir, and worship team, and directed and helped with Vacation Bible School.

He graduated from Elim Bible Institute in Lima, N.Y., in 1991, and holds Licensed Minister Credentials with Elim Fellowship in Lima.

He went on several short term mission trips — New York City with the New York School of Urban Ministry, Niger, W. Africa, Scotland, Germany, Hungary, and Ukraine with Elim Fellowship, and the year of 2002 with Indian Trails Mission in Arizona and Mexico until becoming ill.

Bob has also been an active member of the New Hampshire Chapter of The Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation, and the Upper Valley Chapter of Compassionate Friends.

Robert L. Hilliard was preceded in death by a brother, Kenneth Hilliard; his father, Leroy H. Hilliard; his mother, Susan MacDonald Hilliard; a daughter, Dawn Hilliard; and a son, Todd Hilliard all of Cornish.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Gavitt Hull Hilliard; a sister, Judith (Hilliard) Sullivan of East Hampton, Mass.; three children, Keith Hilliard of Manchester, N.H., Jerilyn Yeaton of Claremont, and Sheila Hilliard of Hartford, Vt.; grandchildren, Stephen and Isaac Yeaton, Molly and Matthew Stender; stepchildren, April and Tony Cady, Jonathan Hull, and Melody Hull; stepchildren, Sarah and Nicholas Sheehan, Jacob and James Flack; greatchildren, Ryan and Hannah Sheehan; and cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 17, in the First Baptist Church in Claremont, with the Rev. David Crosby, pastor, officiating. Committal will follow in Edminster Cemetery in Cornish. Friends may call at the Roy Funeral Home, 98 Sullivan Street, Claremont, NH, on Sunday, Oct. 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to Indian Trails Mission, 803 West Main Street, Payson, AZ. 85541 or the Veterans Administration Respite Room Fund, 215 North Main Street, White River Jet., VT. 05009-0001. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Roy Funeral Home.

Cornish Hills  
echo

Mrs. Herbert P. Reed  
White Swan Farm  
RFD 2, Windsor, Vt. 05089

Plans to reprint the two-volume History of Cornish, N. H. by William H. Child have been completed. Volume I deals with the history of the town and Volume II contains genealogies. These two books will be reprinted and bound together as one book.

The arrangement with the publisher calls for a minimum number of pre-publication orders in order for the committee and the publisher to proceed. To reserve your copy, send your check in the amount of \$25.

to: The Cornish Historical Society/Bicentennial Comm  
% Mrs. Herbert P. Reed  
White Swan Farm  
RFD 2, Windsor, Vt. 05089

Providing we receive our minimum number of orders in August, the books will be ready for delivery in Nov.-Dec.

Thinking ahead, this will make an ideal Christmas gift.

EAGLE-TIMES Claremont, N.H. Springfield, Vt

## Society to publish history of Cornish

CORNISH, N. H. — A two-volume history of Cornish will be reprinted under the sponsorship of the Cornish Historical Society Bicentennial Committee, according to Mrs. Herbert Read, Windsor.

Written by William H. Child, who was born in Cornish in 1832, the history has been long out of print. Plans for its publication depend on a minimum number of orders being received during the month of August. If enough orders are turned in publication will proceed.

The two volumes will be reprinted and bound together as one book of over 900 pages, dealing with the early settlement and first families of the area, pioneer life and customs, and dangers faced in carving a new town out of the wilderness. There is a special chapter on "City Folks" in Cornish by Homer St. Gaudens, and illustrations of town scenes, with various portraits.

Orders for the history may be sent to Mrs. Herbert Read, White Swan Farm, RFD 2, Windsor, Vt., with a check for \$25.

**FOLLOWING PAGE**

**WINSTON CHURCHILL**



*Harlakenden  
House*

WINSTON CHURCHILL  
At his home at Windsor, Vermont  
Author of "The Crisis"

Photographed for THE WORLD'S WORK by C. D. Sherman

*Cornish, N. H.*

**SAY IT RIGHT!**

Daily Hints on Avoiding Com-  
mon Errors of Speech

The firemen were restricted to the use of hand chemicals, and the bucket lines, but it was found that their endeavor to quell the flames were useless and they concentrated efforts to save as much of the furniture as possible.

Some valuable old pieces of furniture, paintings of great value and other articles were carried through the flame and smoke by the braver of the volunteers.

Harlakenden mansion, the last word in New England summer residences, occupied a place on an estate of 700 acres, setting back from the turnpike running from Windsor to Meriden, N. H., being well hidden from the eyes of travellers by a heavily wooded forest of oak and pine.

It contained 30 rooms, 16 of which were sleeping chambers on the upper floors. The house was of brick construction, two stories high, its front overlooking the Connecticut River, while two approaches from the main roadway led to its rear entrance in the centre of two wings. The house, in its stern simplicity, bore out the spirit of Colonial days.

Professor Dow, a French instructor at Dartmouth; the wife of Justice Hinds of New York; George Rublee, noted New York attorney, and members of the Slada family were among those who aided the Churchills in removing the furniture and other belongings from the wings of the house.

The house was fully insured. It was quite well understood that the music room alone was provided for in a special insurance policy for \$45,000.

Mrs. Lucy M. Lewin has closed her house and gone to Springfield, Mass., to visit Mrs. Jennie Taylor and Mrs. E. P. Ward for a few days and from there will go to Cleveland, O., to spend the winter with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Quimby. Mrs. Ruth Foster and children who have spent the summer with her mother, Mrs. Lewin, started on Friday for the return trip to Globe, Ariz. Her husband will meet her in Stamford, Conn., and they will visit a brother, Dr. Deane Foster, of that city for a short time and arrive in Globe about Oct. 21.

On Wednesday, Oct. 10, Mrs. Lucy Lewin entertained at lunch her nephew and wife, Dr. and Mrs. Victor Rambo, with other relatives. Dr. and Mrs. Rambo will soon journey across the continent to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Rambo in Washington and then

## HARLAKENDEN NOW IN RUINS

Famous Estate of **Winston Churchill**  
Author, at Cornish, N. H., Burned  
To the Ground Saturday.

"Harlakenden," the famous summer home of Winston Churchill, author, and for several summer seasons the home of President Woodrow Wilson, burned to the ground early on the afternoon of Saturday, October 6, while volunteer fire departments and prominent members of the artists' colony of Cornish stood by powerless to stop the destruction.

The famous author and his son, John, together with Stephen Parrish, members of the Saint Gaudens family and others, succeeded in carrying out furniture of priceless value when they realized that their efforts to stop the fire were hopeless. The damage is estimated at between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

The fire started at about noon time in a large fireplace in a sitting room on the first floor while the family was at luncheon. It spread rapidly and the fire departments of Windsor and Claremont, N. H., were called upon for assistance.

Because of the peculiar construction of the house, it was well nigh impossible for the firemen to pump water from the Connecticut River, the surface of which lay 90 feet below the house, which stood on a cliff-like eminence.

A bucket brigade of prominent authors, artists and sculptors was formed while the firemen were dashing to the scene from the three towns. It was necessary to carry the water from a point a half mile away.

By 4 o'clock in the afternoon the building was in ruins.

The author and his family will occupy another residence, Churchill's Inn, there.

Churchill, author of "The Crisis," "Conniston," and other famous books, wrote several of his best known novels at Harlakenden.

Most of the personal belongings of members of the Churchill family were saved, it was understood.

Mrs. Churchill was away at the time, the house having been occupied by the author and his son, John, for the last week.

1947

Manchester, N. H., March 14,

# Churchill Burial Rites in Cornish

## Noted Author To Be Buried in Private Cemetery



WINSTON CHURCHILL

Special to The Union.

CORNISH, March 13 — Burial services for Winston Churchill, 75, noted author, who died of a heart attack Wednesday at Winter Park, Fla., will be held here Saturday noon.

His son, Creighton, announced Thursday that burial will take place in the private cemetery on the Churchill estate.

Churchill was visiting friends at the time of his death. He had been a resident of this community for the past 48 years. He was a native of St. Louis, Mo.

He did most of his writing at his 30-room residence here on a 500-acre estate near the Plainfield town line. Internationally famous for his novels of American historical periods, Mr. Churchill stopped writing for a time and retired to his estate. His last published work was "The Unchartered Way," completed in 1940.

### In State Politics.

Besides his writing he was for a time active in New Hampshire politics. He was a member of the state legislature from 1903 to 1907 and ran unsuccessfully for governor on a reform platform during Theodore Roosevelt's presidential campaign in 1912. He was an aide on the staff of Gov. Nahum J. Bacheelder in 1903.

He attended Annapolis, but resigned from the Navy soon after graduation and took up writing. He published his first novel "The Celebrity" at the age of 23 and followed it by the famous "Richard Carvel," "The Crisis," "Coniston," "The Inside of the Cup," "The Dwelling Place of Light" and "The Crossing."

Often confused with former Prime Minister Winston Churchill of England, he carried on considerable correspondence with the British statesman at one time in an effort to determine how they would sign their respective books.

### Confusion of Names.

### Confusion of Names.

The Yankee Churchill being three years older had the prior right to the name, so the Englishman agreed to sign his works "Winston Spencer Churchill." Neither of the famous pair has ever been able to trace any relationship to the other.

Mr. Churchill's survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Alan Butler of Boston, and two sons, John Churchill, a New York architect and Creighton Churchill of Windsor, Vt., also several grandchildren.

CLARK CAMP ROAD ISSUE

SEE HIGHWAY FILE

# A Little "Back-Date" on the '92 Flood...



By Thursday morning, the ice clogged the river and the level had risen to within six feet of the bridgeway itself.



The town garages show the flooding levels on Central Street on Wednesday the 11th. Homes on the street were evacuated for that evening.



The town gas pump and road around the area were under, in several spots, several feet of water.

As Windsor resident Lydia Gould points out to Jerry Everts, Jr., the flooding from March 11th caused rings of ice as it receded over the following days. Lydia recounts the Flood of '27 when the water was so bad her sister, who worked for the phone company in White River, had to come home by hand-cart on the railroad track.

(Photo-Jo Everts)



As the water levels rose on Wednesday, chunks of ice sped down the river in huge blocks.



At Aubuchon's, plastic over the doorway and sandbags began to take shape on Wednesday the 11th.



Trying to minimize the impact of water backed

Windsor Chronicle  
March 26, 1992

Photos by Tom Kenyon.

# Night The Earth Moved

## Quake Shakes Up Valley, Registers 4.8 On Richter

By SALLIE GRAZIANO  
Valley News Staff Writer

The second earthquake in 10 days shook the Upper Valley last night, and shocks were felt into New York, Massachusetts and Maine, according to officials with the New Hampshire Department of Civil Defense.

The tremor, centered in Franklin, N.H., happened at 7:15 p.m. and lasted less than 30 seconds. Despite a 4.8 measurement on the Richter scale that indicates the quake was moderate, police throughout New Hampshire and Vermont said no damage was reported.

Most people, however, ran into problems as they scrambled to their phones to call neighbors, relatives or police about the rumble. Most phones in the area went dead temporarily. Some people picked up their phone to get a delayed dial tone.

The phone company's problem was not the quake, but the collective rush to the telephone from upstate New York to Boston. The problem corrected itself after about 20 minutes when the demand for phone lines ended.

There was no physical damage to any telephone lines or equipment because of the earthquake, according to New England Telephone repairman Peter Kovach of Canterbury, N.H.

"When something like this happens, people go to their phones and the demand for dial tones is so great that the system can't handle the demand," he said. "People in three states were picking up their phones at the same time, and the computer just couldn't handle it."

Police stations on both sides of the Connecticut said their phone lines were clogged by incoming calls. Dispatchers logged calls beginning at 7:15 p.m., one minute after the official start of the earthquake.

Police in the southwestern New Hampshire city of Keene said they received 100 telephone calls in less than seven minutes.

The Hanover police dispatcher's switchboard was full for the first time officers can remember. "We have 14 lines, and they were all lit up at once," said dispatcher Thomas Braley last night. "No damage has been reported . . . but we've gotten about 200 calls from people wondering what happened."

In Lebanon, dispatcher John Johnston called two people in his office to help in answering eight phones that he said rang incessantly. "Things are just starting to quiet down now," he said at 9 last night. "The whole building was shaking here when the earthquake happened, though."

Patrick Mock, the Hartford police dispatcher, said he got calls from everyone but the officers on patrol. "Strangely enough, our officers in their cruisers didn't feel anything. I guess the shock absorbers

kept them from feeling the rumble, and the roads they drive on are always bumpy so they might have thought the tremor was just bumpy roads."

Vermont State Police logged about 65 calls in their Rockingham, Bethel and Saint Johnsbury stations.

Radio and television stations also were flooded with calls last night, and Jessica Baldwin from WNHV radio in White River Junction said the station's night crew handled at least 100 calls.

Area hospitals did not report any disruption in routine as a result of the quake. "Things kept going normally here," said Pat Elder of Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover.

The Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in Vernon was closed during a minor alert sounded 20 minutes after the earthquake.

Operators in the control room of the 540-megawatt reactor felt the quake, according to plant spokesman Steve Stoll.

He said the shift supervisor declared an "unusual event" after sensing the earthquake, a declaration required under Nuclear Regulatory Commission guidelines.

"It was a formality," said Stoll. A spokesman at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's operation center in Maryland said the NRC requires nuclear plants to declare the so-called "unusual event" whenever an earthquake is detected.

An unusual event is the lowest classification of NRC "emergency action levels." The others are alert, site area emergency, and general emergency.

Stoll said plant workers were sent through the plant to determine any damage.

The alert was called off at 7:43, eight minutes after it was declared, when officials were satisfied nothing was wrong.

According to Mike Nawoj of New Hampshire Civil Defense, a reading of 4.8 on the open-ended Richter scale means last night's earthquake is considered "almost moderate."

"A reading of five is moderate," he said, "and we were almost up to that."

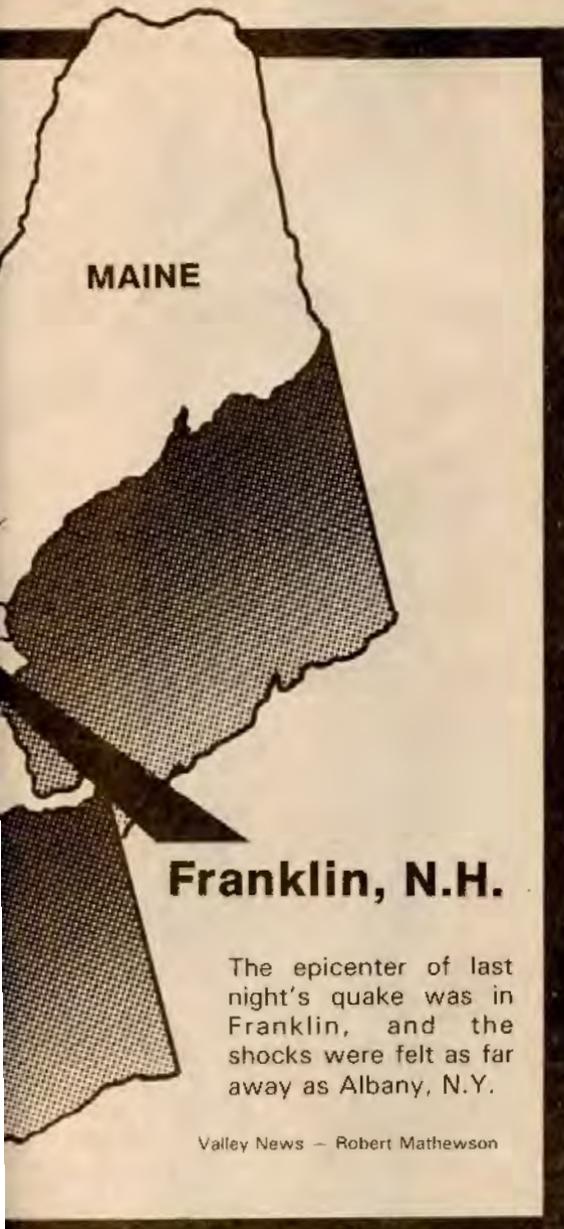
Nawoj said he has received no reports of aftershocks since last night's tremor, but added that New England is an "active seismic area."

"New England has an earthquake history that goes back to the pre-Revolutionary War period," he said. "Earthquakes go right through our history to the present, and their activity is described much the same as last night's."

Gabriel Leblanc is a seismologist with Weston Geophysical Corp. in Westboro, Mass. He studied the Mt. Ossipee area between 1976 and 1978 which includes Franklin, N.H., the epicenter of last night's

(Continued on page 10)

— EARTHQUAKE



MAINE

Franklin, N.H.

The epicenter of last night's quake was in Franklin, and the shocks were felt as far away as Albany, N.Y.

Valley News — Robert Mathewson

ale. It  
New  
ted a  
15.8.  
Main Street.  
"I thought a freight train had run into my building," said Charles Colby, dispatcher for Rennie's Taxi on Central Street.

# Earthquake

(Continued from page 1)

quake.

According to Leblanc, sensitive instruments measured an average of one earthquake a month during the two years of testing. He said the quakes were too minor to be felt by people in the area, but the sensitive instruments registered the vibrations.

The minor tremors indicate seismic instability, Leblanc said. He theorized that the earth's crust is disturbed by molten material making its way to the surface, and when tension becomes too great, a shifting occurs.

The earthquake that hit the Upper Valley Jan. 9 measured 5.9 on the Richter scale. It was the most severe earthquake in New Hampshire since seismologists reported a quake in Ossipee in 1940 that measured 5.8.

Two men were repairing a refrigerator compressor in the basement when it happened. Keefe thought the compressor had blown up. Lifesavers rolled off shelves, and a few cans of vegetables crashed to the floor. Marsh said he ran outside and saw snow slide off the roof of Benson's Auto Co.

He said he knew it had to be an earthquake when he saw cars in the dealer's lot shaking.

He also knew there had been a brief power outage in the store because the video games' store-screens were purged. All the numbers had disappeared.

The earthquake struck at 7:15 p.m. and was centered about six miles northeast of downtown Franklin. Most Franklin residents said they thought at first that the disturbance was confined to their immediate surroundings. Most estimated that the tremor lasted between 10 and 40 seconds.

"It felt like somebody wanted drive-in service . . . like they'd driven right into the building," said Alex Livingstone, who was minding the cash register at Extra-Mart on Main Street.

"I thought a freight train had run into my building," said Charles Colby, dispatcher for Rennie's Taxi on Central Street.

But Clint Wheeler, the television repairman en route to a service call, said he felt nothing when the earthquake struck. "Maybe it's because I was driving a Chevrolet," he speculated.

Some people mistook the tremor for a furnace explosion.

Cpl. Stephen Adams of the Franklin police thought the boiler had exploded in police headquarters. "I thought the whole building was going to come down," he said. But he was on the phone with his wife at the time, and she felt the shaking, too.

At Lakes Region General Hospital, Cynthia Naples, a medical technologist, said a man had been making repairs to the hospital boiler at the time of the earthquake. She also suspected that the building's boiler had blown up.

Adams said Franklin police received about 150 calls after the earthquake struck. The calls came from Tilton, Northfield, Hill, Canterbury and Franklin. Adams also received calls from seismic observers in Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts and New York.

For at least an hour in some places, telephone lines were jammed. Many people reported that their phones went dead. For about 20 minutes, the hospital and fire department could only receive calls, Adams said. But police department lines remained intact.

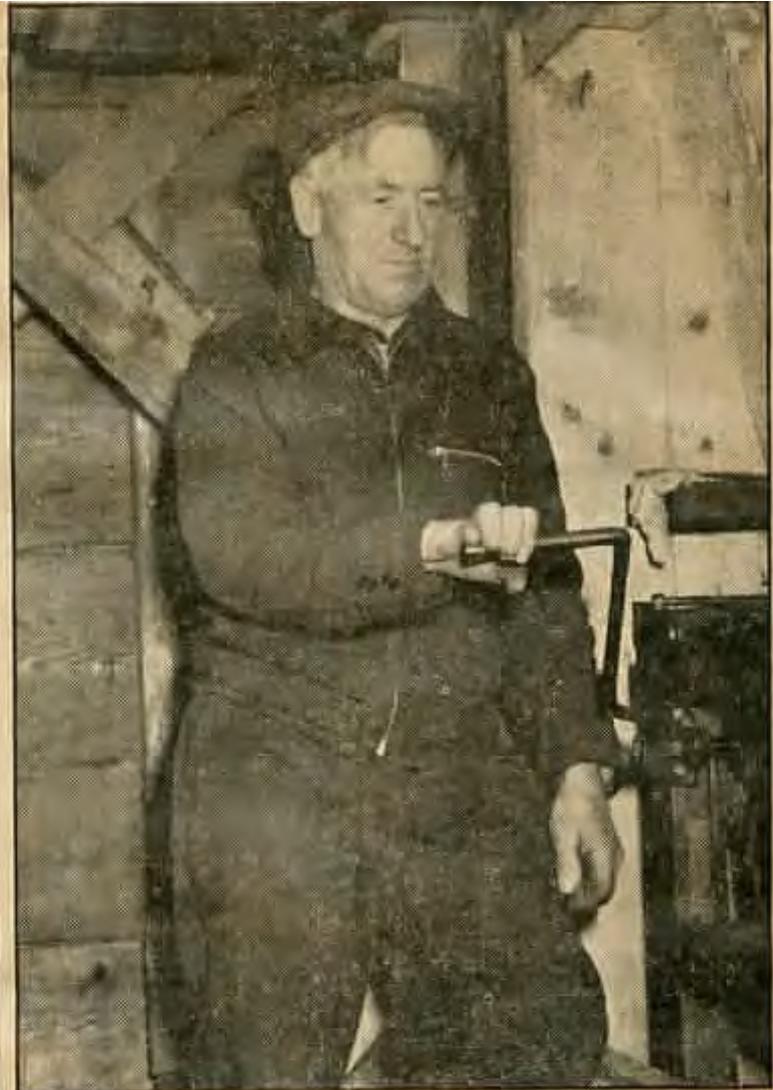
Colby said his phone was dead for about two hours, so it was a slow night for taxis in Franklin.

Tina French from Andover, who was visiting a friend in Hill, said she had to wait until 8:30 p.m. to call her mother. When she picked up the phone, she heard several voices speaking at once.

Other residents reported hearing multiple voices on the phone, including one that told them to keep the line clear for emergencies.

Fortunately, the earthquake was more of a phenomenon than a danger. No serious damage and no injuries were reported, Adams said.

Colby did say his brother, who lives on Webster Lake in Franklin, found a crack had appeared in the floor of his basement.



Charles W. Crane of Cornish Flat. He winds the striking spring with ease, but the other spring makes him puff. Staff Photo—Minard.

## *Cornish Flat Clock Winder Is Center Of Fund Appeal*

By Twin State Rambler

Colonel Philip B. Fleming, federal administrator of the Wages and Hours Law, spoke at Dartmouth early this week. We presume Colonel Fleming was too busy speaking to be paying much attention to the way his law works out in small New Hampshire communities. If he were, he sure would have been interested in Charles W. Crane, the Cornish Flat clockwinder.

Charles Crane, whom we treed in his front dooryard sawing some split limbs out of a maple tree, earns 25 cents a week winding the big clock in the Baptist church in Cornish Flat. That gives him an annual salary of \$12 a year, and

doorways, its weatherbeaten wood and its hand-wrought hinges.

"I haven't been here but 12 years, so I don't know much about the history of the church or the clock either," he confided on the way to the church. "But I started winding it after George Hunt got finished with the job. It's kind of a bother sometimes, but then it don't take so much time at that."

Mr. Crane spoke as though he was a newcomer to Cornish Flat, a newcomer from a long way off. As a matter of fact he was born in Goshen, and he had been in sight of Croydon mountain most of his life. Every five and a half days (the clock is cantankerous and won't run for any exact time such as six days) he trudges up the stairs into the second floor of the church. Then he climbs a ladder, disappears through a hole in the ceiling, climbs across some heavy ropes, mounts a flimsy stairway and ends up on a staging in the belfry. Here is located the large, but amazingly simple mechanism which runs the hands on three sides of the clock tower. The fourth side has no clock face set in it.

#### Not Child's Play

Winding the clock is no simple matter. There is a heavy crank, something like the one you shake a furnace grate with. This fits on a shaft thicker than your thumb. Mr. Crane winds twice. The first winding is for the striking mechanism. This is hard. Mr. Crane, for all his tree climbing agility, has time heaving his weight against the stiff spring, and before he is finished he is puffing audibly.

Week in, week out, with the church cold as an ice house in these February days, Mr. Crane trudges up to the tower to do his 25 cent a week chore. But this isn't all he does. Amazing are the tasks he "throws in for good measure." He arrives early Sunday mornings, lights the fires in two furnaces and a stove. Then he goes up to the entrance and hauls on the bell rope to summon people to worship.

#### Hikes From Mountain

It is in summer that the clock winding is most onerous for Charles Crane. In summer he is stationed in the fire lookout on Croydon mountain. He has been a lookout since 1926. He winds the clock when he hikes down into town for provisions. In the winter he works as "spare man" on the sand truck for the highway agent.

Getting back to Mrs. Rollins, we discovered that her intermittent appeal is made because although the clock is Cornish's only town timepiece, it is the property of the Baptist Church society, who gave permission years ago for the clock to be placed in the church tower. So it isn't strictly up to the town to pay Mr. Crane's weekly two bits. But every so often, when the clock-winding fund is exhausted, an appeal is made, and townspeople contribute so that Mr. Crane

workers who never came under the Wages and Hours law.

We first heard about Charlie Crane indirectly. Mrs. J. J. Rollins, the Eagle's correspondent in the Flat, frequently included a plaintive appeal in her items. It read something like this: "It is time to consider again the fact that we need money to pay Mr. Crane for winding the clock. Everyone should give a little to help to have our clock kept running."

Prompted by curiosity to discover just why philanthropy was required to keep a clock running, we made visits to Cornish Flat until we found out. Our investigations were rewarded by authoritative information from Mr. Crane himself, from Harold Deane, and from his uncle, Fred A. Deane, a landscaping contractor.

#### He's A Newcomer

Mr. Crane, as we said, was up a tree. He climbed down when he heard what we wanted, and took us over to the ancient church, with its hand worked trim around the

(Continued on Page Three)

**T**IM SMITH, 50, OF CORNISH SPENDS HIS WORKDAYS AS A COMPUTER PROGRAMER for NextMark in Hanover. But on Saturday mornings he works with what he calls "the other extreme of technology."

The responsibility of being clock winder for the Cornish Flat Meeting House, a post he

took over from Cornish Flat residents Nancy Wightman and Audrey Jacquier, has built a neat routine into his weekends for the past 10 years.

After making the three-quarter-mile drive down to the village from his home and unlocking the door to the 206-year-old structure, his work begins. He climbs a flight of stairs to the main hall

of the building, which began its life as a Baptist church, then up another flight to the choir loft. From there he steps onto an aluminum ladder that disappears above the hall, traverses lengths of wide boards laid across the ceiling joists and finally crawls up a steep set of steps to a small landing.

There, inside a rough cabinet, is the clock built by Stephen Hasham in 1844, one of a handful in the Upper Valley that still rely on dedicated and punctual servants to wind them by hand.

The building was moved from Parsonage Road to Cornish Flat in 1818. It is undergoing a renovation with

*See PUNCTUAL — C10*

*Photographs and text*  
by **James M. Patterson**



Smith warms his hands during a pause from turning the crank in the unheated building.

## Punctual Servant

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

\$34,000 in donations from town residents and the town historical society to shore up the bell tower and fix other structural problems.

The clock is powered by a stone-filled weight that inches toward the foundation of the building throughout the week as a pendulum incrementally allows the weight to turn a set of gears.

With his bare hands on a cold metal crank, Smith makes 30 turns, winding the weight's cable onto a drum, raising the rock-filled container back to the top floor. In recent years, Smith's son, Justin, 8, has accompanied him on these Saturday mornings to lend a hand with the 120 cranks needed to raise a weight that powers a bell connected to the clock.

Smith used to write *The Clock*

*Winder's Journal*, a column in *Consider This*, the town's monthly newsletter, about the clock's history or some aspect of its mechanics or about the tangential thoughts he would have during his weekly task.

The gears need to be oiled occasionally, and sometimes a minute must be added or subtracted to keep the hands on the clock's six-foot face on time, but today the work is quickly completed and Smith and his son are off to run errands in the village.

They drop off the week's recycling, then return to the village to exchange books at the library and check the post office box.

With their work finished and a week to go until the clock needs another winding, father and son stop at the Cornish General Store for a bite to eat.



George Edson checks his digital watch against the newly-wound clock in the Meeting House on Cornish Flat's village green. They are only seconds apart. Edson has been winding the clock once a week since its restoration in 1977. Above, a small clock face is attached to the interior winding mechanism indicating

the time shown on the exterior face. The Meeting House was built in 1803 as a Baptist church — the town's oldest — and moved to its present site in 1818. The church and bell were restored soon after the building was donated to the town.

Valley View May 14, 1981 p. 11

# Why I Like Living In The Upper Valley

By Virginia Colby

It would be easy to be a recluse in Cornish! The joys of living out away from people and commercial enterprises becomes more precious as time goes by.

We have been very fortunate at our place in Cornish to have had beavers move in and build a large pond and a lodge. The pond has brought endless pleasure watching the activities of the animals and birds who come to enjoy the water or being around it.

About two weeks ago a doe brought her little spotted fawn, who was probably six or eight weeks old, to the pond. The fawn frolicked in the tall grass, waded at the edge of the water and nursed at her mother. It was a beautiful sight seeing the shiny tan coat of the mother and the spotted coat of the fawn reflected in the clear, calm water. The doe paid close attention to her child, licking it after it got in the water, almost too deep for safety, and making sure it did not stray from her sight. Later we discovered they had crossed our driveway leaving the tracks of mother and baby.

Almost every year we have a pair of mallards who nest in the rushes. It's fun to watch the mother duck lead the ducklings for a paddle across the pond. This year I'm not sure if we will have the ducklings as we have a pair of red-tailed hawks.

Last week Stan found a big, mean, old snapping turtle in the yard which he carried off and put in the woods. The turtle returned a couple of days later and Stan took him farther away. Turtles also mean death to ducklings as the turtles swim up under the paddling ducklings and grab them.

Occasionally the blue heron flies in from Blow-Me-Down Pond to have a look.

Several years ago my husband, Stan, got thoroughly involved feeding the beavers. We thought they had all left the area because they had eaten all the available food. One day we spotted one swimming around the pond. Stan thought he would encourage the beaver to stay so every day he cut a few branches of aspen from the woods on the other side of the house and carried them to the edge of the pond. A few days later we saw two beavers at the pond so Stan cut more branches each day and carried them down. Every morning when we checked there wasn't a twig or leaf left; one would never know he had fed them at all. Several more days passed and we saw three beavers. This feeding job was getting a little much, so Stan got the riding lawn mower out, cut branches, tied them to the mower, and dragged them down to the pond. That went on for several days when four beavers appeared. Stan couldn't keep up with the feeding job with the mower, so he got out the Jeep and cut small trees, tied them to the Jeep and dragged them down to the pond. This became quite a time-consuming job taking a good part of every morning. Then the beavers started building a new dam at a place where we did not want a dam. So Stan would feed the beavers and then spend time tearing out the new dam (which is quite a job as they do a thorough

job of building). Every morning they would have it built right back. This became too much of a task so Stan said if this is the way they are going to reward me for feeding them I will have to stop. Where else can you find engineers who build such good structures with no feasibility studies, no competitive building, no paper work or heavy machinery, and who work nights and don't even charge minimum wage?

During the earlier days of the pond when we had a large family of beavers living there we watched quite a performance that has probably been seen by few people. One week during a January thaw the following happened. Apparently they had not stored enough food to see them through the winter. They swam under the ice from the lodge to a hole near the dam where they surfaced. They walked over and down the side of the dam across a swampy area to a wooded area. There were six of them and they set up an assembly line. One cut brush in the wooded area, another passed it to a beaver in the swamp, he in turn, carried it to the base of the dam where one of the youngest ones, probably a yearling, carried the twig up over the dam and passed it to an older beaver who carried it under the ice and deposited it at the lodge. One time during this performance that lasted a week (they were working days) the young one who had treaded over this path so many times packing down the snow and making it very slippery, slipped and went head over heels backwards down the icy dam with the twig still in his mouth. Where else could anyone watch such a sight as this and from the comfort of one's warm house?

Another enjoyable sight is to watch the hay blowing in waves across the fields.

Along with offering "country" the upper valley area offers a variety of cultural, educational, and sports activities in the local towns. One only has to read the "calendars of events" in the various news papers to find a wide selection of activities from which to choose. In Cornish there is the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site which offers summer Sunday afternoon concerts as well as several art exhibits during the season. There are opportunities for volunteer work at Saint-Gaudens along with other community projects and town related affairs. No one should ever be bored!

I have been particularly interested in the old as well as the newer history of Cornish, which claims many interesting and illustrious people. The later history which includes the Cornish Artists Colony is fascinating for many reasons, one being, that over one hundred nationally famous people were attracted to the Cornish-Plainfield area.

We have just returned from a visit to Seattle, with its four and five lane highways (each way). But just the numbers of cars on the roads becomes exhausting. We also spent some time at Expo where the crowds were enormous and there were long lines to most exhibits. It is a pleasure to be back in Cornish with its dirt roads, fewer people and cars.

From a city girl who has adjusted well to the country.

# Colby made mark on Cornish history

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Tribute was paid to Virginia Colby when friends, colleagues and fellow historians gathered at the Chase House recently to recognize the 19 years she has served as president of the Cornish Historical Society.

In 1973 the society was just being organized, and Colby was asked if she would be interested in becoming president, which she declined. She and her husband had been busy renovating the White Swan Farm, which had been a tiring time for both, and they planned a vacation trip out west.

While she was in Wyoming, she learned she had been made president of the society anyway.

One of Colby's first calls on the job came from a Claremont doctor who was looking for information on Dr. Nathan Smith of Cornish for a book he was writing.

Colby, who is now an authority on Cornish history, knew nothing about Dr. Smith, the founder of four medical schools, and she was determined never to be embarrassed like that again.

She went to the selectmen's office and was allowed in the town vault. There, on the floor, were some of the records covered with mildew, and old minutes, tax records and other important information.

For one year, each Wednesday, Virginia Colby and Carol Fitch cleaned, checked the contents and numbered each volume, then stored them numerically, keeping a record of the inventory for

office use.

This was but one project that became a reality under her leadership in the society.

One of the projects carried out under her leadership that generated the most enthusiasm was the indexing of the 1,000 gravestones in both public and private cemeteries within the town.

She was very instrumental in the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge restoration and worked with the staff of the National Park Service, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, to prepare an interpretive handbook about the bridge, which was distributed to those attending the rededication ceremonies on Dec. 8, 1989.

Also four covered bridges were repaired under the tutelage of the Cornish Historical Society during the 19 years she served as president.

The evening left Mrs. Colby speechless, as she is a soft-spoken lady who usually gives credit to others rather than herself, but said she felt truly honored.

A special guest at the event was Colby's son, George, who flew here from Saratoga, Calif., for the special occasion.

Colby has retired from the president's position, but has been busy on her next challenge writing "Footprints of the Past," to be published next year.

"I was able to accomplish the many things done in the society only through the help of members," she said. "And it is very gratifying to turn the chairmanship over to Jim Atkinson, who is very capable and very knowledgeable — someone who can give the society a new direction."



VIRGINIA COLBY has stepped down after 19 years as president of the Cornish Historical Society. (Ruth Rollins photo)

Boston Sunday Globe June 21, 1987

Virginia Colby



Globe photo/J.D. Der

**Virginia Colby**, president of the Cornish Historical Society, stands in front of covered bridge built in 1886 that is at the center of a controversy over its restoration. The 446-foot bridge spans the Connecticut River between Cornish and Windsor, Vt. Page 18.

# Cornish historian recognized for restoring town records

By RUTH ROLLINS

CORNISH, N.H. — Virginia Colby, president of the Cornish Historical Society, received word recently that the Cornish Historical Society was awarded a certificate of commendation for making records readily available the historical records of the town.

The award was conveyed at the annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History, in the nation's most prestigious competition for local history achievement.

A committee, composed of leaders in the history profession, reviewed more than 150 nominations which had been screened by state and regional levels previously. Only those nominees approved at these preliminary competitions are considered for the national honors.

The American Association for State and Local History, headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., has given awards to local historians and historical agencies since 1944. The association works to advance knowledge, understanding and appreciation of local history in the United States and Canada.

To earn the award Colby has spent many dedicated hours, with the help of Carol Fitch.

Her interest in the preservation of town records came about in 1959 when purchasing a home in Cornish as a vacation house until retirement. Upon visiting the Cornish

Selectmen's Office to inquire about the history of the old farm house purchased she was directed to vault and told to "help yourself."

Colby said "The vault was small, with one wall of shelves, the overflow was piled high on the floor, blocking view of the lower shelves. The old books, some of them leather covered, were white with mold."

"It was a hopeless task and abandoned then and there." "However, a seed was sown and I vowed to do something about the condition of the town records some day."

"In 1972 we moved to Cornish permanently and in 1973 the Cornish Historical Society was founded." The first project of that small group of people was the cleaning of the town office vault. Two of the members volunteered their time one day a week for over a year sorting, cleaning and discarding unwanted material and a second shelf was built. The New Hampshire Municipal Association mandates were used as a guide in discarding materials. The vault acquired a new look with everything labeled and catalogued.

"After cleaning off the mold some of the records were discovered that dated back to the 1770's, and our next thought was planning a way to preserve them," said Colby.

"We approached the town's people through a warrant article at town meeting, asking

for money to have the records microfilmed." Being approved, the same two women arranged for this to be done, microfilming the town records except for those of a genealogical nature, which the Morman Church did free of charge.

Colby's interest in preserving history took on another twist and it was decided to index the gravestones in the ten cemeteries and search out the small private cemeteries. The earliest gravestone found dated back to 1768.

Several offered to help on this project and what was thought to take two years was done during one summer. Every gravestone in Cornish is listed on an index card and filed alphabetically by cemetery. The index cards are kept at the town office for public use.

Shortly following the indexing of the gravestones, the State DAR requested a list of Revolutionary soldiers who were buried in Cornish. The town had no such list and so once again Colby's interest came forth and using the gravestone index cards a list was comprised of each man aged 16 through 60 at the time of the Revolution.

The list was researched by the use of Dartmouth College Library, New Hampshire state papers and other resource material available

through the library interloan system.

Colby spent six weeks, nearly full time, on the project and discovered that 92 Revolutionary War soldiers were buried in Cornish. Their war service and other information was placed on the reverse side of the gravestone index card, making it possible to answer many genealogical requests.

Following the completion of the war soldier project the vital records were researched. Many times the town clerk is approached by persons interested in genealogical facts and previous to 1900 answers were impossible.

Index cards were designed to accommodate all possible information found and which save as much as possible the wear and tear on the old town records.

Approximately four people met weekly with much time put into reading the old handwritten books. A book was purchased concerning old handwriting, which served as a valuable tool while hunting out the information needed.

The project is still underway and it is hoped that by 1983 the vital records will be completely up to date. Volunteers who type are still needed and anyone who wishes to give a few hours is urged to contact Colby at White Swan Farm.

# Cornish couple upset over denial of building permits

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**  
Contributing Writer

A local developer cried foul after being denied two building permits in an East Road subdivision Friday.

**Cornish** Carolyn Cole, a principal in the development firm of Cole and Hier LLC, of Saint Gaudens Road, accused the Cornish Board of Selectmen of

hassling her and her husband, Gar Hier, in refusing to issue the permits. "This is selective enforcement," she said.

The selectmen at their board meeting Friday handed Cole and Hier a letter outlining the reasons for the denial of two permits, one for a house on a foundation that has already been poured on East Road, and the other for a house and garage on the same founda-

tion.

Board members cited the local zoning ordinance requirement for a minimal 30-foot setback from the road right-of-way, in this case a stone wall bordering the property along the road. The letter stated that the edge of the foundation closest to the road is approximately 25 feet from the town's right-of-way on Upper East Road. "At this point, we cannot approve either of your applications for building permits, because there is a clear violation of the zoning ordinance on lot No. 3," the selectmen wrote. "A resolution of the violation must occur first. You have two options at this time to correct the violation."

Selectmen said the couple could seek a variance from the Cornish Zoning Board of Adjustment for a waiver of the dimensional requirements or remove the foundation to a point where it is no longer in the setback area.

The letter also gave the couple three weeks until Nov. 21 to bring the property into compliance, or they will face penalties

that could include having the foundation removed and paying removal costs and legal fees.

Cole and Hier said the road, not the stone wall, is the boundary, however, and challenged the selectmen to cite the law backing up their reason. The edge of the foundation closest to the road is 36 feet, placing it outside the setback area, they contended. "Is this the opinion of the selectboard that the stone wall is the boundary of the property?" asked Cole, who is a lawyer.

"Is this opinion based on anything, Larry?" she asked.

"You have a right to appeal the decision to the ZBA," Dingee replied.

"We have a right to know what our selectmen are opining about," she said. "You are refusing to give us a reason for your opinion."

"We are not here to debate the issue," Selectman Larry Dingee told the couple. "We are not going to issue a building permit until what is there now is removed."

Cole said that she and Hier

spent \$100,000 cleaning up refuse on the side of the road after buying the 50-acre parcel from former owners Perley and Lulu Welsh.

"I'm not saying there was anything toxic dumped there," she said. "But we took out 50 junk cars, 5,000 tires, ten 30-gallon containers of household garbage and 125 washing machines. We paid \$2 a tire to get them out," she added.

"We are not going to be denied this permit," Hier said. "We spent a huge amount of money to clean up this mess from over 50 years."

Cole and Hier also insisted that the town had no claim on the right-of-way after ignoring its responsibility of clearing the road for so many years.

The couple told the selectmen they owed the people of Cornish an explanation. "Our position is clear in this letter," Selectman Bill Gallagher said.

"I am entitled to an explanation for the denial," she said. "I'm going to end up suing you for that, and I don't want to."

Cole said after the meeting that local politics has plagued her and her husband ever since they announced plans last year to develop the property for a six-lot subdivision.

"Gar was chairman of the conservation commission for five years, and he was asked to resign because of a conflict of interest over this," she said.

"Where is the conflict in this case?" she asked.

Enid Times Nov 21, 2003

# Cornish Zoning Board will not rehear East Road case

Times Dec 19, 2003 1A3

**GEORGE CHAPPELL**  
Staff Writer

Cornish Zoning Board of selectmen voted 4-0 on Tuesday to not to rehear the complaint of the board of selectmen over a disputed development on East Road. Zoning board member Robert Lupien abstained in the vote because she said she needed more time to consider the arguments.

The zoning board agreed last week to consider the selectmen's request and scheduled a meeting for Tuesday to discuss whether to have the rehearing. But a failure to post a notice of the meeting, as required by law, resulted in a two-day postponement until Thursday night.

Although legally entitled to a day in court to contest the zoning board's latest decision, Cornish selectmen said after Thursday's meeting that they would assess the decision

before deciding whether to take the case to superior court.

"No decision has been made," Adele Fulton, attorney for the selectmen, said about a possible court case.

The selectmen last week issued a complaint to the zoning board over its Nov. 10 decision to grant an equitable waiver to Carolyn Cole and Gar Hier of Cole and Hier Development LLC. The zoning board at the time allowed the developers to waive a 30-foot setback requirement in the

zoning ordinance, which states that a new house must be built no less than 30 feet from the road.

But the selectmen disagreed and said subsequently they would not issue a building permit to Cole and Hier before consulting with the town attorney.

The question to be resolved was the extent of the right of way on Upper East Road.

The developers measured the setback from the ditch to the foundation, while the

selectmen said the property line began with a stonewall along the road.

"We're talking about a difference of five feet," said zoning board member Bruce Tracy Thursday.

The ZBA's waiver in effect overturned an even earlier Oct. 31 decision of the selectmen in denying the developers a building permit in their 50-acre subdivision.

Selectmen said they denied the permit for a foundation already poured on the basis

that it did not fall within the required minimum 30-foot setback from the road.

Cole and Hier appealed to the zoning board, which reviewed the matter Nov. 10 and issued an equitable waiver of dimensional requirement for the one lot in question because there was no intent of malice in shown by the developers.

Selectmen, however, said they would not issue the permit until they had consulted with their attorney.

# GATHERED TO CELEBRATE



## Four Generations of Comings Family of Cornish.

Special to The Union.

CORNISH, May 7.—The above picture representing four generations of the Comings family of Cornish, was taken on the ninth birthday of Charles Welman Comings. He has always lived here with the exception of a year spent in Michigan, his home being on the farm taken up and cleared by his grandfather, who went two miles into the forest by marked trees to reach it.

On his father's side he is the eighth from Isaac Comings, and on his mother's side is descended from Elder Brewster of the Plymouth colony. He has never tak-

en much interest in political matters, but has been active in religious work, having given freely of both time and money.

He married Laura Dewey of Berlin, Vt., and has one son, Fenno B., who works the home farm and who was a member of the New Hampshire legislature of 1911 and is a delegate to the constitutional convention of 1912, and has held other town offices. Fenno married Eoline Robinson of Brighton, New Brunswick, and they have one daughter, Lizzie Comings Wood, wife of Herbert E. Wood, musician and teacher of the piano. These latter have one son, Dwight Comings Wood, the youngest of the group. He is 6 months old and makes the sixth generation to reside on the farm.

the Plymouth colony. He has never tak-

# Clover Ridge Creamery



YES WE DID IT!  
Won Sweepstakes at the  
NEW HAMPSHIRE DAIRY SHOW  
December, 1917



Clover Ridge Creamery, Mill Village, N H.

## Congregational Church

After the resignation of Rev. James T. Jackson in 1896, the pulpit of the Congregational Church was filled by various ministers of the gospel. In 1910 a Rev. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Grant conducted service, but he and his wife remained ~~not~~ <sup>only</sup> a short time; Following his departure <sup>about</sup> Rev. Maurice Dunckley served the church for three years; as he was then unmarried, his mother kept house for him while in Cornish. After his resignation the pulpit was filled by Rev. Davies. The Davies had several daughters, some of whom still return to Cornish for Old Home Day.

For some Sundays in 1912 Rev. Albert Parker Fitch was guest speaker. This was during the time that President Woodrow Wilson had his summer White House in Cornish and attended the Congregational Church. Rev. Fitch was fond of telling ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> story concerning President Wilson and himself. It seems that one Sunday as President Wilson was driving to church -- in a horseless carriage -- he came upon Rev. Fitch also driving to church, but in horse-drawn carriage. The President did not pass but followed Rev. Fitch to church, feeling that it would not be proper for him to pass a minister.

In ~~in~~ 1913 Rev. George Skinner was called to the Cornish church. He, his wife, four daughters, and one son lived in the parsonage on the hill beside the church and remained for five years. Rev. Skinner was a pastor in Webster when he first came to Cornish as a candidate. <sup>Upon</sup> ~~When~~ he returned to his family, he told them that he had never seen so many boys in attendance at one church as ~~xxxxxx~~ <sup>there were</sup> at Cornish. ~~xxxxxxx~~ In less than a year, his daughter Grace had married one of the multitude of boys, James Fitch. Rev. Skinner remained in the service of the church for five years. During his pastorate, <sup>in 1916,</sup> ~~Jesse Doming~~ <sup>James Fitch</sup> was chosen as a deacon; he has continued in this office since then, a period of nearly fifty years.

Rev. William Whitcomb came to the pulpit in 1918, and rendered seventeen years of continuous and faithful service to the church. His ministry was greatly strengthened by the work of his wife and daughter Vera (now Mrs. Clyde Bailey), who were devoted in their work with the Sunday School. On Aug. 26, 1919, meetings were held to consider the matter of incorporating the Society and the church into one body. A set of rules and regulations were drawn up and officers elected. In Nov. 1919, the legal papers were written by Secretary of State Edward C. Bean and recorded in the town records.

At the church meeting of Sept. 1921, after requesting that David Witherill serve as chairman, Rev. Whitcomb placed his retirement before the body. The feeling of his congregation was eloquently shown, when they voted to retain him for another year, or more, at the same salary, \$600 per year.

At this same meeting the members discussed whether to build a new vestry or repair the old one. The committee appointed consisted of Eben Johnson, David Witherill, Clayton Platt, James Fitch and Rev. Whitcomb; they were given the authority to proceed, subject to the advice and consent of the trustees. Apparently they chose to repair, for in 1923 "the vestry needed repairs" and the chimney of the church also needed some attention. The shingling of the <sup>roof</sup> church was donated: Edwin Quimby, Eben Johnson and James Fitch each gave 2000 shingles and Rev. Whitcomb 1000; Clyde Bailey and Jesse Deming each gave a day of their time laying the shingles. It was later ~~suggested~~ <sup>voted</sup> that during the winter months the church services be held in the vestry. In 1925 a social was held to earn money to help meet the \$75 apportionment (of state <sup>2</sup> expenses). *In 1926 Grace Skinner Fitch became the church organist.* During Rev. Whitcomb's service, the congregation participated in several social functions. In 1933 the Reading Club won ~~the~~ third prize

in the state for the amount of reading done in relation to the number of its members; The prize of two books was awarded at the Congregation-Conference at Keene. Rev. Whitcomb and Mrs. Alma Brown were members of a committee to arrange a celebration of the Golden Anniversary of Mrs. and Mrs. Cyrus Barton July 1, 1933. ~~In 1935~~ At the 1935 annual meeting Rev. Whitcomb told the members of the formation of a Men's Club, an organization more social than religious.

On April 5, 1935 the members of the Congregational Church were grieved by the passing of their faithful and beloved pastor.

During the five years following the death of Rev. Whitcomb, the Church was provided for through the services of a series of supply ministers: ~~at~~ Stanley Anderson, a student worker from Andover Newton Seminary, June to October; Rev. Charles French of Claremont, Oct. 1935 to January 1936; George Moissides, also a student from Andover Newton Seminary, June 1936 to September 1937; Rev. Reynolds, pastor at the Baptist Church, on Sunday afternoons, September 1937 ~~until~~ ~~although~~ ~~the~~ ~~services~~ ~~continued~~ ~~to~~ ~~June~~ ~~1939~~, "except <sup>being the guest</sup> time"; Miss June Donna, who proved to be a popular minister, ~~with~~ <sup>the recipient</sup> a reception and a parting gift ~~and~~ of nearly \$100, June ~~1939~~ to August 1939; during the winter of 1939 two Dartmouth men, Laurence Durgin and George Dreher, held services and Mr. Durgin continued on through the summer.

In 1937 the Platt place was sold to John Rock. The hurricane of 1938 did severe damage; the southwest side of the church was bulged so that a contractor ~~was~~ declared it unsafe and services were held in the vestry until repairs could be made. In 1940 the church and vestry were wired for electric service by the R.E.A.

On July 27, 1941, Rev. Robert Nunn and his wife came to make their home in the parsonage and ~~he~~ remained until October 1, 1944, when he

In 1942 Paul St. Caudens donated to the church a set of sculpture done by his mother Annette and entitled "Salvation". Of special interest is the fact that members of the church posed as models for Mrs. St. Caudens. The last Sunday that Rev. Nunn officiated was unique; at the close of services, he united in marriage Miss Carol French and of Pittsfield and ~~Wesley~~ Orville Fitch.

retired from the ministry. The tall, stately, white-haired parson was a welcome guest as he wiked over the country roads from one home to another. He visited the schools, also, with frequency, telling ~~short~~ in his memorable way, stories that would entertain ~~and~~ the children and at the same time, teach them some ~~in~~ bit of knowledge not available to them in their textbooks. One of his favorites~~xxxx~~ concerned two boys who decided to stttle their differences with their fists. They agreed that whoever should call out a certain word would end the fight and would be the loser. As they fought, one boy was decidedly the loser and his opponent ~~managed~~ managed to pinion him. Suddenly he ~~threw~~ threw off the apparent victor and reversed their positions. The second boy, finda ing himself unable ~~to~~ fight, hollered, "Uncle". "That's it," shouted the winner. "I couldn't remember the word."

After Rev. Nunn left the ministry, he moved to Amesbury, Mass., where for several years he was curator of the Wait ~~Whitman~~ Home museum. *John G. Whittier*

In September 1944, Rev. Norman Scruton came to serve the pastorates of both the Baptist and Congpegationalist Churches, making his home in

the Congregational parsonage, which became the center of much laughter

In 1945 plans were made to build a new barn at the parsonage; and gay hospitality. During his time here, the ~~Summer~~ Sunday much of the expense of construction was met by holding public auctions and School, Vacation Bible School and Young Peoples Fellowship became in-

food sales. Later suppers were held to raise money to repair the foundation

creasingly active, ~~Rev. and Mrs. Scruton~~ and they interested the young ~~people~~ of the church. On Aug. 18, 1948, at Old Home Day, a dedication was held for people in joining together as a choir, which Mrs. Scruton directed. ~~In~~ a memorial of graitte stone and bronze plaque for ~~Rev. and Mrs. James T.~~

Rev. Scruton was devoted to his work and to ~~his~~ people. He succeed- Jackson, founders of Old Home Day. It was decided to repair the belfrey ed in drawing into the Youth Fellowship several young people not before while the men were still working on the foundation. Kenneth Hunt offered connected with the church orgainzations; and he provided transportation to paint the belfrey if the paint and staging were furnished.. Later the for those who did not have it. The problems of conveyance during the interior was renovated andredecorated.

winter months in Cornish are unquestionably difficult; but Rev.

Scruton proved equal to the task of driving to impossible places to

accommodate his young people. ~~On one occasion, when he had no way~~

to leave except by backing an eighth of a mile down a tortuous road, he produced a light flashlight, and, grasping light and opened door in one ~~steering with the other,~~ hand, he backed slowly down the twisted road. The five young stars, ~~in~~ pressed with his self-control and concentration, held absolute silence, halfway down the hill, he slid into the snowbank; thrusting all the young people into breathlessness. "Fudge," said the Rev. Scruton and picked up his shovel.

During Rev. Scruton's stay in Cornish, he worked to bring about the eventual union of the Baptist and Congregational Churches, and as a beginning, ~~brought about~~ <sup>held</sup> the union services, ~~held~~ in the Baptist Church in the winter and the Congregational Church in the ~~winter~~ <sup>summer</sup>.

This marked the closing of the Congregational Church as a separate and distinct organization; tribute is paid to those many faithful ones, named and unnamed, who have carried the torch of faith, ~~xxx~~ - sometimes a seemingly flickering one - down to the present time.

lovely

The ~~church building~~ brick church building at the Center has long been a landmark for Cornish. Here were held the first and all succeeding Old Home Days; here is the bronze plaque and granite stone commemorating the birth of all "old people's visits" and those who began it; ~~xxxx~~ this is the ~~building~~ church attended by President Woodrow Wilson during his stay in Cornish. Should this church building, or the Baptist church at Cornish Flat, ever have to be dispensed with because ~~it~~ it cannot be maintained, Cornish will have lost a very real and important part of itself.

*May it pass with the dignity of its faith.*

Jan. 12

Dear Carol,

I have meant to get this to you before, but the printer had me stop work on the narrative to get the genealogy done. Now I have to rush to get the narrative done. I do want you to read this over, however and fill in or delete wherever you choose. It is your church, after all, not mine. The ministers and events following Mr. Scruton are included under "United Church", because although it was not formal then, the churches were united to a certain extent. This makes it easier writing and less repetitious.

When you come to the section that seems single spaced, read the underlined part first and then go back to "During his time here. I'll paragraph it better when I retype it.

As I said when I talked with you, I hope that you will add such phrasing as will make it come alive to you. I have no feeling this way and cannot do it, but I know you can.

Sincerely,

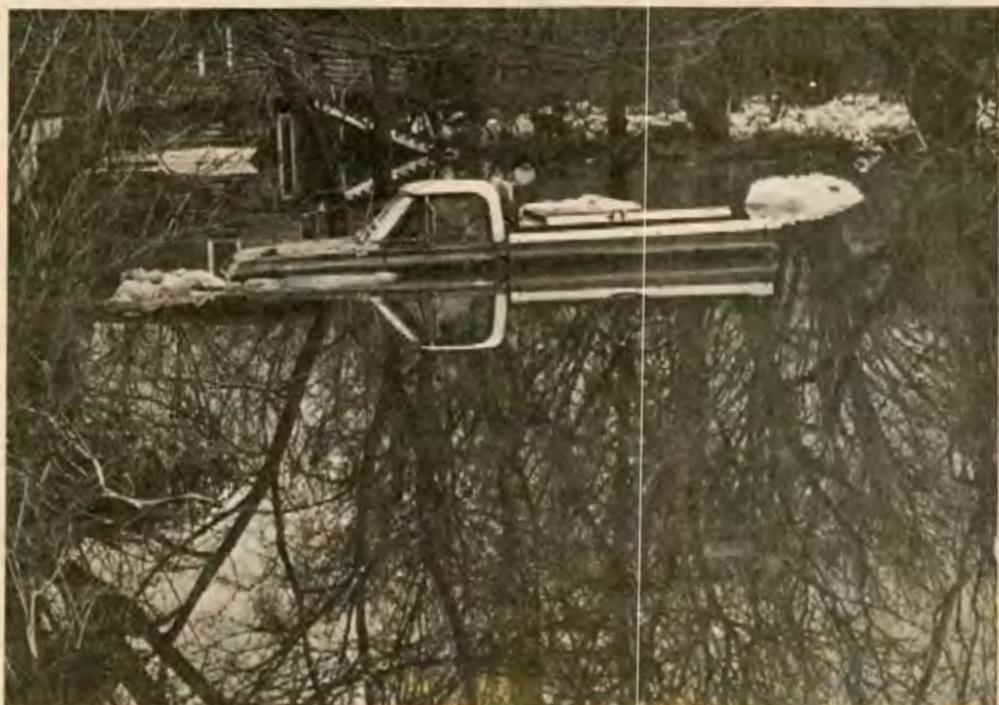
*Bobbie*

P.S. Hate to rush you too, but can I have it back in a week or so?

*Bottom of page 2 - 1925 having a social to earn the \$75.00 for our apportionment - It should be for missions instead of state expenses - Think you've done very well - G. F.*



**WATER WORLD** — A boat ride through the flooded areas near Rt. 12-A and Townhouse Road in Cornish provided a view of the damage left behind by the flooding. An ice jam near the Ascutney Bridge caused the water of the Connecticut River to back up, flooding the area around Chabot's Store. The water had receded some Tuesday afternoon and was continuing to subside. (News photo—Catherine Pomiecko)



# New technique to break up ice tried

HANOVER, N.H. — A three day test of a technique to break up the ice cover on the Connecticut River in a controlled manner will start on March 15. The test will be conducted by the Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory.

The test involves the use of controlled releases of water from the Wilder hydropower dam to break the ice cover and move it downstream. If successful, this technique would reduce the threat of ice caused damage to the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge and the potential for flooding in Windsor.

The study is directed by Michael G. Ferrick, a research hydrologist at CRREL, a Corps of Engineers laboratory. The project is being conducted in cooperation with the State of New Hampshire and the New England Power Co., owner of dam.

The test plan has been coordinated with federal, state and local agencies and environmental organizations. An aerial survey of the river will be conducted to insure that individuals are not on the ice during the test.

If the technique proves successful, it can be used to prevent ice jam formation and subsequent flood on many of the river systems throughout the country that have flow regulation structures (dams).

The water released from the dam will first be lowered to minimum flow overnight. On March 16, the initial breakup release will be made from the dam, followed by another drawdown and release of water on March 17.

Each release would be approx-

imately 20,000 to 25,000 cubic feet per second, twice the amount of water which is released during maximum power production. Each release would occur over a four hour period and will cause the breakup to move downstream.

With each release, the river level would rise a maximum of eight feet. Coupled with the previous night's drawdown of the water level, the maximum water height would be 10-15 feet below flood stage. The reservoir levels will be maintained in the range of normal

operations throughout the test.

A controlled breakup that moves the ice downstream beyond Windsor would prevent flooding and bridge damage. If movement of the ice cover to below Windsor does not occur, the additional open water created will accelerate melting of the ice cover, reducing the ice threat.

Also, the test results will verify the utility of this method of ice control and will provide valuable data for planning future ice control operations.

## CRREL To Release Water From Dams To Break Up Ice

The public is being warned to stay off the Connecticut River tomorrow, between the Wilder Dam and the Bellows Falls Reservoir, while a controlled ice-breaking method is being tested.

Between 7 and 9 a.m., water will be released from several dams along the river and its tributaries, sending a strong current downstream. Though the flow of the released water will not appear to be dramatic, moving ice could pose a danger to anyone on the frozen surface.

It is expected that the surge of water will take between five and seven hours to travel from the Wilder Dam to the Bellows Falls Reservoir.

For the past several years, water resource engineers from New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services and the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) have been experimenting with the method to protect the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge from damage by ice. It is also expected to reduce the threat of

spring flooding to the town of Windsor.

About 22,000 cubic feet per second, an amount well below the rate of flow that would flood downstream areas, will be released from Wilder Dam for about five hours, raising the water level in the river no more than eight feet.

The method was tested in 1989 and 1990. If the technique proves to be successful, it will be a tool for preventing ice jam formation on many of the river systems throughout the country that have controllable dams.

Cooperating in the project with the state DES and CRREL are the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, the New England Power Company, and the New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management.

New Hampshire's Division of Aeronautics will conduct an aerial survey before and during the release, to ensure public safety.

Anne Hier, Fritz Hier

# Cornish couple honored for conservation work

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — The 15th Annual Cornish Conservation Award was presented to Anne and Fritz Hier during last week's annual Town Meeting held at the Cornish Elementary School Gym.

The couple was recognized for the hard work they have done to care for their land, working on a daily basis to keep their wood lot healthy by using good forestry measures. A number of years ago their farm was recognized as the New Hampshire Tree Farm of the Year.

In addition to keeping their wood lot in good condition, they operate a small Christmas Tree Farm. On December weekends, many local families made it a point to stop by to select the "perfect" Christmas tree. After choosing their tree, visitors are welcomed into the couple's home for a cup of something warm to drink and a homemade cookie.

The couple also shares their land with their neighbors. At a time when more and more land is being closed to the public the

Hier's have created access by developing a network of trails and then opening them to individuals who share their love of the land. The couple feels it is a privilege to share their land with hikers, birders, skiers and snowshoers.

While they work to keep the land healthy they are also attentive to wildlife. Placing bluebird houses in open areas, as well as feeding the birds throughout the winter months are only two of the ways they help keep the area as a safe refuge for local wildlife.

For being good stewards and good neighbors their award was the presentation of a Brown Creeper carved by Augie Dworak of Cornish Flat. The Brown creeper is a bird who frequents healthy woodlands and has taken up residency around the Hier homestead.

The Conservation Award recognizes groups or individuals who help make Cornish an environmentally healthy community. Herricks Poor, conservation commission chairman, made the presentation to Anne Hier.



ANNE HIER, left, was presented the Conservation Award by Herricks Poor, Conservation Commission chairman. (Ruth Rollins photo)

*New Leader* 8 25 99

## Frederick 'Fritz' Lorenz Hier, 77

**CORNISH FLAT** Frederick "Fritz" Lorenz Hier, 77, died Wednesday, Aug. 18, 1999, at his home after a short but valiant fight with brain cancer.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, Aug. 22, in Rollins Chapel, Hanover, followed by a reception at the Top of the Hop.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the George M. Stowell Library, P.O. Box 360, Cornish Flat, N.H. 03746; Hospice of the Upper Valley, 325 Mount Support Road, Lebanon, N.H. 03766, or to the Class of 1944 Room Fund, care of Ms. Kathy Mason, 6068 Blunt Alumni Center, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. 03755.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Stringer Funeral Home, 146 Broad St., Claremont, 543-3146.

Mr. Hier was born in New York City on March 24, 1922, the son of Frederick P. Hier Jr. and Carol Lorenz Hier.

He graduated from Pleasantville, N.Y. High School, attended Dartmouth College (Class of 1944), joined the U.S. Navy Air Corps as a flier, and earned his Master of Arts degree in Journalism from Syracuse University in 1947.

After marrying Joan Lovejoy of Cornish in 1947, he embarked on an 18-year career in the Foreign Service in Europe and Asia with the International Refugee Organization, Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, International Rescue Committee, and the U.S. Information Service.



In 1956 he was arrested and detained 10 days by the Russians during the Hungarian Revolution. He was made an honorary citizen in 1961-62 of the cities of Berlin and Tuebingen, Germany, and in 1968 was awarded the Civilian Medal for his service in Vietnam.

Returning to the United States, he worked for 17 years as Director of Public Programs at Dartmouth College from which he retired in 1984 to his tree farm in Cornish Flat. While working at Dartmouth, he was a freshman advisor, led numerous freshman trips and went on several Ledyard canoe trips to the sea.

An active outdoorsman, he climbed all 48 of New Hampshire's 4,000-foot mountains, and in 1984 fulfilled a lifelong dream by climbing to the base camp of Mount Everest in Nepal.

He was a member of the New

Hampshire Timberland Owners Association, the American Tree Farm System, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the New England Forestry Foundation and the Upper Valley Land Trust.

He was Tree Farmer of the Year in 1978 and sold "cut your own" Christmas trees to a generation of revelers. He delighted in having cross-country skiers, runners and bike riders use his carefully manicured trails, all named after famous composers.

He was a lifelong supporter of his alma mater, Dartmouth College. He was 1944 class secretary for the past 30 years, wrote the "Bulletin" from 1975 to 1984, was editor of the Class of 1944 25th reunion book and since retiring wrote alumni award citations.

In 1994, he received the Dartmouth Alumni Award which stated: "Indeed, it's a grateful college, a grateful alumni body and a grateful class, that now rejoice as you, Mr. Dartmouth, join the ranks of the College's greatest servants."

He was predeceased by his first wife, Joan, in 1976; one brother, Robert Hier, and one sister, Helen Hier Booth.

Survivors include his wife, Anne M. Hier of Cornish Flat, whom he married in 1982; three sons from his first marriage, Rob Hier of Menlo Park, Calif., Gar Hier of Cornish Flat, and Fred Hier of St. Augustine, Fla., and five grandchildren, Joan S.L. Hier, Katrin M.L. Hier, Thor Hier, Jaime H. Hier, and Lily B. Hier.

# Conservation award goes to Wightman

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer  
CORNISH — Nancy

Wightman was the recipient of the 2001 Cornish Conservation Award, which was presented at the annual town meeting.

Wightman has been involved with the volunteer recycling center the past 23 years, which is the oldest volunteer-run recycling center in the state.

The center has had many ups and downs over the years and has been run on a shoestring budget through the dedication and enthusiasm of townspeople. Volunteers erected a building from scratch, manned barrels and bins and sifted through tons of recyclables.

In presenting the award, Gary Hier said that "as in most organizations one person stands out among the rest and that person is Nancy Wightman. She has prepared all the budgets and annual reports, kept records of all finances, scheduled virtually everything."

She posted and hosted countless committee meetings, orchestrated the movement of recyclables to markets, designed the sign for the center and made sure the road was plowed each day the center was open.



**CONSERVATION AWARD RECIPIENT — Nancy Wightman, right, received the Cornish Conservation Award from Gary Hier at last week's town meeting. (Ruth Rollins photo)**

Along with all that, Wightman helped every newcomer through the process of recycling "It is hardly an exaggeration to suggest that she has lavished upon the Recycling Center the concern and minute attention to detail that a mother gives a child," said Hier.

Wightman's motivation for the enormous contribution to

the community has been her deep understanding of the word "conservation" and the need to prevent pollution and conserve our natural resources.

"She has been unwavering in this civic responsibility and has convinced many of us that we too share in that responsibility. Her unflinching dedication will inspire us all," said Hier.

## *Recognizing sound forest management*

# Meyettes earn tree farming award

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CLAREMONT, N.H. — The annual meeting of the Sullivan County Chapter of the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall Jan. 28.

Following a buffet dinner, served by Robert Cote, a business meeting found Van Webb being elected chairman for the coming year. Other officers elected included Harry Stevens and Brooks McCandlish, co-vice chairmen, and Paul Barbour, secretary-treasurer.

Ted Walker, outgoing chairman, thanked the many members for their support throughout the past year, especially David Clifford and Anson Burt who ran the Woodsmen's Field Day at Cornish Fair.

Donald Fontaine, Sullivan County commissioner, lauded the Timberland Association for its support and help concerning the timber harvest being done on county land.

"Under a long-range program, a considerable amount of firewood will also be harvested, using House of Correction help," said Fontaine. He also stated that a timber sale had been awarded. The timber was marked for cutting by Joseph Szymujko, Sullivan County Extension forestry educator.

Charles Niebling, NHTCA executive director, praised the county chapter as one of three thriving county chapters in the state. Niebling invited members present to become involved in one of the many committees that make the organization successful.

He also thanked the group for its support in the state fall campaign.

"The capital improvement fund will provide for a new computer and office furniture at the Con-

servation Center," said Niebling.

Niebling told those attending that much energy had been put into legislative issues during the past year. One of the bills included an effort by the House Ways and Means Committee to restructure Current Use Assessment so that some landowners would pay taxes on a percentage of fair market value, instead of use value as the law presently mandates. Niebling said the NHTOA is opposed to the change. "Current use works now, there is little need to tinker with it, it provides an incentive to provide open space."

Highlighting the event was the presentation of a Tree Farmer award to Joseph and Margaret Meyette, Cornish. A tree farmer is a forest landowner who recognizes the value of sound forest management.

Among requirements, at least 10 acres must be dedicated to continual growing and harvesting forest products, and the recommendations prescribed by a professional forester must be followed.

Also, owners must undertake fire, insect, disease or erosion protection if necessary and recognize the value of sound management, not only for timber production, but for outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat and watershed values.

The Meyettes are among 1,100 New Hampshire Tree Farmers who proudly display the familiar green and white Tree Farm sign, signifying they are part of a nationwide program.

Speaker for the event was Stan Swier, Extension entomologist for the University of New Hampshire. He presented a program on the pear thrip and other sugar maple pests.

There has been much concern

over the insect in the area since last spring. Dr. Swier explained how the pear thrip destroys the sugar maples. He also explained that a proposed solution might be an aerial suppression program, using insecticides No. 7.

Also discussed was the use of starch tests. If large numbers of trees show low levels of starch they should not be tapped during sugaring season.

The group was told that Brooks McCandlish was the person to call if they needed help with the starch testing of roots. He is able to perform a starch analysis.

The New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association is a non-profit organization, founded in 1911 to promote better forest management and a healthy wood-using industry. The group works to insure that forestry remains viable land use in New Hampshire.



**JOSEPH AND MARGARET MEYETTE, Cornish, are presented Tree Farmer recognition at the recent New Hampshire Timberland Association, Sullivan County chapter, annual meeting. The presentation was made by Brooks McCandlish, right, chairman of the Sullivan County Tree Farm program. (Ruth Rollins Photo)**



**HAROLD FOX, Cornish** accepts a Varying Sandpiper replica from Rosamond Seidel for his conservation efforts. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

*Exeter Times March 11, 1988 p. 3*

## *Harold Fox receives conservation award*

CORNISH, N.H. — Harold Fox, owner of High Hope Farm, East Road, received the Cornish Conservation Commission Award at town meeting this week.

The award was established in 1982 to recognize an individual or organization showing outstanding conservation practices.

In presenting the award, Rosamond Seidel stated that Fox had "clearly and seriously taken responsibility to his farm." Fox owns 80 acres, 40 of which is woodland, with the balance divided between pasture and cropland.

Fox selectively cut and harvested 3,400 feet and had the lumber sawed at a nearby mill. He has used the lumber to repair buildings and fences on his farm. He has restored his house and old barn and built a new tool shed.

He also cuts up to seven cords of wood annually to heat his home and cuts approximately 1,000 bales of hay each year to feed his herd of eight Hereford cattle and three calves.

"We as a commission have been impressed by the meticulous care this man takes for every aspect of his land, home, livestock and equipment. It has been said that it would be a challenge to see anything out of place on his farm," said Seidel. "This is someone who clearly values order and beauty and applies these principles to his life and property.

"We feel that his farm sets a perfect example of a 'neat shop' and of what one person can do to promote conservation, she added.

Fox was presented a Varying Sandpiper carved by Auggie Dworak.



Bill Lipfert of Cornish

COURTESY

Conservation  
Bill Lipfert

## Sullivan County Conservation District annual meeting, awards dinner

**UNITY**— The 72nd Annual Meeting of the Sullivan County Conservation District takes place on Friday, Feb. 8 at the Cornish Town Hall. The event celebrates work done by volunteers, program participants, individuals, partner organizations and staff to conserve natural resources, support local agriculture and promote place-based education in Sullivan County. Starting at 6 p.m., the evening includes dinner, reports of ongoing conservation projects and 3 award presentations. Tickets are \$15.

Each year, the Sullivan County Conservation

District recognizes significant conservation activities by farms, organizations and individuals at its annual meeting. This year's award winners are Frederick William "Bill" Lipfert of Cornish, Jenny Wright and Stan McCumber of Unity, and Norman Sanville and Sue Palmer of Claremont.

Bill Lipfert owns and manages 775 acres of land in Cornish and Claremont. Beginning in 1999, Bill has gradually added to his land to build one unbroken tract. He is committed to keeping his land healthy and enjoys doing much of the work himself. Over the years, Bill has

installed waterbars and culverts, seeded log landings, converted cornfield to hayfield, released apple trees, created snag trees, controlled a variety of invasive trees and shrubs, planted native shrubs along the Connecticut River for wildlife and soil stabilization, and built a 16-mile trail network which he keeps open to the public for hiking, horseback riding and skiing.

This year's Educators of the Year award recipients, Jenny Wright and Stan McCumber, are accomplished orchardists, naturalists and homesteaders. For nearly 50 years, they have pruned and picked

fruit trees and shrubs in orchards throughout New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and Massachusetts. Avid teachers, Stan and Jenny share their knowledge of fruit tree management through workshops and demonstrations on pruning, grafting and varietal tastings. Jenny is also the author and illustrator of apple pruning manuals that she shares freely on the conservation district's website. Other topics Stan and Jenny have taught include bird identification, building orchard ladders, felting, spinning, knitting, potato printing and wooden utensil carving.

Also to be presented at the event, Sue Palmer and Norm Sanville will receive the Sullivan County Community Service Partner Award for their outstanding management of the Sullivan County Community Garden in Unity. Starting in 2016, Norm and Sue have grown the Sullivan County Community Garden from just an idea to a thriving center with 12 growers. In that time, in addition to supporting the growers, they have personally built the Garden's infrastructure, which now includes a parking area, welcome sign, outdoor classroom, public flower garden, com-

post bins, bird and bee houses, and community toolshed.

The dinner features apple glazed pork loin or vegetable quinoa casserole, roasted root vegetables, mixed green salad, homemade rolls and chocolate cheese cake for dessert. Gluten free options are available. Most of the meal's ingredients will be locally-sourced. The evening's schedule and dinner menu can be found at [www.sccdnh.org/programs](http://www.sccdnh.org/programs).

Reservations are required. Please contact Dawn Dextraze by Feb. 1 to attend: 504-1004, or [ddextraze@sullivancountynh.gov](mailto:ddextraze@sullivancountynh.gov).

# Trying To Get Rid Of This Stuff

By ANDREA HEIL

Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — Three barrels of nasty substances sit in a burial vault in Cornish, and no one wants to get anywhere near them.

Even hazardous waste incinerating plants won't take the stuff.

So the drums reside in an old padlocked cemetery vault on Town House Road, just as they have for nearly four years.

The barrels are filled with herbicides, and one of those herbicides is Dow Chemical's infamous — and now banned — 2,4,5-T.

"2,4,5-T is basically Agent Orange," said John Duclous, a hazardous waste specialist in the waste management division of New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services.

Agent Orange was the herbicide sprayed

*Valley News July 23, 1985*  
from U.S. aircraft during the Vietnam War to defoliate dense jungle hiding places. A Veterans Administration study last year implicated Agent Orange in veterans' cancer cases.

An ingredient of the herbicide — the poison dioxin — has been shown to be a potential source of cancer.

Agent Orange is a formulation of 2,4,5-T, one that was made strictly for the military, according to Murray McKay, the director of New Hampshire's Division of Pesticide Control.

"The commercial 2,4,5-T herbicide was more regulated," McKay said. "The bottom line is that generally the commercial formulations of 2,4,5-T contain lesser quantities of the dioxin contaminant."

Cornish's herbicides, which may contain

dioxin, are a big headache for town officials, says Selectman Cheston Newbold. They've hit a brick wall trying to get rid of the hazardous waste.

The 2,4,5-T in the herbicides in Cornish hasn't been tested to see if it contains dioxin — it's an expensive test — but it's likely that it does, according to hazardous waste specialist Duclous.

Federal regulations bar the disposal of dioxins in hazardous waste landfills, and no incinerating plant in America is yet capable of disposing of them as required under revised Environmental Protection Agency standards, according to Jeralyn Falco, an environmental engineer in the EPA's Waste Management Division in Boston.

Cornish isn't the only town stuck holding 2,4,5-T. There are barrels of the herbicide

## Is A Waste Of Time

across America, hazardous waste experts say.

Meanwhile, a rumor started circulating around Cornish in the last week or two that some old, destabilized dynamite was buried in the vault with the hazardous waste. It wasn't the first time that scuttlebutt has come up, says Selectman Newbold.

"At one point — maybe 20 years ago — dynamite was stored in that same cemetery vault. This was years ago. But neither of them were ever stored together," Newbold said.

The dynamite was used for road construction, he said, and the herbicide probably was used by the town highway crew.

The barrels were discovered in November 1984 buried next to the town highway

garage, north of the elementary school.

"I don't remember exactly how it came to the attention of the selectmen," Newbold said. "Somebody said they heard there was a herbicide in town. We never found out when it was buried."

The selectmen called the EPA, and officials there recommended they call Jet-Line Co. from Lee, N.H., which specializes in cleaning up hazardous substances.

Within a week, Newbold said, Jet-Line repacked the two 55-gallon drums of herbicides into 80-gallon drums to prevent leaks. They also filled a third drum with contaminated dirt and with the suits and gloves that Jet-Line workers wore when they handled

(Continued on page 9)

— WASTE



Valley News - Larry Crowe

Old burial vault in Cornish contains three barrels of toxic materials that aren't easily disposed of.

## Waste

(Continued from page 1)

the two drums of herbicides.

The three barrels were then stored in the burial vault, which used to serve as a storage area for bodies during the winter when they couldn't be buried because of the frozen ground.

"It's amazing to me that there's no answer to this problem. In this day and age, there should be a solution," said resident Merrilyn Chilton.

"What's going to happen? Are they going to keep putting it in bigger drums every five years until you have one of those Russian dolls?" Chilton asked, referring to the hand-painted wooden dolls of ever-increasing size, placed one inside each other.

"I can see it now — in a hundred years the drums will be as big as a house," she said.

Jet-Line workers caught one of the drums just in time, according to a chemical engineer with New Hampshire's Bureau of Waste Management Engineering. As he watched

the excavation, he saw one barrel gush some liquid as it was being repacked.

Just as the selectmen were arranging to have Jet-Line take the barrels to an incinerator, the EPA revised its hazardous waste disposal standards.

EPA environmental engineer Falco said under the new regulations, dioxins have to be incinerated to a detection level of 1 part per billion. That's 99.9999 percent destruction of the dioxin, according to hazardous waste specialist Duclos.

The EPA basically found there were no incinerators in the country able to do that, so a two-year extension was ordered in the regulations. That extension ends in November, Falco said. However, dioxins can be stored for up to a year after that November deadline if the holders of the dioxin plan to dispose of it eventually.

"It's buying us more time to get the incinerators on line," she said.

Duclos said there are no hazard-

ous waste disposal facilities in the entire Northeast, although there are some storage facilities. The only one in New Hampshire is in Nashua, he said.

McKay, the pesticide expert, said he has read that the EPA has been testing incineration methods, and "it appears they're having some success with that." But Newbold said he's heard that song and dance already.

"That's exactly what we heard last fall and last spring, and we got all tuned up and excited," he said. "So we called the EPA, and they said, 'What? What tests? What are you talking about?'"

"It's very frustrating," Newbold said.

He said he called the EPA again about four months ago but there still wasn't any movement on the problem.

"We tried to get a number of private companies to take it, but nobody would," Newbold said. "So it sits in Cornish."



TWO OF THE FOUR MUSKETEERS were shot in Cornish Flat Sunday morning when they walked up onto the front lawns of Tony Parkinson, left and Duane Allen. The men did not know the boars were friendly and had been hand-fed since they were babies at the Blue Mountain Forest Assn. It is not known how the boars escaped from the Corbin Park confinement.

(Eagle Photo—Wayne Carter)

*July 11, 1968*

## Tame Boars Escape, Two are Shot

CORNISH — Four young Corbin Park boars, hand-fed since their mother was killed in 1967, were split up for the first time Saturday and two were shot in Cornish Flat Sunday and the other two haven't been seen since.

Sunday morning Tony Parkinson and Duane Allen, Cornish Flat residents, discovered the boars on their front lawns. One was shot and killed and the other was shot but escaped to

nearby woods. Neither man, of course, realized the boars were tame.

An official said this morning it is believed the boar that escaped is now dead as he hasn't been seen since.

The saga of The Four Musketeers started when they were babies about the size of a football, back in 1967.

The mother was shot in the Corbin Park game preserve and officials at the park immediately stepped in and started to

hand-feed the young boars who always wandered around together.

They stayed in a section of the preserve that was off limits to hunting and soon became fat on corn and clover which was their favorite meal. They weighed between 80 and 90 pounds.

The last time they were seen together at the private game preserve was Saturday noon. It is not known how they escaped from the park.

Another Bicentennial project was the minting of Old Home Day medals, honoring both our country's birthday and the one hundredth anniversary of Old Home Day celebrations in Cornish.

The face of the medal pictures the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge, the longest covered bridge in the USA. The bridge drawing was done by Donald Clineff. The reverse side of the medal pictures the Church at Cornish Center which was taken from an original invitation of the fiftieth Old Home Day celebration. These medals were minted in bronze and sterling silver.



# UVLT sets up land conservation plan

## Property surrounds Saint-Gaudens

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

PLAINFIELD — Members of the Upper Valley Land Trust presented an informational meeting concerning the planned Cornish Art Colony Conservation and Historic Preservation Project, during a meeting held at the Blow-Me-Down Grange last week with about 40 people in attendance.

The Land Trust is seeking to conserve the landscape that served as an inspiration to the residents of the Cornish Art Colony in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Mary Beth Heiskell, Conservation Project Manager, told those present that "the community-based and landowner-directed project is designed to ensure the historic and scenic significance of the landscape that made up the Cornish Art Colony remain relatively unchanged over time."

"The Cornish Colony is a special project," said Heiskell. Much of the property that is targeted for the project borders Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, which is surrounded by thousands of acres of scenic, relatively undeveloped land.

It is estimated that more than 50 of the properties are still owned by descendants of the the original Cornish Art Colony members, or other private individuals who have appreciation and respect for the historic landscape, homes and gardens. Many of the properties remain well cared for and some have been restored,

including the architecturally significant gardens.

The UVLT project objectives include a broad analysis of the area, as well as the history. Also, identification of specific, significant properties which the UVLT has an interest in conserving with willing landowners.

The plan includes creating model conservation plans for different types of properties to conserve. Documents that will assist with drafting easements that will limit development and protect features most compatible with the historic, cultural, architectural and scenic importance of the area.

The Upper Valley Land Trust will work with historic preservation organizations, local conservation groups and the National Park Service to further the significance of the Cornish Art colony.

"The project to conserve the land that once made up the Cornish Art Colony, will expand and connect the over 1,000 acres of land already conserved in the area," said Heiskell. It would permanently protect more of the pastoral beauty and historically significant features of the community, such as the homes and gardens.

"The easements would permanently limit certain types of development, but can be tailored to address particular landowner's conservation goals," said Heiskell. "We have drafted a model easement for New Hampshire and one for Vermont, the Cornish Art Colony easement would have specific attributes. We will

*"The project to conserve the land that once made up the Cornish Art Colony, will expand and connect the over 1,000 acres of land already conserved in the area."*

— Mary Beth Heiskell,  
Conservation Project Manager

work with landowners to determine their goals and draft an easement, after that we will go over it with them and might make further changes if the landowner wishes."

The Upper Valley Land Trust will work with conservation and historic groups to prepare educational materials on the historic, cultural and architectural attributes of the Art Colony.

Material they plan to circulate, in an exhibit and slide show, among local libraries, schools, town halls, historical societies, the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site and Cornish Art Colony Gallery and Museum, as well as other sponsors, during work on the proj-

ect. UVLT will also organize creation of a digitized registry map, which will be keyed to historical, landowner, natural resources and other data. Geographic information systems or "GIS," will be used so data collected will be available for future conservation preservation efforts in the area.

The project includes 4,000 acres in the town of Cornish and Plainfield. Most of the properties surround the National Historic Site. Land that include forestland, open meadows. Also historic homes of architectural significance in an area which extends south to north, from Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge to Prospect Hill in Plainfield. Other boundaries are a major power line and Connecticut River.

Kate Stephenson, an instructor at the Land Trust, showed slides of many of the Cornish Art Colony properties, which were borrowed from Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. Other Upper Valley Land Trust individuals present were Karen Barr, Director of Development and Kate R. Director of Community Relations.

# Museum curator says goodbye; town says good riddance

By Michael Kranish  
Globe Staff

PLAINFIELD, N.H. — One wintry day seven years ago, a rich Mexican countess came to this Yankee hamlet and decided to bestow upon it some culture.

The countess, Alma Gilbert, bought the estate of Maxfield Parrish, one of America's best-known artists, and invited all to her new Parrish museum high on a hillside.

There the saga began: About Gilbert's motives, about nude photos, Parrish's reputed love life, even the cost of publicly educating the countess' children.

Last week, Gilbert angrily left Plainfield for San Francisco, vowing never to return to this town of 1,700. In what is viewed as a parting insult, rather than return Parrish memorabilia to local residents who donated them and say they want them back, she sent the items off to a Pennsylvania museum.

"I have learned New Englanders, unlike Californians, are tight with their money, and they are suspicious of

---

'I have learned New Englanders, unlike Californians, are tight with their money, and they are suspicious of someone with quixotic ideals . . .'

---

— Anna Gilbert

someone with quixotic ideals who spends money without a profit motive," said Gilbert in an interview before she left. "I began getting angrier and angrier at the lack of community support."

That galls Plainfield.

"Oh, that talk about not supporting the museum really aggravates me no end," Virginia Colby said from her old farmhouse off Hell Hollow Road.

Colby, who knew Parrish and is a devotee of his work,

was handpicked by Gilbert to be a museum trustee. Now Colby is Gilbert's chief critic. "We donated our time and our momentos. Now she says we didn't help her. That makes me angry."

It makes some residents so angry that they have asked the Attorney General whether the state can force the return of their donations. Gilbert, saying the few thousand dollars worth of donated memorabilia and prints cannot be returned under rules of a nonprofit organization, is giving them to Pennsylvania's Brandywine River Museum.

Gilbert, who balked at transferring the items to the Plainfield Historical Society, is adamant: "They will not remain in a town that does not appreciate Parrish."

Things were different when Gilbert arrived seven years ago.

A petite, black-haired woman with an elegant manner, Gilbert said she was born into a wealthy family of Spanish royal heritage and given the title, Countess de la Gala.

MUSEUM, Page 68

# Museum curator and town at odds

## MUSEUM

Continued from Page 65

As a San Francisco art dealer, Gilbert sold Parrish's works. She visited here on a whim and bought the 22-acre estate, "The Oaks," which Parrish built in 1898 and where he painted until his death in 1966 at age 95.

Famed for the lighting and fancy-like qualities of his paintings and commercial artworks, Parrish's masterpieces include the 1922 work, "Daybreak," now considered the most reproduced American 20th Century painting, said Gilbert: "I saw that the light

Parrish's paintings was here, that it was not imaginary. It was real."

Gilbert's gala museum grand-opening party in 1978 was a social event that is still talked about. Later, few doubted Gilbert's dedication when, after a 1979 fire destroyed the main

house, she rebuilt it. She proved able to borrow major Parrish paintings and even put on an exhibition of Rembrandt etchings.

But by 1980, the romance between Gilbert and the town had cooled. According to women who volunteered as museum guides, they stopped volunteering when Gilbert complained publicly about the lack of community support. According to Gilbert, the volunteers stopped coming because they lacked commitment.

Gilbert's money-raising efforts to keep the unendowed museum going failed. The state turned down requests for financial support. Worse, she said, the Plainfield Planning Board refused to allow a roadside museum sign, and the town declined to give the non-profit museum a property tax exemption. Town officials said Gilbert's sign was too large and said the exemptions, more than \$12,000 per year in this case, are impractical.

### Gallery on estate

Too, there was consternation about a gallery on the estate, from which Gilbert sold Parrish paintings.

"There was some feeling that she was not here to preserve Parrish, but to profit by selling his paintings," according to John Dryfhout, director and curator of the nearby art museum at the Augustus Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site.

As Gilbert sees it, there are deeper reasons for the anger directed at her: "They were angry when I revealed Parrish's model and housekeeper was also his mistress."

Gilbert referred to Sue Lewin, a native who for 80 years lived with Parrish in his studio, while Parrish's wife lived in the separate house. To prove the theory, Gilbert said, she displayed nude pho-



Alma Gilbert stands outside the home of Maxfield Parrish, now a museum, in Plainfield, N.H.

GLOBE PHOTO BY JIM

tos of Lewin reputedly taken by Parrish.

Some felt the town's privacy, not to mention that of Lewin and Parrish, was violated. No one was more upset than museum trustees Virginia and Stanley Colby. It so happens Lewin left Parrish in 1960 to marry Stanley Colby's father.

### "It isn't right"

"She never made reference of that kind of relationship to me. If she had, I would have called her on it," Stanley Colby said of his stepmother. "It isn't right to bring this up."

Townspeople, for their part, are quick to bring up the matter of

Gilbert's six children who were educated in Plainfield. "The prejudice against Mexicans," Gilbert said. "New Hampshireites very in-grown, intolerant people."

The Yankees of Plainfield when told of this evaluation of character, smile ever so slightly. No, they say, it is not a matter of prejudice, but of pure strings

"You know, those Mexican children don't get educated for costs \$1,000 per student. That's money to our school system," Beatrice Clark, whose grandfather built Parrish's studio. "Parrish was loved here. We are sad to see the museum close. But we are not sad to see Gilbert go. She cost us

“In spite of all the harshness, all the pain that has been meted out to me... I want to go back.”

**Alma Gilbert**  
Former owner, The Oaks

## Parrish Estate Has Seen Its Ups And Downs



Photograph courtesy of Virginia Colby

An old, hand-tinted postcard shows the original house at The Oaks, painter Maxfield Parrish's Plainfield estate, which burned to the ground in 1979.

# Triumph, Tragedy At The Oaks

By RICH BARLOW

Valley News Staff Writer

PLAINFIELD — Alma Gilbert came here in the '70s as an art dealer from California to run a museum at The Oaks, the old estate built by Maxfield Parrish, one of this century's most popular painters.

When she left for good a decade later, it was as a convicted felon who had been brought back to New Hampshire in handcuffs, pleaded guilty to selling a Parrish painting on consignment without paying its owner and had to reimburse her. Her marriage was in ruins, and Parrish's house had burned to the ground.

In between were a string of conflicts with her Plainfield neighbors that led Gilbert to shut down the museum and

guaranteed her memories of The Oaks wouldn't make *Better Homes and Gardens*. Her experience of high expectations run aground on controversy somehow befits these 51 acres, where history has zigzagged from high achievement to tragedy.

Yet Gilbert likens herself to a junkie who can't tear herself from the source of her high. The Oaks' main house (or rather, its replacement; the original burned in 1979) has been made into a duplex since being bought in 1986 by Boston architect Sy Mintz, who uses one unit as a getaway. Gilbert says she has bought the other on installment: "It's going to be my permanent home" when she retires. (Mintz declines to comment on whether he's made any sales arrangements.)

"In spite of all the harshness, all the pain that has been meted out to me... I want to go back," Gilbert says from her art gallery in California. "Parrish loved that place so much, and it's almost like a drug, an intoxicating drug, where it numbs you to the pain, and you wrap yourself around its beauty."

If nothing else had happened at The Oaks, with the majestic trees that inspired its name and the sweeping vistas that inspired much of Parrish's painting, these 50 acres would be remembered for nurturing one of America's creative geniuses. But Parrish's death here in 1966 was not the last time The Oaks would be the setting for death and rebirth, either

See Oaks — Page A4

# Oaks Has Seen Triumph, Tragedy

Continued from page A1

literal or metaphoric. There's even a ghost story to go with the place.

The House of Usher had nothing on The Oaks, the nutshell history of which runs thus:

Famous painter builds magnificent home in remote north country. Famous painter dies; three years later, his son, the caretaker, commits suicide in magnificent home. Magnificent home becomes inn and gourmet restaurant, then is sold to California art dealer (Gilbert) with a countess title of Spanish and Portuguese derivation. Countess establishes museum to famous painter in his studio behind magnificent home, outfitted with Parrish works donated in part by locals.

Then magnificent home burns as result of a chimney fire. Countess builds a new one, replicating the original's exterior look, incurring big debt. Countess says townspeople don't lift a collective finger to help her run expensive museum; townspeople find countess a supercilious elitist. Countess, who said at museum's opening that it "is for the community to enjoy, and we plan someday to turn it over to the town as a local landmark," shuts museum and ships its Parrish booty to Pennsylvania museum, far from the outraged locals. Countess is charged with selling a Parrish painting on consignment without paying its local owner. Countess calls charge "the final blow of the ingratitude," but later pleads guilty and is ordered to pay \$32,000-plus. Countess sues famous artist's granddaughter and several associates for allegedly reproducing Parrish's works from transparencies Gilbert owns. (History is still working itself out on that one.)

Depending on your viewpoint, this potholed past is either the stuff of intriguing folklore or a sad blot on this one-time incubator of great art. Certainly history has been treated badly at The Oaks; besides the fire, Parrish's studio, which he built behind the house (complete with secret passages) and outfitted with machines and tools of architecture and art, was allowed to run down, with frozen pipes and broken windows, according to Mintz.

The Oaks, Mintz says, "I don't know much about it, and I don't want to, frankly. I'm not up there for controversy."

□

Places are merely the repositories of events; people make events happen. And three people have been seminal in the events of The Oaks.

The first, of course, was Parrish, who fell in love with the Upper Valley as a youth after his father settled in Cornish with its summer artists' colony. Long before personal squabbles and tragedies gave The Oaks its poignancy, Parrish made it architecturally fascinating, a 20-room wood-and-glass reflection of his design ingenuity.

Parrish was a hands-on guy — "a mechanic who paints" was his self-description — who contoured his home with the hillside on which it sat, the first floor running the length of the building from the back to emerge as the second floor at the front. He adorned the front with an open gallery and numerous windows looking out at the landscape.

"As you descend some steps from the upper level to the house terrace," Parrish wrote, "through old oak trunks and branches, through them and beyond them, you have a confessed sensation that there is something grand going to happen."

"Then you come upon the lower terrace, and over a level stone wall you see it all: hills and woodlands, high pastures, and beyond them, more and bluer hills, from New Hampshire on one side and from Vermont on the other, come tumbling down into the broad valley of the Connecticut, with one grand mountain over it all."

There may have been some sadness here even in Parrish's day; he grew estranged from his wife, and lived much of the time in his studio with his favorite model — while his wife continued to live in the house. But it was a full life — Parrish lived to 95 — while life cut short was one of the early mishaps at The Oaks after its builder's death. In 1969, Parrish's son John shot himself in the main house.

"I don't really know (why)," says Virginia Colby, a Parrish enthusiast and former president of the historical society in next-door Cornish. "I think he was very lonely, for one thing."

Gilbert is the next giant figure at The Oaks, though that may chagrin some townspeople. A Parrish art dealer from California, she bought The Oaks with her then-husband from a Chicago couple who had opened an inn and restaurant to good reviews. She kept the restaurant to bankroll her Maxfield Parrish Museum. More than 300 people attended the two-night presentation that opened the museum in 1978, and the Gilberts appealed for local volunteers to help run the museum and keep operating expenses low.

Seven years later, a sour-sounding Gilbert blamed a no-show on that request and lack of support generally for forcing her to close shop. She said she had sold her California home to rebuild The Oaks' main house after it burned down, while locals kicked in less than \$1,700. Some retorted that volunteers vanished after Gilbert criticized them for work they'd done while she was away on the West Coast.

She left, but she had one more indignity coming. Indicted for selling a Parrish painting and neglecting to pay its owner, she was brought back to New Hampshire in 1988 in handcuffs.

The current chapter in the story is in Mintz's hands, history come full circle: Like Parrish, he is an architect. Oblivious to Parrish when he bought the place, Mintz has come to appreciate his art and architectural vision. He has converted a gallery Gilbert built on the property into a cottage, where his daughter, her husband and child live.

"I'm slowly working on trying to repair (the studio) and restore some of it," he says. He's trying to reconstruct the architectural drawings of the original house, which he says he will donate to the town library.

If any of The Oaks' ghosts remain, Mintz says he hasn't noticed them. But then, he doesn't believe in them, and the main house, after all, is only a replica. Gilbert says she has a photograph, taken last year, of Parrish's old studio in the evening.

"We have a picture of Parrish in the window on the porch."

# Closing of Parrish Museum Angers Plainfield Residents

By BRAD HILLS

Union Leader Correspondent  
PLAINFIELD — Bitterness marked this week's closing of the Maxfield Parrish Museum.

Alma Gilbert, a Californian who established the museum on Parrish's former estate seven years ago, blamed the museum's demise on the local community's "ingratitude" and lack of support for her efforts.

Local residents say, however, that Gilbert, who frequently used the title "Countess de la Gala," expected too much from the townspeople and "just turned people off."

Gilbert's announcement that she is donating the collection of Parrish memorabilia to the Pennsylvania River Museum in Lands Ford, Pa., has particularly angered local residents, some of whom donated items to the collection.

The state's Attorney General's Office has been contacted to see what can be done to block the dispersal of the collection that included Parrish's raccoon coat, books, prints, calendars and other items. An answer on what can be done, if anything,

won't be known for several weeks.

Parrish was a well-known painter and illustrator, who bought a hill pasture farm on Freeman Hill just over the Cornish town line in 1898. Parrish, a member of the Cornish Art Colony, expanded the farm into an estate known as "The Oaks."

Parrish died in a second-floor bedroom of his studio at the age of 96 in 1906.

Gilbert and her husband, Maurice, owned a California gallery that specialized in the works of Parrish when they bought The Oaks seven years ago.

Her announcement at a gala dinner that Parrish's former studio would be converted into a permanent museum to the artist was generally well received by townspeople, many of whom had known Parrish for years.

About two dozen volunteers from the area worked at the museum or on its grounds for the first two years. "For the last five years they have done nothing to help us," Gilbert said.

Nancy Norwalk, Plainfield's librarian and a member of the town's historical society, told the Valley News that Gilbert expected the townspeople to do everything — run the museum, do all the office work, trim the hedges and clean while she was in California.

"A museum can't be run that way," Norwalk said. "You have to have somebody in charge. She'd return and wouldn't like the way volunteers had tried to handle things."

The Gilberts originally operated a restaurant in the main house at The Oaks to help support the museum. The house burned to the ground in February 1919.

Gilbert said the community contributed \$1,682 to the museum following the fire. She said it cost her \$350,000 to rebuild the house.

Gilbert said the community has not appreciated her efforts and is getting its "just deserts" for criticizing rather than helping her. She said the community's efforts to keep the Parrish memorabilia in Plainfield has been "too little, too late."

# Controversial Figure Returns To Open Museum

By SARAH S. TAYLOR  
Staff Report

**CORNISH** A drama of betrayal, loss and return is being enacted in Cornish as an art dealer and author who left the community 12 years ago under a cloud of accusations begins a new business venture in a historic Cornish Arts Colony residence on Route 12A.

Alma Gilbert-Smith and her husband Peter Smith are in the process of purchasing Mastlands, the former residence of landscape architect Rose Standish Nichols, and plan to create a museum and art gallery on the property. The museum, Gilbert-Smith said in an interview at her Plainfield home on the grounds of the late Plainfield artist Maxfield Parrish's home The Oaks, will highlight the work of Parrish, as well as other Cornish Colony artists, particularly the female painters and sculptors whom Gilbert-Smith says often went unnoticed.

"The dream is to maintain Mastlands as much as possible exactly as it is," Gilbert-Smith said. During a meeting or "infomercial" at the residence on

Oct. 28, she introduced her plan for the endeavor to 23 guests, most of them residents of Plainfield, Cornish, and Windsor, who have been asked to serve as members of the museum's advisory board. The guests heard

presentations by architects and historians whom Gilbert has retained to make sure that the historical integrity of the building is preserved.

The museum and gallery will debut on June 20, 1998 and will

be open for business from June to October. Gilbert-Smith said that in addition to historical and art exhibits, the facility will serve refreshments and have a small gift/book shop.

See MUSEUM Page 6

*Windsor Chronicle - Nov 6, 1997*



**MASTLANDS**, the former residence of landscape architect Rose Standish Nichols, will house a new art museum in Cornish which will open next year. *(Rick Russell Photo)*

"What she wants to do needs to be done," said Jim Atkinson, a member of the board, President of the Cornish Historical Society, and co-author of a history of the Cornish Colony. "She's adding something valuable to the resources that already exist here," he said. He was referring to the collections of Cornish Colony memorabilia, art, and archival materials owned by the St. Gaudens National Historic Site, the Plainfield and Cornish Historical Societies and the Philip Read Memorial Library in Plainfield.

The Cornish Arts Colony is the name given to a group of painters, sculptors, writers and performance artists who maintained summer residences in the community. Along with the sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens, Parrish is considered the best known of the colonists.

But while many community members are excited about the prospect of a brand new cultural resource in the Upper Valley, others remember the circumstances under which Gilbert-Smith left Plainfield over a decade ago and are reserving their enthusiasm.

From 1977 to 1985, Gilbert-Smith and her then-husband Maurice Gilbert owned and operated The Oaks, the former residence and studio of Maxfield Parrish in Plainfield. Gilbert-Smith, who has owned and handled the sales of over 300 works by Maxfield Parrish and has written numerous books on the artist, was given works of art and Parrish memorabilia for the museum by Plainfield residents who had known the artist, illustrator and machinist. When Gilbert-Smith closed the museum in 1985, citing a lack of community support, the museum's collections were given to the Brandywine River Museum in Chads Ford, Penn., and to other museums, including the American Precision Museum in Windsor.

Townpeople felt that their treasured mementos of the artist had been stolen, saying they had never intended for the items to leave the community.

Those who had volunteered their time at the museum also felt that the accusations of lack of community support were unfair and unwarranted.

"Plainfield was very upset when I left," Gilbert-Smith said. "Yes people had given books, memorabilia. That went to other museums. Whatever was there that was of an original nature, I had either given to the museum, purchased for the museum or had been loaned by others. That had to go to non-profits." The Gilberts maintained that the items in question had been gifts and that the donors were entitled to tax deductions. Therefore, they said, the

## Guests at Mastlands on Oct. 28 stayed away from questions about the past. Community members present said that people on the museum's advisory board seemed to be looking to the future and wanted to help get a valuable community resource up and running.

collection could not be returned to individual people.

In 1988, Gilbert-Smith pleaded guilty to selling a Parrish work on consignment without reimbursing the owner. Then in 1993, a group of art dealers and publishers, along with members of the Parrish family, formed the Maxfield Parrish Family Trust and accused Gilbert-Smith of copyright violation and other illegal practices. Gilbert-Smith sued the trust for slander and was awarded \$800,000 in an out-of-court settlement in June, 1996.

The settlement money has allowed her to realize her dream of a Cornish Colony museum at Mastlands, said Gilbert-Smith.

Gilbert-Smith said that she is interested in putting some of the settlement money back into the community and that the museum is her way of doing that.

"One of the things that I always wanted to do is open the gallery to living Cornish area artists," Gilbert-Smith said. She stressed her interest in highlighting the works of Cornish Colony women such as sculptors Annetta St. Gaudens and Francis Grimes, and painter Maria Oakey Dewing.

She says that the work of women has historically been "plowed under" and that the women of Cornish were no exception.

Guests at Mastlands on Oct. 28 stayed away from questions about the past. Community members present said that people on the museum's advisory board seemed to be looking to the future and wanted to help get a valuable community resource up and running.

"I'm very excited to think there will be another major attraction in the area," said Bob Rodriguez, director of the American Precision Museum.

Rodriguez said that he is excited about the focus on women artists. "Anything we can do to promote tourism on both sides of the covered bridge is worthwhile," he said.

However, community members have expressed surprise and bemusement at Gilbert-Smith's return to the Upper Valley and Plainfield residents say they wonder if history will repeat itself. Those who knew Parrish and other Cornish Colony members say they'll watch the proceedings with an interested and slightly cynical eye.

Gilbert-Smith said that her desire to return to the community is rooted in her passion for Maxfield Parrish. Though she never met Parrish, who died in 1966, she feels "an emotional unity" with the artist and has asked that upon her death a portion of her ashes be scattered at The Oaks.

"By defending his home, by living in his home, I think Parrish, wherever he is, knows that in me he has found someone who really, truly adored and admired his work," Gilbert-Smith said.

# Papers From Parrish Suit Are Donated

## 1,000 Pages Given To Dartmouth

By KRISTINA EDDY  
Valley News Staff Writer

HANOVER — Alma Gilbert has given Dartmouth College copies of more than 1,000 pages of documents filed during her lawsuit against the Maxfield Parrish Family Trust, so that people may see what never got heard in open court.

The lawsuit filed in San Mateo (Calif.) County Superior Court was settled in June before it got a chance to go before a jury. Neither party admitted any wrongdoing, but the trust paid Gilbert \$800,000 and dropped a countersuit filed against her in federal court.

Gilbert — who lives part-time at The Oaks, painter Parrish's Plainfield estate — is relieved that the suit is over, but does not want it to fade away. With the papers in Dartmouth's special collections, people can examine the record for themselves, Gilbert said in an interview yesterday. The most publicized aspect of the case concerned the validity of copyrights on Parrish's work.

In her suit, Gilbert claimed that the trust had slandered her and had been trying to corner the market in Parrish's art by illegally telling people they owned the copyright on his images. The trust claimed that Gilbert had been selling bogus Parrish art works and illegally selling reproduction rights and Parrish franchises.

The documents, which will join Gilbert's other papers in Dartmouth's special collections, include depositions, tax forms, private correspondence and court filings that accumulated as her lawsuit proceeded. They are copies of some of the papers that are on file in the California court.

Gilbert believes the donated papers clearly support her case. After the settlement was reached, the trust's attorney said his firm did not believe his clients did anything wrong. The trust was formed in Holderness, N.H.,

in 1993. Its agent is Laurence Cutler and its principals include New York art dealer Judith Goffman and Parrish's granddaughter, Joanna Parrish Gordon of Upton, Mass.

Maxfield Parrish died at The Oaks in 1965. Gilbert came to Plainfield in the 1970s as an art dealer from California to run a museum at The Oaks. After Parrish's home burned in 1979, she rebuilt it. She shut down the museum in 1985 and in 1988 pleaded guilty in Sullivan County Superior Court to selling a Parrish painting on consignment without paying the painting's owner.

She closed her Burlingame, Calif., gallery this year and said she plans to retire to Plainfield. Gilbert said she is using some of the settlement money to repair steps leading from Parrish's house to a reflecting pool. She also bought a Parrish painting with the money and is restoring two wood columns that Parrish built and used as models in several paintings, including *Daybreak*, which sold at auction for \$4.3 million in May.

Philip N. Cronenwett, Dartmouth's special collections librarian, said the college accepted the documents to add to its already extensive collection of Parrish papers. "Our interest is to make as much information about Maxfield Parrish available as possible," he said. "This was a collection we certainly did want to have."

Cronenwett's name appears in the papers, as he received a letter from the trust's attorney telling him Dartmouth did not have the right to authorize the reproduction of Parrish images that it owns. He turned it over to college attorneys. The documents should be sorted and ready for public viewing within the next week or so, Cronenwett said. Special collections are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Anyone may view the works, although positive identification is requested.

## Cornish Colony Museum Raffles "Dingleton Farm (1956)" Print

Mrs. Bertha Frothingham of Windsor Vermont draws the winning ticket at the Cornish Colony Museum in the raffle for a limited edition print of the Maxfield Parrish painting "Dingleton Farm (1956)" while the museum's director, Alma Gilbert looks on. The drawing took place on Thursday, June 30th in the museum's

offices. The winning ticket belonged to Kay Carriere of Reading, Vermont.

The raffle was held to raise money for the ongoing operating expenses of the museum at its new location in the Old Fire house building at 147 Main Street.

Photo by Peter Smith, a director of the Cornish Colony Museum.



# Museum nears possible end

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**  
Contributing Writer

The president of the Cornish Colony Gallery and Museum board of directors said at the

**Cornish** semi-annual board meeting Tuesday that curator Alma Gilbert-Smith will retire in 2004 and sell the building.

"Next year will be Alma's last year as curator of the museum," Peter Smith, president of the board and husband of Gilbert-Smith, the museum's curator for the past six years, told directors.

"Alma will retire and Mastlands will be transferred to a new owner," Smith said, referring to the property by its name.

Announcing her plans for transferring to property, Gilbert-Smith said she has kept her promise to the board when she founded the museum on Route 12A six years ago. In that time, she has subsidized and nurtured its growth.

"I will have given you seven years of my life," said Gilbert-Smith, who previously owned and operated the Parrish Museum for eight years in nearby Plainfield. She told the board of health problems that she and her husband face. He is becoming deaf, she said, and she has arthritis that causes her pain in climbing stairs and getting around the building.

Gilbert-Smith said plans first are under way to transfer ownership of the property.

"We have written to four museums to see if they would like to make this museum a satellite facility," she said, referring to museums at Dartmouth College and to Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine

Arts. "So many artists at the Pennsylvania Academy came through Cornish in their early years," she said.

For years she has scrimped on a budget that meets operating costs, but pays no director's salary, she reminded the board. The two major expenses consist of \$15,000 for insurance and \$13,000 in property taxes to the town of Cornish.

"Even though the foundation is a nonprofit, Peter and I own the property and pay taxes because Mastlands is private property," she said.

During the coming year, board member Robert Mueller of New York, N.Y., will give his time as a part-time director. Mueller, who heads the board's acquisition committee, has succeeded in lining up works for the 2004 Exhibition: "A Cornish Colony Extravaganza."

The ideal plan would be to find a buyer who would invest \$850,000 in the Cornish Colony Museum Foundation, the nonprofit corporate arm of the museum, which would then purchase the property from the Smiths, Gilbert-Smith told directors.

As owner, the foundation would not have to pay the town of Cornish the \$13,000 annual property tax bill, she said.

A second option consists of someone buying the property and allowing the museum to continue as it is for another five years.

For both options, Gilbert-Smith and her husband would remain as volunteers working two days a week.

"We'll be here until they plant us here," she quipped.

"I do know if we put this house on the market after next

year, it will sell for substantially more than \$850,000," she said.

Peter Smith said the plan would have to be known by the time of the board's annual meeting in February 2004 in time for a vote on the action to be taken.

The building's historic gardens, which are open and free to the public, are costly to maintain, including bills of \$250 a week for maintenance of the lawns and the wages of a full-time gardener.

The \$6 admission fee visitors pay helps fund the inside staffing of the museum, along with the proceeds from the museum's restaurant, The Tea Room, which was named last year in a restaurant review as "one of the two better places for lunch in the Upper Valley," she said.

The museum has received attention this year and in the past through Gilbert-Smith's position as one of the world's leading experts on Parrish, and original member of the Cornish art colony the museum was named for.

On display at the museum is "Daybreak," a 1922 Parrish master piece estimated to be worth as much as \$5 million. Gilbert-Smith once owned the painting. Also on display is Parrish's "Dingleton Farm," which depicts a wintry scene in Cornish. It was stolen from Gilbert-Smith in 1975 when she operated an art gallery in California. It turned up almost a year ago when an auction house called her to ask her advice about the painting, which was returned to her last month.

She has written 13 books on Parrish and lives in his former estate, "The Oaks," where Tuesday's board meeting was held.

# Museum nears possible end

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**  
Contributing Writer

The president of the Cornish Colony Gallery and Museum board of directors said at the semi-annual board meeting Tuesday that curator Alma Gilbert-Smith will retire in 2004 and sell the building.

"Next year will be Alma's last year as curator of the museum," Peter Smith, president of the board and husband of Gilbert-Smith, the museum's curator for the past six years, told directors. "Alma will retire and Mastlands will be transferred to a new owner," Smith said, referring to the property by its name.

Announcing her plans for transferring to property, Gilbert-Smith said she has kept her promise to the board when she founded the museum on Route 12A six years ago. In that time, she has subsidized and nurtured its growth.

"I will have given you seven years of my life," said Gilbert-Smith, who previously owned and operated the Parrish Museum for eight years in nearby Plainfield. She told the board of health problems that she and her husband face. He is becoming deaf, she said, and she has arthritis that causes her pain in climbing stairs and getting around the building.

Gilbert-Smith said plans first are under way to transfer ownership of the property.

"We have written to four museums to see if they would like to make this museum a satellite facility," she said, referring to museums at Dartmouth College and to Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine

Arts. "So many artists at the Pennsylvania Academy came through Cornish in their early years," she said.

For years she has scrimped on a budget that meets operating costs, but pays no director's salary, she reminded the board. The two major expenses consist of \$15,000 for insurance and \$13,000 in property taxes to the town of Cornish.

"Even though the foundation is a nonprofit, Peter and I own the property and pay taxes because Mastlands is private property," she said.

During the coming year, board member Robert Mueller of New York, N.Y., will give his time as a part-time director. Mueller, who heads the board's acquisition committee, has succeeded in lining up works for the 2004 Exhibition: "A Cornish Colony Extravaganza."

The ideal plan would be to find a buyer who would invest \$850,000 in the Cornish Colony Museum Foundation, the nonprofit corporate arm of the museum, which would then purchase the property from the Smiths, Gilbert-Smith told directors.

As owner, the foundation would not have to pay the town of Cornish the \$13,000 annual property tax bill, she said.

A second option consists of someone buying the property and allowing the museum to continue as it is for another five years.

For both options, Gilbert-Smith and her husband would remain as volunteers working two days a week.

"We'll be here until they plant us here," she quipped.

"I do know if we put this house on the market after next

year, it will sell for substantially more than \$850,000," she said.

Peter Smith said the plan would have to be known by the time of the board's annual meeting in February 2004 in time for a vote on the action to be taken.

The building's historic gardens, which are open and free to the public, are costly to maintain, including bills of \$250 a week for maintenance of the lawns and the wages of a full-time gardener.

The \$6 admission fee visitors pay helps fund the inside staffing of the museum, along with the proceeds from the museum's restaurant, The Tea Room, which was named last year in a restaurant review as "one of the two better places for lunch in the Upper Valley," she said.

The museum has received attention this year and in the past through Gilbert-Smith's position as one of the world's leading experts on Parrish, and original member of the Cornish art colony the museum was named for.

On display at the museum is "Daybreak," a 1922 Parrish master piece estimated to be worth as much as \$5 million. Gilbert-Smith once owned the painting. Also on display is Parrish's "Dingleton Farm," which depicts a wintry scene in Cornish. It was stolen from Gilbert-Smith in 1975 when she operated an art gallery in California. It turned up almost a year ago when an auction house called her to ask her advice about the painting, which was returned to her last month.

She has written 13 books on Parrish and lives in his former estate, "The Oaks," where Tuesday's board meeting was held.

# Final Season at Cornish Museum

Valley News May 30, 2004 p. B1

BY JOHN P. GREGG

Valley News Staff Writer

**CORNISH** — A local museum celebrating the artistic achievements of the Cornish Colony opened for its final season this weekend, featuring what it dubs an "extravaganza" of works by many of the great American classicists a century ago.

"My legacy is I've implanted into the national consciousness that the Cornish Colony existed, and that their accomplishments should be celebrated," said Alma Gilbert-Smith, the curator and director of the nonprofit Cornish Colony Museum, which started in 1998.

Housed in Mastlands, the 1858 estate along Route 12A that Gilbert-Smith and her husband, Peter Smith, have put up for sale, the museum's final exhibit features prominent works by many of the Cornish Colony's most famous artists.

Included in the exhibit is *Daybreak*, the 1922 "magnum opus" by the painter Maxfield Parrish; *Acteon*, the 1923 bronze by



the sculptor Paulanship; a rare likeness of Alexander Hamilton in a statue by James Earle Fraser; and medallions and bronze relief works by Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

Several landscapes of Cornish and Plainfield 100 years ago by members of the Cornish Colony are also featured in the exhibit.

Started by Saint-Gaudens, the Cornish Colony included many of the top Ameri-

can artists and writers of the day, who summered in the town and also drew a following of their own.

President Woodrow Wilson and his family spent three summers there before his wife, Ellen, herself an artist, died in 1914, according to Gilbert-Smith. Several paintings in the exhibit have frames designed by the architect Stanford White, a friend of Saint-Gaudens.

"The artists were very influential in shaping the attitudes and tastes of American art in the late 19th and early 20th century," said Robert Mueller, a graphic designer and collector who sits on the museum board and has loaned about 40 pieces to the exhibit.

The museum draws about 8,000 visitors a year — admission for adults is \$6 — but the Smiths said they can no longer continue subsidizing its operation after this season.

See CORNISH—B5

## Cornish Colony Museum Begins Its Final Season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

on. Gilbert-Smith said the museum has about a \$125,000 operating budget, but efforts to boost membership locally, or create affiliations with other local institutions, have not borne much fruit.

"Whatever the museum didn't earn, Peter and I funded it," she said. "My banker has said, 'You need to stop funding, honey,' and I need to heed the call."

Gilbert-Smith said she also had been unable to persuade the Cornish Selectboard to grant a tax rebate to Mastlands because it houses a nonprofit museum.

The Smiths, who are both 67, pay about \$14,000 a year in property taxes on the 25-acre estate, she said, and it is now on sale for just over \$1 million.

Gilbert-Smith said efforts to have the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site take over the museum also fizzled.

"We could help Saint-Gaudens to acquire it, but, of course, the town doesn't want Saint-Gaudens to expand, and (National Park Service) funding has been cut, so they are up a creek without a paddle,"

she said.

Bill Gallagher, a Cornish selectman, said he believed the town "had been supportive of her venture in any way we could. We consider the influence of the art colony on the town to be very positive."

Henry Duffy, the curator at the Saint-Gaudens site, said Gilbert-Smith, an authority on Parrish who has written numerous books related to the colony, has helped draw attention to the Upper Valley artists.

"The Cornish Colony is an important cultural event or historical period in the town and the region's history, and it's something which we cover here, but we don't cover to the depth that she's been able to, because our main focus is Augustus Saint-Gaudens," Duffy said. "(The Cornish Colony Museum) has been a very nice thing, and we're sorry to see it go."

Thanks to the work of later Cornish Colony artists, such as William Zorach, the colony served as "a bridge between two worlds," classicism and modernism, Duffy said.

Jim Atkinson, president of the Cornish Historic Society and a member of the museum board "it has preserved the legacy and made it better known, not only in the immediate vicinity throughout the country."

Gilbert-Smith, who lives in Parrish's old house, The Oaks, nearby in Plainfield, previously gallery related to Parrish from that site.

The "extravaganza" exhibit runs until Oct. 11 and the museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The museum is closed on days, including Memorial Day.

Gilbert-Smith said she will be curating a national exhibit of Parrish paintings next year that will be shown at in at least five American museums under the sponsorship of the Trust for Museum Exhibitions.

The Smiths have a history of involvement in cultural preservation. Peter Smith grew up in Plainfield, Mass., where his mother — Lydia Chittenden Smith — helped open The Orchards, author Louisa May Alcott's home, to the public.

other museums and organizations for help, all to no avail.

Last year Gilbert-Smith cited poor health and the hard work needed to run the museum among the reasons for retiring. Finances were another concern.

The estate that is home to the museum, Marshlands, went on sale last year with a reported price tag of about \$1 million. Gilbert-Smith and her husband Peter Smith own the 25-acre estate and pay about \$14,000 a year in property taxes on the estate to the town.

The museum is home to numerous works of art by painter Maxfield Parrish and other artists that made up the so-called Cornish Artists Colony. In the early years of the 20th century, the Colony was one of the more popular places for creative fine art activity in the eastern United States.

Between 1895 and 1925, nearly 100 artists, sculptors, writers, designers, and well-known politicians chose Cornish as the area where they wanted to live, either full time or during the summer months.

# Deal for museum collapses

Single 12-30-84

## Board rejects offer by Mass. investors to maintain facility

By DAMIEN FISHER  
Staff Writer

The deal to keep the Cornish Colony Museum in Cornish has been rejected by the museum's Board of Directors.

Any hopes to keep the museum going at all now rest on the efforts of a group of private residents in Windsor seeking to relocate the museum there.

**Cornish** Museum director Alma Gilbert-Smith said in a statement that the offer was rejected because the terms the investors were seeking were unrealistic and could not be met. Specifically, Gilbert-Smith wrote that the investors were demanding too much commitment from her to be at the museum on a full-time basis.

Gilbert-Smith announced last year she planned to retire and sell the property that housed her collection of artwork by Maxfield Parrish and other artists of the Cornish Colony.

A coalition of Windsor residents were working on proposals to move the museum and its collection to Windsor before the a new group of investors from Massachusetts offered funding to keep the operation in Cornish.

With the collapse of that deal, the Windsor coalition has already started scouting locations for the possible move. Selectman Rudy Hanecak is working in a private capacity to bring the Cornish Colony artwork to Windsor.

"The board has given us plenty of time to investigate the possibility," Hanecak said.

The museum's board of directors also voted not to dissolve the Cornish Colony Foundation until all efforts to relocate the museum have been exhausted. Hanecak said the hope is to make sure the museum can reopen in Windsor by May or June.

Hanecak estimated that it could cost as much as \$10,000 in start-up costs to bring the museum across the river. The museum will look to low-interest loans and local grants and donations to get the necessary money.

In October, the Massachusetts investors put a deposit on the property and started negotiations to take over the museum. That deal was scheduled to have been completed by the beginning of December.

After Gilbert-Smith's retirement announcement last year, the museum's board of directors worked for months to find a home for the organization. The museum also looked at

## The Cornish (N.H.) Colony Museum Moves To Downtown Windsor, Vt.

WINDSOR, VT. — Vermont Governor Jim Douglas has announced that the Cornish Colony Museum will continue in Windsor.

The museum is relocating from Cornish, N.H., across the Connecticut River. It is known for its permanent exhibits of the works of Maxfield Parrish, "America's Rembrandt," and other famous artists from the Cornish Artist Colony.

The museum was precariously near to closing its doors, but through the efforts of Windsor citizens, with support from the Windsor Downtown Development Committee and the Town of Windsor, it was both saved and brought home to the "Artist Colony's Downtown."

Windsor is one of the 18 communities that achieved the "Downtown Designation" under the Vermont Downtown Program. The Windsor Downtown Development Committee

and the downtown designation were instrumental in the ability to acquire the museum.

The museum will be located in the recently rehabilitated Firehouse at Windsor, now owned by Quechee developer Gary Neil. The building was sold by the Town of Windsor after the construction of a new municipal complex in 2002.

The Downtown Program mimics the National Main Street Program, which has a record of revitalizing downtown commercial cores across the United States. Mr Neil and members of the Windsor community approached the museum about the possibility of providing a permanent home for the museum in late December. In a near unanimous 9-1 vote, the Cornish Colony Foundation board agreed to continue operations and move the museum to its new location.

The focus of the museum is The Cornish Artist Colony that existed in Windsor and Cornish and Plainfield, N.H., during the late 1800s through World War II.

The foundation still needs to secure enough donations or a small loan to finance the move.

For information, write the Cornish Colony Museum at PO Box 63, Windsor VT 05089.

NEW YORK CITY — The New York Transit Museum calendar of events for April includes: April 2, workshop,

# Cornish Colony Museum Reopens In Windsor

By WILLIAM CRAIG

For the Valley News

SHOULD YOU visit the wonderful show "Marks of Distinction: Two Hundred Years of American Drawings and Watercolors from the Hood Museum of Art" on view in Hanover through Sunday, you'll find among its scores of treasures a busy little ink sketch by Everett Shinn. The splendid 1906 doodle, originally part of a letter to Augustus Saint-Gaudens, describes the visual hullabaloo — togalad crowds in a meadow,

### ART NOTES

greeting divine figure arriving in a chariot — of a recent "Masque of Ours." The Cornish Colony gang delighted in these events, which combined proto-performance art with an excuse to party-party-party.

Come Saturday, the party's back on in Windsor, where the Cornish Colony Museum is reopening in brand new digs. Gov. Jim Douglas will welcome the museum to its home in the town's historic firehouse, and Douglas and Sen. Jim Jeffords will join in the ribbon cutting, set for 10 a.m.

Lenders, donors and dignitaries will take a tour, and then the museum will open its doors — and its first exhibit, "A Masque of Ours: The Gods & The Golden Bowl — A Centennial Celebration" — to the general public at noon. Press releases gave no hint whether the VIPs would be wearing togas and wreaths.

The museum, of course, celebrates the life, times and works of the artists and writers who made the Cornish, Windsor and Plainfield area an unlikely center of American inspiration. Some of the nation's most eminent talents took trains from Boston and New York to vacation and even make their homes in the Upper Valley, including the sculptor Saint-Gaudens, editorial genius Maxwell Perkins, and the country's most successful commercial illustrator, Maxfield Parrish.

(Oh, I know it's controversial to call Parrish our greatest commercial illustrator. On the one hand, it's a dis on Norman Rockwell, but how about we hand them each the props for their respective eras, OK? And on the other, there are those who rate Parrish "America's Rembrandt." But that's like calling Ronald McDonald "America's Escoffier," or Liberace "America's Chopin." Saying it don't make it so.) Joining up with the Vermont State Craft Center, Constitution House and the American Precision Museum, the new Cornish Colony Museum (formerly housed in the Mastlands mansion in Cornish) adds another draw to Windsor's downtown. It'll be open through the end of October, and doubtless worth more than one warm-months visit.

Valley News 3-26-05

# Board offers museum moral,

By DAMIEN FISHER  
Staff Writer

The selectboard voted 4-1 Tuesday night to approve a resolution of support for the relocation of the Cornish Colony Museum to Windsor. Selectwoman Barbara Flinn was the sole dissenting vote.

**Windsor** Flinn was concerned the resolution did not specify the town would not pay any money for the project. Selectman Rudy Hanecak stated money would not be an issue as there was no money in the budget for the museum.

"I am concerned that it still does not clarify what the Town of Windsor

will commit itself to," Flinn said. "It doesn't tell me if the town will be liable or not."

The museum is closing in October and Director Alma Gilbert-Smith is busy trying to find a new home for the works by painter Maxfield Parrish and other artists who lived in Cornish and Plainfield around the year 1900.

At the Sept. 14 meeting Gilbert-Smith proposed the town provide a building for the artwork and write a \$10,000 grant to help cover start-up costs of the new museum.

The board, unwilling to make the town financially responsible for the museum, voted 5-0 to send her back to the drawing board. Gilbert-Smith came back Tuesday with a resolution

that Hanecak called generic.

"It's intentionally vague to protect the town," he said.

The wording of concern to Flinn in the resolution had the town "wholeheartedly" supporting the relocation of the museum and willing to do whatever was necessary to assist a still undetermined group of citizens to accomplish the move.

"It shall be the policy of the Town of Windsor to assist these citizens whenever possible, and to the extent the town may do so," the resolution stated.

Town Administrator Don Howard said as far as he understood the resolution, the town would not be financially responsible for the new museum. He said the board's approval of

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 29, 2004

## not financial, support

the resolution will assist the museum's board of directors when they begin seeking grants for the potential move.

"It will not take on any burden for the town," he said.

Hanecak, a vocal supporter of the museum's relocation to Windsor, was adamant that the resolution would not be a financial problem.

"It's a letter of support, that's all it is," he said. "There's no money in the budget for this so there will be no financial support."

Flinn was not convinced by the arguments in favor of the resolution from the other members of the board, and her concerns extended to Hanecak's involvement with the

museum.

"I'm surprised that since you are so close to this that you are not stepping back a bit," she said to Hanecak.

Hanecak said he would not step back from the issue as he was not a member of the museum's board of directors. He described himself as a citizen working towards the relocation effort.

Howard will now go back to the museum's board and relay the resolution of support. He will also restate that the town does not have any money for the relocation.

*Damien Fisher can be reached at 603-543-3100 ext. 139, or by e-mail at [dfisher@eagletimes.com](mailto:dfisher@eagletimes.com)*

# Fire House, Cornish Colony Museum celebrate grand openings

By DAMIEN FISHER  
Staff Writer

Officials at Saturday's grand opening of the Fire House on Main Street believe the restored historic building will become a vital part of the town's economic landscape.

Developer Gary Neil said his vision for Windsor is realized in the tenants who agreed to occupy his Fire House.

"The tenants make the building," Neil said. "I could not have planned it to be this good."

The tenants, including Christopher's Cookies, computer recycler WinCycle, sign company Third Generation Signs and the Cornish Colony Museum, fit into Neil's vision for a building that serves as an attraction and a centerpiece.

Neil bought the building from the town last year for about

\$40,000. Built in 1929, it served as the fire station, town offices and police department. Neil has been able to transform it into a space for business and the arts.

The Cornish Colony Museum, also celebrating a grand opening Saturday, agreed to relocate to the Fire House earlier this year from Cornish. Neil and others believe the twin openings mark the beginning of good fortune for Windsor's downtown.

Museum director Alma Gilbert-Smith said the symbolic return of the artist colony to Windsor means the town and the arts will experience a rebirth.

"This is a day of resurrection," Gilbert-Smith said.

Work has been done on the building at a furious pace leading up to the opening. The interior was redone from floor to ceiling and in the front, a patio was created.

Greg Blanchard, owner of Blanchard Contracting, said his

work on the building continued up to Friday night. The stamped, dyed concrete Blanchard used for the front patio, made to look like cobble stones and bricks, looked perfect by Saturday.

"We walked off of this job site at 6:30 last night," Blanchard said.

Blanchard's company has worked on the building for the last 10 months, and he said the work he did was all driven by Neil.

"I cannot say enough about his enthusiasm for the town of Windsor, to do things right and to do things well," Blanchard said.

Carl Goulet, owner of Christopher's Cookies, helped host the grand opening by providing coffee and cookies. He said the building will help bring more business downtown. Goulet plans to open an outdoor cafe in the front to keep up with growing demand.

"It helps expand the downtown to here," Goulet said.

Renovating an historic building



Gov. Jim Douglas, left, and Gary Neil, owner of the Fire House building in Windsor, speak Saturday at the building's opening.

DON CLARK  
PHOTO

to boost economic development has been the blueprint for much of Vermont. Windsor County State Sens. John Campbell, Matt Dunne and Peter Welch joined Gov. Jim Douglas to see the example of the creative economy idea at work.

Jane Lendway, a Vermont his-

toric preservation officer, said the building's renovation and artistic tenants are the perfect example of what towns can do with the right vision.

"We're incredibly proud of what Windsor has done," Lendway said.

See **FIRE HOUSE** - Page A4

*Eagle*

*5-29-05*



Windsor resident Jeff Brown, an employee with Custom Moving and Storage, removes furniture from the old Windsor firehouse yesterday. The Cornish Colony Museum bought the building in 2008.

VALLEY NEWS — JASON JOHNS

# Mascoma Bank Buys Cornish Colony Museum Building

By ALEX HANSON

Valley News Staff Writer

**T**HE CORNISH COLONY Museum once seemed to have a secure future in Windsor; through a combination of donations and financing, it purchased its home; the former fire station on Main Street, in 2008.

But yesterday, the museum's future was thrown into doubt. Mascoma Savings Bank, which held the loan on the building, purchased the building at auction yesterday. The museum remains shuttered.

"Unfortunately, as much as we tried, the museum couldn't maintain the building in this economy," said Robert Dean, former president of the museum's board. Officially, all board members have resigned, but they are continuing in a volunteer capacity to try to revive the now dormant museum.

The museum lost most of the tenants in the 14,400-square-foot building and it was about 80 percent empty yesterday, Dean said. A moving truck removed many of the last of Dean's possessions, including display cases and other fixtures from a museum coffee shop on the ground floor, yesterday morning.

"The museum will continue, we hope" said Dean. "Or we will start a new museum." The museum's possessions remain in the building. The bank has placed a lien on the museum's personal property, and plans to take inventory in the next week or so, said Gregory Kennedy, a senior vice president at Mascoma Bank.

Only two bidders emerged at yesterday morning's auction: developer Ted Hilles and Jane Osgood, who own several other downtown Windsor properties, and the bank. Hilles and

See MUSEUM — C

"My lease runs until February," he said. "I want to stay. The space works for me." He's been in the space for six years, and for three years ran a retail bakery at the front of the building. "We had nice, loyal customers, just not enough," he said. "The demographics just weren't able to support us."

Goulet, who lives in Windsor, bakes and ships cookies across New England from the old firehouse. "I'm just waiting to see what the other shoe's going to be like when it falls," he said.

Dean said he and other former board members are still looking for options to reopen the museum. "Officially, all board members have resigned, but we are still working in a volunteer capacity," he said.

Kennedy said the bank wouldn't be averse to coming to terms on a rental agreement with the museum. "I think most folks would like to see the museum continue to exist and to operate," he said.

Although no one emerged to rescue the museum yesterday, Dean said he still sees possibilities for a positive outcome.

"I am hopeful that this gives us an opportunity to find a buyer willing to let the museum stay on at no cost," he said, adding that he has just such a buyer on the line, a light manufacturer he declined to identify. Where other attempts to save the museum, which remains linked to the building, have failed, Dean sees a chance of success.

"It may be pie in the sky, but I'm quite hopeful that this person will come through," he said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

Osgood bid up to \$225,000. Hilles and Osgood declined to comment after the bidding ended. They spoke with bank officials before leaving.

"He's clearly identified himself as an interested party," Kennedy said of Hilles. A foreclosure sale is "the last option" for trying to collect on a loan, Kennedy said. Dean said the bank had worked with the museum to try to resolve its financial problems, but no workable solutions emerged.

Alma Gilbert-Smith and her husband, Peter Smith, founded the museum in Cornish in 1998. It moved to Windsor in 2005.

Founded as a privately held entity, the museum struggled for funding after it became a nonprofit in 2005. It had to raise money at the last minute to open its 2009 summer exhibition. Gilbert-Smith, who made Maxfield Parrish's art her life's work, announced her retirement in 2008 and again in 2009, when she stepped down. At the time, there wasn't enough money to hire a replacement. A part-time curator took her place until last summer, when board members stepped in to keep the doors open.

The museum's financial plan was viable, so long as the building was at full occupancy, but without tenants, it couldn't pay the bills. "I'm pleased we were able to survive as long as we did under the circumstances," Dean said.

Carl Goulet's business, Covered Bridge Cookies, is one of a few remaining tenants. He said he didn't think yesterday's auction would affect him very much.

**FOLLOWING PAGES, KNOWN AS**

**CORNISH COMMUNITY FARM**

**COMMUNITY FARM**

**RURAL FARM EDUCATION CENTER**

**FARM CENTER**

**BILL GALLAGHER, ORGANIZER**

# Committee considers purchase of Putnam Farm house to use as rural education center

By BRIAN DUNHAM  
Staff Writer

Several Cornish residents are working to keep a local historical treasure in the hands of the community, while at the same time providing an avenue for rural education and sustainable agriculture in Cornish.

The historic Putnam Farm, located on Route 12-A, is being assessed for purchase by the Putnam Farm Committee, a group of Cornish residents aiming to purchase the property under a non-profit organization and turn it into a community education center much like Billings Farm Museum in Woodstock, Cedar Circle in East Hartford, Muster Field Farm in Sutton, and Stonewall Farm in Keene. With hopes of creating a community-centered farm, pro-



BRIAN DUNHAM PHOTO

Pictured above is the Putnam Farm house located on Route 12-A in Cornish. A group of community members is aiming to purchase the farm under a non-profit organization and establish a rural education center and sustainable farm.

ponents say the approximately 70-acre property could provide summer jobs, rural education for all ages and local food security.

Part of the reason for all of the interest, according to Bill Gallagher, member of The Putnam Farm Committee, are the historic Putnam family roots that go back for generations in Cornish.

"The Putnam family was one of the first families in Cornish," he said. "Dan Putnam settled on that land in the 1790s, I believe it was, and the farm has been owned by the Putnam's until now."

The house located on the property was started prior to the Revolutionary War, Gallagher said, and the barn located on the property dates back to 1870. According to studies completed by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, Gallagher said the barn can be both preserved and put to use once again.

Among one of the notable stories in the Putnam family heritage includes the Civil War service of Col. Huldinand S. Putnam, who was the great-grandson of Cornish settler Daniel Putnam, as well as the son of a prominent farmer and judge, John L. Putnam, according to Cornish Historical Society President Jim Atkinson.

"He graduated from West Point in 1857, just prior to the Civil War," Atkinson said. "Then he went out West and was later stationed down near South Carolina."

Putnam served the union alongside Robert Gould Shaw — the colonel in command of the all-black 54th regiment — in a failed attempt to capture Fort Wagner in 1863. Atkinson said he was in charge of the second brigade backing Shaw's regiment. Interestingly, Shaw was later memorialized by another Cornish resident, Agostus Saint-Gaudens, in the Shaw Memorial

now on display in Boston.

Gallagher said members of the committee, of which there are about 18, aim to keep the property in the hands of the community. If it is purchased — and though it's not a done deal, Gallagher noted that there are no immediate roadblocks in sight — they would put an easement on the land so it could be preserved for open space and agricultural purposes.

The last Putnams to live in the house have since passed away, Gallagher said. The property was left to two daughters that no longer live in Cornish and they have been working with the committee.

"We've had informal meetings, talking with the Putnam family," Gallagher said. "We're about done with that process, I believe. We'll be having meetings and inviting people experienced with farm schools. We can train ourselves how to manage the project, and it will be publicly organized."

Recent trends toward sustainable community agriculture and teaching children about how to produce food have

also generated interest in the initiative, Gallagher said.

"There's a real trend to get the school children outdoors learning where food comes from and how it's grown," he said. "They could go there for demonstrations on gardening, there would be jobs for people working on the farm and we could go step by step. That's the feedback we're getting as we talk to people about it. We hope that happens."

Contact Bill Gallagher at

(603) 675-5138

...

Brian Dunham can be reached at (603) 343-3100, ext. 159, or by e-mail at [bdunham@ogletree.com](mailto:bdunham@ogletree.com) - 1/14/11

You are invited to a public meeting  
March 22, 7 p.m. Meeting House  
Cornish Flat

over →



# CORNISH COMMUNITY FARM

*Safeguarding our past*



*Cultivating our future*

949 NH Route 12A P.O. Box 76 Cornish, New Hampshire 03746

[www.cornishcommunityfarm.org](http://www.cornishcommunityfarm.org)

# Ohio, Not the Valley, Has

BY ERIN HANRAHAN  
Valley News Staff Writer

**WINDSOR** — When visitors stop by the Old Constitution House looking for a thrill, volunteer Barbara Rhoad always directs them down the road, to the longest covered bridge in the United States.

She'll have to change that routine next week, when officials in Ashtabula County in northeast Ohio dedicate a covered bridge

that's 613 feet long. That's 163 feet longer than the erstwhile record holder, the historic Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge.

"I personally maybe am a little disappointed," Rhoad said yesterday, after hearing about the \$8 million new structure. The bridge, to be named at a ceremony Tuesday, is the 17th covered bridge in Ashtabula County, which markets its pastoral bridges heavily.

Bill Boynton, spokesman for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation,

Valley News Aug 23, 2009 p. A2

## Nation's 'Longest Covered Bridge'

wasn't too broken up about losing the longest-bridge title.

"In the spirit of the Olympics, we have no problem with the silver medal, and we still have the 'World's Strongest Covered Bridge' in Plymouth," he said, referring to the Millennium Covered Bridge over the Smith River. Based on a claim made by the builder, a dedication committee dubbed that bridge the world's strongest when it opened in 2001.

But local enthusiasts defended the Cornish-

Windsor Covered Bridge more vigorously yesterday. While acknowledging that the bridge belongs to New Hampshire, Rhoad said, "it means a lot to Windsor."

Joe Nelson, president of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society, said the new structure's length wouldn't eclipse the significance of the Cornish-Windsor link. "Being the longest is rather secondary, I think, to the fact of the age of the bridge and the history of the bridge, and its place in the communities on either end," he

said.

Local engineers built the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge in 1866, and Nelson said he didn't think camera-toting tourists who visit it would mind its rather technical change in status. Those who are more intimately familiar with the bridge's statistics, he said, could take solace in the fact that the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge is still the longest two-span covered bridge in the world, since the Ohio

See BRIDGE—A3

## Longest Covered Bridge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A2

structure is made from four, shorter spans. "We don't need to be jealous," he said.

Windsor resident Rudy Hanecak III pointed out that the Cornish-Windsor bridge will keep its status as a National Historic Engineering Landmark and its place on the National Register of Historic Places.

But Hanecak, who volunteers for the Windsor-Mt. Ascutney Region Chamber of Commerce, said he had been following news of the Ohio structure, with all its trusses and trappings.

Yesterday, he called it a "faux" covered bridge, noting that it uses

steel and concrete.

"Ours is good old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity, and they can't take that away from us," said Rhoad.

"I still think it's going to be just as important a historic landmark as it has been. I have great confidence in that."

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

*Erin Hanrahan can be reached at (603) 727-3305 or ehanrahan@vnews.com.*

# Q&A: Wayne Gray

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

burg Fair. What do you think sets the Cornish Fair apart?

**WG:** Cornish is a much smaller fair than any of those. Overall, they're all set up the same. They all have rides, they all have cattle and horses and ox pulling and stuff like that. I think our fair, with it being small, it just brings more people from the community. It's like an Old Home Day, where everybody from the community all comes to it, gets together and visits and has time together.

**VN:** What time of year does preparation for the fair begin, and what does it involve?

**WG:** With the fair directors, we actually go year-round. We start in September and go right through until fair time. We meet every month.

Committees have meetings to set up things for the following year's fair. The fair takes a lot of people to run it. We have a lot of dedicated volunteers that work this fair. I have 20 directors, but the volunteers that I have — I probably have another 100 people that volunteer their time to make this thing really happen.

**VN:** Do you ever feel that the focus of the fair has shifted away from its agricultural roots? It's still called the Sullivan County Agricultural Fair, but you've got rides, you've got entertainment, lots of other things going on.

**WG:** We try to stay still agricultural based on the fair. Yeah, we have rides and stuff, they help bring the people in for the kids to do things, but

we still really concentrate on the animals, the farmers, and ... on school exhibits with the 4-H groups.

**VN:** What makes this year's fair different from the fair last year? What do people have to look forward to this year?

**WG:** We're hoping three good days, not three days of rain like we had last year.

This year, we had to try to keep this thing plain and simple, because of

bad days last year. I mean, we're having the horse shows, we're having entertainment, everything normal, but we just had to water down what we did on cutting things back, or we've spent to do things. So hopefully we can have three good days, able to get people back in, get up.

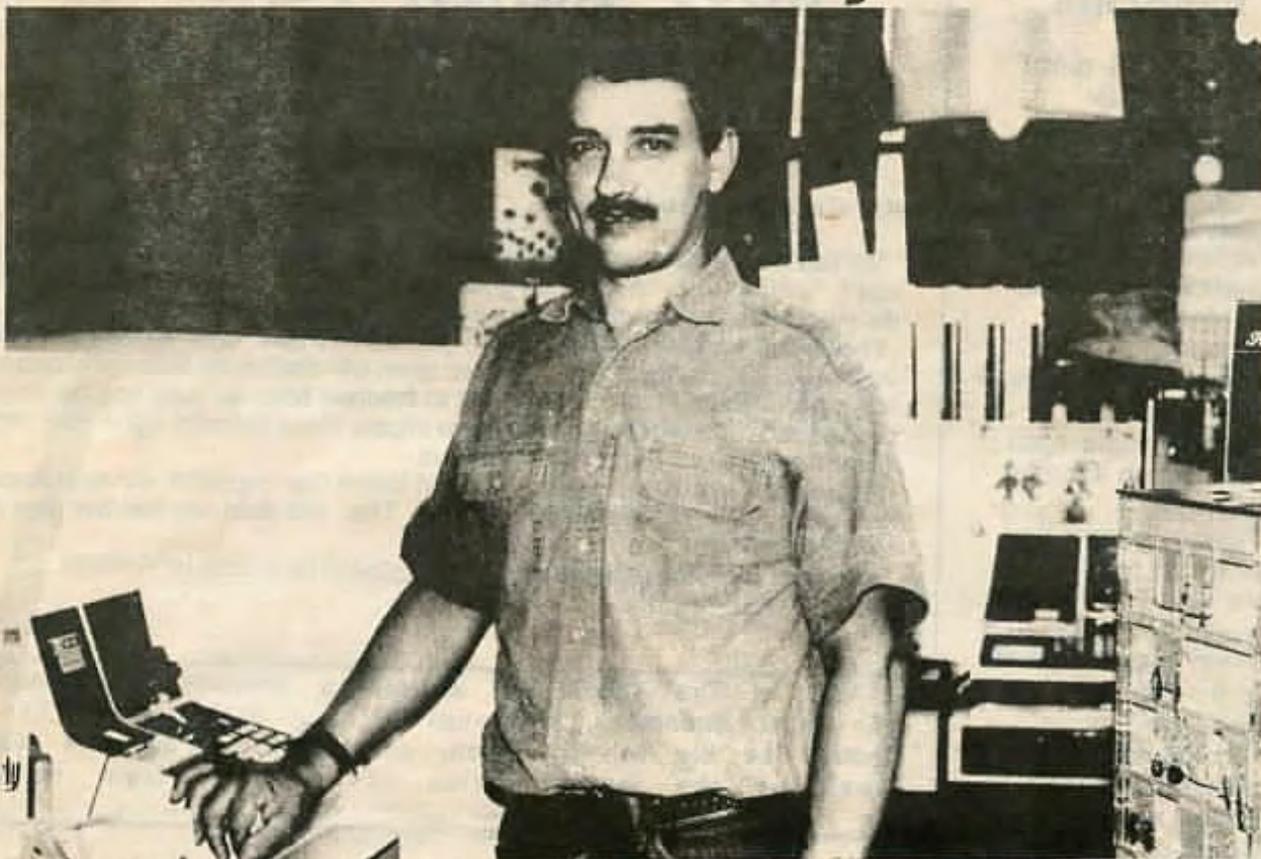
*Katie Beth Ryan can be reached at 603-727-3242 or kbryan@vnews.com.*

## **CORNISH FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**VERTICAL FILE MATERIALS ARE IN A SEPARATE FILE  
UNDER FIRE DEPARTMENT, AVAILABLE AT THE  
CHS COLLECTION PAGE AT THE TOWN WEBSITE**

Powers

# Powers' Country Store



Whether you're in the mood to purchase a pair of Rockport shoes, a Woolrich jacket, or just a quick hot dog -- Power's Country Store on Route 120 in Cornish Flat, N.H. is the place for you.

You can even get a pair of miniature snow shoes.

Power's has a unique "kids' corner," full of eye-appealing toys to entertain young ones while their parents browse around the store.

Owner Don Powers hopes to have his expansion completed by August 1, allowing him to expand his already-wide selection of footwear and clothing.



Valley News — Madara Habart

Cars filled the parking lot at Powers Country Store as the going out of business sale progresses.

# Cornish Flat Loses Powers

Popular Country Store Closing After 22 Years Valley News  
Feb 16, 1994

By BILL BRAWLEY

Valley News Staff Writer

**CORNISH FLAT** — Powers Country Store, a fixture here since 1972, will be closing within the next several weeks.

The general store's assets, including a branch in Quechee, are being acquired by Connecticut Riverbank of Charlestown, according to Bruce French, a commercial loan officer at the bank.

French would not speak specifically about the situation with the Powerses, but said there have been "quite a few inquiries" from prospective buyers of both the inventory and the building in Cornish Flat.

"Our goal is to establish another viable business in the same community in the same spot as soon as possible," French said. He said most inquiries about the business have been from people who want to run a general store.

The stores' owners, Sandra and Don Powers, are on vacation and could not be reached for comment.

Word of the stores' closing leaked out on Friday, according to Chris Powers, one of the Powers' sons, and by Saturday throngs of well-wishers and bargain hunters descended on the store — despite the lack of

advertising or public notice.

The Cornish store's parking lot has been filled to overflowing ever since. Powers said inventory from the Quechee store would be moved to the Cornish store for final sale.

The store first opened for business in 1972 as a general store, Powers said. It eventually expanded twice, selling clothing and footwear as well as groceries and hardware, and at one time included a mail-order business. The Quechee store, offering clothing and footwear, opened around 1988, Powers said, and a venture into Woodstock about 1992 ended a year later.

Powers said customers from as far away as White River Junction and Lebanon often stopped by the store in Cornish. Many of those customers are now helping him and other family members manage the crush of visitors that are stopping by.

"I can't tell you how great people here have been," Powers said. "I couldn't appreciate it more."

As for the future, Powers said his family's plans are still up in the air.

"It's going to turn out for the best. You just can't be negative about it."



Nov, 1996

## Art's Market opens

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Art's Community Market opened in the former Powers Country Store earlier this month.

The 1,800 square foot space will be used for grocery and deli items. An assortment of groceries, ice cream and well-stocked coolers of soft drinks, beer and wine will be accompanied by freshly made hot and cold sandwiches.

Local newspapers will be sold and Boston and New York editions will be available on weekends.

Arthur LaClair, owner-manager, also has plans to offer hardware and grain in the near future. "I want to get back to basics so resi-

dents will not have to travel out of town for needed items," he said.

Other areas of the multi-use building will be offered for lease. In the past it housed the Cornish Flat Post Office, retail space, a mail order department and the Claremont Savings Bank.

LaClair is a Cornish native. For nine years he has operated Art's Market on Route 120 in Claremont, a business he will still operate.

Art's Market in Cornish Flat will be opened from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week including holidays, which will have limited hours.

General Store

## Cornish market OK'd for general store sale

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Arthur LaClair, owner of Art's Community Market which recently opened in the former Powers Country Store building in Cornish Flat, was granted a special exemption for multi-use of the structure during a meeting held by the Zoning Board last week.

The portion of the ground floor which is not being used as a grocery and deli with hot and cold foods will be used as a retail establishment.

Sales in the retail space shall only be by the proprietor of Art's Community Market or by authorization. The nature of products sold was restricted to what one would normally expect to find in a general store, including antiques, pieces of art, crafts, and handiwork, much of which could be by consignment.

A 24- by 42-foot area in the upper level of the store was designated as office space,

which would be available for rent or lease.

Restrictions for the office space excluded real estate, insurance, doctors, dentists or legal services, to assure the nature of the business would not generate client traffic.

Employees would be limited to six, and a second exit from the office space provided.

Several other requirements for use of the property were included in requirements for use of the property. Among them were certain kinds of lighting, installation of screening, such as fence, and limiting access to rear parking area to one access. Future enlargement or alteration of the structure shall only be through the approval of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The board followed LaClair's approval by listening to a tape recording of a 1978 board meeting concerning the complaints against the Max Jewell property on Route 120 in South Cornish.

Board members were unable to decipher the tape at this time due to its inaudible

condition and will continue the investigation into the use of the property in an effort to keep Cornish selectmen informed.

Neighbors in the area in question maintain that the property, formerly owned by Howard Mark, was grandfathered as a nonconforming use only as a service garage and feel the logging operation is an infraction of the ordinance.

Jewell purchased the property in 1978 and used the property to stack piles of logs which are presently sorted by hardwood and pulp. He lived on the 5-acre parcel that includes a house, for a number of years.

Some sawing of the ends of the logs done on the property and some of the ends are treated with a water-based solution containing wax which seals the ends of the logs before loading them into containers for transport, all practices that are objectionable to neighbors and other residents.



Bob and Shirley Bladen await customers at the Cornish Country Store in Cornish Flat on Friday. (Wayne Carter photo)

General Store

# Aura of the country store returns to Cornish Flat

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — For many years Cornish Flat stores have been noted for being places where friends meet to catch up on the talk of the town. A Cornish couple plans to continue that trend here while offering good food and conversation at a new store in a familiar location.

Shirley and Bob Bladen recently purchased the property that once housed Powers Country Store at Cornish Flat and following extensive remodeling of the interior, have opened it under the name Cornish Country Store.

After more than 18 years employed by Johnson and Dix, Shirley has swapped punching computer keys to be the number-one salesperson at the store. She will be assisted by her husband and her daughter, Laura, as well as other part-time help.

"When we moved to town we loved going to Powers," said Shirley. "They carried all the things we needed, from plumbing and electrical supplies, to clothing and boots. We did our Christmas shopping there. I thought it was wonderful and thought it would be great to own a store like Powers, but only if it was in the town I lived in."

Now Shirley owns the store and though when it first opens it won't carry all the merchandise Powers did, she has plans to include some of it in the future.

The Bladens have stocked the shelves with ShurFine products including all kinds of crackers, cookies, chips and other snack foods and candy. The basic food list is long, including rice

and macaroni products. Numerous juice drinks also line the shelves.

A huge cooler will hold Hood milk, McNamara Dairy products, soda and beer.

"We have a large pet food supply for the animal lovers, both canned and dry foods," said Shirley. Bird seed will also be available. Most any kind of cleaning supplies are on the shelves.

Necessary items such as flashlight batteries and film, as well as some medicinal items are also stocked.

The store's coffee bar will offer Green Mountain Coffee and will be ready for the early morning commuters, with plenty of Muriel's Donuts, as well as bagels from the Bagel Basement Store.

A deli section will have cold meats and cheeses and fresh sandwiches will be offered in the near future.

The Cornish Country Store also sports an ice cream window, where sundaes, banana splits and frappes will be enjoyed.

"We plan to have both a fax machine and a copier for public use, and hunting and fishing licenses will be available," said Shirley Bladen. "Also one corner of the store has been designated as the Cornish Hens Corner, where Cornish products will be on sale."

In addition to helping Shirley run the store, Bob Bladen, who has done much of the remodeling at the store, plans to continue to run Phone-Mart, a business he owns in Lebanon, N.H.

The store's hours will be 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week.

News > Business (/News/Business/)

# Bucking the Trend: Cornish General Store Reopens With Convenience Staples, New Offerings

By John Lippman  
Valley News Business Writer

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Cornish Flat — Will Reed greets people with a beaming smile as they walk into the Cornish General Store. The 84-year old former science teacher who served as president of River Valley Community College from 1991-1995 is enjoying his new job: staffing the cash register at the recently reopened store.

"I retired 20 years ago," Reed said, "but I came down and they gave me an application. They said 'We (think) you're over-qualified,'" he chuckled in the retelling, "but I like to keep busy. I like Cornish. Nice people. And I get all the local gossip."

Over-qualified perhaps. Yet Reed was exactly the kind of person store owners Mark Abrams and Maureen Jenks wanted on their crew when they finally realized their ambition to own and run their own general store.

## RELATED STORIES

Cornish Store Set to Reopen  
(<http://www.vnews.com/Cornish-General-Store-to-Reopne-4182971>)

"Will is just what the store needs," Abrams said. "He's open, warm, friendly and knows everyone in town."

A friendly face, along with homemade sandwiches, shelves and refrigerators stocked to the brim with convenience items, a keg master to draw cold-brewed coffee, a relaxed sitting area with tables and free Wi-Fi for electronic devices — not to mention the opportunity to catch up on town happenings — is all available once again for residents and travelers along Route 120 between Lebanon and Claremont now that the Cornish General Store is back after closing nearly four years ago.

Reopening the Cornish General Store runs counter to long-time trends in rural New England, where the local country stores that once could be found in every town have been struggling and closing as convenience store chains, with their often lower prices, move in.

Around the Twin States, both the Shaftsbury Country Store, near Bennington, Vt., and the Underhill Country Store, outside Burlington, closed, briefly reopened, and then closed again within months. The Brick Store, in Bath, N.H., which bills itself as "America's Oldest General Store," closed in 2015 and was sold a year later to a couple who said they were going to reopen it, but it remains closed.

In the Upper Valley, the Grafton Country Store closed in July 2014, was sold at auction a few months later and was reopened by an owner of Wendy's franchises. Last month, the Brownsville Country Store, which had been sold to a new owner in 2014, abruptly closed. Along Vermont's Route 110, the North Tunbridge General Store, Flanders Market in Chelsea and Chelsea Pizza House all closed because of tax-related issues. The owner of the three stores has said he plans to reopen his businesses.

### **Building a New Brand**

"We probably lose two to three stores annually," estimated Jack Garvin, owner of The Warren Store in Vermont's Mad River Valley and chairman of the Vermont Alliance of Independent Country Stores, whose membership is down to 72 from "in the 80s" five years ago.

"Between online and large franchise stores and the challenge of living in a resort state with the vagaries of winter, it's difficult," Garvin said.

In response, some general store owners, in order to carve out a new niche, are rebranding themselves as “country stores” and highlighting their food and craft beer selection, rather than trying to compete with the offerings of a typical mini-mart, which is always good for a can of SpaghettiOs, lottery tickets and a six pack.

“Food is where it’s at now, and meals-to-go, having your own bakery and deli where you make everything,” said Garvin, who has operated The Warren Store for 37 years. “The Vermont artisanal beer movement has been a huge plus for us.”

For Abrams and Jenks, reopening the Cornish General Store began as a casual idea that picked up steam and then became reality when planning crossed with luck.

In 2015, Abrams, a former manager at the Concord Food Co-Op in New London, and Jenks, an emergency room nurse at Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital in Lebanon, had bought a home on 5 acres in Cornish Flat within sight of the store. They soon found themselves in the right place at the right time.

Former Cornish General Store owner Shirley Bladen closed the store in 2013 and put the property on the market.

“Oh, look, honey, the Cornish Store is for sale,” Jenks recalled telling Abrams when she saw the “for sale” sign. “Now you can have that store you’ve talked about.”

As a New England sales manager for a food distribution company, Abrams was familiar with the general stores throughout the Twin States and said he had always entertained the idea of owning one someday. Jenks said she, too, had had the idea “in the back of my mind” and likens the work of serving community members with things they need to her career in health care. “We both like people a lot,” Jenks said.

### **Getting Started**

To prepare themselves to become storekeepers, Jenks and Abrams took a class at SCORE, the Upper Valley nonprofit that assists people in business planning. It was through SCORE that they met Colleen O’Neill, who was also taking a class there. O’Neill, a Cornish philanthropist and preservationist, and widow of novelist J.D. Salinger, had also been eying the store property in the hope of reopening it for the community. The

three set to talking and hammered out a plan whereby O'Neill purchased the property from Bladen for \$288,000 and Abrams and Jenks leased the building from O'Neill.

The past eight months have been busy — getting everything in order, repainting the outside barn red, refurbishing the inside, buying kitchen equipment, updating the electrical system, making sure the site was in compliance with water and sewer permits and establishing relationships with area farmers and suppliers to ensure that as many provisions as possible are locally sourced.

Abrams declined to specify exactly how much he and Jenks spent to get the store up and running, but said that, after the necessary repairs to the property, building renovations and permitting, it ran into the low-six figures — “partially our money, partially financed,” he said.

Although the Cornish General Store carries convenience store staples such as pastas, cereals, canned beans, cleaning agents, snacks and candies, Abrams said a lot of effort is being put into preparing fresh food and meals from local and quality suppliers: eggs from Cornish's Stone Farm; milk from Plainfield's McNamara Dairy; ground beef, lamb, pork and bacon from Cornish Center's Many Summers Farm. There's also an on-tap beverage from Austin, Texas, called Chameleon Cold-Brew Coffee, which is dispensed from a refrigerated keg; and Stubborn Soda, imported from Ireland, that features flavors such as orange hibiscus and black cherry with tarragon.

Of course, Abrams noted, the store also carries the usual salty snack foods, soda and sugary fruit drinks. “I've got Frito-Lays and Slim Jims, too,” he said. “I call it both side of the aisles.”

In fact, Cornish resident Ryan Hall, who was at the store twice on the same day last week, said he has been “stopping in just about every day” to get his “morning coffee, a couple scratch tickets and a Slim Jim” for his dog. Hall said he lives three miles away and appreciates that he no longer has to drive 8 miles to Claremont or 11 miles to West Lebanon for the few things he needs, “not that those places weren't doing a good job,” he clarified.

## **All Kinds of Country**

The label "country store" and "general store" in the context of rural Vermont and New Hampshire communities can encompass everything from the Manchester Center, Vt.-based retail marketing emporium Vermont Country Store to gift-and-treat shops like Gilford Country Store in Gilford, N.H., bistro-cafes and cheese monger Falls General Store in Northfield, Vt., and convenience stops with beer, wine, food and gas like the Thetford Center Village Store and Baker's General Store in Post Mills.

Rarer today is the traditional New England general store, such as Dan & Whit's in Norwich, whose motto "if we don't have it you don't need it" reflects the store's inventory; everything from groceries to toys, hardware to hamburgers, chardonnay to Carhartts (but no lottery tickets or tobacco products).

To a great degree, the function of the general store as a supplier of everyday household needs has been overtaken by retail giant Dollar General, which has about 30 stores in Vermont and 26 stores in New Hampshire, and convenience store and gas station chains Maplefields and Cumberland Farms.

Although it may sound idyllic — a perfect Plan B for the overworked couple seeking the peace and charm of small-town life — owning and operating a general store is a demanding business with minimal financial rewards, according to John Beal, president of Vermont Business Brokers in Burlington.

Beal, who specializes in finding buyers for mom-and-pop businesses, said a general store that generates \$1 million in sales annually can expect a gross profit margin of about 30 percent. Coming out of that \$300,000 would be worker wages, payroll tax, insurance, utilities, general and administrative expenses, property taxes, maintenance and other operating expenses, all which leaves little left over for the owners. On top of that, there are grueling hours — typically 60 hours a week or more — since most stores are open at least 12 hours a day.

"Nothing is easy about it," said Beal, who has listed for sale Rutland County's Benson Village Store and Orleans County's Morgan Country Store. "It's more of a lifestyle decision than an I'm-going-to-get-rich decision."

In many cases, Beal said, the local general store can no longer compete by sticking to its traditional role as a purveyor of light groceries, canned and frozen foods and basic household necessities like pet food, cleaners and

toilet paper. "Ultimately, for any of these stores to become a success, they have to make themselves into a destination. They can't rely on the community anymore," he said.

That means upping their game in the food department, Beal suggested. Whether it's a "significantly good sandwich," a panini for lunch, or "a chicken dinner to go on Thursday night and a meat loaf on Friday night," Beal said, the menu items should reflect choices that entice customers away from the default options of pizza or a ham-and-cheese in cellophane.

### **Crafting a New Direction**

That's just the recipe that Amber and Josh Enright followed when they reopened Robie's Country Store in Hooksett, N.H., which had operated for 110 years until it closed in 1997 after the fourth generation of the Robie family retired. The store, a customary photo op stop for presidential candidates traipsing through New Hampshire during primary season, was taken over by the nonprofit Robie's Country Store Historic Preservation Trust and run by a succession of tenants until 2013, when it closed again.

Last March, the Enrights, who previously owned a restaurant in Manchester, took out a five-year lease to occupy Robie's and opened a 48-seat cafe and catering business. Menu items include a veggie skillet, a homemade pork pie, a dill lemon tuna sandwich and falafel wraps.

But the Enrights have combined their cafe with a gallery that sells products from artists and crafters affiliated with the League of New Hampshire Craftsman and a line of hand-crafted chocolates. The couple attended the Made in NH Expo and make rounds at farmers markets to scout crafts to stock in the store.

"We don't really sell convenience items anymore," Amber Enright said. "We tried that in the beginning, but besides cigarettes and scratch tickets, people aren't looking for that anymore. There are so many gas stations where they can get that."

Back at the Cornish General Store, Sanbornton N.H., electrical contractor Andy Sanborn and his apprentice, Rob Richardson, are on lunch break and standing in front of the kitchen counter waiting for their sandwiches to be made.

"I'm getting special treatment here," said Sanborn, a vegetarian who had ordered a sandwich that wasn't on the menu. It's his second visit to the store since beginning a job in the area. He said he stopped in the first time because "I saw the sign outside and it looked good."

Richardson, of Gilmanton, N.H., had ordered the honey maple turkey on a bulkie roll. He takes a sip from the cup of coffee he's holding and his face brightens. "This tastes like coffee's supposed to taste."

Abrams, the owner of the Cornish General Store, said one of the biggest challenges is setting prices. He doesn't want to push customers away to West Lebanon or Claremont, but at the same time he can't afford to undersell like the chains.

"I can't sell at Wal-Mart prices," he said. But, alluding to the common practice of convenience stores setting prices higher than regular markets, he added, "I'm not selling at convenience stores prices either."

Abrams said goodwill is a critical component in getting a community to support its general store.

"They are my neighbors," Abrams said of his customers. "I have to look them in the face every day."

*John Lippman can be reached at 603-727-3219 or [jlippman@vnews.com](mailto:jlippman@vnews.com).*



VALLEY NEWS — JAMES M. PATTERSON

Cornish Road Agent Wayne Gray leaves the Cornish General Store with a cold drink and snack on his way home from work on Monday. The store announced on Sunday that it will close at the end of the month only a year-and-a-half after opening under its current ownership.

# Not Cashing In in Cornish

By JOHN LIPPMAN

Valley News Staff Writer

**CORNISH FLAT** — The dream had been to run a country store and revive a once popular meeting spot for the community. But in the end, hope and hard work were not enough to overcome the challenges of running a mom-and-pop store in the Upper Valley.

After 18 months of attempting to revive the Cornish General Store, proprietors Mark Abrams and Maureen Jenks will be closing the business at end of month, leaving the village of Cornish Flat without a retail hub.

"This was not a willy-nilly decision," Abrams said on Monday. "Although a percentage of the community has been bending over backward to support us, there is more who were not. It isn't profitable and if you're not profitable, you can't grow."

Abrams and Jenks reopened the Cornish

## General Store Closing Again

General Store in March 2017. It had been idle since 2013, when the previous owner, Shirley Bladen, retired and closed the store after she couldn't find a buyer.

Three years later, the property was acquired by Colleen O'Neill, a philanthropist and widow of the writer J.D. Salinger, who lived in Cornish for many years.

O'Neill subsequently entered into an agreement with Abrams and Jenks, whom she met during a class through the nonprofit SCORE, which assists people with business planning. The pair agreed to lease the building from her and operate the store.

On Monday, O'Neill sent a message on the ConnectCornish email network to announce

that she was organizing community meetings — one tonight and another on Sept. 23 at the Cornish Meeting House — to solicit ideas for the Old West-style facade building on Route 120.

"I am still committed to doing all that I can to keep a store operating in town," O'Neill wrote. "In the weeks and months to come, I will be working to find a new operator. First would be to get feedback from the community at informal meetings."

O'Neill said she would be "sending out" a town-wide survey soon. Your comments and ideas will be very important to me.

She also thanked Abrams and Jenks for being willing to try what turned out to be a difficult task.

"They worked so very hard to set up and create their Cornish General Store," O'Neill wrote. "They certainly gave it their best effort."

SEE CORNISH — A11

O'Neill did not respond to an email seeking comment.

When Abrams and Jenks reopened the store there idea was to recreate the home-town feel of an old general store by selling convenience store staples but also offer updated twists, such as homemade gourmet sandwiches, Friday pizza night, a selection of craft beers, a keg to draw cold-brewed coffee, local produce and seating with tables and Wi-Fi where people could come in and work on their laptops.

But with the exception of Friday pizza night and the craft beer, Abrams said, the mix of offerings did not attract the level of customers required. After a year, they cut the hours by opening later in the morning and closing earlier in the evening to save money, but that wasn't enough to offset the losses.

Abrams said that part of the problem was that smaller stores are at a disadvantage because they cannot purchase supplies as cheaply as the large markets and therefore have to charge more. The higher prices are a disincentive, even if it means the inconvenience of traveling farther to big-box stores and supermarkets in West Lebanon and Claremont.

“People say they want to buy local but they don't want to pay local prices,” Abrams said.

As an example, he pointed to a popular item in the Cornish General Store — the Black Angus steak tips.

At Market Basket, it sells for \$4.99 per pound, “untrimmed with the grizzle,” Abrams noted.

Even though the steak tips he sells are trimmed of fat and marinated, “I couldn't buy even the cheapest cut of meat for \$4.99 per pound, which is scary,” he said.

Lynn Schad, of Cornish, who had stopped into the Cornish General Store on Monday afternoon to buy milk, beer, cheese and a newspaper, said she was distressed by the news of the store's closing. She regularly shops at the store “at least a couple times a week” for “anything you might need at the last moment.”

“When the store came back to life we were so happy,” said Schard, who has lived in Cornish for 30 years, ex-

plaining that the store was always a reliable place to catch up with people and get the news.

“What do people want?” she said. “These kinds of places are so treasured,” but the store's closing “is just a mark of the times.”

The store also faced stiff competition from the Meriden Deli-Mart, which reopened in 2009 and sells gas and is only 3½ miles north on Route 120.

For a brief time, the Cornish General Store again became the kind of community gathering place that Abrams and Jenks hoped to foster.

The Boy Scouts sold Christmas trees to raise money for their troop. A class of eighth-grade girls held a

potluck dinner as a fundraiser for a class trip. The front porch would be decorated at Halloween for trick-or-treaters.

For Michelle Kerns, the manager, it's the second closing of the store she has been through — Kerns has worked for three different owners dating back to 2006 and was working at the store when it closed in 2013. The store once did a steady business in selling grain and feed for animals, but people now go to Tractor Supply, she said.

“People need to come in more than once a month for a pound of coffee,” she said.

One factor hurting the Cornish General Store is that it didn't sell gasoline (it did years earlier before the tanks were removed). Although gas itself is not a money-maker for convenience stores because they make only pennies on the gallon, the pumps nonetheless help to drive customers into the store when they are filling up their cars.

The closing again highlights the difficult time businesses are having

in Cornish Flat. In 2015, Claremont Savings Bank closed its branch office there.

Abrams attributed the inability to make a profit to the town's stagnant population level.

“There's nothing being built,” he said. “That's probably the biggest thing that killed it — the lack of growth in the town.”

In recent years some teetering general stores in the Upper Valley have been saved from closing by innovative arrangements.

The Barnard General Store, for example, closed in 2012 and then reopened a year later when community members banded together to raise money and form a nonprofit to buy the building, and new operators were brought in to run the store.

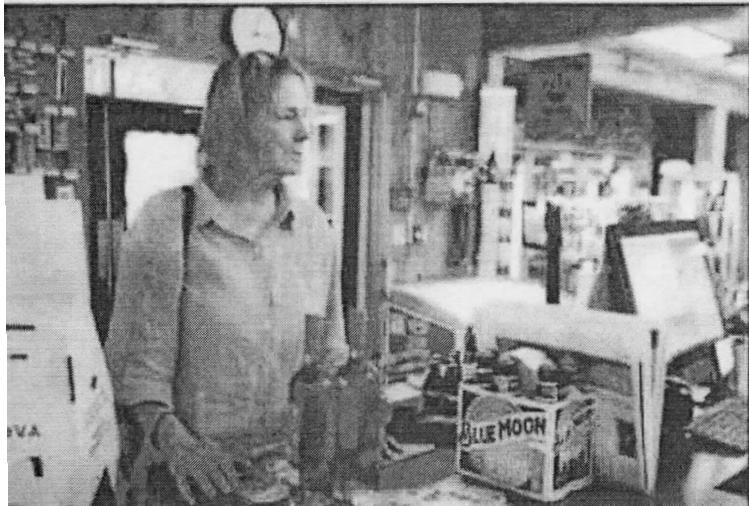
A similar model has been adopted with the Brownsville General Store, where a fundraising campaign bought the property from the bank after it closed and is now in the process of being renovated for a new operator.

**John Lippman can be reached at [jlippman@vnews.com](mailto:jlippman@vnews.com).**



VALLEY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS — JAMES M. PAT

Above: Shannon Decker, of Plainfield, plays checkers with her son L on the porch of Cornish General Store on Monday. Left: Lynn Sch Cornish, said she has been a loyal customer of the store under curre previous ownership going back 30 years.





JEFF EPSTEIN

The checkerboard on the front porch of the Cornish General Store doesn't have any players, and the store will be shutting its doors at the end of the month. The owners are now selling out their inventory.

*Exile Times Sept 20, 2018 p1*

# Community begins to plan the next incarnation of the Cornish General Store

By JEFF EPSTEIN  
VTreporter@angletimes.com

**CORNISH** — The Cornish General Store in Cornish Flat has been around so long, it seems like it has always been there. But the store in its current incarnation will soon be gone. The owners plan to close it at the end of this month, after running it for a year-and-a-half.

You might think their

situation is no different, really, than any small business struggling to find customers in an era of big box stores and quick drive-thru everything. But general stores, of course, aren't like that. They are for meeting neighbors, grabbing a cup of coffee or picking up a loaf of bread. And the store here does that, said Mark Abrams, who has been running the current store with Maureen Jenks since March 2017.

The local community of Cornish Flat has been very supportive, he said, with "a lot of loyal customers." But the tiny community can't generate enough business itself, and everyone else "thinks they'll save a buck by driving to Claremont." The store was completely without customers on a recent visit, with declining stocks of various household and hardware goods as it gets ready to close. The rock-

ing chairs sat empty with no one to rock them. The checkerboard on the front porch lay fallow, the pieces unmoved in the cool breeze. But the building's owner, local resident Colleen O'Neill, isn't convinced the right business couldn't attract customers from outside the community. "I'm trying to keep the store going ... It's very important in a

See **STORE** - Page A4

town like ours to have a gathering place." Other general stores in the region have struggled, some closing for good and others closing and reopening under new management. They all seek a way to compete with national and regional chain stores, often attached to gas stations, which draw traffic. Many cars travel between Lebanon and Claremont, and not just on river routes. Route 120, which runs through Cornish Flat, is a well-traveled route, she said.

"We have to find a draw to get people to stop." The property used to have an affiliated gas station many years ago, but that is long gone. The current property doesn't have tanks or the space for a gas station, O'Neill said. However, the little traffic triangle out front where Route 120 meets School Street and Upper East Road is part of the property, she said. O'Neill runs a local listserv for Cornish Flat, and is using it, along with physical meetings, to "start the conversa-

tion" and gather interest in next steps. One early meeting was held on Tuesday and included Shirley Bladen, the previous owner of the store; she closed her business in 2013. She is retired now and has an interest in the community but will not start a new store herself, O'Neill said. The next meeting, open to the public, is on Sept. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cornish Meetinghouse. O'Neill welcomes interest from both inside and outside the Cornish community.

Cornish Inn, Cornish Flat, N. H.



THE CORNISH INN which burned in 1927.



celebrated mountain road which leads from Four Corners to Cornish Flat. Damage claimed, \$300."

In 1903 this item appeared. "Frank E. Corey,

the popular stage driver between Meriden and Windsor, recently received a handsome present from his city friends along the route as a token of appreciation of his services."

# CORNISH INN AND STORE CONSUMED BY FIRE WHICH THREATENS ENTIRE TOWN

Claremont Apparatus, Summoned by 4:00 A. M. Call,  
Pumps Water for Hours Before Conflagration Is  
Brought Under Control — Light Fall of Snow  
Checks Spread of Flames—Authorities Investigate  
Origin of Fire

## Cornish Inn

1927

The historic Cornish Inn and outbuildings, together with the general store and United States Post Office conducted by E. P. Brown, both situated in the heart of Cornish Flat, ten miles from Claremont, were totally destroyed by a spectacular fire early this morning which for a time threatened the entire community.

A call was received at four o'clock at the Central Fire Station and the 750-gallon pumper and a number of firemen, including Assistant Engineers Sheridan and Edmonds, were sent to the scene. This piece of fire apparatus did splendid work in pumping water for nearly five hours, supplying two lines of hose which were played upon the burning ruins.

The Inn, which was built about 125 years ago and which is a well known landmark, was owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Davis and family. Members of the family were able to save only a few of their personal belongings, while Mr. Brown succeeded in getting out a small amount of Government property from the Post Office. Mr. Davis this morning estimated the set of buildings worth between \$7000 and \$8000. They are covered by only \$1000 of insurance, part of which is applied to the contents. E. P. Brown stated that his property together with contents, was valued at over \$10,000 and was only partially covered by insurance.

The fire, which was discovered shortly after three o'clock by Mr. Davis' son, was confined to the main part of the Inn which at present was unoccupied. Aided by a high wind the fire spread with great rapidity and it was but a short while before the entire group of buildings and the store was a roaring furnace, the property being doomed before a call could be sent to the Central Fire Station here.

Cornish Flat is without fire fighting equipment or organization, so that the 50 residents who were attracted or called to the scene could do nothing but watch the fire take its course.

Bad road conditions delayed the response of the local firemen. The ten mile run was made within 35 or 40 minutes but their arrival saw the buildings entirely consumed. The wind was carrying large sparks and burning embers over the entire community, but due to a brief but severe snow squall the roofs of residences were somewhat protected. The slight ruin of last evening, together with the snow squall of this morning, probably saved a much more serious conflagration, while Claremont's latest piece of fire apparatus and firemen played no small part in safeguarding the community.

A brook running through the Flat supplied the pumper with water. By five o'clock two good streams were doing effective work on extinguishing the burning ruins, and by eight o'clock the fire was brought under control. Shortly after nine o'clock the smoldering embers were practically out and the local department started to pick up in preparation to returning to their quarters. It was 10:15 when the local men and apparatus returned to the station.

During the height of the fire two residences caught fire, but were extinguished before causing any damage. The Inn buildings were composed of a brick cottage house to which the main part of the hotel with 28 rooms was joined; a large barn, large open shed connected to the general store, and several smaller sheds and outhouses. Two automobiles, the property of Mr. Davis, who conducted the Claremont-Lebanon bus line, were safely removed from the open shed.

At the time of the arrival of the local firemen a series of heavy blasts caused by combustibles stored in the building blew the entire front of the store out and for a time made the fire fighting hazardous.

All that remains of the buildings this afternoon are a few standing brick walls.

It is understood today that Cornish authorities will conduct an investigation into the origin of the conflagration.

FOLLOWING PAGE

BRIDGE LADY

ETHEL NELSON



Valley News - Geoff Hansen

Ethel Nelson of Cornish, the self-described "bridge lady," stands before the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge. Nelson is trying to get the U.S. Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp of the bridge. Below, she holds a mock-up of a stamp.

## Woman Pursues Quest For Stamp Of Covered Bridge

By SUSAN J. RAND

Valley News Correspondent

**CORNISH** — After more than two years of trying a Cornish woman is redoubling her efforts to convince federal postal officials to issue a stamp commemorating the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge.

Ethel Nelson has her work cut out for her, according to U.S. Postal Service spokeswoman Monica Hand.

"When you think about 30,000 suggestions coming in a year and you think of 30 stamps (issued annually) that gives you and idea of the odds. It's probably easier to become a Rhodes Scholar than it is to get a stamp," said Hand.

Hand said Nelson's request "is under consideration." She didn't know how many other stamp ideas are also being considered.

But the 1,000 to 1 odds aren't stopping Nelson, known locally as "The Bridge Lady."

"I figure if they can put Elvis and Dolly (Parton) on (stamps), we can get our bridge on a stamp," she said.

Nelson said she's working to get thousands of bridge enthusiasts from around the country to flood the postal service with requests to issue a stamp honoring the 129-

year-old bridge — the longest covered, two-span bridge in the world.

She's writing to covered bridge societies all over the country, asking members to send letters supporting a Cornish-Windsor bridge stamp.

"The letters will fill that (file) and maybe they'll take notice," Nelson said. "We're talking thousands" of letters, she said.

It's not clear how much clout letters supporting a stamp design have. "I can't answer that," Hand said.

Stamp ideas that meet postal service criteria — Nelson's does because it is being considered, said Hand, — are referred to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, which then makes recommendations to the Postmaster General, who makes the final selections, Hand said.

Nelson, 58, has for the last four years dispensed directions and bridge history to passersby from her position in a hut at the foot of her driveway, across Route 12A from the bridge. She estimated that she's seen about 10,000 bridge visitors.

Nelson refers to the bridge as "she," and sounds like she's talking about a friend. "She's so deserving," Nelson said of the bridge's chances for a postal stamp.



"I've gone through her since I was six years old. She's like a sister to me," she said.

Nelson can't imagine referring to the bridge in the masculine.

"Did you ever know a man that would stand that many years and have his picture taken?"

# The Bridge Lady Covers The Waterfront

Valley News Nov 28, 1994 p. B1

By JEREMY PEARCE  
Valley News Staff Writer

## Q&A

**CORNISH** - Not without reluctance, and not without a certain measure of pride, Ethel Nelson of Cornish has finally accepted the world's judgment.

A fixture on the New Hampshire side of the covered bridge connecting Cornish and Windsor, Nelson for the past four years has acted as the bridge's unofficial historian, caretaker and publicist - and in the process she has acquired a title.

Nelson is known to most townspeople and passersby as simply "The Bridge Lady."

"The world named me that - I didn't," she explained last week.

Nelson, 57, sits in a garden hut at the foot of her driveway to provide a dose of local history, directions and perhaps a bit of advice to the thousands of tourists who visit the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge every year. Those tourists can expect to sign her guestbook, examine photographs of the structure from earlier years, and browse through a healthy assortment of postcards created by The Bridge Lady herself.

Although she is not paid for her

services, Nelson approaches her position as others would pursue their careers, and she can be seen behind her tables along Route 12A in both rain and shine, on most days during the week.

**VN:** When did you set up shop here?

**NELSON:** Let's see - 1989 is when the bridge reopened. This is my fourth year here. My husband and I were hired as "gofers" during the bridge's reconstruction, ferrying people between the airport and here. Or if they needed parts or something to do with the bridge, then we would go and get it. We were also overseers of the bridge when they weren't here. We live right here, so when they were gone on weekends, we would patrol the bridge. The young kids would sometimes throw workers' tools in the river, and then workers would get accused of fishing because they'd be fishing for their tools!

**VN:** Are you still the bridge's overseer?

**NELSON:** No. I just love the bridge. I've lived here all my life and had to go through the bridge for four years to go to high school, because Cornish doesn't have a high school. As little kids, we had to cross her every day if we wanted to go to the movies or go swimming - everything was in Windsor.

**VN:** And now you feel an obligation to explain the history of the bridge to visitors?

**NELSON:** I want the area to know that New Hampshire owns the bridge. You'd be surprised how many New Hampshire-ites think Vermont owns this bridge. I would go up to West Lebanon for postcards of it, and people would say, "Why don't you go over to Windsor or White River Junction? They own the bridge. Go over there." And I would get so mad. Really, people are illiterate about not just ownership, but any history about her. We just spent \$4.5 million to restore her, and yet there's so little known about her. She's the longest covered bridge in the United States, the longest two-span in the world.

I've tried for two years now to get her

on a postage stamp, and they keep saying, "Oh, no. She doesn't deserve it at this time." Well, she does deserve it, and she's going to get on a postage stamp, because I don't give up. Since we restored her, we're having a lot of problems with accidents at this end of the bridge, so I have been in touch with Concord and with the state, and we've been getting a lot of things done here. One person can make a difference.

**VN:** What sorts of things?

**NELSON:** A gentleman fell down out here the other day, so I called up our local town crew and they were down within 24 hours and reworked the edging along the road. People were tripping on that. They came down and cut the brush north of the bridge because people couldn't see. We fought to get a road line on the floor through the bridge. Our visitors are leery, because there are no markings. Our sign down here has been changed, because people were taking pictures of it and the bushes, instead of pictures of it and the bridge. We just try to make things easier for the travelers.

**VN:** What was the bridge like before it

**See Bridge - Page B5**



Valley News Madra Hobert

Ethel Nelson, a.k.a. The Bridge Lady, displays one of her favorite photographs. The real Cornish-Windsor Bridge stands in the background.

was restored?

**NELSON:** It was pretty rough. Pretty rough. I was a 10-speed biker, and you'd go to ride your bike through, and the knobs on the floor planking were so severe that literally, they would throw you. You'd go through the bridge in a car, and you'd feel the flooring pull you because the knobs were so large. Even though parts of the floor had been restored prior to the reconstruction, they were still so worn that it wasn't any good. And the bridge sagged, although it wasn't a matter of being totally unsafe. Before the restoration, two motor homes came through that bridge, back to back. So at her worst she wasn't going to fall into the river; she was just unstable to look at. But it was time to do something before she got totally unsafe.

**VN:** Do you think the restoration is accurate? That it follows the dimensions of the old bridge?

**NELSON:** The restorers were great people to work for, and I think they did real good by the

state. They did a beautiful job restoring her - 18 windows in her, and every one back exactly in place. I have pictures of the old bridge and the new bridge, and you can't tell the difference.

**VN:** What points of the bridge's history do you think people should know more about?

**NELSON:** One of the questions that I'm asked most often concerns why the bridge was covered. She was covered to protect the animals. The railroad came into Windsor at the time the second bridge went out, and the animals were crossing this uncovered bridge. The animals would topple over - the cattle and the sheep - so when the second bridge went out and they constructed the third, they covered it. I have a lot of relatives of those early builders who have stopped and signed my guest book. It's really wonderful to know that so many of them are interested in this bridge. Thousands of people stop here and ask directions to other bridges.

**VN:** How many visitors have you had here in the past four years?

**NELSON:** Over the past four years? About 10,000. A lot of people.

There's not spending this year very much, but they're still coming. I've noticed that U.S. visitors are slowing down - the disasters, the fires, floods, the hurricanes are slowing things down. This is the first year that I've made my own postcards. I do my own, and I think it gives visitors a beautiful variety of views of the bridge to send or to take home. I've never done this before, but it's something that comes naturally and I love to do it. This is my little hobby.

**VN:** Do you have many repeat visitors?

**NELSON:** Yes. In fact, since last year I've had postcards from people in England, Germany, Africa, that have been here before, and I've either found them a motel or a place to eat. Whatever their desire has been, I've tried to fulfill it. I've also mimeographed histories of the bridge that they can read and take with them. Many come back.

**VN:** What are your hours down by the bridge here?

**NELSON:** I try to be set up by 9:30 a.m., and I stay till about 4 p.m. I'm open at the house when I'm not open down here. I leave a

sign that tells when I'm open, easier being down here. This hut was given by some friends took pity on the poor "Bri Lady." At least I can get inside into the car without getting soaked when it rains. For years I was in the open with my little red table and little fold-up table. So I progressed a little.

This was the last thing in the world that I expected to do, but I love people and I love helping them. It's my kind of thing. You know, four years, I have not had one taken out of here that was not for. People are honest - they're here.

**VN:** Is the bridge in good shape for the time being?

**NELSON:** Yes, excellent shape. Couldn't be better. They've rewired it, so now all the electrical things are back in shape. No problems as far as safety. I've stayed awake nights worrying about with all of the bridges in Hampshire being burned. Last year we lost three; this year they're hitting Massachusetts, where they've burned two already. It's really maddening that they do, but it's part of life, I guess.

# Spotlight On New Business

Cornish Quilt Studio, Colleen O'Neill, Amy Whalen

## THE CORNISH QUILT STUDIO

The Cornish Quilt Studio, a professional machine quilting business owned by Colleen O'Neill and Amy Whalen, recently opened in Cornish, NH. The studio officially opened on September 1, although the partners had been taking in some work throughout the month of August. Located on Route 12A, about one mile north of St. Gauden's Road, The Cornish Quilt Studio is a professional machine quilting business, which speeds along the process of quilt making by taking the quilt tops designed by area quilters and attaching them to the middle and back of the quilt via a machine. The studio is located in a 400-square-foot workshop space.

The business came about as a result of a college project of O'Neill, who recently received her bachelor of arts degree in management from the College of Lifelong Learning. O'Neill needed to design a sustainable business plan, and once she had done so decided to make her vision a reality by opening her own business. She received advice from SCORE in Lebanon, NH and joined with fellow quilter Amy Whalen to embark on the venture. Whalen holds a bachelor's degree in finance. The women made a \$14,000 investment to purchase a large, Gammill-Optimum industrial quality machine, which sits on a 14-foot-long bed. O'Neill explains that "it used to be women had more time to hand quilt," but in today's society there are many distractions. Machine quilting provides these women "with another option to pursue." Machine quilting allows a quilt to be finished in a matter of hours as opposed to weeks and months.

There are a number of machine quilters in the Upper Valley, many of whom are friends of O'Neill and have been "very supportive of her venture." "Quilt shops have also been receptive," states O'Neill. Since machine quilting allows quilters the opportunity to finish their quilts more rapidly, they are also likely to start new projects sooner, requiring another visit to the quilt shop. "It's a big circle with lots of comforting quilts created," concludes O'Neill. Both Whalen and O'Neill have a number of years experience as quilters. O'Neill teaches quilting at the Bugbee Senior Center and was a past president of the Green Mountain Quilters Guild. Both women are also members of The Heart of the Land Quilters in Hartland, VT and Northern Lights Quilt Guild in Lebanon, NH.

The Cornish Quilt Studio offers basic quilting, custom quilting and prep work. Quilt-binding services are also available. The business is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m.

until 5:00 p.m. with a scheduled pick up and drop off day of Tuesday each week. The women are also willing to accommodate customers by appointment and encourage them to call ahead.

Response so far has been great, states O'Neill, with over 20 quilts made in the month of August alone.

*The Cornish Quilt Studio may be reached by phone at (603) 675-2299, by mail at Box 298, Cornish, NH 03745 or by e-mail at Cornish-Quilts@aol.com.*



*Partners Colleen O'Neill and Amy Whalen stand next to the Gammill-Optimum industrial quilting machine which is the backbone of their recently established Cornish Quilt Studio.*

Cornish Sign, Ed Boggis



**CIVIC PRIDE** and the first day of spring go hand-in-hand as William Dole, Cornish, displays the new sign carved and painted by Ed Boggis, West Claremont. It includes a picture of the longest covered

bridge in the United States, spanning the Connecticut River from Windsor to Cornish. At right, Dole readies a canopy for the signpost. The \$550 cost of the sign was paid by Dole. (Michael Quinn Photos)

# Replacement Bridge At Cornish, Windsor Considered By State

By GEORGIA CROFT  
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — Gov. Hugh J. Gallen and state and federal highway engineers will meet at the site of the historic Cornish-Windsor covered bridge Wednesday morning to begin considering possible construction of a replacement bridge.

State Highway Commissioner John A. Clements said this morning that Wednesday's meeting will be the first step in looking into possible sites and funding sources for a new bridge to take the traffic load off the historic bridge and add to its preservation.

Clements said the action is being taken in response to an editorial that appeared in the Claremont Eagle-Times a few weeks ago suggesting that the life of the bridge could be lengthened if vehicular traffic were removed and use was restricted to pedestrians and bicyclists only.

"The governor came across the editorial and thought it sounded like a good way to add some years to the life of the bridge," Clements said.

"We're going up there tomorrow to look it over and see where to locate a replacement and how to fund it."

Clements said state Department of Public Works and Highway officials recognize the historic character of the bridge and want to see it preserved.

"There's no question about its historic value," Clements said. "It's won all the accolades — the longest, the most scenic, the most photographed.

"But nothing lasts forever. Sooner or later it's going to fall down, and then people will say

it has to be replaced because they need it.

"We think that by replacing it now, it will relieve some of the strain, and when it does fall down, another bridge will already be in place."

## Access Route

The bridge, listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the longest covered bridge in the United States, is the only access route from Cornish to Windsor across the Connecticut River.

When it was heavily damaged by ice jams in March of 1977 and had to be closed for several weeks for extensive repairs, all traffic from Cornish to Windsor had to be rerouted several miles south to the Ascutney bridge, crossing the Connecticut from Claremont to Ascutney and Route 5 to Windsor.

Clements noted that the bridge has been subject to considerable repair in the past few years, including a period last summer when it was again closed for a period for maintenance work.

Clements said that officials of the Federal Highway Administration will attend Wednesday's meeting to discuss the eligibility of a replacement bridge as a federally funded project.

The governor's office has also invited Sullivan County representatives to the General Court to attend, but Cornish Selectman Stanley W. Colby said selectmen have not been invited nor informed that a possible replacement bridge is being considered.

Colby pointed out, however, that the bridge is wholly maintained by the state government and does not require any appropriation in the Cornish town budget.



**TO BE REPLACED?** — New Hampshire highway officials are looking into the possibility of building a new bridge over the Connecticut River between Cornish and Windsor to take automobile traffic now handled by the historic covered bridge there. The bridge, shown during repairs in June, is aging, and more extensive repairs will be needed in the future unless a companion span is built. Officials say they would like to preserve the bridge for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. (News photo—Linda A. May)



**COMING TO LISTEN** — New Hampshire Gov. Hugh J. Gallen, accompanied by other state officials, meets with residents and other interested parties Wednesday, in an information-gathering session at the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge.

The historic bridge, longest in the country, has come under scrutiny in an effort to preserve the structure for future generations. (News photo—Larry McDonald)

*Valley News July 24, 1980*

## State Moves To Preserve Span

By GEORGIA CROFT,  
Valley News Staff Writer

**CORNISH** — Years of discussion and planning lie ahead, but the first step toward a major effort to preserve the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge was taken Wednesday morning when Gov. Hugh J. Gallen and representatives of the state Department of Public Works and Highways suggested construction of a new bridge across the Connecticut River.

State Highway Commissioner John A. Clements said he hopes to begin a long series of public informational meetings and hearings before the end of this year on a plan to ease the historic bridge's traffic load by rerouting traffic across a new bridge probably to be constructed upstream of the present bridge.

Pointing to the long controversy surrounding replacement of the Arch Bridge which crosses the Connecticut River from Walpole to Bellows Falls, Gallen said state officials want to begin acting now to preserve the Cornish-Windsor bridge to avoid a similar situation.

"We recognize the value of a bridge such as this," Gallen said at the Cornish entrance to the bridge. "This bridge is an historic site and it does add to the quality of life, and it does bring people to New Hampshire.

"It is vitally important that we do not sit back and wait for something to happen to this bridge before we begin making plans to save it."

long controversy over its repair or replacement has raged.

State bridge engineer John Peterson said the Cornish-Windsor bridge has been closed several times in the past 15 years for major repairs and that maintenance of the bridge is becoming a greater, more costly problem each year.

Peterson and local residents who met with the governor at the site blamed increased and heavier traffic across the bridge for its deteriorating condition along with the frequent problem of damage caused by ice floes from ice jams on the river.

### Preservation Urged

Both Cornish and Windsor residents, however, urged that the bridge's historic and visual importance be preserved in whatever action is taken by state officials.

One resident pointed out that because the bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it should be protected against visual harm as well as structural damage and said that location of a new bridge should be carefully chosen so as not to diminish the covered bridge's scenic value.

Clements said the actual location of a new bridge will be selected only after long and thorough study including cost examinations and environmental impact considerations.

Along with construction of a new bridge, state engineers also proposed that the covered bridge be raised four feet to minimize the possibility of more damage

feet upstream of the bridge is presently being considered for location of a new bridge which would cross the river to connect with River Street in Windsor, a dead-end street which leads to what was once a ferry landing.

Cornish Selectman Michael Yatskevich said selectmen would like to see a new bridge beyond the flood plain and located far enough upstream from the present bridge to preserve its scenic value.

Selectman Stanley W. Colby said that the plan to restrict the covered bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists only and to raise it above the ice floes would preserve the bridge indefinitely.

"The biggest threat to the bridge has been ice jams in addition to the heavier traffic," Colby said.

### Public Hearings

Because of the impact on Windsor, Clements said public meetings will be held on both sides of the river as plans progress.

"We'll first get together with Vermont's planning and economic development department and then begin holding public meetings and begin all the agency involvement — fish and wildlife, environmental assessments, historic preservation," Clements said.

### Project Funding

Funding for the bridge construction will also be researched during the study period, Clements said, adding that because of the jurisdiction, New Hampshire will oversee and fund the project and Vermont officials

# State Moves To Save Covered Bridge—

(Continued from page 1)

will reimburse the New Hampshire government for about 5 percent of the cost.

Frederick "Tad" Comstock, director of the New Hampshire Division of the Federal Highway Administration, expressed optimism that federal funds would be available for about 80 percent of the cost with the state government responsible for the remaining 20 percent.

Comstock said the state receives \$1.4 million annually in federal highway funds and another \$1.8 million annually is also

available to the state in the federal aid bridge replacement program.

Clements said so far, state officials don't even have a rough estimate of possible costs since the location has not yet been selected and since there is the possibility that Route 12A may have to be raised to meet the new access.

Comstock said that since the covered bridge is on the National Register, some funds through the federal Department of the Interior might be available to help with its preservation.

Peter H. Burling of Cornish, the

Democratic candidate for the District state Senate seat, said bridge engineers must be aware of possibly increasing the narrowing and shallowing of the river that occurs at the present site when adding abutments upstream.

But Burling agreed with Cornish selectmen that the proposal to raise the bridge and construct a new one "is the most practical I've heard."

"I think they're handling this issue very well," Burling said. "It's nice to have someone taking the aesthetics into consideration."

covered bridge to vehicular traffic and preserve it for the future.

Several sites were mentioned north of the existing bridge, but the railroad bridge would make it impractical to build south of the structure which is a National Historic Landmark.

One site which was suggested several months ago when Gov. Hugh Gallen visited Cornish and Windsor, would cross the river from a point a short distance north of the covered bridge, entering Windsor at the end of River Street.

Marshall said a bridge at that point would necessitate acquisition of several pieces of property. When asked what would happen if homeowners refused to sell, he reminded the audience that the right of eminent domain could be invoked.

Concern was expressed by several people that a new bridge would spoil the aesthetic value of the 460-foot span, widely known as the longest single span covered bridge still in operation in the country.

Several proposed sites were termed impractical because they are situated in flood plain or wetlands.

A spokesman for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Windsor, expressed concern about heavy traffic that might be generated by a new bridge and Windsor Police Chief Thomas T. Taylor also voiced concern over traffic flow and control.

However, Marshall and Frederick Murphy, coordinator of environmental assessments for the State of New Hampshire, said they do not believe long distance truckers would leave the interstate system to travel Routes 12A or 5 unless they have drops to make in Windsor. In their opinions, there would be no more heavy trucks entering Windsor than there are now.

According to the engineer, the new bridge would be similar to the one crossing the Connecticut River at Ascutney. It would be 44 feet wide and would have a sidewalk on at least one side, possibly both.

Discussion throughout the entire meeting centered on funding and location of a new bridge, but the need for one was never mentioned. Officials of both states seem to agree that the covered bridge must be saved from further deterioration.

Marshall said the feasibility study, including analysis of air and noise impact, will take about two years. That phase will be followed by another two years for the design stage. Funding will be investigated at the same time along with acquisition planning and when that stage is completed, the project will go right into the contract stage.

Marshall commented, "We are probably going to have to thread a fine needle on this project," as he explained the finer details.

Murphy said, when the new bridge is built, the covered bridge will probably be jacked up three or four feet to protect it from ice damage during spring flooding. He said ramps will probably be constructed on both sides, making the bridge accessible to pedestrians and bicyclers.



**RICHARD MARSHALL**, New Hampshire planning engineer, center, and **Frederick Murphy**, coordinator of environmental assessments, listened to the concerns of Windsor and Cornish officials and townspeople Thursday night regarding a

new bridge spanning the Connecticut River. **Pamela Ho**, assistant project engineer, listened attentively to the discussion. (Flora Young Photo)

## Feasibility of new bridge to span Connecticut River is discussed

By **FLORA YOUNG**

**CORNISH, N.H.** — New Hampshire State officials met with local boards from Cornish and Windsor Thursday night to discuss the feasibility of a new bridge spanning the Connecticut River.

If the federal government is to pay 80 percent of the cost of the new bridge, the structure will have to be located within a reasonable distance of the existing covered bridge.

Richard Marshall, advance planning engineer for the State of New Hampshire, said, "We are talking about Bridge Replacement Funds. If you try to go too far upstream or downstream, it will reach a point where there is no bridge being replaced."

Marshall cautioned the audience that neither state has funds to build a new

bridge on their own. "We need that percent federal money," he said.

The meeting in the Cornish Town Hall was called to discuss possibility of constructing a new bridge, capable of handling the urban traffic as well as trucks and buses, making it possible to close the historic

(Please see **BRIDGE**—Pg

# Windsor Covered Bridge will not be torn down

CORNISH, N.H.— New Hampshire and Vermont residents, concerned over persistent rumors that the Cornish-Windsor Bridge might be demolished, had their fears allayed at a public hearing Tuesday.

New Hampshire Assistant Advance Planning Engineer Frederick Esch

assured citizens that the two states on which each end of the 115-year-old bridge sits intend to preserve the structure.

Five options regarding the future of the bridge were presented to more than 50 people and their overwhelming support lay with two of the alternatives:

—To rehabilitate the existing bridge but limit it to bicycle and pedestrian traffic, with a new, more secure structure built at another location.

—To rehabilitate the existing bridge but limit its use to cars and light trucks.

Increased traffic and damage from ice floes in the Connecticut River each winter have put the 466-foot

(Please see BRIDGE—Pg. 11)

structure in jeopardy in recent years. Other alternatives receiving little support were to leave the bridge as it, to tear down the bridge and build a new one on the existing site, or to leave the present structure alone and build a new one elsewhere.

But the bridge is a National Historic landmark as the nation's oldest covered bridge and New Hampshire Assistant Planning Engineer Richard Marshall promised it would not be destroyed due to its cultural and historical value.

Marshall told the crowd that should the bridge be limited to light traffic, the structure would have to be raised at least four feet and might necessitate destroying several homes on the Vermont side of the river to make room for a higher approach to the bridge.

After being assured to bridge would remain, the topic of funding the project came up.

The Cornish side of the bridge leads directly onto state-owned Route 12, so New Hampshire will pick up the tab and take care of all the maintenance in that respect. But Marshall told Vermonters they would probably not be as lucky.

GE

age 1

Although construction of a new bridge could be as much as 80 percent federally funded, the town of Windsor would have to foot the other 20 percent of Vermont's bill, Marshall said. At present, no cost estimates for any one of the options are available.

Should the project take the rehabilitation route, Marshall mentioned Federal funds probably would not be available.

# Residents upset that bridge work postponed until 1986

Ensl Times Scot 15, 1983 p.1

By DAWN HANDSCHUH

CORNISH, N.H.—A proposed construction date of 1986 for the rehabilitation of the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge spurred protest among local residents Wednesday.

Many of the approximately 75 citizens attending yesterday's hearing asked why the initial projected start in late 1983-84 was changed.

"I'm somewhat apprehensive of the latest start-up date of three years because by your own admission 2,600 vehicles use the bridge each day," Rep. Robert Harris, D-Windsor said. Concerned that Bridge Street residents would be affected if the bridge was raised three to five feet and merchants hurt by a six to eight month shutdown of the bridge, Harris asked if a temporary crossing across the river could be built.

New Hampshire Rep. Sara M. Townshend, R-Cornish, also was "upset" with the new construction date. "I'd like to go on record that I find the time frame disappointing at best," she said. "I feel we've been perhaps misled; perhaps that's too strong a term and I'm the only one misled. I wonder if that is really necessary."

"I know the construction date of 1986 is beyond what was originally stated. We said this project, if everything went smoothly, should start in late 1983-84 if no one coughed or stuttered. Not only is someone coughing, it may be a case of whooping cough," Richard Marshall,

assistant planning and economics engineer for the New Hampshire Department of Public Works and Highways said.

"We have factions all over these two states saying they know the best way to do it," Marshall added. "I'm dealing with historic property. It may be taken out of our hands and the federal government may do it. Let me caution you that there is no time restriction on the Washington organizations that make these decisions.

The department's intent is to rehabilitate the bridge for light use and for it to look the same as originally, as

close as possible. We can get into an internal debate and it will accomplish absolutely nothing except to delay this project. I've listened to the 'experts' and you can line them up," he said.

Others questioned whether repairs of the 117-year-old bridge could wait three more years.

"What have you done to insure we don't end up with a plaque on the bank saying 'Here was a bridge...' What have you done to insure it doesn't fall in the water," David Wright, Westminster said.

"I'm not in favor of spending dollars and dollars and then the bridge falls in

the river. What happened to the money appropriated by New Hampshire to fix the bridge? It got by the finance committee. Then they decided not to use the New Hampshire money," Milton Graton, Claremont, said.

The more you try to monkey with and straighten the sag," he added, "the weaker it's going to be."

Edward T. Swierz, an engineer for the New Hampshire DPW, contended that there was a way to straighten the sag caused by weathering wood and decay.

Maureen Bartlett, a Bridge Street resident, argued, "It's a hassle having this hang over our heads. We can't sell our house or improve it because you might say 'Move your house.'" she said. She suggested speed bars be erected on the Vermont side of the bridge to help slow down traffic, which she said went by at 60 miles per hour.

The delays would be partially caused by the necessity of hiring an engineering consultant to study the various possible alternatives of repair during 'Phase I.' Options include raising the bridge several feet to avoid major flood damage in the future, as occurred in 1977. The bridge could be repaired with steel or arches after elevation without raising the bridge at all, Marshall explained.

The study would include consideration of hydrological, right-of-way

(Please see RESIDENTS-Pg. 10)

## Page 1

social, aesthetic and environmental impact. Once the best option is chosen, Marshall said, another public hearing would be held. The final decision would be made by the governor's council or a special commission, he said.

The cost of the project would be at minimum \$800,000 or "in a worst case situation," about \$1 million. Federal monies would cover 75 percent of total costs while each state would pay for the remaining expenses. In New Hampshire, the state would pay for the full 25 percent while in Vermont, the town of Windsor would be asked to pay for 20 percent of the state's share of right-of-way costs. Thus, Windsor would pay for 5 percent of the total construction cost occurring in Vermont and 25 percent of total right-of-way costs occurring in Vermont.

Responding to a suggestion that a toll help raise some revenue, Marshall

responded that the bridge would require at least three employees 24 hours a day and shelter for them.

"That in itself might make the tolls prohibitive," he said. "If you cut down on the volume of use it might cut down on traffic and exist solely as a tourist attraction," he added.

Marshall blamed legislation passed in the 1960's, "the era of the environmentalists," as one reason for lengthy delays in the start of the project.

"We have good planners but when it comes to something as sensitive as this, no one believes us. We don't have all areas of expertise. If we took this on in-house it would be 1990 before we got to it," he said, mainly due to limited staff. "I'm not going to do a five and dime rehabilitation project. I want to make sure it's done right," he concluded.

# Covered Bridge tangle meets more knots

By JULIAN P. BROWN

WINDSOR, Vt. — The Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge is once again the center of controversy, this time over the most current proposal to use laminated and glued timbers in place of an arch support system.

According to Windsor Town manager Paul Hughes, objections to the use of laminated beams have

been raised by David Wright, chairman of the committee for an Authentic Restoration of the Cornish-Windsor Bridge, and renowned bridge builder Milton Graton.

Its objections, according to Hughes, are that even though the laminated timbers would not be seen, they do not constitute a historic reconstruction of the 121-

year old bridge. If the original builders of the bridge had their way, they would have used arches, Wright claims.

"It is certainly intriguing, but indefensible," Hughes said Wednesday night about Wright's theory.

Wright could not be reached for comment today.

Because of Graton's objections,

however, "Chesterfield Associates has grave reservations they could pursue the glued and laminated timbers," Leon Kennison, Director of Project Development for the New Hampshire Highway Department, said today.

Instead, according to Kennison, the New Hampshire Highway De-

(Please see BRIDGE-Pg. 8)



THE CONTROVERSY over restoring the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge keeps getting more tangled as differences in opinion about safety and authenticity tie the project up in knots. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

## BRIDGE

From Page 1

partment will request the legislature to reduce the load limit that was mandated last spring to a point where larger cord members could replace the current ones, and still sustain the weight "of fire trucks and cars."

Kennison said the current controversy may delay work on the bridge, but the New Hampshire DOT will go ahead as planned in March and present to the executive council the proposal to purchase temporary staging vital to construction on the bridge.

The other aspects of the project, such as the weight limit and exactly how the restoration will be

completed, will be presented separately to the legislature later this spring, Kennison said.

In the meantime, however, town officials in Windsor are dismayed

by the prospects of more delays in rebuilding a bridge that has been no stranger to controversy. "I think it's frustrating," Hughes said.

# The Forum

## Restore Bridge With Wood

To the Editor:

We have, between the towns of Cornish and Windsor, the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge. This bridge is the longest two-span covered bridge in the United States and is registered as a National Engineering Landmark. Its condition at the time is questionable because of steel plates that have been introduced during the last 40 years. The steel rusts because of the salt spray left by wheels of passing vehicles.

After Gov. Gallen inspected the bridge several years ago, with a group of concerned citizens, the proper bureaucrats of all kinds went to work. They went through the motions of trying to get federal help and "dilly-dallied" for several years.

When it became apparent that the bridge might fall into the Connecticut River, our Legislature voted \$400,000 of immediate money to save the bridge. At this point, one of our bureaucrats announced that he could now get federal money and the money, already voted, was squashed.

An "informational" meeting was called two and a half years ago and to the question, "How long will it take to get the red tape cared for?", the master of ceremonies replied, "You remember it took 17 years to get permission to go through Franconia Notch." Folks there voiced the fear that the old bridge might not be able to wait that long.

Last fall, at meeting number two, Mr. Richard Marshall of the N.H. Public Works and Highways Department was asked a question by an elderly lady and Mr. Marshall said that Mr. Sweirs would "field" that one since it was in his line. It was here that the time, love and sympathy for our great engineering landmark came to the surface. Mr. Sweirs promptly got to his feet and began his remarks as follows: "Now, about that damn bridge." When scolded for his choice of adjectives in describing our bridge, he said that it was merely his rough manner of speaking and did not represent his true feeling for the bridge.

When the meeting closed we were told that several consulting engineers, of experience, would be retained and the most satisfactory would be asked to produce plans for repairs to be let at competitive bidding in 1986. Since repairs, using wood, are not a bidable thing due to lack of qualified "framers," some 25 tons of one-half boiler plate would be used.

The Cornish-Windsor Bridge should be restored to a life expectancy of 100 years more and worked entirely with wood. We are told that nationwide, there are signatures of over 1,600 Covered Bridge Society members that have been sent to the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, declaring steel unacceptable in a wooden covered bridge.

An informational meeting is to be held in Windsor at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 22, in Windsor High School. Interested parties are welcomed, of course.

MILTON S. GRATON

Ashland, N.H.

# Bridge closure bothers many

By JULIAN P. BROWN  
Staff Writer

WINDSOR, Vt. — Believing that repairs on the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge are taking too long, some area residents have called for the span to be reopened to traffic by this summer.

At a recent Windsor Board of Selectmen's meeting, Joseph Dennis, Cornish, clamored for the board to take action by contacting state legislators to have the bridge repair work completed by July 1 — six months before the bridge has been scheduled to reopen.

"We want access to Windsor, we want access to your stores, your hospitals," Dennis told the board. "I am thoroughly tired of not having that bridge."

Dennis said he had gone to the bridge to find out how work was progressing, and told the board that there were only three men working at the time. Dennis said he felt it was "not right" that there "were only" three men repairing the bridge and he questioned why more people couldn't be involved in the work in order to complete the restorations more quickly.

Dennis also said that when he persistently questioned Davies Allan, the president of Chesterfield Associates, the contractors responsible for the bridge, on this matter, he was asked to leave.

"I'm not sure they know how to handle more men," Dennis told the board. "I'm not sure at all they are hurrying to get the job done," he said.

Chairman of the Board of

(Please see BRIDGE-Pg. 6)

said, "when you get up at 5 a.m. every morning and work 9½ to 10 hour days and he comes down and accuses you of not working, that's where he (Dennis) gets a little antagonistic."

During a reporter's walk around the bridge there were five men at work. Three of the workers were laying scaffolding on the north side of the bridge. Walking around on the beams that would eventually hold plywood floors, they seemed oblivious to the icy Connecticut River about 30 feet below them. The other two workers were busy sawing lengths of wood to be used in the work.

When asked if work on the bridge could be completed by July, Leon Kenison, director of project development for the New Hampshire Transportation Department, said "No."

"I think that's out of the question," Kenison said about completing the work by July. "Our contract doesn't call for it to be completed until the end of the year."

Kenison also said that critics of the pace of the repairs had nothing to compare it to and that repairs were already on or ahead of schedule.

Rep. Peter Burling, D-Cornish, also believes work on the bridge is progressing. "To my untrained eye it looks like they're doing a good job. The work seems to be going well. It's expensive work and I'm sure there are some glitches, hold-ups, but at this point I just want to see the work done," Burling said today.

Burling has also started holding bridge informational meetings at 9 a.m. on the first Monday of each month. The intent of the of the meetings, he said, "is to offer an organized opportunity for anyone who is interested to see how the progress on the bridge goes."

"If we are spending all these millions of dollars on the bridge, we might as well learn something," Burling said.

Selectmen Alfred Bruce said he was aware of "a plan" that proposes to get the bridge reopened by next summer.

"That's some potential good news," Bruce said.

Board members also said they would contact members of the joint New Hampshire-Vermont Bridge Commission to find out if the work could be completed sooner.

According to Tony Roberts, project manager for Chesterfield Associates, however, the contractors awarded the bridge contract in the fall of 1987, they are repairing the bridge as quickly as they can and are already a little ahead of schedule. He predicted that foot traffic over the bridge would be resumed by next Thanksgiving.

According to Roberts, five men are currently employed to work on the bridge, and that with the process they are doing it by — one quarter of the span at a time — there is no reason to hire any more workers. Roberts said they are working on the bridge in a sequential manner because if they were to take out all of the cord members at any one time, it would wreck the span's stability, making it vulnerable to high winds.

"We cannot work on all four quadrants of the bridge at the same time because the bridge would lose its stability and we would lose it in a wind storm," Roberts told a reporter visiting the bridge Friday.

Roberts also said that a shortage of room on the bridge restricts the number of people who can work on it at any one time.

"What he (Dennis) doesn't understand is that the job is sequential. By doubling the men all you are doing is doubling the cost," Roberts said. "All you would have is men waiting for other men to finish what they are doing. We have enough men working right now."

When asked why Dennis was told to leave the bridge, Roberts



JOHN FERLAND, a foreman for Chesterfield Associates, moves some beams of a trolley running the length of the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge. (Julian P. Brown Photo)

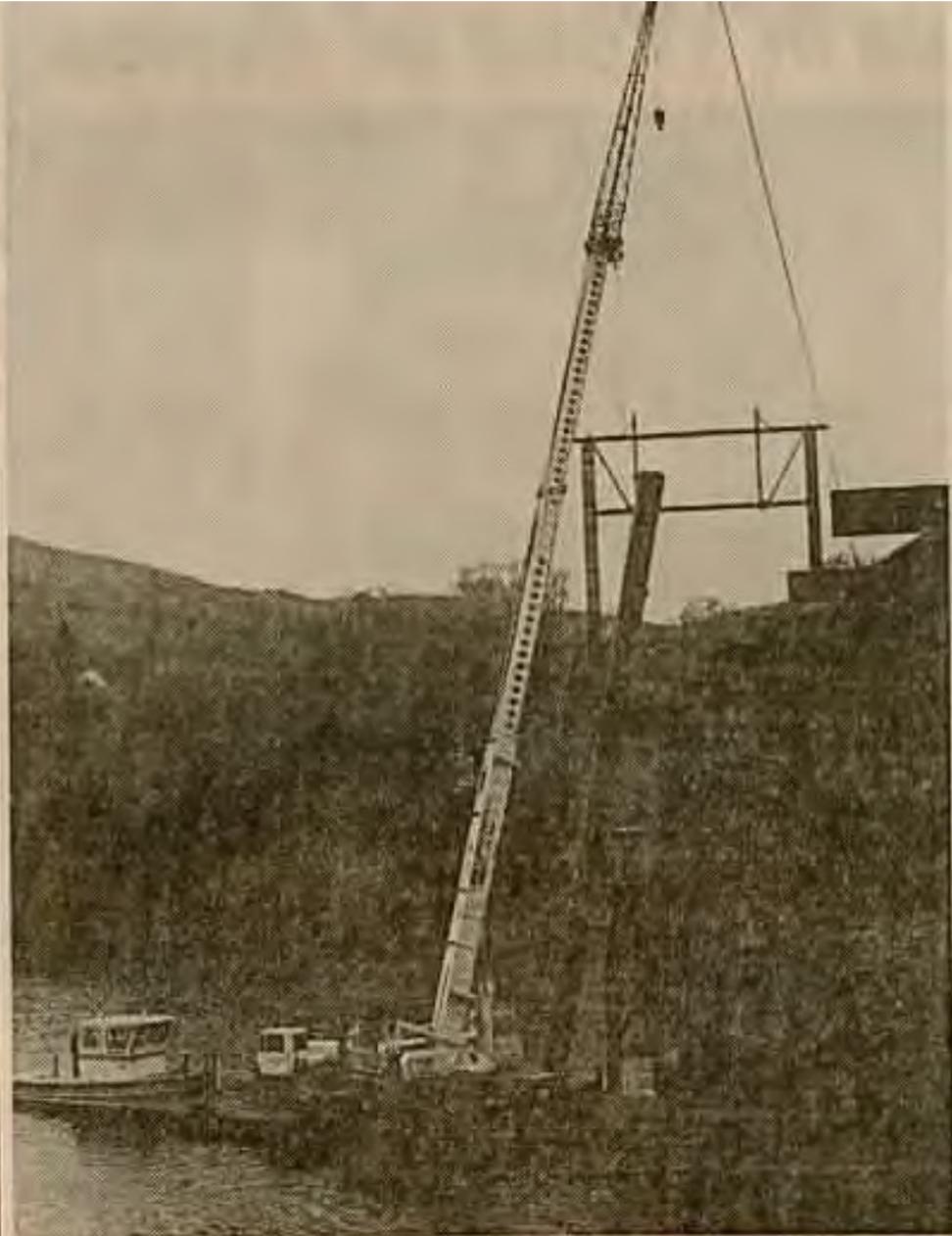


**SETTING THE STAGE** -- This tugboat was delivered from Long Island, N.Y., on Tuesday to the Chesterfield Associates staging site at the Cornish boat landing north of the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge. The boat, along with several barges, will be used in the bridge rehabilitation project. For the extensive planned tower suspension system ("the Disneyland approach") that will be used to support the bridge as old timbers are replaced by new, Project Manager Tony Roberts said iron rods will be used, not wires or cables as originally had been planned. According to a four-month planning calendar in contractor's Cornish field office, the project's first phase -- six weeks of preparation work -- is almost complete. Shoring and staging work is scheduled to begin in July, with construction of the support tower system in August. (Bob Condon Photo)



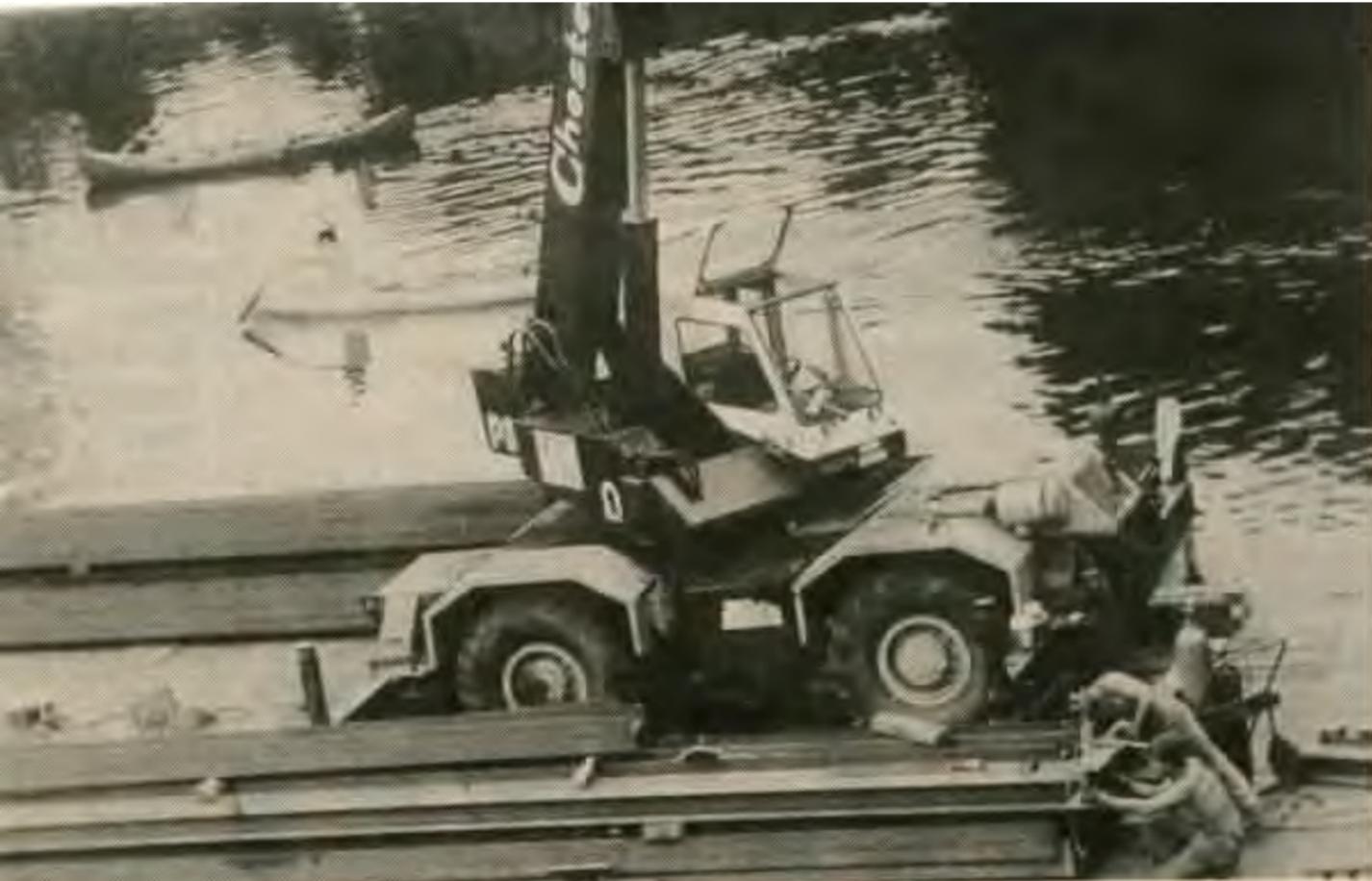
EAGLE TIMES, Tuesday, August 22, 1989— 7

**RE-COVERED** — The Cornish-Windsor covered bridge is on its way to being covered once again, as workers recently began reconstructing the roof. The bridge is expected to be reopened by Thanksgiving. (Wayne Carter Photo)



## ***Bridge Work***

A crane on a barge was used yesterday to set a six-ton, 80-foot-long steel tower in place at the center pier of the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge. The towers are part of a temporary suspension system for the renovation/restoration of the 466-foot-long span. Towers are already in place at the New Hampshire and Vermont ends of the bridge.



**WATCHING THE RIVER FLOW** -- Two canoes pass by the barge and crane being used by Chesterfield Associates in its restoration work on the Cornish-

# Interstate landmark



The Associated Press

About 1,000 people braved the cold for the reopening of a Connecticut River landmark.

## 'A beautiful, useful, marvelous bridge'

### Connecticut River communities celebrate long-awaited reunification

By Adolphe V. Bernotas  
The Associated Press

CORNISH, N.H. — Prayers, parades and politicians from two states blessed and dedicated the reopening of the nation's longest covered bridge that reunited two communities Friday.

About 1,000 shivering Vermonters and New Hampshireites gathered on the east bank of the Connecticut River to cheer the reopening of a \$4.4 million reconstructed Cornish-Windsor Bridge.

#### Aged timber finds new life, 1B

The celebration included a performance by a violinist on an instrument made from the previous bridge's 130-year-old Vermont red spruce. Norman Pickering played "O Tannenbaum" (Oh Spruce Tree) and "Old Man River."

The 466-foot span, built in 1866, had been closed nearly 2½ years after engineers found it unsafe. Residents of Windsor, population 5,000, and Cornish,

1,400, endured detours of up to 24 miles to other river crossings.

The closed span not only divided the communities, but compelled some children to go to other schools and made residents depend on more distant ambulance and other emergency services. It also affected businesses.

Vermont Gov. Madeleine Kunin called the landmark "a beautiful, useful, marvelous bridge." She walked

**Turn to BRIDGE, back page**

# Bridge Is Welcomed Back

## 2 Towns Happy For The Chance To Cross River

By ROGER CARROLL  
Valley News Staff Writer

WINDSOR — "Are we going to get those people back?" Windsor photographer Robert North wondered, meaning the Cornish residents who — unable to cross the Connecticut River — have taken their business elsewhere in the last two years.

The historic Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge was to reopen to traffic today after being closed for 30 months and undergoing \$4.5 million of work to repair damage caused by age, traffic, floods and ice jams. The wooden structure — it's made out of spruce — was closed to motor vehicles on July 2, 1987, with only two days notice.

"I think they'll come back eventually, once they find out how much they missed coming over," Sharlene Nowlan said as she wrapped sandwiches behind the cash register at The English Muffin, her Main Street coffee shop. "I think a lot of them are as anxious to come back as we are to have them."

Some Windsor merchants this week talked about their Cornish neighbors in tones normally reserved for favorite cousins seen only at family reunions. Who can blame them? The closing hurt.

A poll taken by the Windsor Chamber of Commerce three months after the bridge was closed to cars and trucks estimated that business was off by as much as \$10,000 a week. If that estimate remained accurate through the closing, it works out to \$1.3 million over the 2½ years that the bridge was closed.

"I used to see several people from Cornish and Plainfield every week," said North. "Immediately after it closed I went for about a month before I saw somebody from Cornish." Long enough, he said, so that he took notice when a customer said he was from across the river.

"We lost business when it closed," said Mike Kenison, assistant manager at the P&C supermarket on

(Continued on page 12)

— BRIDGE



Valley News Geoff Hamann

Idella Adams, 8, will need to stick to the sidewalk on Bridge Street after the bridge reopens.

## No More Dead-End On Bridge Street

By MICHAEL FISCH  
Valley News Staff Writer

WINDSOR — When cars begin driving over the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge again today, it will be bad news for some Windsor drivers. Like 6-year-old Reggie Langhaus.

Reggie, who lives near the bridge on Bridge Street, won't be able to drive his remote control car or ride his skateboard on the street anymore.

If anyone can be said to have benefited from the 30-month shut-down of the bridge, it might be the residents of Bridge Street, which runs from the west end of the bridge to downtown Windsor, less than a half mile off. Since the closing, the neighborhood has had a dead-end street, free of the 2,000 or so cars that usually passed by each day. Free, also, of "those ones who like to (play) cowboy in there loud cars," said Bridge Street resident Greta Adams.

Things probably will be relatively quiet for the winter as far as the cowboys go, she said, but she expects that come warm weather, they'll be joy-riding again.

Adams said the drop in traffic has been good for the neighborhood's children, who've had few cars to worry them, and so have been "just going wherever they wanted to."

"(But) now they'll have to mind their manners and stay off the street," she said. "At least they've got the winter to learn the ropes again."

Bridge Street resident William Husband agreed that the street will be more dangerous for children. With the bridge open, he said, the street is a speedway. "I assume the kids (drivers) are going to get beer," he said. Still, he allowed, merchants need

(Continued on page 12)

By BRAD HILLS

Union Leader Correspondent

CORNISH — Business is back to normal at the 12 Percent Solution grocery store on Route 12-A, just south of the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge.

"We saw about a 65 percent increase in business this weekend," store owner Dominic Danieli Jr. said yesterday.

Danieli was one of the victims when the New Hampshire Department of Transportation closed the nation's longest covered bridge for safety reasons on July 2, 1987. Vermonters could no longer reach his store without traveling to Connecticut River bridges between Ascutney, Vt., and Claremont, and White River Junction, Vt., and West Lebanon.

Business at the 12 Percent Solution dropped about 70 percent when the DOT first closed the span. "It leveled off at 60 percent," Danieli said.

The bridge reopened Friday after renovations and restoration by Chesterfield Associates Inc. of Westhampton Beach, N.Y.

# *Things Are Up 65% At the '12 Percent At End of the Bridge*

"It seems like (business) came right back," said Danieli. "It was like a big reunion here, seeing all those people we had seen for two and one-half years."

"People were real excited," he said.

Danieli said his wife obtained a full-time job to make ends meet while the bridge was closed. "It drained our bank accounts down to nothing, but it looks good now," he said.

Representatives from businesses in Windsor echoed

Danielli's comments.

"Business has been really good. It picked up," said Donna Marcoux, who owns the Main Street restaurant The Brunch Bar with her husband, Roger.

She said New Hampshire residents returned to the restaurant during the weekend. "It took me a while to recognize some of them," Marcoux said. "Everybody said, 'Boy, I'm glad that bridge is open.' "

Marie Prevost, manager of the Big M Variety Store on Main Street, reported that business picked up during the weekend. "I saw a lot of people who were from New Hampshire," Prevost said.

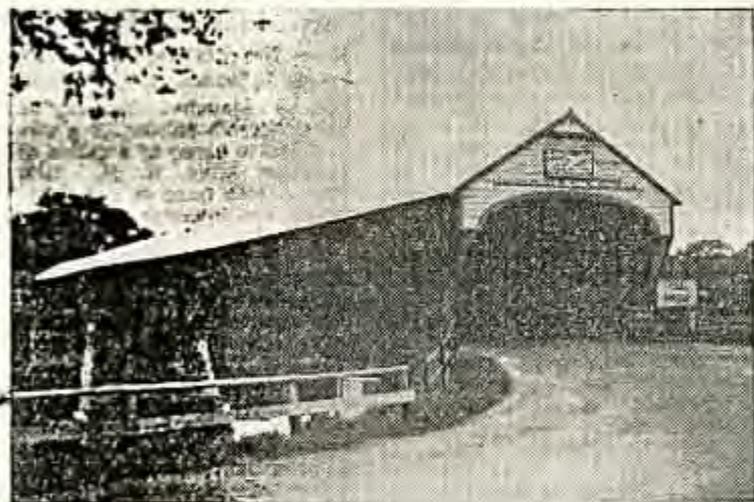
The Village News & Gift Co., which is also on Main Street, just about sold all of its Sunday newspapers.

Before the bridge closed, a number of Cornish and Plainfield residents purchased their Sunday newspapers at the store.

"We're going to increase the number of copies," said a clerk at the store.

# Cornish Bridge to Be Freed

End Toll Collection on June 1



The Cornish bridge across the Connecticut river, above, one of the few remaining covered spans in the state, after more than 150 years as a toll bridge will be free to its users, beginning June 1, under an act of the present Legislature.

Special to The Union.

CORNISH, April 11—The historic covered bridge over the Connecticut river here, the third of a series of wooden spans at the same location in a period of more than 150 years, finally will be free to its users on June 1, under an act of the present Legislature approved recently by Gov. Robert O. Blood.

Privately owned until 1935, when the Legislature authorized the state Highway Department to purchase the present structure, it has always been a toll bridge.

It was not slated to be freed, under the 1935 act, until two years

hence, but citizens of this and surrounding towns appealed to the present General Court to advance the date since the state highway fund had already been reimbursed the purchase price of \$20,000, in addition to maintenance costs of \$12,000 in the past eight years, with about \$1,000 to spare.

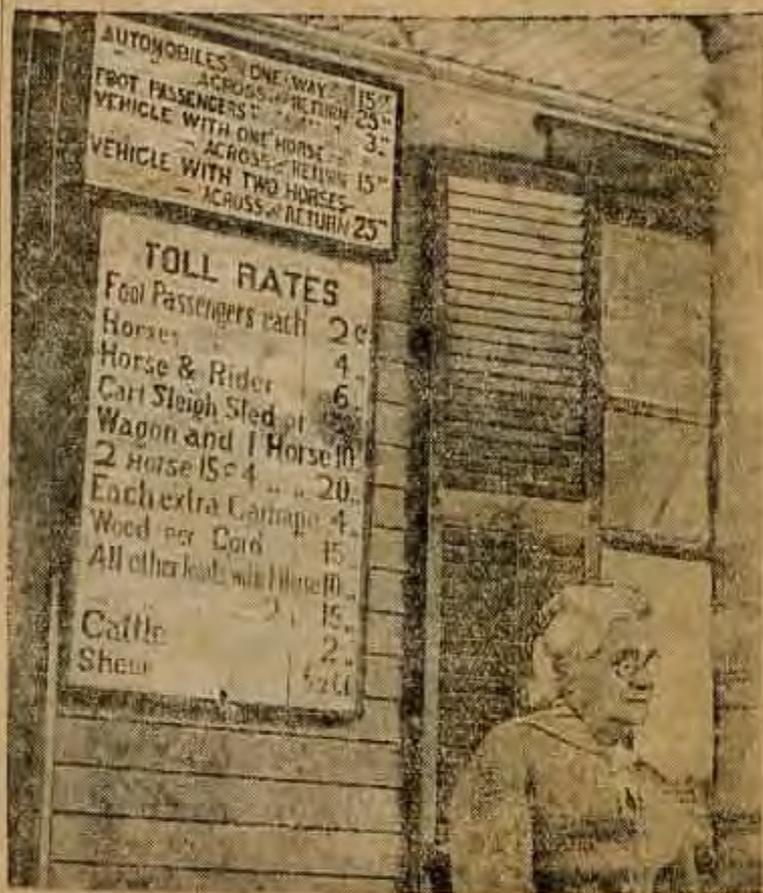
The bill to free the bridge immediately was introduced in the State Senate by Sen. John R. Kelly of Newport, at the request of Rep. Lena A. Read of Plainfield and other sponsors. Because of Highway Department objections, based on the need for further repairs at this time, the effective date was changed to the first of June.

employed in putting the case together.

By sending out thousands of dozens of eggs packed in many cases and stowed in different ways in cars and then recording the condition of the eggs on their arrival after a long journey, the specialists have determined that a

W. Williams Scrapbook

# Woman Toll Keeper at Her Post for 30 Years



Toll Taker  
Cornish-  
Windsor  
Covered  
Bridge

## TOLL BRIDGE TENDER AT WINDSOR, VT., 30 YEARS.

Mrs. G. W. Dunmoor, a widow, who day and night collects the toll from traffic passing over the State line bridge on the Connecticut River between Windsor and Cornish, N. H.

Vermont's woman toll-bridge keeper is a snow-haired old lady who for 30 years has marked the passage day or night of every vehicle, person or animal that has crossed the Connecticut River over the Windsor, Vt., and Cornish, N. H. line bridge.

Mrs. G. W. Dunmoor, left a widow, has carried on this work that was her husband's, and regardless of the hour, season or weather, has come out on the porch of her cozy home to mark and collect for—all that passes by her door.

Automobiles were an unknown quantity, unthought of even when Vermont's first woman toll-bridge keeper began to take her tolls. Now the old covered bridge rattles to their speeding wheels almost continuously day and night. And very famous, too, the passengers that ride in them and that pass out to Mrs. Dunmoor the tolls demanded for coming and going.

Artists, authors, actors, society folk—for Cornish hides, among its hilly fastnesses, fairy-like palaces, mountain castles and quaint old homesteads where dwell hundreds of the most specially gifted people in America—have paid toll into the hands of Mrs. Dunmoor. She knew Augustus St. Gaudens, the world-famous sculptor; Winston Churchill, the

author, spends by almost daily; Maxwell Parrish and Livingston Platt, the painters—these are only a few of the famous folk.

There's a brand new sign hanging on the old homestead on the bridge—one that announces automobile rates for crossing. Beside this hangs the quaint old original sign—newly painted, to be sure, for everything in Mrs. Dunmoor's care is well kept up—which tells the amount that must be paid for single and two-horse hitches; for crossing on horseback or in sleigh and for crossing on foot. There's the sheep for one-half cent piece, announcement that bears testimony to the time when this section knew more of sheep raising than of any other scheme of gaining a livelihood.

## CORNISH - WINDSOR BRIDGE

Our third and final overview concerns the reconstruction of the bridge which now spans the Connecticut between Cornish, N.H. and Windsor, Vt. This project bore many similarities to that which took place at East Northfield, in that the replacement bridge was constructed on a totally new alignment which required new approaches to be surveyed and roadbed to be graded. The new Cornish - Windsor bridge was built at the same grade level as the old, but at a more gentle angle across the river, which increased its length somewhat. The southerly abutments were located very close

to one another, whereas those on the north end were a hundred or so feet apart. Considerable new fill and grading work was performed at the northern end to produce a more moderate approach curve, however, despite these efforts, the existing curve remains quite severe at this location.

Photo 1 shows the old four-span through-truss bridge (on the left side of the picture) with construction work on the new piers underway in the center. Looking between these two piers, on the opposite shore, can be seen some of the service cars which are stored on temporary sidings. These were used by the construction crews during the rebuilding process. Photo 2 gives us a closer view of the cofferdams that surround the pier's location, as well as the temporary trestlework and associated construction trackage. Both views were taken on a balmy -10 degree day in December of 1929. One month later, in January of 1930, flood waters did considerable damage to the work which had already been performed, as well as to much of the construction equipment.



Photo 1



Photo 2

# Cornish claims four covered bridges

By VIRGINIA COLBY

Cornish, New Hampshire is the home of four covered bridges, all of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The most famous of the covered bridges is the 460 foot Cornish-Windsor bridge which spans the Connecticut River. It has the distinction of being the longest covered bridge in the United States. The constant object of "shutter-bugs," it can hardly be passed without observing someone taking pictures.

On April 3rd, 1866, shortly after the 1849 structure washed away, James F. Tasker of Cornish (who could neither read nor write,) and Bela J. Fletcher of Claremont signed a contract for the construction of the present bridge. The Towne lattice timber truss design was used which was patented by Ithiel Towne in 1820. Construction took approximately seven months.

The Cornish Bridge Corporation had its beginnings with an original list dated April 13, 1796. In an act passed by the New Hampshire legislature in January 1795, Jonathan Chase of Cornish was given the right to build a bridge within the limits of his Ferry Grant on the Connecticut River between Cornish and Windsor, Vermont. The present span is the fourth to be built on this site. The 1796, 1824, and 1849 bridges were all destroyed by floods.

During the period when Windsor livestock was pastured in Cornish, toll charges were 1/2 cent each for sheep and 1 cent per cow, with foot passengers paying 2 cents each. Records for October 24, 1825 show that 838 sheep and 259 cattle crossed the bridge that day.

The bridge also bore a sign, "Walk your horses or pay a two dollar fine." Horses sometimes refused to enter the dark, tunnel-like structure, so windows were cut to allow more light. In winter, snow had to be hauled in to allow sleighs a smooth passage through the bridge; this was called "snowing the bridge."

The privately owned Cornish Bridge was purchased by the state of New Hampshire in 1935 for \$20,000. In 1943 the toll fares were 15 cents one way, 25 cents for a round trip, 1 dollar for a monthly pass, and 6 dollars for a yearly pass. The purchase price, along with maintenance costs of \$12,000, had been repaid by 1943, and legislation was introduced to eliminate the tolls; this was done with a festive ceremony and many dignitaries in attendance on June 1, 1943.

In 1970 the bridge was honored by being designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Cornish Historical Society recently reinstalled the old sign, "Walk your horses or pay a two dollar fine," to the Cornish end of the bridge.

Other covered bridges in Cornish include the Kenyon bridge, most popularly known as the Blacksmith Shop covered bridge, because of its proximity of blacksmith Charlie Sturtevant's shop. This structure is 96 feet long, and was built in 1881 by James F. Tasker using the multiple kingpost truss design, and it spans Mill brook. At present it is closed to vehicular traffic, but the Cornish Historical Society is hopeful of having it restored.

The Dingleton Hill covered bridge, located at Cornish Mills, is 81 feet long and was constructed by Tasker using the multiple kingpost truss. This bridge is currently open to traffic.

Blow-Me-Down covered bridge is 91 feet long and spans a brook by the same name. It was also built by Tasker and of the multiple kingpost truss design. Unfortunately, it was damaged by a truck and was closed to traffic for several years. Recently, however, the local landmark was repaired by the nationally known covered bridge experts, Milton and Arnold Graton, a father and son team from Ashland, New Hampshire.

This was a project of the Cornish Historical Society, with funds coming from the town, the state of New Hampshire, the Cornish Historical Society, and private donations. The bridge was re-opened on October 26th of this year with public ceremonies.

Many reasons for covering a bridge have been set forth over the years. Milton Graton cites the most common explanations:

- "1) To comfort an otherwise frightened horse with the thought that he was entering a barn;
- "2) To shelter travelers from the rain;
- "3) To allow one to hide with his neighbor's girlfriend or daughter; and
- "4) To shelter a farmer's load of hay in a shower.

"But the one overpowering reason for the bridge being covered is to prevent such damage as would come to your house if it had a leaking roof. The first four reasons mentioned, though no doubt welcome, must be considered to be by-products."

Efforts are now underway to ensure and plan for the preservation of the Cornish-Windsor bridge. It is in danger of falling victim to heavy traffic for which it was not designed and is already in need of substantial repairs. New Hampshire state highway engineers met recently with officials from Windsor and Cornish to outline procedures to be followed in searching for a solution to the problem.

Engineering and environmental studies, along with traffic pattern analyses and numerous other matters, have to be explored on both sides of the Connecticut River before decisions regarding the structure's fate can be made. All parties, however, are committed to saving the historic bridge.

(Virginia Colby lives in Cornish, N.H.)



Illustration by Bob Mathewson



Admiring the **Allyn Cox** mural in the Windsor Public Library is Assistant Librarian Bev Laptos.

## Career began in Windsor

Four weeks ago an article appeared in the Boston Globe noting the passing of Allyn Cox in Washington, D.C. Ordinarily the death of a non-political figure in Washington would have little meaning for Windsorites, but this is a different case.

Cox, who was 86 at the time of his death, was one of

America's foremost artists. Perhaps his most monumental work was the completion of a 300-foot long mural in the Capitol rotunda. The epic mural was begun in 1852 by Italian artist Constantino Brumidi who worked on it until 1880 when he fell to his death from the scaffolding. Filippo Costaggini took on the task after Brumidi's death, but he died leaving some 32 feet still unfinished.

For Cox, being called upon to complete the frieze was the fulfillment of a childhood dream. He related that his parents had taken him to the Capitol when he was young, and there he had viewed the unfinished space under the dome. He said that he used to dream of doing the final work on the epic one day. That dream came true when he was commissioned to finish the mural in the early 1950s.

Cox brought the masterpiece to its completion, and it was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in May of 1954. In succeeding years Cox received commissions to do more mural works in Washington, and he was honored barely a week before his

death by a special gathering of artists and government leaders.

So what does all of this have to do with Windsor? Well, it could be realistically said that Cox got his start in Windsor. The mural which stands above the west fireplace of the Windsor Public Library was painted by Cox, then 20 years old, in the summer of 1916.

The Cox connection with Windsor was rediscovered by Marguerite Nyberg, a summer employee at the library, in 1978. She called Librarian Gail Furnas' attention to the Cox mural, and a bit of research by Furnas ascertained that the artist was the same Allyn Cox who was esteemed throughout the world for his murals. A letter to Cox prompted a reply which was quite informative.

Cox, the son of Kenyon and Louise Cox, who were both artists, first came to this area with his parents. They were part of the group of artists who gathered around Augustus Saint-Gaudens in Cornish and became known as the Cornish Colony.

Seeking some summer ex-

*(continued on page 3)*

### Career

*(from page 1)*

experience painting before departing for Rome for three years of study at the American Academy there. Cox asked Sherman Everts, a library official, if he could decorate the overmantle panel at no cost to the library. There being no objection from the library board, the young artist began his summer's work. When he was finished the appreciative library board presented him with a leather-bound volume of "The Hundred Best Pictures."

The Cox mural in Windsor depicts a man and a female figure, which appears to be an angel. He is reading a book and she is holding a lyre or similar instrument. Beneath the figures is a Latin inscription, supplied by Everts, which means "Accurate reading is of profit, varied (reading) delights." Cox's signature is in the lower left corner and the date, 1916, in

Roman numerals, is at the lower right.

Following the death of his father in 1919 and the sale of their Cornish cottage by his mother, Cox returned to the area only for very brief visits. Still, the Windsor-Cornish area was never out of his mind. He wrote to Furnas in a note dated August 20, 1982 that he had been in touch with National Parks Department with regard to the refurbishing of the Saint-Gaudens house, of which his mother had taken many photographs. The idea, he wrote, "makes the old days seem very near."

The thousands of visitors who annually admire the Cox works throughout Washington may never give a thought to the artist's background, but Windsorites can take a small bit of pride in having his first mural in their community.



**HUFFING AND PUFFING** — More than 200 people turned out for the dedication of the Cornish Recreation and Education Area recently. The new fields were recently completed and opened to youngsters and parents alike. Balloon rides were a highlight of the day. Above, the balloon is being inflated.

*Essex Times Oct 22, 1991 p 8 CREA*

## 200 turn out for Cornish ceremonies

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — More than 200 people attended a day of celebration and dedication for the completion of the Cornish Recreation and Education Area located on Town House and Parsonage roads.

Although the weekend weather was cool, most in attendance recently spent the entire afternoon there, many of them involving themselves in one kind of sport or other or just enjoying the student soccer games.

Moving from the soccer field to the baseball diamond, games such as Frisbee and others that required cooperation between youngsters filled out time until a hot air balloon was brought to the field from Post Mills Airport.

This event was a real crowd stopper as those attending became interested how the balloon was inflated.

Some 90 people were given short rides in the balloon, first of all Rickey Poor and Michael Yatskevitch, longtime members of the Cornish Conservation Commission CREA project.

"We got to go up a little higher than most, and were able to see the entire project from the air," said Poor. "When the balloon was brought back down to about eight feet from the ground, Poor read a proclamation, noting all the work and cooperation that had gone into the project, which has been ongoing for several years. Signs were also unveiled at this time honoring Rodney Palmer, and Leonard "Bunny" Barker and Joan and Paul Queneau, which will be placed in appropriate areas of the project.

The Rodney Palmer Environmental Studies Area was designed for the use of Cornish Elementary School students and teachers and was funded by a donation by Margery Palmer Trumbull, made in memory of her brother.

The nature trail provides an ideal outdoor laboratory where students can observe nature first hand. It provides opportunities to



**READY TO GO** — Balloon rides were given for much of the afternoon. (Ruth Rollins Photos)

### Cornish Recreation and Education Area

observe wildlife in its natural environment, study streams, ponds and forest areas.

The Barker Soccer Field was named in memory of "Bunny" Barker who believed in education, conservation, public service and young people.

He served as one of the first members of the Cornish Conservation Commission. He was the "founding father" of the CREA project, envisioning the possibilities of setting aside land for public education and recreation use.

Barker persuaded others to share his vision and set clear goals for the project's success. A hard worker, with a sense of humor and a supporter of others, he inspired many to take action to meet those goals.

The Queneaus were on hand for the unveiling of the Queneau Baseball Field sign. They have been longtime supporters of conservation and education.

Joan Queneau was a member of the Conservation Commission in early years and Paul Queneau has served on the CREA Committee since it was formed. He is still an active member.

For many years, Queneau also worked on the town's Recreation Committee. The couple have made a commitment to the children of Cornish.

Their pledge of financial support for the construction of the athletic fields (baseball and soccer) was the catalyst needed to move the CREA

project forward.

Special recognition was also given Wilber Overman and Jesse Stone, who worked clearing stones, constructing bleachers, filling in ruts, building a backstop and repairing a barn on the property.

Both men have served on the CREA Committee since its formation and continue to lend their support.

The 76-acre property, purchased by the town in 1983, has been transformed to allow the citizens of Cornish an opportunity to enjoy recreational and educational benefits, while woodlands, field and wetlands have retained their original beauty.

The Cornish Recreational Education Area project is an example of how a town can successfully combine the goal of conservation and development for the common benefit of a community.

Throughout the day fourth grade students gave guided tours of the nature trail, using expertise learned from a workshop taught by Marie Caduto and the continued study of the area, under the teaching of Linda Fuerst, fourth grade-teacher at the Cornish Elementary School, who has already made use of the property to give students hands-on experience.

Eighth-grade students sold food throughout the day to raise funds for their class treasury. Festivities ended with a bonfire after a long day of fun.



CREA Cornish Recreation and Education Area

Valley News — Nancy Wasserman

George Edson and HERRIKA POOR, of the Cornish Conservation Commission, study plans for a town recreation area. The commission was asking for donations to match federal funds to develop the site, near the elementary school.



*A pleasant place to explore nature in Cornish - photo by Cindy Davis*

## CHEAP THRILLS

CREA

### Walking Tour - Rodney Palmer Environmental Study Area by Cindy Davis

The temperature was mild for September, the sun was shining brightly and there was a slight breeze. It was like stepping into another world as we left the beautiful sunshine behind and walked into the darkness of the forest. We had just entered the Rodney Palmer Environmental Study Area in Cornish, New Hampshire. It is located across the street from the Cornish Fairgrounds. From Claremont on Route 120, take a left onto Townhouse Road, as if you were headed to the fair. About 2 miles down on the right, you'll come to the Town Hall and the Fairgrounds. There are no parking signs everywhere, ostensibly for the benefit of fairgoers, but there was plenty of room in the Town Hall lot. The walking tour begins directly across the street. You'll see the sign a few feet into the woods. It's not something you might see easily from the road.

The trees grew thickly, a mass of maple, oak, and beech interspersed with plenty of pine and hemlock. Groundcover grows well here too, lots of fern in groups. We were a bit disappointed that there were no brochures telling of this area. Not that it is

large enough to need a map, but there are hundreds of varieties of trees, insects and groundcover here, most of which is recognizable, but not so common that the name comes rolling off the tongue.

The first turnoff you come to is on the left. It is marked with an orange blaze. This heads uphill in a somewhat steep grade. The trail is narrow but quite passable. It twists and turns back on itself until it arrives at the top of a large knoll. There is a clearing, which is not very far from the main roadway, but affords a view of the fairgrounds below. There is much evidence of deer, partridge and fox.

The walk back down the hill is steep and leads back onto the main trail. The pathway is well maintained. It appears to have been mowed regularly. Someone has even cut away the small brush which has a tendency to close in on open areas.

Not too far along, there is a fork in the path. We selected the right hand one. Our curiosity was piqued on viewing a nicely built wooden walkway not too far ahead. What was it built over? It turned out to be a not too deep, but swiftly moving stream. No fish visible, but lots of waterbugs. This route

# Bird Watching

led past some toadstools, and a few raspberry and blackberry bushes, well picked over by the birds, which by the way, led loudly by a group of bluejays, announced our intrusion into their domain.

The deer and fox tracks crossed and crisscrossed the trail often. Many prints were quite recent. A small flock of partridge had recently been scratching in the soil in search of insects. Their seemingly mindless scratchings formed an intricate pattern about an inch deep in the hemlock cones and needles.

Another boardwalk crossed over some not too wetlands. The trail led out to a small peaceful pine grove, which was bordered by somewhat undersized apple trees. Then, shortly, it dead ended behind a large red barn. We sat for a while in the shade of the trees near a large boulder. No one appeared to be about.

Retracing our steps, we saw some deer tracks which weren't there previously. Although we had been listening carefully for "company", neither of us had heard a thing. Ever have the feeling you're being followed?

Back at the fork in the path, we headed down the left hand branch. Here we noted a tree with quite strange bark. It was light and smooth, but shaped in upright stripes of smooth ridges. You'll see for yourself, when you go. We queried that it was a type of hickory. There were quite a few of this variety mingled with the other trees (previously mentioned). Unfortunately, none of them are able to attain full growth, they're growing so tightly together.

The trail was still packed with footprints. We heard a light thrashing in the woods to our left and slightly ahead of us. It quickly ceased as we stopped walking. Did you ever have the feeling you were being watched?

This path led out into another field, this time a soccer/baseball field used by the school children. A left here and hike slightly uphill would lead back out onto the main road just a few hundred feet past the Town Hall. We elected to retrace our steps back (through the woods). Maybe this time we'd see the elusive figure which appeared to be following us...

Alas, we were to be disappointed.

This entire walk only covered a relatively short distance and lasted about an hour, so with some time to spare, we decided to get into the car and find something else to do. Heading a little further down Townhouse Road, we found just what we were looking for, Covered Bridge #21. Otherwise known as Kenyon Hill Covered Bridge or more commonly in the area of Cornish City, the Blacksmith Shop Covered Bridge because of its proximity to old Charlie Stortevant's smithy.

This is a marvelous piece of old architecture, built in 1881 by James Tasker at the outrageous price of \$873. Tasker is well known for his bridge designs, he also built the 81' Dingleton Hill Covered Bridge (#22) and with Bela Fletcher, covered bridge #20, the Cornish/Windsor Covered Bridge (in the National Register of Historic Places it's listed as the longest covered bridge in the United States and the longest two-span covered bridge in the world).

Kenyon Hill Covered Bridge is constructed of a multiple kingpost truss design and is 96' long. It's fun to visualize this narrow thoroughfare as the main road through Cornish, to imagine the horses and buggies chugging noisily across Mill Brook, up the hill, and into town.

Restored in 1983, it was also restricted to non-vehicular traffic that same year. It's quite narrow, barely wide enough for a 4 wheeler to travel. The trees are grown over the top of the roadway, and it's quite dark. There are many maples and oaks, and grass growing in the road. The walk is enjoyable, peaceful, quiet, and best of all, no bugs!

We didn't stay too long in this woodland paradise. Unfortunately, we spent so much time admiring the architecture, that we ran out of time. But, take your camera and a jacket and have fun!



Across from Cornish Town Hall - photo by Cindy Davis



# Current Use Or Misuse?

## Corbin Park Is Among Tracts That Benefit From Shift In Local Taxes, But Program's Supporters Say It Keeps Millions Of Acres Undeveloped

By RICK JURGENS  
VALLEY NEWS STAFF WRITER

CROYDON

**"Corbin Park pays fair taxes for what it is."**

**Pat Jackson**  
Lobbyist who helped write  
New Hampshire's current use law

on farm and forest parcels 10 acres or larger. The program enjoys widespread support, and its backers credit it with adding to the state's quality of life by slowing or stopping the development of open space.

Statewide, 31,000 owners have enrolled 2.9 million acres, or about 51.5 percent of the state's land area, in current use. A few towns have no land in current use, while the percentage in some Coos County towns exceeds 90 percent. Coos County has the biggest proportion of its property in current use, nearly two-thirds of its land area. Sullivan County is second, at about 65 percent.

The current use law opens with a declaration of the state's intention to "prevent the loss of open space due to property taxation at values incompatible with open space usage." Steve Taylor of Meriden, the state's agriculture commissioner and a member of the board that sets current use value ranges, recalls that long-term campaigns to pass the constitutional amendment and legislation necessary to bring current use laws to New Hampshire stressed the program's potential public benefit.

So some local officials were surprised when the Blue Mountain Forest Association applied in 1974 to include its Corbin Park hunting preserve in the new program, according to Taylor, who was then a Plainfield selectman. "We assumed that this was the 'open space' program," he said. "We were astonished that land that was fenced off and had these menacing signs on the gates (qualified for the program), but we were wrong."

The 100-year-old, 30-square-mile preserve includes portions of five towns: Croydon, 9,940 acres or about 42 percent of the town; Cornish, 3,810 acres, 14 percent of the town; Plainfield, 3,160 acres, 9 percent of the town; Grantham, 2,588 acres, about 15 percent of the town; and

See Current Use — Page A7

**F**aced with a 26 percent increase in the local property tax rate, residents at Croydon's town and school district meetings in March spent hours attempting to squeeze pennies out of their budgets.

They cut \$20,000 from the road maintenance budget, which reduced the tax rate by 59 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, but decided not to cut the kindergarten teacher's salary from \$7,400 to \$5,400, which would have saved an additional 6 cents. That cut failed by a single vote.

But there was no opportunity to vote on an item with a much larger impact on the local tax rate — about \$4.78 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

That's the effect on local taxpayers of the state-mandated "current use" tax break that the town gives to the Blue Mountain Forest Association, which owns 9,940 acres in Croydon. Croydon's assessors say the association's eight parcels inside the 9-foot fence that surrounds the exclusive and secretive hunting preserve have a market value of \$5.883 million.

The preserve, known as Corbin Park, occupies about 42 percent of the land area and constitutes a major portion of the tax base in Croydon, which has 620 residents and this year will need to raise more than \$1 million from property taxes to pay for schools and town and county government.

But the Blue Mountain Forest Association is expected to pay less than \$30,000 in property taxes in Croydon this year. That's because most of the association's land — about 9,914 acres in Croydon — is taxed at a current use value within a range set by state officials. For those acres, Blue Mountain's owners pay taxes on a current use value of \$673,000, even though

the town estimates the actual value at \$5.58 million. If the association paid taxes on the market value of its property at the 1998 rate of about \$30 per thousand, its bill would increase by about \$150,000.

Blue Mountain Forest Association's tax burden is reduced under New Hampshire's current use program, which for the last quarter century has given property owners the opportunity to substantially reduce the tax burden



Valley News May 31, 1998

Town	Corbin Park Acres	Acres In Current Use	Assessment Of Corbin Park With Current Use	Assessment Of Corbin Park Without Current Use	Estimated Lost Tax Base
Newport	50	50	\$1,724	\$31,900	\$30,176
Croydon	9,940	9,915	\$972,836	\$5,883,000	\$4,910,264
Grantham	2,588	2,586	\$88,842	\$916,100	\$827,258
Plainfield	3,160	3,158	\$205,191	\$1,387,900	\$1,182,709
Cornish	3,810	3,808	\$469,057	\$2,408,600	\$1,939,543

# Current Use Program Benefits

Continued from page A1

Newport, 49.5 acres, less than 1 percent of the town.

Corbin Park is a fenced-in enclosure, where a handful of members are not subject to state fish and game laws when they hunt deer, elk and wild boar. (The buffalo herd hasn't survived, although the paths the heavy animals wore through the land are still visible, according to association Superintendent Jerry Merrill.)

Much of Corbin Park seems unsuitable for development, since it includes the barren heights of Croydon and Grantham mountains (which are plainly visible to drivers headed north on Interstate 89).

But there is no requirement in the law that current use land be open to the public or that the owners demonstrate that it's threatened with development. Much of the case law regarding New Hampshire's current use program is in Supreme Court rulings on lawsuits involving the Blue Mountain Forest Association's property. Association President David M. Richards, a Worcester, Mass. developer, did not respond to questions that were submitted to him in writing at his request.

CORBIN PARK'S FENCE is unusual, but the fact that its open space is restricted to the public is fairly typical. Although land owners can receive an additional tax break if they promise to keep a parcel open to the public for skiing, hiking, hunting, snowshoeing, fishing and nature observation, owners receive this benefit for only about 40 percent of the land in the program.

The signs posted on the fence around Corbin Park make it clear that that property isn't one of those. That bothers Peter Burling, the Democratic leader in the New Hampshire House, who has a 180-acre farm (which he says is open for recreational use) in Cornish in the program. "I've always been troubled by the fact that Blue Mountain Forest Association shuts everybody out and asks for and gets current use," he said.

But Pat Jackson, an Exeter, N.H., lobbyist who helped write and pass the law, noted that the preserve has no residents, sends no children to school and requires few town services. "Corbin Park pays fair taxes for what it is," he says.

Croydon, Cornish and Plainfield — the three towns with the largest areas in Corbin Park — rejected Blue Mountain Forest

Association's original applications for current use assessment. In 1977, the state Supreme Court ruled in favor of the association's appeal, and included Corbin Park in the program. Croydon returned to the Supreme Court two more times attempting to limit the law's impact on its local tax base, but lost each time.

William Clauson, who represented Croydon in those challenges, remains a strong critic of the program, which he characterizes as "simply a gift to the rich."

But legislators across the country have embraced current use. A 1991 survey by the National Conference of State Legislatures found that all 50 states had a law providing for use-value assessment of farmland, and all six New England states plus 30 other states offered similar protection to timberland. In New Hampshire, less than 10 percent of the land enrolled in the program is agricultural. Most of the rest is timberland.

Supporters of current use note that since undeveloped land has no residents and businesses, it requires few tax-supported expenditures or services from towns. "Trees don't go to school," says Rep. Merle Schotanus, R-Grantham, who has 13 acres in the program.

"Current use protects open space and municipal budgets," says Jackson, the lobbyist who helped write and pass the law.

That argument, actually, is written into the law: "Open space land imposes few if any costs on local government and is therefore an economic benefit to its citizens."

But linking the tax burden of land to the extent of services it requires can also be tricky, as evidenced by one local lawmaker with property enrolled in the program. Sen. Jim Rubens, R-Etna, said that he pays \$11 a year in property taxes on an 11-acre parcel with a market value of \$150,000. "Current use allows me to keep that land open rather than sell it," he said. While that land requires virtually no services, maintaining the roads that provide access to it probably costs more than \$11, he said. "I'm probably underpaying on my own particular parcel," he said.

Doug Morris, a professor of resource economics at the University of New Hampshire, says, "If you follow the argument that open space pays, the logical thing would be (to) just build a wall around New Hampshire and make it all open space."

That approach may not seem too far from reality in a town like Croydon, where nearly three-quarters of the land is in the current use program. In the other four towns that contain portions of Corbin Park, the total

share of the town placed in current use by various owners ranges from 48 percent in Grantham to 82 percent in Cornish.

Local officials in the towns around Corbin Park say they have learned to live with the program. "There continues to be general support for current use in our town," said Steve Halleran, the town administrator in Plainfield. "Generally, that is not seen as the problem." When there is grumbling about the distribution of the local tax burden, it usually is focused more upon tax-exempt properties, such as Kimball Union Academy and some local church properties, he said.

Jacquelyn Cochrane, a school board member in Croydon, said she couldn't recall any discussion there about the impact of current use or Corbin Park's status.

Cochrane also said William Ruger Sr., a director of the hunting preserve who has a residence in Croydon, has been good to the town, donating books to the school and attorney's fees to town government. "Blue Mountain (Forest Association) has never done anything," she said. "If (they) would like to be good neighbors, we certainly would accept any donations they would like (to make) to the Croydon school."

That farm and forest land requires fewer services than residential, commercial or industrial property isn't a new discovery, but New Hampshire was a pioneer in lowering assessments of such properties. Differential property tax treatment was "designed to (protect) suburban rings where development pressures are strong," according to Scott Mackey, a senior tax analyst at the National Conference of State Legislatures in Denver.

That's what its supporters claim it is doing — "It preserves the beauty of the landscape," says Rep. Celestine Wiggins, D-Newport, who has a 48-acre wood lot in Goshen in the program. "It affords small landowners the opportunity to keep the land in the state it is naturally in." It also allows more well-off citizens who are environmentally concerned to acquire large tracts of land and keep them in a pristine condition, she said.

S.P.A.C.E., a coalition that supports the current use law, recently issued a pamphlet commemorating the program's 25th anniversary. "The Current Use Program has played a critical role in encouraging the conservation of open space since 1973," it declared.

But analysts have questioned whether such tax breaks actually do much to slow development. Jane Malme, a former state tax administrator in Massachusetts, wrote in a working paper published in 1993 by the Lincoln

# s Come At A Cost

Institute of Land Policy: "There is general consensus from extensive research over a 20-year period that the economic incentive offered by lower property taxes has had minimal effect in preventing conversion of farmland to more intensive uses."

But in a 1997 article in *American Forests* magazine, Louis Borie argued that "the property tax burden can often determine whether land is maintained as a farm or forest or converted to a more intensive use." Borie did raise the possibility that use-value assessment might backfire by making speculative investments less expensive.

David Scanlan, a former Republican state representative from Canaan, is now employed as the manager of an 11,000 acre forest property in the towns of Canaan, Dorchester, Lyme, Orford and Orange. "From a business standpoint, it would be very difficult for a business like ours to succeed without some form of current use taxation," Scanlan said. "It allows the local forest economy to succeed."

He said his operation supports 10 jobs throughout the year (except mud season) and adds about \$250,000 to the local economy.

But if the rationale of the program is to slow development, what subdivisions or shopping malls are being warded off in isolated communities like Dorchester and Orange, or in the far northern reaches of Coos County?

Some analysts say that the financial pressure on New Hampshire farmers and foresters results less from the impact on values caused by a property's development potential than from the state's dependence on property taxes to fund schools and local government. "If we didn't have such heavy reliance on the property tax, we wouldn't be discussing this," said Morris, the University of New Hampshire professor who has conducted extensive studies of the tax impact of the current use program.

Morris estimated the total shift in tax obligations from owners of properties in the current use program to owners of the rest of the state's property in 1996 at about \$27 million. That shift, off of current use owners largely onto owners of property assessed at market value, took place within the towns where current use property is located.

Vermont — where 1.448 million acres, about one-quarter of the total land area in the state, was enrolled in the program in 1997 — takes a different approach. Last year that state government kicked in \$13.3 million to compensate towns for lost revenues as a result of the reduction in their tax base,

according to Bill Snow, the state's current use program chief.

The state's role will change as a result of Act 60, Vermont's educational finance reform law, according to Snow. Instead of being compensated from the general fund, the current use shifts will be distributed among property taxpayers around the state through the new equalized statewide property tax mechanism. The state will still provide make-good payments to cover the program's impact on town budgets, he said.

In New Hampshire all the burden-shifting takes place at the town level. Robert B. Buckley Jr., a lawyer who represented Cornish in the challenge to Blue Mountain Forest Association's application for current use assessment, said he believes the program accomplishes an important public purpose, but questioned whether it is proper to make local taxpayers bear the entire economic burden of the program.

STEVE TAYLOR, WHO NOW SERVES on the current use board, said that the values at which land in the program is taxed have changed very little over the years and failed to keep up with overall inflation. "The value of the current use tax shift has grown for the current use land owner," he said.

Rubens also said he believes that assessments of market value properties have generally risen at a faster rate than the assessments of current use properties, but without there having been a clear policy decision that that should happen. That has increased the relative burden on property owners who aren't in the current use program, he said.

But even those who question the way New Hampshire distributes the tax shifts of current use don't expect the state to emulate Vermont. "The state does not have a tradition, nor does it have the revenue, to spend money to fund the program," Burling said.

And Taylor said that whenever the Current Use Board considers adjusting current use value ranges to account for inflation, supporters of the status quo mobilize while opponents are barely heard from.

Or as Rep. Gordon Flint, R-Newport, says of the current use program: "I have more people speaking to me about keeping it than I do about doing away with it."

In a recent interview, Clauson half-seriously proposed adding a "callous test" to the law to limit its benefits to working farmers and foresters. "You (shouldn't be able to) get current use unless you can show at least one callous on both of your hands," he suggested.

# Seaward Gives Up On

By SALLIE GRAZIANO  
Valley News Staff Writer

**WINDSOR** — Seaward Development Co. has dropped its plans to build a hydroelectric dam at Hart Island on the Connecticut River because of the tremendous resistance from environmental groups opposed to the project.

"To say we received very strong protest against the plans would be an

understatement," Eugene "Gus" Garceau, the company's vice president, said yesterday. "One has to reconcile what it's going to cost to prove that the project's negative effects can be mitigated," he said. "At this point, we can't justify the money and energy it would take to get into that battle."

Garceau said his company expected lengthy court challenges before the com-

## Hart Island Dam

pany could start building a 20-megawatt hydroelectric dam on Hart Island.

The first step in the legal battle was taken last November, when environmental groups including the Connecticut River Watershed Council and the New England Rivers Center sought recognition by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to challenge Seaward's application for a preliminary permit that

would allow test-drilling around the island.

Conservationists' concerns centered on three endangered species of plant and animal life — Jessup's Milk Vetch, the Dwarf Wedge Mussel and the Cobblestone Tiger Beetle. They felt the species could be harmed if a hydro dam were

(Continued on page 14)

— DAM

Valley News Mar 8, 1985

(Continued from page 1)

allowed to flood the Hart Island area. Other concerns included the loss of prime farm land and the last free-flowing rapids on the Connecticut, jeopardy to the federally sponsored program to restore Atlantic Salmon to the river, and general concern over the water's quality.

"They brought up some important issues," Garceau said yesterday. He noted that the project would have involved building a new dam rather than using an existing dam. "Building a whole new dam creates a lot of problems," Garceau said. "But most of the negative impacts could have been mitigated."

The FERC granted Seaward a preliminary permit to test drill Dec. 27, but included conditions that gave conservationists control over where the drilling could be done. Garceau said yesterday his company is preparing the paperwork necessary to surrender the three-year preliminary permit.

If Seaward were then to change its mind and want to resume the project, it would have to obtain a new FERC permit. That is unlikely unless conditions surrounding the project change considerably, Garceau said.

"There is give and take in putting in any new dam," Garceau said. "The positive is the energy you produce, and the negative is the impact on resources. If the power potential becomes significant enough so that other concerns can recognize its worth, then it might be worthwhile."

Robert Linck, regional director for the Connecticut River Watershed Council, reacted cautiously to news of Seaward's decision. "We've been at this for several years now with different groups," Linck said. "Just because Seaward doesn't want to do it doesn't mean another group won't come in and try."

Hart Island, near the Windsor-Hartford border, has been proposed

as a site for a hydroelectric dam three times in the past seven years. In 1982 the town of Windsor and the Vermont Public Power Authority considered building a 15-megawatt dam on the island but the plans collapsed after the power authority withdrew from the project.

New Hampshire House Speaker John Tucker of Claremont, who is pushing a bill to create a commission that would coordinate the preservation and recreational development of land along the Connecticut, said this morning he was delighted to hear the latest plans for a Hart Island hydro dam had been dropped.

"My first-blush reaction to the project was negative," Tucker said. "We've already got a dam at Belows Falls and one at Wilder, and I don't think we want to limit the recreational opportunities along the river any more."

Tucker said that if legislators agree to set up the commission he supports, it would be at the center of debates such as the one between environmentalists and Seaward.

"It would be an outstanding focal point to take on the responsibility of coordinating efforts to see that the river's resources are used appropriately," Tucker said.

# Obituaries

## *Hubert Deming, former Cornish moderator, dies*

CLAREMONT, N.H. — Hubert I. Deming, 94, of 85 Chestnut St., died Wednesday morning at the Valley Regional Hospital after a sudden illness. He was born in Cornish Sept. 13, 1888, son of Herbert and Nellie (Hilliard) Deming, and was a local resident since 1951.

Mr. Deming was employed for several years as caretaker of the Admiral William M. Folger estate in Cornish, where he was later employed by William E. Beaman as caretaker for the "Blow-Me-Down-Farm" as it was then known. After moving to Claremont he was employed at the Herbert Dow Machine Shop until his retirement in 1954.

He was educated in the schools of Cornish and was a graduate of Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, with the class of 1909.

Mr. Deming was a member of the Congregational churches in Cornish and Claremont; a member of the Cornish Grange; a member and a three-term master of Cheshire Lodge 23 F. & A. M., Cornish, a member of the York Rite Bodies of Claremont and the Scottish Rite bodies of Concord and Nashua. He served two terms as district grand lecturer and two terms as district deputy grand master of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, Third Mountain District. He

was a member of the New Hampshire Society of Veteran Freemasons and of Woodman Chapter 26, O. E. S., Claremont.

Active in Cornish town affairs, he served as town and school moderator for 15 years, as well as town auditor and constable.

The family includes two daughters, Mary Jo Johannis, Albuquerque, N. M., and Lt. Col. Elsie L. Deming, U.S.A.F. (Ret.), San Antonio, Texas; two grandchildren, Reeve Johannis, Redding, Calif., and Rhonda Refsnider, Ashland, Ore.; one great-grandson, Steven Andrew Johannis, Redding. His wife, the former Florence M. Westgate of Meriden, died June 25, 1974.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at the First Congregational Church by the Rev. Larry E. Turns. Burial will follow in Mountain View Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Stoughton-Davis Funeral Home from 7-9 p.m. Friday. Members of Cheshire Lodge will conduct services at the funeral home at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

It has been suggested that expressions of sympathy be in the form of gifts to the Congregational Church organ fund, in care of Robert L. Stevens, 18 Maple Ave., Claremont 03743.

# Restored covered bridge dedicated

By RUTH ROLLINS

About 35 people braved cold dark skies Sunday afternoon to attend the ceremonies marking the restoration of the Dingleton Hill Covered Bridge. The event was sponsored by the Cornish Historical Society.

The 81-foot bridge was built in 1882 by James F. Tasker, a Cornish resident who could neither read nor write. The cost was \$812.

The multiple Kingpost truss type bridge is located in Cornish Mills, linking Root Hill Road to Town House Road.

The structure has undergone major repairs under the instruction of Milton S. Graton, Ashland. The 74-year old renowned bridge builder travels daily from his home to the site where he oversees local men, Stephen A. Tracy, Leo Maslan, Thomas Rathbun and Stephen Burch.

Sara Townsend, Cornish Rep., spoke of the bridge representing "a pull toward the past." She mentioned several things which might have happened there, possibly people using it as refuge in a storm, marching feet as men went into battle.

Townsend said if the bridge could talk what other possible trysts might have gone on there, as the covered bridges are also called "kissing bridges."

Ray Burton, executive councilor from District 1 brought greetings from Gov. John Sununu and congratulated "all who had any part in the restoration of the historic treasure." "These things do not just happen, I commend the Cornish Historical Society for striking out and doing something like this."

Direct descendent of James F. Tasker, Hyland Tasker of Columbia, Conn., was present with his wife. He stated that he was very grateful to the Cornish Historical Society for preserving the bridge his great-great uncle had built for future generations.

The ceremonies were held Sunday but due to extra work which was needed to repair the bridge to its original con-

dition, the bridge will not be open to traffic for a time.

Several of the King posts were more rotted than could be detected by Graton until the floor planks were removed and the bottom chord has had to be taken apart and several King posts replaced.

Also, all of the floor joists had to be replaced, when estimates of repairs were given by Graton he only planned to replace part of them, but due to the damage to the old joists he has completely replaced all of them.

Others who attended who were recognized were John Dryfhout, curator of Saint Gaudens National Historic Site, who was instrumental in getting the bridge on the National Register of Historic Places in Nov. 1978, which helped federal funds to be available.

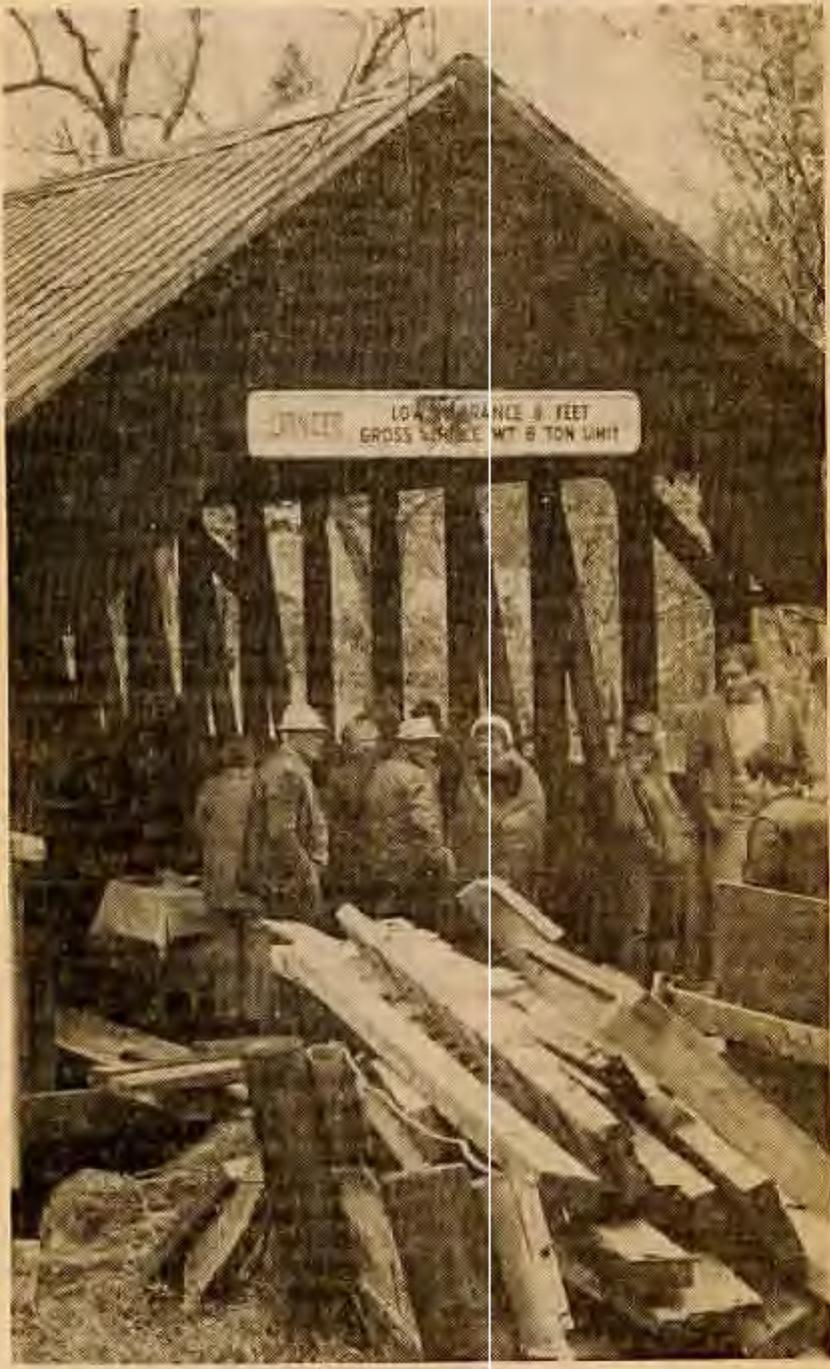
Also, Alexis Gersumky who researched foundation grants making it possible to receive funds from the Eva Gebbard-Gourgaud Foundation and Cecil Howard Charitable Trust, also the Putnam Foundation.

Stephen P. Tracy was thanked for his help by providing valuable architectural expertise, as he has done on all the historical preservation remodeling done in the town in the past.

The Cornish selectmen were lauded for the encouragement given the Cornish Historical Society in pursuing the idea of restoring the covered bridge and taking care of the funding at the town level.

Previously the society has played a big part in restoring the Blow-Me-Down Covered bridge in North Cornish and most recently the Blacksmith Shop Covered Bridge just off Town House Road.

Introductions were made by Caroline Storrs, corresponding secretary for the Society.



**BRIDGE DEDICATION** — About 50 people recently attended a dedication ceremony for the restored Dingleton Hill Covered Bridge, which spans Mill Brook in Cornish. The 101-year-old bridge was repaired by Milton S. Graton Associates of Ashland. It is one of four covered bridges in Cornish that were built by James F. Tasker in the 1800s. (Photo by Brad Hills)



Allen Dodge sands the inside of a wherry, a type of competitive ocean rowing boat, which he built outside his home in Cornish Flat. Dodge has been working on the boat for a little over a year and plans to name it "Hannah" after his granddaughter. "Wooden

boats have soul," Dodge said on Sunday. Dodge plans to christen and launch the boat on July 25, the day after Hannah's 6 birthday.

Allen Dodge

VALLEY NEWS — SARAH SHAW