

# **CORNISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

## **VERTICAL FILES ON-LINE, PART II**

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 II.

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

# **CORNISH 250<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION**

**PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY DEANNA MEADOWS,  
SUPPLIED BY MIKE MONETTE**

**AVAILABLE AS SEPARATE FILE ON THE  
CHS COLLECTION PAGE AT THE TOWN  
WEBSITE**

# Cornish celebrates 250th

By **KERRY MILLER**  
Assistant Editor

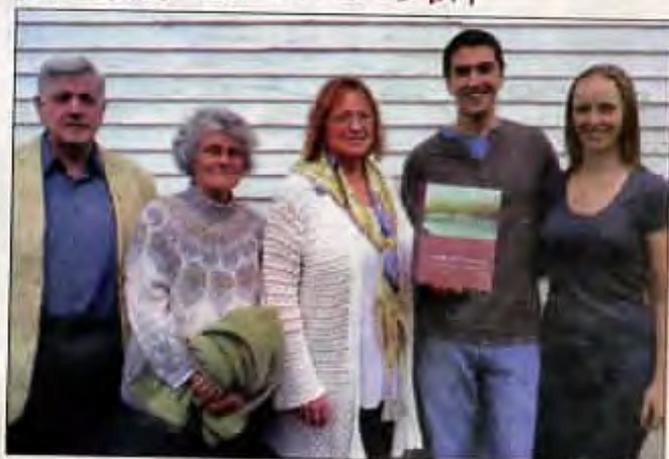
Cornish Times Jun 21, 2013 p.1

**CORNISH** — The town is turning 250-years-old this weekend and its residents will be celebrating with music, a time capsule, birthday cake and more.

"It's been a community effort," said Cornish Selectmen John Hammond. "There's a group of citizens that have met several times for the past year, they put it all together. It's a great thing."

Hammond recognized the Cornish 250th Committee for its quick work in getting the festivities organized, including having T-shirts, hats and commemorative license plates made. Colleen O'Neill, co-chair of the committee, which has been meeting since September 2012, is excited for the weekend and said thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, it should be fun.

"This planning was a group effort," said O'Neill. "The volunteer spirit to put on this celebration



**COURTESY PHOTO**

From left to right are John Dryfhout, Nancy Wightman, Diane Liggett, Corey Fitch, Deanna Meadow who are pictured in front of the Cornish Meeting House with the first copy of the new Cornish 250 Book, "Cornish, NH: in Celebration of 250 Years." The book will be for sale this weekend at the anniversary festivities.

— there's a certain spirit in the town of Cornish, where people come together."

O'Neill said this weekend specifically was chosen for the celebration because tomorrow, June 21, has a special meaning.

"It was the actual date of the original signing of the charter for the town of Cornish (in 1763)," she said.

Long-time Cornish resident Judy Rook said during her years in town it hasn't changed too drastically, but some of the major things she recalls are the new school being built in 1955, a new Fire Station and Rescue Squad building, which were built in the 1960s, she said. All

of those constructions were made possible through monetary donations, not taxpayer money, she said. Rook, who is now 74, said she was born in Windsor but moved to Cornish when she was one-year-old.

"I went to the one-room school house, which we no longer have," she said. "There's a lot more new homes in Cornish from when I was young. The town hasn't changed all that much, we've progressed (but) it's no different than it was over 50 years ago."

Rook is looking forward to celebrating the town's anniversary with other residents this weekend and attributed the town's longevity to Cornish being a caring community.

"When there's something that needs doing, everybody shows up to help. People watch out for each other," she said.

The anniversary celebration kicks off tomorrow night with a lecture on Cornish's history called "New England Town," by Dartmouth College history professor, Jere Daniell, at the Trinity Church on Route 12A. The evening begins at 7 p.m. and, in addition to the lecture, features a historical reenactment by Cornish Elementary School students. In Cornish Flat on Saturday the day starts with a pancake breakfast at the Park Grange, from 7 to 10 a.m., followed by a commemorative tree planting at 9:30 a.m. on the Cornish Meeting House green. The Cornish Farmer's Market will go on as planned, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., also on the green and folks can also head over to the Post Office to get their mail and self-addressed-stamped

envelopes stamped with the special postmark developed for the anniversary.

Of the postmark O'Neill said "people actually heard about it — people from out of state are sending in envelopes because they're collectors of these special postmarks. It could be valuable one day."

Horse-drawn carriage rides will be offered through Cornish Flat, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. An exhibition of maps will be on display at the Cornish Historical Center, highlighting the town's past and present. The Cornish Flat Cemetery will put up special historical markers and a quilt show will take place on the upper floor of the Meeting House. The George H. Stowell Library and Cheshire/Mt. Vernon Masonic Lodge will be both be open for visitors.

On Saturday evening, folks are invited to head to Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site for a free concert by the Virginia Eskin Trio. The show begins at 6:30 p.m. and is free. Sunday's festivities include a community picnic for Cornish residents, from noon to 3 p.m., at the Cornish Fairgrounds. The picnic will be complete with a birthday cake, hot dogs, burgers, games for kids and more. Also, at the picnic a town-wide photograph will be taken, O'Neill said.

Cornish resident Nate Cass donated a box which will be used as a time

capsule and at the picnic, several notable items will be placed inside, as well as personal messages, said O'Neill.

"We're encouraging families to use an eight by 11 sheet of paper, they can write whatever they want (and) it will be placed in the box," she explained. "We'll put in the Cornish phone book, the program from the Cornish eighth grade graduation — anything that relates to this year's town events."

O'Neill said the box will be sealed and presented to the Cornish Selectboard at the 2014 town meeting. It will be placed in the vault in the Cornish town offices with instructions to open in 50 years.

An exciting element about the weekend, O'Neill added, is something called an anniversary passport and quest booklet, which will be available at several events, starting with Friday's lecture. The booklet is free and if you bring it to events you attend, you can get it stamped with a special stamp

commemorating your participation in the anniversary, she explained. The booklet is not just for the anniversary weekend either, O'Neill continued, it's part of a program developed by a community in the Upper Valley and can actually be used to go on a "treasure hunt" in Cornish at any time.

"It'll be a keepsake item. It's kind of like a treasure hunt for your town. It's designed to encourage people to explore their community and treasures around them," O'Neill said.

The Cornish 250th Anniversary book "Cornish, NH: In Celebration of 250 Years," will also be for sale this weekend, starting on Friday at the lecture. It will also be for sale on Saturday at the Farmer's Market and at Sunday's picnic.

\*\*\*

**Kerry Miller can be reached at (603) 543-3100, ext. 101, or by email at [kmiller@eagletimes.com](mailto:kmiller@eagletimes.com)**

CORNISH 250TH



Deanna Meadow took these photos in *Cornish, New Hampshire, In Celebration of 250 Years*, of the Blow-Me-Down Mill, left, and Blow-Me-Down barn.

Valley News Jun 21, 2013  
p. c1

# A Lively Take on Cornish's History

*In a Small Town, Many Chipped In to Tell Its Stories*

**T**HE ROUNDUP of volunteers took longer than expected. John Dryfhout led the effort, sending for fellow book contributors schmoozing on the Cornish Meeting House's ground level. A commemorative photo needed to be taken, with all who worked on the new book.

"How many are there?" asked one woman, caught up in the shuffle.

"As many as there are," Dryfhout replied.

When the shutter snapped, 17 of 29 contributors stood in front of the camera, including the photographer. Others couldn't make it up the stairs. Some were out of town. Some were in Europe.

Many of those who posed were holding onto the town's new hardcover history which they helped create: *Cornish, New Hampshire: In Celebration of 250 Years*, which focuses on the past half-century.



**Memorabilia of Samuel Hardy of Cornish Flat, who made a "magical pain destroyer" based on a formula obtained from a member of the Cayuga tribe in New York.**

June 13 was the book launch, a culmination of about a half-year of updating the town's previous history book, published in 1960. Publication coincides with the town's 250th anniversary this year.

"This is something you can enjoy," said Anne Tracy, whose family's Cornish lineage dates back to 1793. "Not just look up the facts in."

With the focus on a more recent history comes a more modern method of telling it. The

144-page volume eschews encyclopedic cataloguing in favor of glossy pages popping with colorful photos and portraits. Written passages, split up by topic and written by a few dozen contributors, snake through the visuals.

It opens dramatically. Directly after the title page is a two-page spread taken up entirely by a wintry view of the mountains from Tiffit Road. The photo was taken by Deanna Meadow, who supplied most of the "now" visuals in the book. (The "then" pictures were culled from collections, historical societies and Cornish residents.)

Much of the page design fell to Meadow's fiancée, Corey Fitch, a ninth-generation Cornish resident who graduated from Savannah College of Art and Design in March. The book went to the printer in mid-April, and the collaborators saw the final product a couple of weeks ago.



Lynn Schad, left, and Beth Lum look at copies of the new Cornish history.

DEANNA MEADOW PHOTOGRAPH

"It was amazing to have it actually in my hands," said Fitch after the group photograph, which Meadow took.

He was flanked by Meadow and Kathleen Welker, who contributed the book's cover art — a view of the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge — as well as a full-page hand-colored photo of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site.

"I think the fact that 30 people came together in six months ..." said Fitch, trailing off.

"Kind of describes the town, really," Meadow said.

Speaking to a crowd of about 50 downstairs, Peter Burling called the book the "first approachable history of the town."

"This catches the color, the flavor, the kindness, the honesty of this place," said Burling, who wrote the introduction and has served as town moderator, state representative and state senator since moving to Cornish in the early 1970s.

It also attempts to capture some of the straight-laced facts common in more conventional town history volumes. A 13-page appendix lists selectboard members

over the years, the town's conserved lands, its businesses and artists.

Much of the written information came from Cornish's detailed yearly town reports, said Susan Chandler, who co-wrote the book's education section. Her biggest surprise was discovering how much the Cornish school budget has changed since 1963. Back then, it was \$100,000. Just three months ago, residents passed a \$3.7 million school budget.

There were also the many residents who had been members of the school board, the programs both successful (skiing, started in 1970) and unsuccessful (French, which started in 1999 and was killed due to budget cuts), and the school building's renovations and growth over time.

"Those of us that were writing had so much to say," Chandler said.

The new history has received around 300 pre-orders on a print run of 700, according to Dryfhout; all proceeds from the \$25 book will go to the Cornish Meeting House fund. To order a book or for more information, call George Edson at 603-542-7688.

Jon Wolper can be reached at [jwolper@vnews.com](mailto:jwolper@vnews.com) or 603-727-3248.

---

**Peter Burling called the book the "first approachable history of the town."**

---

Frances Duncan came to Cornish early in the twentieth century to write magazine articles on Cornish gardens which by then had acquired a reputation. Frances Duncan had become a horticulture writer and this was very fertile territory.

In 1906 for Century Magazine she published a comprehensive article "The Gardens of Cornish" which included Henry O. Walker's house, Maxfield Parrish's house and garden, Norman Hapgood's house and gardens, Thomas W. Dewing's house and garden, Louis Evan Shipman's garden, Kenyon Cox's house and garden, Augustus Saint-Gaudens' house and garden, Stephen Parrish's garden, Rose Standish Nichols' garden, Herbert Croly's garden, Mrs. Frances C. Houston's garden, and finally Charles A. Platt's garden. ↓

In 1907 Country Life in America published a major article on Stephen Parrish's garden by Duncan, entitled "An Artist's New Hampshire Garden." It goes into great detail about what Parrish planted and why and the effects of Cornish's cold winters would have on the plants. ↘

Her theory was that a garden was simply an outgrowth of the house, in other words an extension of the livingroom. She chose to remain an amateur although she gave Augustus Saint-Gaudens horticultural advise. She was formerly garden editor for The Ladies' Home Journal.

Duncan never owned property in Cornish during her years in town, but she rented several places, one being Cherry Hill Farm on Dingleton Hill. The house and road are now gone. ↘

Frances Duncan became very caught up in the Woman's Suffrage Movement and was a member of the Cornish Equal Suffrage League, 1911. (See chapter on Woman's Suffrage League). ↘

In 1908 Duncan took in to live with her an eleven year old girl named Livinia Granger whose mother had died. When Livinia was grown and married her children affectionately referred to Frances Duncan as "Grammie Ducky." ↘

Duncan married John Manning and they eventually moved to Burbank, California where she became involved in children's playgrounds and painting cartoons on playground fences. She became the originator of the Woman's National Garden Association and the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. She is the author of many magazine articles and several books. She died September 5, 1972 in Monrovia, California. ↘

**FOLLOWING PAGE**

**JOHN DRYFHOUT**



By Nicola Smith  
Valley News Staff Writer

# In

a world where the proverbial measure of corporate success is marked by a corner office with a picture-window view, John H. Dryfhout has attained a sinecure of which most of us only dream.

His office, in a sense, is nothing less than the 150 acres that comprise the Augustus Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish. And his view takes in a pastoral vista that sweeps down wide, green lawns and across stands of white pine and hemlock, coming to rest on the jutting, ever-changing face of Mount Ascutney.

The superintendent at Saint-Gaudens for nearly 30 years, Dryfhout is in a nearly unique position within the National Park Service. He is one of only two superintendents in the entire service who act both as a superintendent, overseeing the daily operations of a national historic site and its staff, and as a museum director and curator, responsible both for maintaining an extensive art collection and mounting exhibitions featuring the works of other artists. (The other site is the Alden Weir Farm National Historic Site in Wilton, Conn.)

It is a job, Dryfhout readily acknowledges, whose relatively low salary is more than compensated for by the beauty of the setting and by the pride he takes in working at what he calls a "wonderful institution that's respected throughout the world."

In his tenure, Dryfhout and his staff have dedicated themselves not only to conserving and modernizing the facility but to honoring the life and work of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the late-19th-century and early-20th-century sculptor of such heroic monuments as the *Shaw Memorial* in Boston and the statues of Admiral David Farragut and Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, both in New York City. Considered perhaps the preeminent American sculptor of his time, Saint-Gaudens has, in recent years, undergone a fresh critical re-evaluation and has emerged more esteemed than ever.

Yet, despite its air of serene immunity from the outside



Dryfhout, above and at left, says he particularly loves the combination of museum, arboretum and garden at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish. The park, which opens for the season late this month, is one of only two with a combination superintendent and curator.

Valley News May 21, 1995 p. D 1

potentially the same awkward position as other national parks and sites that now face problems of over-use and commercialization of land outside park walls.

And while these threats have not yet materialized to the degree that they have in and around such parks as Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon, Dryfhout and his staff are acutely aware of the dangers they could pose to such a site as theirs.

In a worst-case scenario, it is possible to imagine the Saint-Gaudens mountain-top aerie ringed at its base by residential development on the one hand and by a Route-12A commercial

# Saint-Gaudens curator feted by Century Club

By RUTH ROLLINS

CORNISH, N.H. — John Dryhout, curator of the 150-acre Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, was recently honored by the Trustees of Saint-Gaudens Memorial at the Century Club in New York for writing "The Work of Augustus Saint-Gaudens."

The book, which took nearly 12 years to accomplish, has 514 illustrations that give warmth and depth to the many works of Saint-Gaudens, many of them never before published.

Dryhout sent hundreds of communications to museums and to many persons who privately owned Saint-Gaudens' creations. Dryhout hopes that the book will help to find even more of his works.

The book has the most complete compendium ever attended of the work of Saint-Gaudens, and includes cameos, sculptures, bas-reliefs, bronzes, coins and medals forming the Saint-Gaudens oeuvre, as well as scenes of the artist's life and studio in Cornish.

Dryhout's desire to "show everything Saint-Gaudens had ever done" was his main objective — getting as much of his work as possible in one publication.

"I had no desire to do a biography as one had already

been published in 1967. A book had also been written on Saint-Gaudens' reminiscences in 1913," he said.

The book, which is dedicated to William Platt, president emeritus of the Trustees of Saint-Gaudens Memorial, and to Dryhout's parents, Henry and Frances Dryhout, "fulfills everything I desired to do," said Dryhout, who has become the world's leading authority on America's famous sculptor.

Several pages are devoted to the coinage story. It was the first time a president of the United States had ever commissioned a sculptor to redesign the nation's coinage. It came late in Saint-Gaudens' life; he developed the model and the coins were finished after his death in 1907.

Following the death of Saint-Gaudens, President Theodore Roosevelt called the Treasurer, asking "what the problem was with the mint people." Roosevelt was told that 12 attempts had been made to strike the coin and that it couldn't be done.

Roosevelt said he "didn't care if it took all night and all day," he wanted to see the coin in production. And so, a \$10 and \$20 Liberty gold piece, designed by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, became a reality. The earliest coins are very rare because it was just in the last three months of 1907 that they were made.

"One of the most treasured

memories I have is of the day I arrived in Cornish with all my belongings," Dryhout said.

"It was late fall and the glimpse of the huge pine trees lining the road to Saint-Gaudens National Historic site was a remembered sight. I had never seen trees like the ones which surround the site," he said.

Dryhout can relate well to

the accounts written earlier by the famous artists who wrote of their arrival in the Cornish Colony during the eighteenth century.

Dryhout's duties at Saint-Gaudens include interpreting, conserving and collecting. Much of the time since his arrival in Cornish in 1966 has been spent researching and collecting information which led to the publication of "The



John Dryhout

## Restored memorial reminds Cornish residents of service in the 'Great War'

Memorial Day

John Dryfount

## Restored memorial reminds Cornish residents of service in the 'Great War'

By KATY SAVAGE  
ksavage@eagletimes.com

CORNISH – Lt. Cyril T. Hunt died in 1919 when his airplane suddenly stalled and crashed 500 feet to the ground. He was at Carlstrom Field in Arcadia, Florida, a military training site that opened in 1917 during World War I and closed after World War II.

Hunt, 22, of Cornish, was a student at New Hampshire College and had just been promoted to second lieutenant when he died. Hunt had planned to stay in aviation after the war, according to his obituary. He wanted to become part of what was then called the aerial mail service.

Hunt was the only Cornish resident who died in World War I. His name is painted in gold leaf, in the top left corner of a war memorial in Cornish, above 33 other soldier's names from Cornish who served in the "Great War."

Hunt's name was the first to be painted on the 100-year-old memorial, which was just restored in time for the town's 100th anniversary celebration of Memorial Day exercises on Wednesday.

"[The monument] is the only record of war involvement other than what's published in books," said resident John Dryfount, who led the restoration efforts. "It brings the community together to know people have been recognized for their sacrifices."

Dryfount ran Saint-Gaudens National

Historic Site for 40 years before he retired 14 years ago.

"I don't like to see sculptures falling apart," he said.

The memorial in Cornish was rusting, Dryfount said, which made the lettering hard to read.

Dryfount estimates the last time the memorial in Cornish was restored was before World War II.

"It seemed to have been let go," Dryfount said. "When I came over here 50 years ago, it didn't look good then."

At Town Meeting Day this March, Cornish voters appropriated \$8,000 toward the cost of restoring it, and Daniel Grenier, who owns Dan's Creative Sandblast in Washington, Vermont, repaired it with his grandson this spring.

"It was really bad, it needed to be restored," Grenier said, explaining rust issues.

Grenier spent five days sand blasting and priming the memorial, he said. He then repainted the letters by hand.

Grenier was recommended to restore the Cornish memorial based on his résumé; he has restored about 50 plaques and statues all over New England and New York.

The memorial was made by Lebanon Machine Co., a former company in Meriden that also made cast iron materials for roadways during the rise of automobile culture. It's one of the few of its kind remaining in the area. There



## CORNISH FROM PAGE A1

are similar World War I memorials in Plainfield, New Hampshire and Springfield, New Hampshire.

A fund created by Charles Benman, who was a resident of New York City and Cornish until he died in 1980, helped the town purchase the monument.

Another name listed on the memorial is Homer Saint-Gaudens, a camouflageur for the army, who led group that designed mili-

tary camouflage. Saint-Gaudens was the only son of famous sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, whose home has been turned into the historic site where Dryfoot used to work.

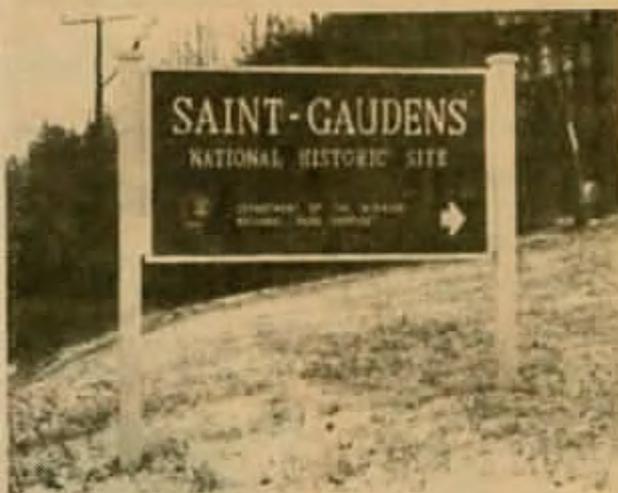
"The war monument also has gold leafed emblems.

"It has the feel of the state of New Hampshire," Dryfoot said.

Cornish's Memorial Day activities take place at 10 a.m. today, May 30, which was the official date of the holiday until 1971.

COURTESY

A World War I memorial in Cornish was restored for \$8,000 by Daniel Grenier of Washington, Vt. It was made by the Lebanon Machine Company in Mendon, Vt. Above are before and after photos.



Work of Augustus Saint-Gaudens."

Dryfhout was born in Chicago in 1940 and had a sister and two brothers.

"During my young growing-up years my father used to take us to visit museums and galleries," said Dryfhout. The visits weren't weekly, but a significant amount of time was spent on them, he said. An inspiration for museum work was fostered.

Dryfhout attended Hope College in Holland, Mich., where he received a BA degree in 1964. Of Dutch descent, he was affiliated with the Dutch Reformed Church, where several friends attended.

He specialized in history and political science courses and spent 1963 in Washington, learning the workings of the government. While there he met President John F. Kennedy and Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

"I once thought I'd be interested in studying to be a librarian," Dryfhout said, but decided it wasn't for him.

"I spent some time at the Holland furniture and the Dutch Cultural Museums, sampling a smorgasboard of different responsibilities. So

when the opportunity came to apply for a graduate program at Ann Arbor, I was truly pleased when given a Fellowship by the Ford Foundation, in Dearborn, Michigan," he said.

Dryfhout served an internship with the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. "I remember one day especially, when there was a torrential rainstorm and every staff member was called to go to the gallery to manage the thousands of people who poured into the building, which covered an acre all under one roof," he recalled.

"I remember thinking I hoped I would never be in this situation again," Dryfhout said.

The large museums require much maintenance, even the replacement of the floors fairly often, he said.

Upon graduation from the University of Michigan with a masters degree in Museum Practice, Dryfhout was offered the position of curator for the National Park Service.

Proceeds from the sale of the book will return to the Trustees of the Memorial, which helped finance the printing.

# No charges in rescue boat accident

Boat Accident

Essex Times Feb 28, 2007 111

Cornish Rescue Squad

## Woman died when airboat sank on Conn. River in Aug.

By AARON ALDRIDGE  
Staff Writer

No criminal charges will be filed in the death of a Rockingham woman who drowned when the rescue boat transporting her capsized on the Connecticut River last August.

"My office has made the determination no charges will arise out of the death of Virginia Yates," Sullivan

County Attorney Marc Hathaway said during a press conference Tuesday afternoon.

Yates, 64, was injured on the Vermont side of the river on Aug. 22 and was being transported to Hoyt's Landing in Springfield by the Cornish Rescue Squad when the rescue boat sank. The boat is a flat-bottomed airboat most familiar to shallow swampy areas such as southern Florida.

Hathaway released a 300-page report along with a video-

tape and audio CD outlining his decision and what factors contributed to what he termed "a tragic accident."

"There is no one single factor you can point to," Hathaway said. "If you take one of the factors out, the accident wouldn't have happened."

Hathaway listed the factors as the dimensions of the airboat, unfamiliarity with the weight limitations of the boat, a lack of standard operating procedures, a lack of experience, the decision to fasten the backboard to the basket, a lack of time to assess the weight carried by the boat and the occurrence of an unexpected wake from a passing boat.

"A violation of standards does not establish criminal liability," Hathaway said. "We're not here to assign fault. We're here to see if the event rises to the level of criminal negligence."

The report analyzes the information Hathaway gathered from the multiple law enforcement agencies from New Hampshire and Vermont involved in the incident. A majority of the report chronicles interviews and statements of those involved, including transcripts of the 911 call and dispatch radio logs.

According to the report, on

See ACCIDENT - Page A8

## ACCIDENT FROM PAGE A1

the day of the accident Yates was a passenger in a pontoon boat owned by her friend Paul Emerson Jr. At about 3:30 p.m. Yates said she required the use of a restroom and Emerson brought the boat to a dock of a mutual friend on the Vermont side of the river.

When Yates was walking toward the shore on the dock, she slipped and fell where the dock met the shore. Yates sustained scrapes on her head and arm and a sprained ankle. Emerson came to her aid, but because of physical limitations, could only assist Yates in standing upright.

Emerson went to Hoyt's landing about a half-mile north of their location to obtain help. He encountered a woman with a cell phone, Shirley Latterall, and made arrangements for a message to be relayed to a friend, Richard Crawford. Latterall overheard the conversation and called 911.

A call was made to the Cornish Rescue Squad to use its new airboat if it was needed. New Hampshire has jurisdiction in the river because the state border is the river's western shore.

Crawford, along with Richard Martin, Rohr Cook and Matthew Bresland all arrived at Hoyt's landing and met with Emerson

prior to the arrival of any EMT personnel. Emerson took Martin and Cook to Yates' location and then returned to Hoyt's landing to direct EMT personnel to the scene.

Springfield firefighter Aaron Sylvester offered the services of his V-hull boat to assist with the rescue effort. Sylvester brought Emerson and three other firefighters to Yates' location where Yates was placed in a neck collar and a splint was applied to her lower leg. She was then secured to a backboard using spider straps.

The Cornish rescue boat arrived and Yates was placed in a basket that was strapped to the front of the boat. The backboard carrying Yates was then strapped to the basket.

As the rescue boat left the dock carrying Yates and three rescuers, Springfield EMT George Wheeler was asked if he wanted to ride on the airboat back to Hoyt's landing. The oper-

ator of the airboat, Robert Drye, said, "We have room for one more. It just might be a little sluggish."

Wheeler accepted the invitation and the boat left to head back to Hoyt's landing. "At 241 pounds, Wheeler's presence had more than a (minimal) impact on the positioning of the bow," the report said.

Harold Williams of Maine Yankee Airboat, the boat's manufacturer, said in the report the boat was only designed

to hold no more than four people.

"I was explaining to them that this really isn't a rescue boat," Williams was quoted in the report.

In the airboat were Wheeler

"There is 1 factor you 1 you take factors out wouldn't ha

Marc b Sullivan Co

Drye, Larry Dingee, Gary Chilton and Yates strapped in a basket across the bow. Wheeler said water was coming over the front of the boat as they left the dock. Drye stated "that he was aware the boat was not in trim after the vessel was pushed off from the dock headed toward H o y t ' s Landing."

o one single  
an point to. If  
one of the  
the accident  
e happened."

athaway  
ny Attorney

The report said some details of what happened just before the sinking differ but all of those on board agreed the boat was taking on some water, was not

very stable and was riding low in the water. Attempts were made to improve stability by moving people, slowing down and also increasing speed.

The videotape released with

the report clearly shows that during a re-enactment of the accident the airboat was nose heavy and water was splashing into the boat over the bow. The actual airboat involved in the accident was used in the reconstruction and is being stored at New Hampshire Marine Patrol at the request of Hathaway.

At the same time the airboat left the dock, another boat operated by Mitchell Clifford of Springfield, Vt., left another dock about 400 feet north of where the Cornish boat had been.

The investigation determined that the boat operated by Clifford wasn't speeding, but it still created a wake about 12 inches high. The airboat hit the wake about 90 feet from shore and quickly sank taking Yates to the bottom.

Slyvester said the Cornish boat "just kind of listed to the side a little bit and then it just kind of nosed in and went down."

When the wake hit, Wheeler

said the boat turned to go across the wake and "a bunch of water starting coming over the bow and he reached for Yates. With all three passenger going forward, the nose went further under.

Yates body was recovered from the river after about one hour and the boat was retrieved two days later where it was stuck in silt about 14 feet under water.

"There is a consensus among the individuals who witnessed the sinking that the airboat sank in a matter of seconds," the report reads.

The question addressed by Hathaway and answered in his report was straightforward: Did Robert Drye, as the operator of the Cornish Rescue Squad airboat, negligently cause the death of Virginia Yates?

In short, the answer is no.

**Aaron Aldridge can be reached at (800) 545-0347 ext. 139, or by e-mail at [aaldridge@eagletimes.com](mailto:aaldridge@eagletimes.com).**

# 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.

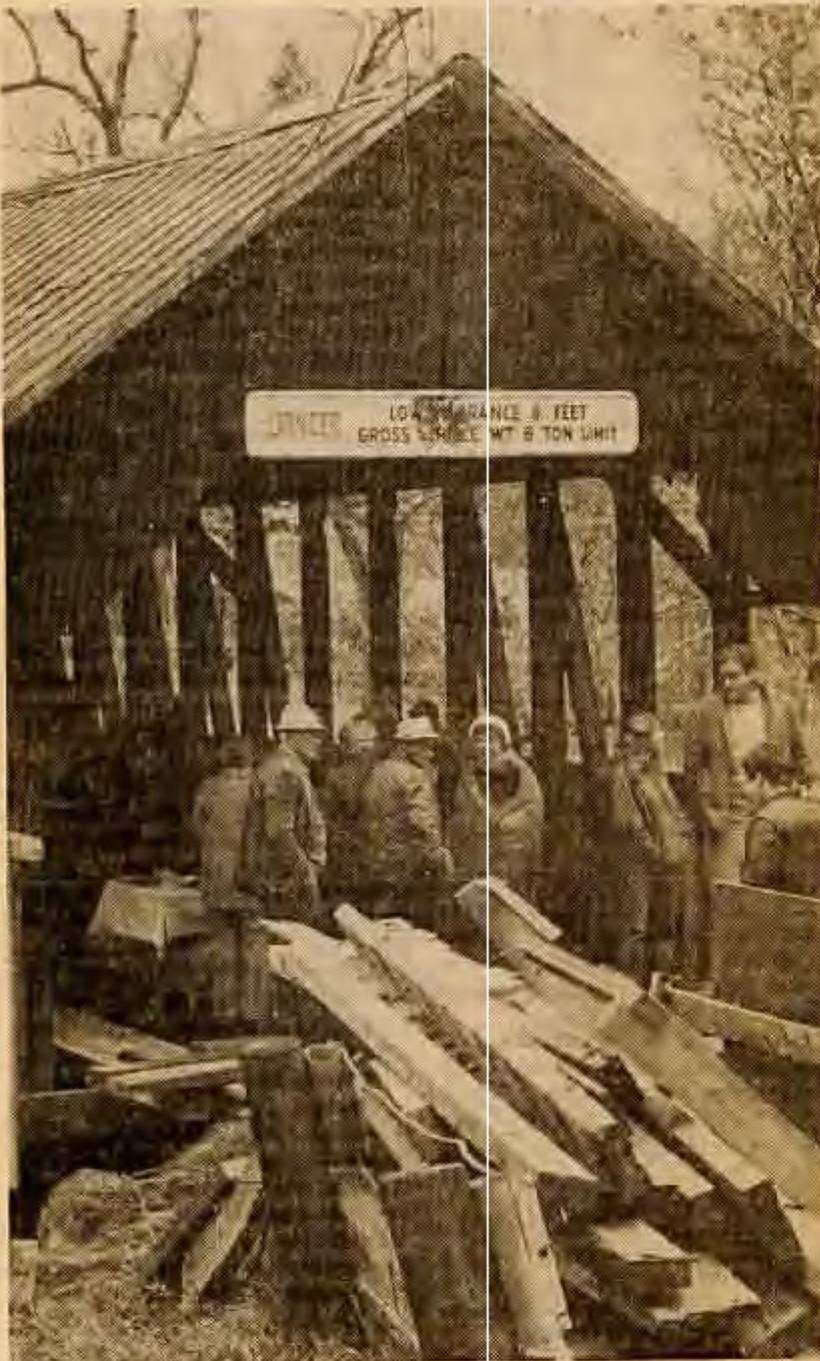
Also, Alexis Gersumky who researched foundation grants making it possible to receive funds from the Eva Gebbard-Gourgaud Foundation and Cecil Howard Charitable Trust, also the Putnam Foundation.

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 to 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)

# Obituaries

## *Hubert Deming, former Cornish moderator, dies*

CLAREMONT, N.H. — Hubert I. Deming, 94, of 86 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.



Louise Erdrich

Vallie Ann  
Jan 14, 1994

# At First, Erdrich's Fiction Was A Hard Sell

LOUISE ERDRICH

By JOSH GETLIN  
Los Angeles Times

**NEW YORK** - When Louise Erdrich sent drafts of her first novel to publishers in 1983, the response was uniformly discouraging. Most upsetting were rejection notes that said: "People don't want to read about Indians."

The young author of *Love Medicine*, who is French-Chippewa on her mother's side, grew discouraged. Would her book ever be published?

Enter the husband: Author Michael Dorris dummed up some stationery, passed himself off as a savvy literary agent and got Holt, Rinehart and Winston to buy *Love Medicine* for a \$5,000 advance. Fueled by word of mouth in small bookstores, Erdrich's richly evocative novel of Native American life won the National Book Critics Circle Award and sold more than 400,000 copies.

The storybook reversal has become legend in the New York publishing world, a reminder that booksellers ignore ethnic voices at their peril. It also established Erdrich as a leading writer of American fiction.

"This was all kind of bizarre," says Erdrich, 39, who worked on highway construction crews, changed bedsheets in mental hospitals and poured coffee in diners before finally making it as an author. "But it all worked out for the best, because I don't like bosses or authority. I can't stand people telling me what to do. Really, I can't imagine doing anything else with my life."

Neither can a growing army of readers, who snapped up copies of Erdrich's succeeding novels, *The Beet Queen* and *Tracks*. Blending gritty snapshots of reality with a surging, almost poetic style, the books turned North Dakota reservations into a self-contained fictional world rivaling William Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County in Mississippi.

The magic continues in *The Bingo Palace* (HarperCollins), Erdrich's latest installment in her cycle of Native American novels. Ten years after her career took off, she's raising three daughters and pursuing a host of projects - including a fifth novel and a collection of essays - even as she starts a long national tour to promote the new book.

Today, Native American fiction is a flourishing genre. But Erdrich says the book world still has much to learn.

□

**Q:** How much has publishing changed its attitudes toward Native American writers since *Love Medicine*?

**A:** There's increased sophistication. Enough has been written now that most publishers are aware that Native Americans aren't based only on the plains or only in one tribal setting. And B-movie portrayals aren't acceptable. But one thing that has to change is the mentality that says, there can only be so many books about Native Americans. . . . I've heard Native American writers worry about that. And there's room for fine writing, no matter who writes it.

**Q:** Have the barriers you faced as an unknown novelist lessened any?

**A:** There's been a great shift in how books are sold, and many independent bookstores are in danger of going out of business. I have to lament that because I distinctly owe the first sales of *Love Medicine* to word of mouth from independent booksellers. They were the ones who would pick it up and hand it to readers who came in. With the big chain stores, I fear that might be lost. You have few of those individual moments with customers in a huge store.

**Q:** Has U.S. culture become more realistic about Native American life or is it mired in the same old clichés?

**A:** It's hard to tell. I was watching the movie *Geronimo* on television . . . and it told the story differently than they might have before. This was an all-native cast. You wouldn't have seen this 10 years ago. There's more sympathy (for Native Americans), but at the same time, you can still come across the most backward attitudes and

(Continued on page C10)

- ERDRICH

# Erdrich

(Continued from page C1)

outright hatred.

**Q:** How do you react to the positive images of Native Americans in films like *Dances with Wolves*? Is that an encouraging sign?

**A:** There's a sense of romance that permeates some views of native life. A kind of New Ageism... an idealized, Pan-Indian embrace of a kind of mother earth thinking. It's painful to see sometimes, because there's such a deep need for a spiritual connection, an American connection to the landscape. Unfortunately, people think they can just step into a culture... and I don't think we can step into each other's skin and bones. The real answer is a self-examination that's harder to do and harder to admit.

*In "The Bingo Palace," Erdrich probes themes of Native American identity and self-examination to an excruciating degree. As in previous books, her characters are torn between the lure of life off the reservations and a spiritually powerful urge to return and make things right with one's family.*

*Lipsha Morrissey, a leading character, is drawn back to the reservation by his grandmother's command, and he promptly falls in love with a*

woman who proves frustratingly elusive. The drama plays out against the growth of bingo and casino gambling, a real-life trend that has transformed Native American life.

Erdrich wrote many sections of the new novel in the early 1980s, anticipating with her imagination today's new world of reservation gambling. Although she concedes that Native Americans have a legal right to build these palaces of chance, her book is studded with menacing warnings.

**Q:** Is the growth of reservation gambling a blessing or a curse?

**A:** Depending on whom you speak to, it's either the greatest thing that's ever happened to Native Americans or the worst. Some reservations are handling it with more ease and grace, while others have been devastated.

**Q:** What are the problems you've seen developing?

**A:** There are too many casinos opening up. They're too big. Too much all at once. I have cousins who are now blackjack dealers and (gambling) is very much part of life. Most of the casinos are run by Las Vegas or Reno companies (that) approach native tribal councils and target their reservations for a casino. On the other hand, the money has been a lifesaver for many reservations. In Minnesota, the Mille-Lacs Chippewa have used it to open up day care, put roads and schools in, and provide health care.

*It's hard enough solving these problems when you're a Native American, coping with the burdens of racism and economic deprivation. Erdrich's French-German-Chippewa*

*roots make life an even more tangled riddle.*

Raised in Wahpeton, N.D., Erdrich was born the eldest of seven children. Her parents taught at the Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school, and her maternal grandfather was the tribal chairman on the Turtle Mountain Reservation. She learned the traditional Chippewa religion but was also raised Catholic, a duality that became a theme in her life.

Indeed, it was only after attending Dartmouth that Erdrich paid special attention to her Native American roots. It was there she met Darris, who was born into the Modoc tribe and who founded the school's Native American studies program. Erdrich won prizes for short stories and supported herself with odd jobs before finally gaining financial security with "Love Medicine."

*The Wall Street Journal* has dubbed her "The High Priestess of Native American Lit." But Erdrich is unusually blunt about her identity.

**Q:** Some critics speculate that you're a Native American who happens to be a writer. Others say it's the other way around. Which is more accurate?

**A:** I don't always feel comfortable being labeled, because I'm such a mixture of backgrounds. I've lived in the West, so I can walk into the most hard-bitten cafe and sit down with ranchers. I can walk into a powwow and feel comfortable. I feel happy in the Frankfurt airport, because I can understand the things that people say in German, and I like to be around people speaking French. There's a place for me to touch down in all these cultures.

# 400 Mourn Michael Dorris

## At Memorial Service, Writer Recalled As Man Of 'Generosity'

By KRISTINA EDDY

Valley News Staff Writer

HANOVER — When Michael Dorris killed himself a month ago, he was quite alone, but yesterday, hundreds of his friends, family and colleagues gathered to honor the award-winning author and founder of Dartmouth College's Native American Studies program and to remember him as a generous, kind and energetic man who stood up for what he believed in.

The memorial service held in Rollins Chapel on the Dartmouth campus was a mix of American Indian, Christian and secular practices.

It included the presentation to Dorris' mother of a star quilt sewn with green and white fabric, and the performance of a ritual and prayer asking his soul to move on, a group recitation of the Lord's Prayer and the reading of some of Dorris' writing. Dorris' father belonged to the Modoc tribe.

"Michael was one of the most gifted writers ever to serve on Dartmouth's faculty — a man of voluminous energy, an expansive imagination, a personal warmth and generosity of spirit, a golden heart and a fierce belief in the talent and promise of his students," Dartmouth President James O. Freedman said at the service. "(He) has not left us empty-handed. The memory of his example, the gift of his words, and the legacy of his leadership will forever surround us."

Dorris joined the Dartmouth faculty in 1972, at the age of 27, as the chairman of the Native American Studies program and an instructor in anthropology. He remained chairman of the program until 1984 and at the time of his death at the age of 52 was an adjunct professor of Native American Studies and anthropology.

He became a writer later in his life and was perhaps best known for his book *The Broken Cord*, which chronicled some of the life of his first adopted son, who had fetal alcohol syndrome. He later adopted two more children with FAS.

Dorris played a profound role in recruiting and keeping American Indian students at Dartmouth, and many of his former students were at the service. N. Bruce Duthu, a Dartmouth alumnus and now a professor of law at Vermont Law School, met Dorris when Duthu was considering coming to the Ivy League school.

"To say Michael was a complex man is an understatement of vast proportions," Duthu, a visiting professor in Native American Studies



AP

A man wipes away tears while leaving Rollins Chapel yesterday after a memorial service for writer Michael Dorris.

Valley News May 10, 1977  
at Dartmouth and a former director of Dartmouth's Native American Program, said during the service.

He spoke of Dorris' easy, sincere smile; his straightforwardness and passion; his caring as a father and his fondness of dancing. "He out-danced and out-discoed the best of us ... and I don't even think he liked disco," Duthu said.

Others remembered Dorris as a handsome man who both fought against Dartmouth's use of an American Indian as its mascot and who greatly enjoyed being an aerobics instructor.

"Michael's sense of purpose, his energy and intelligence, and his sense of humor, these finally prevailed and we are the richer," said James Wright, dean of the faculty and acting provost at Dartmouth. "We share in the frustration of knowing that in Michael Dorris' last agonizing and troubled days,

we could do nothing to help him as we know he would have done to help us."

On April 11, Dorris checked into a Concord motel using a false name and later killed himself in that room. Friends and colleagues were shocked by the act, but Louise Erdrich, Dorris' widow, told reporters that he had been suicidal for years and had battled depression.

Erdrich and Dorris had been separated at the time of his death, and after his death it was disclosed that he faced a child sex-abuse investigation in Minneapolis.

More than 400 people attended yesterday's service, which lasted for about 90 minutes.

The lesson from Dorris' life and death is that "we are all human, we are all flawed, we all despair and we must all love each other and care for each other," Duthu said.

# It's Also the Animal That Can Help Farmers Make a Profit

By OMAR SACIRBEY

Valley News Staff Writer

After a dozen years, Jim Neil can pick his elk out from more than a hundred yards away, distinguishing their fly-flicking ears from the leaves that flutter in the wind.

Today, some 40 elk graze on 35 fenced acres at Neil's Eastridge Elk Farm in Csofnish, which he's owned for 30 years. Chances are, he says, that as the nascent industry proves itself, more elk farmers will join him.

"There're some of us that just want to farm," said Neil, 59. "And in order to farm, we have to find some sort of farming that is profitable."

As it becomes harder and harder to earn a living at the more traditional agricultural occupations, such as dairy farming, farmers in New England and the rest of the United States are looking to alternatives.

One of those alternatives is elk farming, which been taken up by traditional farmers, as well as people new to farming.

In singing the praises of elk, farmers such as Neil, who until April was president of the Northeast Deer and Elk Farmers Association, cite a low capital investment to maintain them, a modest time commitment and a profit margin that is higher than that of traditional livestock.

"It's part of phenomenon that's been going on since World War II, trying to find new species of animal to adapt to new



Jim Neil of Cornish, above, opens the gate to one of his elk pens. Below, Phil Greene of East Plainfield sweet talks a young bull at Celtic Moon Elk Farm.

product models," said New Hampshire Agriculture Commissioner Steve Taylor of Meriden. In recent years, farmers have also begun raising red deer, emus, ostriches and other animals. "Elk is part of those efforts to branch out," Taylor said.

Neil bought his first elk in 1991, some 15 or 20 years after elk farming had re-emerged in other parts of the country, but

before it had caught on in the East. At the time, it was still illegal to sell deer and elk meat, a law Neil said he got changed in about a year with the help George Disnard, a former state senator from Sullivan County.

Neil, a forester by profession, grew up on a dairy farm near St. Johnsbury. He came into elk farming after raising beef cattle on his Cornish farm for 20 years, as well as trying lamb farming for a spell. But as consumers' buying habits changed — fewer people buying whole sides of beef to freeze, for example — Neil figured there could be more profitable ways to raise livestock, which he prefers over horticultural farming. He settled on elk.

So did Donn Cann and Phil Greene, who bought their first elk — 10 females — in 2001 for about \$34,000, according to



Valley News 1-6-83



Young bulls wait for their evening feeding at Eastridge Elk Farm last week. VALLEY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS — LAURA DECAPUA

## Elk: It's What's for Dinner

# EDSON FROM PAGE A1

school is the beginning of career education, not the end, she said.

"To decide at the ripe old age of 17 or 18 that you're tired of (learning), that's okay," Edson said. "But it won't be okay for long."

While Edson continues to think of ways the district and the tech center can improve, she is satisfied with her tenure as director. Between opening the building to public meetings and hosting the local cable access channel, Edson is pleased to see more people accessing the center for different reasons.

"She's done a marvelous job.

Absolutely magnificent," Allen Damron, SAU 6 assistant superintendent, said of Edson's performance. "People trust her."

Once her retirement becomes official, Edson said she plans to be volunteer at Stevens High School to help organize and coordinate different programs there. Also, once the new director is in place, Edson said she will make herself available to help in any way she can.

An ad-hoc committee charged with finding her replacement has been formed, and though Edson is not a voting member she is acting in an advisory capacity.

# Edson optimistic about tech center's future

## Longtime director retiring after school year

By **JOSH ADAMS**  
Staff Writer

It's not that Jill Edson has lost interest in her job as director of the Sugar River Valley Technical Center, she's just more interested in something else.

**Claremont** I n  
J u l y

Edson will retire from the center she's been a part of for more than a decade so she can spend more time with her family. The 60-year-old educator has led the way for Claremont's vocational education since 1997, and even as she's months from retirement, Edson has plenty of ideas about where the center should be headed.

"The NESDEC report says there's space in this building and there is," Edson said. "There's also room on this lot for expansion."

The report Edson is referring to was heard recently by the Claremont School Board's long-range planning subcommittee. Donald Kennedy of the New England School Development Council urged the district to consider how to best utilize the technical center as it considers how to accommodate a growing student population.

For Edson, the idea of moving the high school students to

the middle school on South Street is very appealing as students would be that much closer to the tech center. Not only would this facilitate more participation in existing programs, but Edson believes a fully-functioning bank branch could be established on the campus to fill several needs.

"I think the finance academy model could be very successful here," Edson said.

The idea is to offer banking services to the students, staff and general public while instituting finance curriculum. With benefits for both the students and the public, Edson believes a

bank branch at the tech center would further reinforce a sense of community she has worked to establish.

"If you were to ask her what the most important part of her life is, she would say family, and she's brought that into her work," Rebecca Roisman, student services coordinator at SRVTC, said of Edson.

In addition to financial instruction, Edson is hopeful that biotechnologies will be brought into the center. Careers in forensic sciences, agriculture and environmental research are some of the options Edson would like to open up to students. In pushing for more curriculum options, Edson hopes students take the courses to help focus their studies in college. High

See **EDSON** - Page A8



**Edson**

# Edson<sup>28</sup> buys food store

## North Walpole grocery sold

By SALLY L. ANDERSON  
Contributing Writer

**NORTH WALPOLE** — Bill Baldasaro is retiring for the second time after selling his successful Discount Food Warehouse business on Route 12 to Cornish grocery store broker George Edson.

Edson, 54, was involved in his family's bakery — Cross Baking Co. in Claremont, for 12 years. He then owned D'Amante's store in West Claremont for several years before becoming a broker of small grocery stores for the past 15 years.

Edson said after listing the North Walpole store for about a year, he liked it so much, he bought it.

"I plan on keeping it and working there full time," Edson said. He explained that he is now out of the real estate business and willing to devote his full efforts to the North Walpole store.

"I will be working very hard to keep it the same, but if I make any changes it would be to add more (inventory) and make it better," Edson said, indicating he would be keeping the store's present staff of 15 employees and perhaps adding to that number. He said he was very impressed by the work ethic of employees, some of whom have been there as long as Baldasaro.

"He's a very nice man and customers won't really notice any changes, unless they are for the better," said Baldasaro, who said he expects to keep active in the business as buyer until Edson takes full charge of the store he recently purchased.

The no-frills store buys tractor-trailer lots of foods and household goods often discontinued or in oversupply from major store chains, with no choice of products or returns possible, Baldasaro said. He explained that the challenge of the business is never knowing what or when you'd be getting items.

"It's been fun and exciting.

## FOOD

*East Times Aug 7, 1988*

From Page

Known by local customers as the "crash and dent place," the store's parking lot has also been frequented by expensive cars bearing out-of-state plates with their owners jamming trunks full of discounted bargains, mainly of the staple and canned goods variety.

For Baldasaro, the fun part was offering area residents, especially elderly residents on fixed incomes, a place to find discounted staple foods "to help them out." A large inventory of specialty health foods — from blue corn tortilla chips to herbal teas and juices, has also attracted its own following.

While some goods discounted the most have been damaged on the outside, the contents are still good, said Baldasaro ex-

plaining that "sell by" dates are closely watched with the biggest mark-downs of products whose dates are coming due.

In the popular major discount racks at the back of the store, some boxes of cereal and can goods look like they've been smashed, but their contents are still fine, while their prices are often a third or less of the same products in perfect packages.

Baldasaro, 61, retired the first time after working for more than 26 years as financial director for Hubbard Farms, the worldwide company that was sold to Merck several years ago.

Owner of the large building at the north end of North Walpole village, Baldasaro

took over the Discount Food Warehouse from his tenant Gay Beauchesne, who began the business and operated it for about two years before moving away from the area about nine years ago.

Baldasaro purchased the building in 1986 and renovated it with new heating and wiring. He also rents space to Bellows House Bakery, Rent-A-Vision and professional offices including those of Peter Powers, CPA. The Food discount Warehouse occupies about 10,000 square feet of the building.

The food warehouse complements Mr. G's across the road where variety and department store items are discounted as surplus salvage stock from a variety of warehouses.



## D'Amantes Store

It was May 4, 1980 when George and Jill Edson purchased D'Amantes Store from Carmine "Frank" D'Amante. Frank had started with a small store on the edge of the Sugar River in the 50's, and built it up to quite a sizeable enterprise.

The Edsons are quick to give credit for their success to date, to their employees. Manager Louis Falzarano and Assistant, Everett Ross are both employed full time and one or both of them can be found in the store seven days a week. Louis has spent most of his working life serving the grocery trade spending about 25 years with Sealtest and 10 with Twin State Fruit Co. Everett was with First National for the last 15 years and was Assistant Manager in Claremont when First National closed last year.

Part timers "Pete" Plourde, Mary Lapointe, Mark White, Nancy Normandeau and Elliot "Brownie" Brown make up the rest of the staff.

D'Amantes features a full line of groceries, a newly expanded produce department, a taste tempting meat and deli case (overseen by master meat cutter Brownie) and does a large beverage business including cold beer, wine, and warm beer by the case. Also shoppers at D'Amantes find some interesting and unusual items such as Estes Rockets, beer making kits, wood products, and many other special interest items.

If you haven't been to D'Amantes lately then a visit is in order. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., Monday - Saturday and 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday.

# Jill Edson is chosen local Realtor of the Year

CONCORD, N.H. — Jill Edson, Cornish, a broker with Century 21 Highview Realty, Claremont, has been named realtor of the year for the Greater Claremont Board of Realtors.

Edson, selected from among the board's 78 members, was chosen based on her service to the realtor organization on the local, state, and national levels, as well as recent business accomplishments, and service to the local community.

A realtor since 1978, Edson is the local board's congressional coordinator and currently chairs the board's Governmental Affairs and Equal Opportunity committees. She is also an instructor in the Greater Claremont Board's Indocritration Course for new members.

Edson belongs to the Governmental Affairs and Equal Opportunity committees of the New Hampshire Association of Realtors, and is the "Team '88" Republican coordinator for New Hampshire's Second Congressional District. She has earned the Graduate Realtors Institute GRI designation for completing three continuing education courses of study, and regularly contributes to the Realtors Political Action Committee.

She has served for the past 15 years on the Cornish School Board and for the past six years has been a trustee of Valley Regional Hospital. She belongs to the City Bank & Trust Board of Consultants, and both the Sullivan County Republican Committee and League of Women Voters.



**JILL EDSON, second from right, Cornish, receives a plaque after her selection as Realtor of the Year from the Greater Claremont Board of Realtors. From left, Antoinette "Toni" Beaudry, president, N.H. Association of Realtors; Mary Lou Reed, president, Greater Claremont Board of Realtors; Edson; and John Forbes, chairman of the state selection committee.**



**ED** — Roselyn Caplan and George Edson, of Century View Realty., Claremont, have earned membership in the Million Dollar Club for 1980, in honor of outstanding achievement in real estate sales volume, more than \$1 million during the year. Caplan has been affiliated with the club for two years, Edson for three.



**NEW OFFICERS** — An installation of Greater Claremont Board of Realtors officers was conducted last week at the Elks Home by Leonard A. Lord, Concord, president of the N. H. Assn. of Realtors. Those elected are, seated from left,

Normand R. Beaudry, vice president; Marge Saucier, treasurer; and Lord. Standing, Roz Chabot, director; Peg Chabot, president; and Bertha Emery, outgoing president. (Bertha Emery)

# NEIGHBORHOOD SPAT

## Contamination claim doubted

water contamination

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**,  
Contributing Writer

A Saint-Gaudens Road resident is "flabbergasted" that his concern for his water supply has been "taken **Cornish** lightly" by the selectmen.

"Despite my appearance before the selectmen on Oct. 8, there did not appear to be any follow-through pertaining to our meeting," Andrew "Sandy" Schuele said in a letter to the board dated Nov. 3.

Schuele believes his water is being contaminated by the accumulation of tires, car batteries, an old outhouse, a "multitude" of rusting vehicles and 100 old motorcycles on the 70 acres belonging to his neighbor, William Cable, across the road.

Cable, a computer programmer, and his wife, Mary Boyle, who has college degrees in microbiology and public health and works as a lab technician at Alice Peck Day hospital in Lebanon, N.H., said Sunday that they can prove there is no way the family could be polluting Schuele's water supply.

Schuele, who is almost as upset over what he perceives as the indifference of the board as he is about the water, said he visited the selectmen Oct. 8, and when he heard no response, returned to the board on Oct. 31 and again this past Friday.

Unbeknownst to Schuele, the selectmen on Nov. 12 toured the Cable and Boyle property looking for possible causes of pollution. "We were there for three-quarters of an hour," Dingee told Schuele Friday. "We do not see how any contamination could be coming from your neighbor from across the road."

Schuele told the board that he had counted more than 70 motorcycles on the property.

"They're rust buckets," he added.

Dingee said all the motorcycles were under cover in a shed and therefore no law was being broken. He questioned the number of machines that Schuele said he counted. Dingee said he did count seven unregistered cars, which is a zoning violation.

As for the outhouse, the board said it had not been used for about 10 years.

Schuele said he has a wetlands area downhill from his two wells, one of which is on Cable's property. The wetland has been found to have a high concentration of e-coli bacteria, he said. "The count was so high, someone from the state lab said I shouldn't even go wading there," Schuele said.

Under an old agreement, the owner of the Schuele property owns the water rights to the Cable property.

A state laboratory has tested Schuele's springs for bacterial counts and found them clean. "too clean," he said, suggesting that someone might have tampered with them before the testing. Cable said he and Schuele had gotten along for years. The squabble arose in September when a Fed Ex driver delivered a package to Cable's home, and while the driver was waiting, surveyed what he later described to someone at Schuele's home as an "environmental disaster" in Cable's yard. So far Schuele has been in touch with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services four times, three times by telephone and once by personal visit to the DES office in Concord.

He said DES was concerned about the wetland and asked him whether he had reported the contamination to the local public health officer. Schuele

said he had not.

Dingee said at Friday's that the Cable family practices environmentalism, and he finds it hard to believe that the family would cause pollution.

Cable said Sunday in an interview at his home that his family uses six gallons of gray water a day and conserves as much as possible. The Cables use solar power and wind energy to electrify and warm their home, a three-story round house with a thick stone and mortar wall around the first floor.

He and his wife have lived on the property since 1978. The couple has one son, Rigel.

The family uses a Canadian Sun-Mar Excel toilet that reabsorbs the waste in a tray at the base of the unit. There is no wastewater going into the ground. Until recently, the family dumped the waste into a compost area for their fruit trees in an orchard downhill from the house.

"I stopped doing that when all this came up, and I now take the waste to a spot way up the hill," he said, pointing to a spot at least 200 feet away.

He said that e-coli bacteria live for 120 days and not for long periods of time. Thus no pollution could be coming from the old outhouse, he said.

"I know one thing," Cable said. "If this thing gets very far and we go to court, I'm going to have something to say to Fed Ex and that driver. He's supposed to deliver packages, not poke around private property."

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

In 1914 Isadora was in New York searching for American Children to add to her school of Greek Dancers. The requirements were that the children were to be given to her to educate up to their twenty-first year. No tuition was charged.

The Evening Sun, Friday, November 20, 1914.

A review of the book Modern Dancing and Dancers by J. E. Crawford Fitch which appeared in The Nation, November 14, 1912 does not flatter the dancer. "One regrets, after the author's sane remarks up to this point, to find him gushing like a school girl over the artificial and ludicrous antics of Isadora Duncan in her efforts to revive classical dancing by assuming the attitudes of figures on Greek vases while "interpreting" modern symphonies and piano pieces."

Margaruerite Quimby remembers Isadora staying with the Rublees when she visited Cornish.

Interview V.C. with Quimby Oct. 12, 1980.

Isadora and Juliett Rublee both had interests in dancing. Juliett danced for public functions also. She danced for the Bird Masque in 1913.

Bird Masque program, Sept. 12, 1913  
Meriden, NH

Isadora Duncan first appeared at the Metropolitan Opera House, Nov. 1908. ~~xxxxxxx~~ William Vaughn Moody, George Grey Barnard and Percy Mackaye attended the performance, visiting her studio after.

Letters to Harriet by Wm Vaughn Moody, p. 63

Interview - V.C. files

The famous dancer had several friends among the Cornish Colony members.

When Percy MacKaye's play Caliban was performed in 1916 in the New York City College Stadium Isadora Duncan danced at the opening. The following year MacKaye went to Palm Beach where he helped sketch out a plan for the future dancing school. He had written a beautiful poem the year before after seeing the children dancing. Isadora presented MacKaye with an autographed photo of herself. V.C. files

Isadora Duncan was an American dancer who played an important part in developing the dance as a creative, living art. She disliked the ballets and based her own dances on free, natural movement. She danced in bare feet and wore a tunic, using music by great masters such as Beethoven and Gluck. She danced in Europe and the United States and established several schools, none of which endured. She died a tragic death in 1927.

World Book  
1965 ed

She conceived the idea of interpretive dancing, a modern adaptation of the classical dances of Greece. She became famous in the United States and Europe. She was first to popularize the bare foot dance. At Nice, a scarf she was wearing about her neck became ~~ta~~ entangled in the wheels of an automobile in which she was riding, she was thrown out and instantly killed.

Encyclopedia Americana  
1960 ed.

Maxfield Parrish, Jr. recounted the evening when Isadora danced at a party in the music room in his father's house.

Interview, Virginia Colby with M. P. Jr. 1979

Isadora would not allow ~~xxxxxx~~ her dances to be filmed. There is only one short amateur film taken unbeknown to her when she danced outdoors.

Since Duncan refused to ever be filmed, the recently discovered fragment show here (filmed surreptitiously from behind a tree at a garden party and featuring an assembly of gentlemen in waistcoats, tails, and top hats) is the most captivating.

Elizabeth Varady "Isadora, Legend and 'Live' on TV Special"  
The Boston Herald American, Monday, June 27, 1977.

Isadora gave concerts in Carnegie Hall, Newport before going to London where she danced in private homes and before Queen Victoria. She danced in Paris, Vienna, Budapest, Berlin, Russia, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland. In 1908 she appeared in the U.S. with Walter Damrosch conducting.

Bulletin for the New York Public Library  
Isadora Duncan Index  
Vol. 76, 1972, pp. 181-198

# PROTEST IN PAGEANT AGAINST SLAUGHTER OF BIRDS

## President and Mrs Wilson See Daughters Perform in Percy MacKay Bird Masque With Members of Cornish, N H, Artist Colony.

Eleanor Wilson



*HITLER BYNNER  
the poet, as  
Stark, the plume hunter*



*MISS  
ELEANOR  
WILSON as  
"Ornie" the  
bird spirit*



*MRS JULIET  
BARRETT RUBLEE  
as "Lucile" the Bird*

*Photos copyrighted  
by Paul Thompson.*

Annetta St. Gaudens  
Bird Masque  
Bird-bath

House Beautiful

Dec., 1915

## A BIRD MASQUE IN BAS RELIEF

DESIGNED BY MRS. LOUIS ST. GAUDENS TO COMMEMORATE THE PRODUCTION OF PERCY MACKAYE'S "BIRD MASQUE" IN 1911, IN HONOR OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE LATE MRS. WOODROW WILSON

BY LIDA ROSE McCABE

**T**HE commemorative bronze bird-bath of Annetta Johnson St. Gaudens — that picturesque, practical by-product of the Percy MacKaye "Bird Masque" produced in the Meriden, New Hampshire, Sanctuary — has been successfully reproduced by its sculptor in terra cotta, which will bring it within the reach of bird-lovers with country homes, city gardens, or porches.

The pedestal of the bath is of vase-like form suggesting a Mexican water-jar. Its distinctive note is the bas-relief frieze encircling its upper half. This frieze reproduces, largely in portraiture, the distinguished personnel that participated in the "Bird Masque."

The originals, from the President's daughters (Miss Margaret Wilson, in hermit thrush plumage; Miss Eleanor Wilson, Oriole, bird spirit); Percy MacKaye, poet; Juliet Barret Hubler, dryad; Witter Blyner, plume hunter; Herbert Adams, cardinal; Kenyon Cox, crow; to the Masthead Parrish, Shipman, and St. Gaudens quail songsters, all came to pose for Mrs. St. Gaudens in her Cornish hill studio.

"My original intention," said the sculptor, whom I surprised in a Perth Amboy atelier intent upon a terra cotta reproduction for the Cornish Gardens of Mr. Charles Platt, architect, and

Ernest Harold Baynes, father of American wild bird conservation, "was simply a commemorative garden vase. At the suggestion of Mr. MacKaye and Mr. Baynes, I topped off the vase with a removable bowl-like receptacle that fits snugly as the lid of the traditional alabaster jar, while it gives the birds a fine plunge. Mrs. Helen Foster Barnett, a New York summer visitor to Cornish, had the whole cast in bronze and presented it to the Sanctuary. After much experimenting, I am delighted to have succeeded in effectively reproducing it in variegated terra cotta. Through this medium, the bath may reach widely scattered bird-lovers to recall and keep alive what the "Bird Masque" has done towards rousing interest in America's wild birds.

"I feel that I have grown up with the movement," smiled the sculptor, and she recounted the Sanctuary's development from a club of fifty to seven hundred scattered through thirty states. The first census of bird-nesting reveals fifty-four breeding pairs of thirty-five different species, while the success of its 131 nest boxes has contributed a new industry to the New England village — an Audubon House Company.

Annetta Johnson St. Gaudens is at heart no less nature lover than are the specialists identified with bird conservation. Person-



Mrs. Louis St. Gaudens in her studio.



After much experimenting, Mrs. St. Gaudens succeeded in reproducing the jar in varicolored terra cotta, in a manner that satisfied her.

ally, not unbirdlike are many of her salient characteristics. More nature than art went to her impersonation of the Love Bird in the Pantomime of the masque in which her son, Paul St. Gaudens, was scarlet tanager.

Woodland life was the subject of her first modeling. The medium through which her childish fingers gave it form was a native blue clay scooped from the bed of a brook running through her father's Hill Farm, at Flint, a village on the edge of Ohio's capital. It was from this farm, after preparatory study in the Columbus Art School, that she came to the Art Student's League.

The late Augustus St. Gaudens, then a League instructor, once said to me, "Each year brings one or more students that eventually stand out from mediocrity. I readily picked out Mrs. Johnson as a student of the right feeling and with sound foundation for sincere work."

Not long after, I found the dusky little Buckeye with the glowing eyes of the poet in the master's studio, modeling the saddle, boots, and spurs of Augustus St. Gaudens' now famous equestrian statue of General Grant in Jackson Park, Chicago.

Back to the Hill Farm, she came in good time, the bride of the master's brother, gifted Louis St. Gaudens, and in the studio built for them there in the shadow of Corot-like trees, the lover artist carved in wood and modeled in clay until summoned to Carthage to assist Augustus St. Gaudens in the execution of pressing commissions, many of which they completed after his death. What Annetta Johnson St. Gaudens did for her master

instructor, she is now doing for her husband, Louis — translating into marble his half-size study of a statue of Painting, which he left at his death two years ago, and which is destined for the main entrance of the St. Louis Museum of Art where it will companion Daniel Chester French's statue of Sculpture.

Before the rise of the Meriden Bird Club, four years ago, Annetta Johnson St. Gaudens gave twelve acres of picturesque woodland covered by the Hill Farm to the Goodman Guild House — the first social settlement of Columbus — for a summer camp for working mothers and their children. "Fields, streams, flowers, animals, and fresh air are every child's birth-right," she maintains.

On the lower part of the vase-like jar are the names of those who took part in the "Bird Masque," and these lines from the "Masque":—

"A compact, then, that when we go  
Forth from these gracious trees  
Into the world, we go as witnesses  
Before the men who make our country's laws,  
And by our witness show  
In herring word  
The meaning of these clypeal mysteries:  
Freedom and Sanctuary for the birds."

The bird-bath with its frieze of figures, dancing but forever still, reminds one of the immortal "Grecian Urn" — even though Mrs. St. Gaudens' inspiration may have been derived from a Mexican water-jar.

# Runnemedede School Changes Name to

By JODIE TILMAN

Valley News Staff Writer

PLAINFIELD — In search of a "new beginning," board members of a private school embroiled in legal disputes with the former headmistress say they are changing the name of the school.

Runnemedede School is now officially the River Valley Country Day School.

"It's not a marketing thing. This isn't a P.R. move," director Bill Powers, who serves as treasurer, said yesterday. "It's more for our community, symbolizing that we've been through an awful lot and gotten to the other side."

Board members fired headmistress Joanne Evarts and her husband, Jeremiah Evarts, the head of the high school, in April over a number of allegations, primarily what they said was Joanne Evarts' failure to disclose information about an incident involving her husband while he taught at Kimball Union Academy.

The name Runnemedede came from the lake in Windsor that was once part of the Evartses' family estate, but it also had a historical reference. It is the name of the spot near London where King John is thought to have signed the Magna Carta, the centuries-old document that empowered British noblemen to participate in their governance by grant-

ing them political and civil liberties and making the king answerable to the law of the land.

"The Magna Carta was about empowerment," Joanne Evarts told the *Valley News* in 1998. "I want kids to feel empowered about their education."

Powers said the board believes the name is too closely entwined with the Evartses.

"The Runnemedede name is an old Evarts family name, and we wanted to separate ourselves from that," he said.

School directors, who are seeking a \$250,000 attachment on the Evartses' personal property, allege in Sullivan Superior Court filings that the Evartses used more than

# River Valley Country Day

\$200,000 of school money for their personal benefit over a 4-year period. The Evartses, who filed for bankruptcy on July 7, countered in court documents that the allegations were untrue and were made "without good and sufficient investigation."

In a news release, directors said the new name reflects the geography the school serves, the Connecticut River valley.

The name change also "symbolizes a new beginning for the school.

"The school has been traumatized by the actions of several former employees, but because of the hard work of many people who believe in the school and its mission, it has emerged stronger than ever, both academical-

ly and financially."

The kindergarten-through-eighth grade school has 35 students signed up for next year, he said, and directors believe that number will increase to 50 by August.

He said August has traditionally been the month of last-minute enrollments.

Last school year, Runnemedede had about 60 students, including a small high school enrollment.

School board chairman Steve Potter said last month that the enrollment goal is 50 but that there are enough operating revenues to fully cover next school year even if the school doesn't meet enrollment projections. Valley News July 19, 2005

HAVING followed the profession of the law for more than fifty years, and during that period left an indelible impression upon it by his great legal learning and his high standing as a practitioner, William M. Evarts, of New York, has well earned the rest he is now enjoying. He was born in Boston, Mass., February 6, 1818; graduated at Yale in 1837, and admitted to the bar in New York in 1841. In 1851, while assistant district attorney in New York City, he successfully conducted the prosecution of the Cuban filibusters concerned in the Cleopatra expedition. His able and successful handling of other celebrated cases, some of them of a national character, soon earned him a wide reputation. In the Republican National Convention of 1860 he proposed the name of William H. Seward for the presidency. In 1868 President Johnson chose him as chief counsel in the impeachment trial, and from July 15, 1868, until the close of Johnson's administration he was Attorney-General of the United States. He acted as counsel for the United States before the tribunal of arbitration on the Alabama claims in 1872, and was senior counsel for Henry Ward Beecher in the famous trial of 1875. In 1877 he was advocate of the Republican party before the electoral commission, and during the administration of President Hayes was Secretary of State. In 1881 he went to Paris as delegate of the United States to the International Monetary Conference, and from 1885 to 1891 he was United States senator from New York. Many of his public addresses have already taken a place among the great orations of the century, notably his eulogy on Chief Justice Chase and his speech at the unveiling of Bartholdi's Statue of Liberty.

## **CORNISH FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**VERTICAL FILE MATERIALS ARE IN A SEPARATE FILE  
UNDER FIRE DEPARTMENT, AVAILABLE AT THE  
CHS COLLECTION PAGE AT THE TOWN WEBSITE**

# 'Rage, frustration, confusion'

## *Reps look to Hathaway for action on Fairbanks*

By **JEFF RAPSIS**  
Staff Writer

CLAREMONT, N.H. — "People have a right to know that when a lawyer gets into this kind of trouble, he or she is going to be dealt with like any other person in the eyes of the criminal justice system," said

(Please see REPS-Pg. 6)



**ANGERED** — Rep. Peter Burling, flanked by Reps. Carol Stamatakis, left, and Rep. Jane Harland, expressed frustration Monday over the continuing lack of action in the John Fairbanks case. (Jeff Rapsis Photo)

nish).

Burling and other members of Sullivan County's delegation to the New Hampshire House of Representatives, frustrated with the apparent lack of action by the state Attorney General's Office in the prosecution of former judge John C. Fairbanks, are asking County Prosecutor Marc Hathaway to step in to investigate and possibly handle the case.

"We wonder why so many people, many of them elderly, should be left to face this terrible mess alone," said Burling, who read a prepared statement during a press conference held Monday afternoon in the atrium of the Claremont Opera House.

"Continued silence in this case is destructive in the extreme. If the case is difficult, let's get some more investigators on it. If the investigation needs special skills, let's get some people with those skills. We must not let the corrosive effect of this matter go on any longer," said Burling.

Three weeks ago, Burling and four other members of the Sullivan County delegation wrote to the office of Attorney General John P. Arnold requesting an explanation why no action has been taken on the case.

"To date, we have no response to our letter, not even an acknowledgement of receipt," said Burling, joined for the press conference by Rep. Jane Harland (D-Claremont) and Rep. Carol Stamatakis (D-Lempster). The letter was endorsed by Rep. Ted Lucier (D-Claremont), who was not present.

"Our purpose today is to ask the Sullivan County prosecutor for assistance in this matter. We believe he may be able to find answers from the Attorney General's Office which we have been unable to elicit. Our further purpose is to ask the county prosecutor to take over the case himself if he can't produce either answers or action," said Burling, who paid a visit himself to the Attorney General's Office recently.

"I went into the Criminal Division in Concord, left a card...I was informed that no one who was involved with the investigation was present in the building, and I was assured that I would get a call back. No call came back."

Burling said "this situation is getting worse, not better," citing rumors the state judicial system is "dragging its collective feet."

"I've talked with literally dozens of lawyers in this county and around the state, and the universal response is one of rage, frustration, and confusion."

Burling described the request to involve County Attorney Marc Hathaway "a vote of con-

of pressurized situation."

Burling also said a recent conversation confirmed that as early as June 27th the county prosecutor was prepared to go forward, "but I gather was told by the Attorney General's Office to stop, to drop it, that the matter was going to be handled by the Attorney General's Office as soon as a couple of other cases were finished up," said Burling.

"I have every confidence that Marc was ready in late June and is ready now to go forward in this matter, but he's stuck dealing with his boss," said Burling, noting the the attorney general can "essentially tell the county prosecutor what to do."

"I'd really like to know what his boss is doing," said Burling.

Rep. Jane Harland added a different perspective to claims the case "is hard to prosecute because the state doesn't have facilities for investigation of white collar crime."

"I don't think this is that much of a complicated white collar crime. In Claremont, if someone steals \$25, they get prosecuted for it immediately," said Harland, who said the Fairbanks case has "taken forever."

"My view is that this kind of misappropriation of funds is hard to track," said Burling. "But in the last seven months enough evidence has been submitted in the form of affidavits and complaints formally filed with the Attorney General's office to justify an indictment. I'm making no judgment about whether any guilt would be found."

"Not even a statement has come out of the Attorney General's Office saying we are actively pursuing this, here is the number of investigators we've got going on this case, here is the way we are looking at the case."

Burling cited public distrust of the legal system as an outgrowth of the case.

"We must face that it's not an era in which the justice system and legal profession are held in very high esteem. We've left a lot of people totally without state assistance in recovering their assets, whether or not criminal intent underlay what went on. Nobody's denying people are out a lot of money. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have just gone away. What we've done for these people is say 'go hire a private attorney...and who knows whether the attorney general will be along in a little bit.'"

Burling wondered aloud why no effort has been made to appoint a receiver, seize all assets, "freeze everything, and do something to help the injured individuals with this awful task of figuring how much is left, what is their's, what isn't

# Fairbanks files to stay closed

## State Supreme Court denies Burling request

By HILLARY CHURA  
The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — The state Supreme Court today denied a request to open professional conduct files of former Newport Judge John Fairbanks, who killed himself after running for four years from charges he bilked clients.

Former state Rep. Peter Burling argued the public deserved to know whether the court's Professional Conduct Committee, which disciplines lawyers, knew about allegations of Fairbanks' wrongdoing before he was indicted and fled.

The court said Burling hadn't questioned whether the rule restricting public access to the files was a good one. The court

---

*The state Supreme Court said former Rep. Peter Burling, D-Cornish, hadn't questioned whether the rule restricting public access to the files was a good one.*

---

also said another avenue exists to change rules governing lawyer misconduct, and it added that a committee is reviewing the rule and issues raised by the confidentiality provision.

Burling, who could not be reached for comment this morning, wanted the files

**Please see COURT-Pg. 6)**

opened so the Legislature could consider whether hearings should be held on how lawyers are disciplined.

Lawyers are the only professionals not regulated by the Legislature, he said.

Disciplinary files on lawyers are kept secret unless a court-appointed committee recommends the Supreme Court censure, suspend or disbar someone.

"The task of supervising and disciplining attorneys within this state falls squarely upon the shoulders of this court," the court said. "We have always had the inherent power to take reasonable and expeditious action in the suspension or removal of members of the bar for

the protection of the community."

Paul McEachern, the committee's lawyer, argued confidentiality of the accused and accuser are paramount, even in the Fairbanks case.

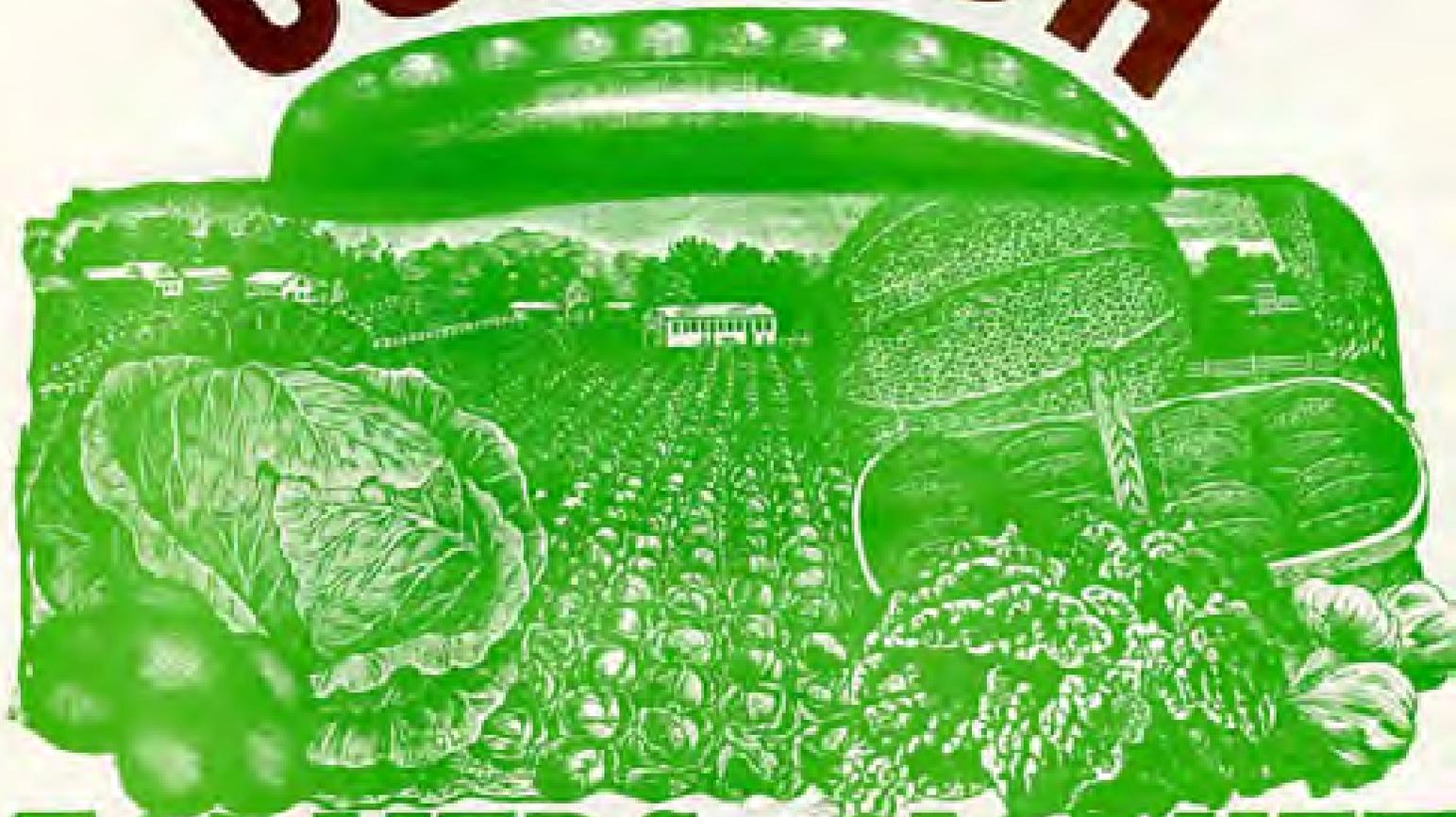
Fairbanks, 70, killed himself in a Las Vegas hotel this spring, ending a manhunt that started in December 1989 after he was charged with stealing more than \$1 million from clients of his private law practice.

Since then, several people who hired Fairbanks to manage their trust accounts accused the conduct panel of ignoring their pleas for help. One of them raised the issue years before Fairbanks was indicted.

—COME BUY — COME SELL

CORNISH FARMERS MARKET  
AT THE

**CORNISH**



**FARMERS MARKET**

OPEN 10-1 EVERY SATURDAY

TRINITY CHURCH CORNISH

ROUTE 12-A ½ MILE SOUTH OF COVERED BRIDGE

OPENING JUNE 27

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL MARTHA ZOERHEIDE 675-5131

Valley News 11/22/90



### Holiday Repast

Valley News

Janice Orion, center, and Suzanne Lupien, right, both of Cornish, listen as Connie Kousman, also of Cornish, plays holiday music on an electronic keyboard during the Cornish Farmers Market

Thanksgiving sale Wednesday afternoon. Organic cranberries, apple pies and turkey stuffing were available for purchase for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Valley News — LAURA DeCARUA

Janice Orion, Suzanne Lupien, Connie Kousman

# Farm Wins Award For Conservation

By KATHRYN NIEMELA

Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — For the second time, the Brokenridge Farm in Cornish has been recognized for its land conservation efforts.

And for the first time in the history of Claremont's Sullivan County Conservation District, the annual award has given been given to the same farm twice.

Fred Sullivan, owner of the Brokenridge Farm, said he and his family do everything possible to conserve the farm's resources.

"Without conservation we wouldn't be able to farm, because conservation is conserving the resources that we have, and if we didn't take care of the soil that we're tilling all the time, we wouldn't have anything left to till — we'd lose everything. It'd go right down the river."

The 500-acre dairy farm produces milk and maple syrup, as well as corn and hay to feed the cattle.

Of the 200 head of cattle, 125 cows are milked two times a day, a chore Sullivan said he's been doing for 57 years.

"One of our mottoes on the farm is 'You take care of the soil and the soil will take care of you.' It's helped to maintain the farm," Sullivan observed.

Jan Heighes, district manager of the Sullivan County Conservation District, said Brokenridge is a true fami-

**“One of our mottoes on the farm is ‘You take care of the soil and the soil will take care of you.’ It’s helped to maintain the farm.”**

**Fred Sullivan**

Owner of the Brokenridge Farm,  
two-time winner of the Sullivan County  
Conservation District award

ly farm, dedicated to conservation.

"The Sullivans — since 1964 when they originally got the award — have consistently on an annual basis shown good stewardship on their land to protect natural resources to improve water quality," she said. "They do what they have to do to protect their land and make it far more productive at the same time."

Some of the things the Sullivans have done to their property to earn the award include installing a cattle waste storage facility to improve water quality, as well as installing waterways, which divert water to vegetative surfaces to minimize erosion.

"Any farmer that is going to stay in existence has to practice good soil conservation," Sullivan said. "If they don't, they're not long for being in business."

The 50-year-old Sullivan County Conservation District is a branch of county government designed to protect the county's natural resources.

The award, according Heighes, is given yearly to landowners — be it forest or agricultural land — who have done outstanding work to preserve the natural resources on their land.

"It's consistent application of conservation practices that protect natural resources," Heighes said.

"They have to do it year after year. It's a culmination of many years of work that constitutes this award. It's not a flash-in-the-pan thing."

FITCH COW

# Wardens look for person who shot prize Cornish cow

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**  
Contributing Writer

A prize Scotch Highland cow belonging to Gabe Zoerheidi and Orville Fitch was shot and killed — possibly by a hunter — last week at the Fitch farm on Dingleton



## Cornish Hill

Fitch and Zoerheidi found the dead cow Thursday morning in a pasture. The farm is further up the road past the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Site.

"It was not near the road," Zoerheidi said Saturday. "Whoever shot it had to walk in."

He said he and Fitch, who is his uncle, think the shooting occurred between 3 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday morning.

New Hampshire Fish and Game Warden Ted Dakai investigated but has no suspects yet, Zoerheidi said.

Dakai removed the cow's head to be taken to a laboratory in hopes of recovering the bullet, which he believed was still inside, to determine the kind of gun that was used.

"The game warden didn't think it was an accident," Zoerheidi said of the shooting.

The cow, of light brown or blonde color with big horns, is lighter than a deer, Zoerheidi said.

"We've caught a few people jacking deer up here," Zoerheidi said.

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

**JIM LUKASH AND FAMILY**

**SEE MAPLE SUGAR**

**SEE ALSO SEPARATE FILES FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT  
AND FIRE DEPARTMENT**



PHOTOS BY TORY DENIS

Jaime Richardson, left, and Pat Lukash welcome visitors and boil down syrup to make taffy on snow at Hillside Sugarbush Farm in Cornish during NH Maple Weekend.

LUKASH, MAPLE SUGAR

Sugar producers ply their craft on NH Maple Weekend

By TORY DENIS *MAR 26, 2018*  
*toryd@seagletimes.com p.1*

**CLAREMONT** — Local maple sugar producers held open houses this weekend, giving out samples of warm syrup and taffy on snow in celebration of the 23rd annual New Hampshire Maple Weekend, held March 23-24.

Sugar-makers open their doors to the public here and across New Hampshire to demonstrate both the centuries-old craft and modern methods of maple sugaring.

At the family-run Hillside Sugarbush Farm in Cornish, Nick Lukash, his mother Pat Lukash, and several friends and family members welcomed visitors with hot coffee, homemade donuts, and syrup samples. Nick, who helps oversee the maple operation with his father Jim Lukash, demonstrated for visitors how the maple syrup production process works.

The farm operates 1,800 maple taps. As each load of sap is collected and brought to the sugar house, they produce the refined syrup through reverse osmosis, boiling the water off with an oil-fired evaporator before drawing



Maple taffy on snow was one of several treats and samples offered to visitors on Saturday at Hillside Sugarbush Farm in Cornish.

out the final product.

They keep the taps maintained through frequent trips on snowshoes, 4-wheeler or snowmobile throughout the season.

The family also makes maple candy, sugar, maple butter, maple cream and other assorted products, along with several sizes of bottled maple syrup, available sea-

sonally at the farm and also at the Cornish General Store.

In Claremont, children play outside in the sun as the owners of Twin Hill Farm on Piper Hill Road fed wood into a fire, boiling syrup down and pouring taffy over snow in their small, family-run operation.



ruce Denis of Claremont opens the door to the sugar house at Hillside Sugarbush Farm on Saturday during NH Maple Weekend.

PHOTOS BY TORY DENIS

The farm offers bottled maple syrup in varying sizes, along with homemade jams, at a neighboring farm stand.

Also in Claremont, owners AJ and Melissa Maranville of Sugar Bee Farm greeted visitors on Saturday at the farm's sugar house on Windy Hill Road, where they gave out maple buttered popcorn and had maple

syrup boiling and products including maple-bacon brittle, maple candy pops and hand-made wreaths available for purchase.

The Maranvilles are also the owners of the Granite State Hobbies on Pleasant Street in Claremont, and have their maple products available for sale there and at the farm.



Nick Lukash, one of the operators at Hillside Sugarbush Farm in Corrish,



## Drip By Drip

JIM LUKASH

Valley News — Medora Herald

Jim Lukash checks his syrup-in-progress yesterday at Hillside Sugarbush in Cornish. The weather has been cooperating with sugarers so far this season. Page B1.

# Footprints of the Past

by Virginia Colby

## Barry Faulkner, Muralist



DRAWING OF HAZEL GIBSON AMIDON of Plainfield by Barry Faulkner for the model of the "Apple Girl" for the murals in the Oregon State Capitol Building.



CHARLES PLATT, grandson of Charles A. Platt, posed for Daniel Webster in the mural by Barry Faulkner, "The Childhood of Daniel Webster" which is in the State House in Concord, N.H. This photograph was taken in 1984.

Barry Faulkner was a member of the Dublin Art Colony although he also had strong ties with the Cornish Colony. he was born in Keene, N.H., July 12, 1881 and died there on October 2, 1966.

Faulkner spent one year at Harvard where he met Homer Saint-Gaudens, the son of Augustus Saint-Gaudens whose home and studio, Aspet, were in Cornish. In the years immediately ahead, he was fortunate to visit Aspet on various occasions and to work for the great sculptor as well.

While in Cornish he often boarded with Mrs. George Ruggles and used Ruggles studio, as did artist Cliff Young who also assisted Faulkner with his murals. Cliff Young is now completing the murals in the United States Capitol Building left unfinished when 85 year old Allyn Cox retired in 1981.

Faulkner received a medal from the Architectural League of New York for his "Famous Women." With his career established his commissions included "The Tempest" for Washington Irving High School, "Sea Charts of the World" for the Gunard Building, N.Y., "Dramatic Music" for The Eastman Theatre, Rochester.

Barry Faulkner was also a member of the Cornish Equal Suffrage League in 1911.

Faulkner served in World War I in the U.S. Army in the American Camouflage Corps with Homer Saint-Gaudens, Harry Thrasher and Richard Meryman. Following the war, Faulkner collaborated on a memorial to the two slain Fellows of the American Academy in Rome, Harry Thrasher and Walter Ward. Also involved in the project were architect Eric Gugler and sculptor Paulanship.

Barry Faulkner did a series of mural panels for the new Oregon State Capitol Building in 1937-1938. He drew the head of Hazel Gibson Amidon of Plainfield as model for the "Apple Girl" in one of the murals.

Charles and Eleanor Platt offered Barry Faulkner the use of a vacant room in their house in Cornish for a studio during the summer of 1933. They found living accommodations for him with Ralph and Susie Jordan in Plainfield. Susie served Sunday breakfast to Barry and his friends, which always included the Platt's. The menu included homemade bread, eggs from her

own hens, jam made with wild strawberries, honey, griddle cakes and maple syrup made by Ralph Jordan. At Frances Grimes suggestion, Barry bought a one-seated Ford Roadster.

In the mid 30's Faulkner bought a sixty acre farm in Keene, N.H., which he named The Bounty. He continued to use it as a summer place until he retired and came to live there permanently.

Faulkner received several New Hampshire commissions, first, for the Elliot Community Hospital in Keene. Then he painted four historical panels for the Senate Chamber in the State Capitol Building in Concord. For the panel entitled "The Childhood of Daniel Webster," Charles A. Platt, son of William Platt, and grandson of Charles A. Platt, the noted Cornish Colony architect, posed for young Daniel Webster who was kneeling over a copy of the newly ratified United States Constitution on the floor of a Salisbury general store. Young Platt still maintains a house in Cornish and also serves as a trustee for the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site.

The mural "Man of Monadnock" for the Keene National Bank followed in 1950, and the "Advent of the Railroad, 1848" was painted in 1955 for the Cheshire County Savings Bank in Keene.

Faulkner died in Keene in 1966.



**SUMNER'S FERRY** — Many years ago Sumner's Ferry sat waiting for a passenger. Also called the Lower Ferry, it could carry one horse and buggy at a time on its flat barge-like deck. View is from Plainfield side of river looking southwest. (Hartland Historical Society collection)

*Sept 12, 1968 Thors.*

**SUMNER'S FERRY**

# Sumner's Ferry Once Linked Towns Of Hartland, Plainfield

By ELLEN MAYHEW  
Valley News Staff Writer

**HARTLAND** — Longtime residents of Plainfield and Hartland know there used to be a bridge and later a ferry between the two towns on the Connecticut River.

It seems strange that two towns can be so widely separated when they are so close, but during the time when there was not a bridge or a ferry, there was very poor communication between the towns. Such is the case today.

In 1821 a company was formed and a bridge was built across the river. A freshet later carried it off and in 1841 another was built but this, too, was carried away by a freshet in 1859.

The area around the Connecticut River years ago was lively and industrious. Lumber mills sprang up and river boats were in wide use. The ferry owners always had boats and some farmers along the river had them. In the winter time, when the ferry boats were not in use, local people used to cross the river on the ice, on which a road was plowed out.

## Sumner's Ferry

The Lower Ferry, which was located near what is now Britton's Saw mill, was formerly called Sumner's Ferry.

This ferry was built by David Sumner and was operated by him. The ferry house was

located on the Plainfield side of the river where there was also a barn and a few acres of land. This property was bought by Winston Churchill from the estate of Charles C. Beaman, who owned it after David Sumner.

## Business Entrepreneur

Stephen Woodward of Plainfield, lived in the ferry house in the early 1900's. He was the last person to operate the ferry.

Sumner, who owned the whole town of Dalton, N.H., passed immense quantities of lumber from that place and from others in northern Vermont and New Hampshire down the river to Hartford, Conn., receiving in return West India goods such as salt and iron.

Sumner also had a saw mill up the river near the lower ferry.

The ferry was constructed in the following manner: The boat was rather flat, and could carry a horse and buggy. There was a cable stretched across the river from high up in two trees, one on each side of the river.

The one on the Vermont side was hitched to an old elm tree and several years ago the old cables could be seen from the bank. From one end a rope was attached to the front of the north side of the boat, and another rope from the other end to the rear of the north side of the boat.

## 'Current Powered'

By means of a windlass these ropes could be wound up or let out. The front end of the boat would be headed slightly upstream. By winding up the rope at that end, the force of the current against the north side would be resolved into two components, one tending to push the boat forward, and the other simply exerting pressure against the boat.

As the boat neared the other side of the river, the front rope would be let out, and the boat would straighten, and its momentum would carry it the rest of the way to shore.

Sometimes long poles would be used to assist in moving the boat.

There have been efforts in passing years to have another bridge built here. John Freeman was eager to do something about this and he and some others presented a petition to the towns concerned with this sometime around 1913. The people at the Meriden end of Plainfield vetoed this article at a town meeting.

It is pretty vague at this point to determine why the townspeople did not vote to have another bridge built.

Some say it was the Hartland

sumner's ferry

## THE FERRY OVER THE CONNECTICUT Helen Bernice Lovell

After seeing Lumber Sky Pilot on Vermont Public Radio while they are having their fund drive, I am reminded of the pulp logs in the twenties of the last century that were floated down the Connecticut River. It was a sight to see the four foot logs riding the current down the river. It seems to me now that the logs have been debarked, but maybe my memory fails me. It was quite a sight to see them. If there was a whole drive coming down, Ashley's ferry could not run. I remember going with my father to cross the river, not on the day of a large drive but there were still some logs coming down. Mr. Haugsrud, the ferryman, was watching very carefully and had his pike pole handy because if a log struck the ferry it could be severely damaged. Watching the logs, he would hurry the ferry along or slow it a little to keep it away from the logs.

I don't believe there are many people around who have crossed on a river ferry. The boat was attached by chains to a cable that is strung across the river. The flow of water is the propulsion that moves the boat from one side of the river to the other. What made the difference was the length of the chains which the ferryman controlled.

It was interesting when there were horses in the ferryboat as some were skittish and some would stay calm. Years back, two of my father's sisters had come to see him and on their return had to cross with the ferry with their horse and buggy to get home to Vermont. Mr. Hausgrud was afraid the women could not control the horse if it was afraid. If the horse panicked, could they control it? The one who owned the horse had much experience with her horses and could handle them well. She got out of the buckboard, took off her coat and put it over the horse's head and stood close to him. All went well and Mr. Hausgrud had nothing to worry about but his own work. I believe he was surprised that a woman knew so much about handling a horse.

The demise of the ferry came almost at the time of the 1927 fall flood. The boat had been pulled from the river to its usual resting place for the winter, but the flood water was much higher than usual so the boat was pounded to pieces. By this time there were more cars on the road and they could easily go across the Springfield or Ascutney bridges. I doubt very much if the ferry was a lucrative business at that point.



# Vern Field has a lifelong love affair with nature

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CLAREMONT — Vernon Field has shown a love for nature all of his life and has used his photography skills to take pictures of just about any flower and animal one could imagine. He also has a wide range of photos of other interesting activities, including bridges, power dams, fish ladders and nature oddities taken throughout the Connecticut River Valley.

"I have slides to share that were taken from the Canadian border to near Turners Falls, Mass.," said Field, who has put these interesting slides into a video show, that includes easy listening music. "This video has been 25 years in the making," said Field, who entertained residents of the Marion Phillips Apartments recently, with his

first showing.

Field has had an astonishing life and has many stories to tell about it. In his early years he worked at many different jobs, including logging, carpentry, even road building, but always outside.

When Helen Fifield needed to sell her family farm on Tift Road in Cornish after the death of her parents, Field, who had been looking to purchase a place, bought it. With no place to go Fifield stayed on. Realizing they both had the same interests, they were married and lived there many years, raising chickens, vegetables, and selling eggs.

The couple later purchased land on Route 120 in Claremont, where they built their own home, with lumber that he received as pay while working at a lumber

VERNON FIELD  
(See FIELD - Pg. 16)

*Copy done 8-29-99*

mill.

Moving to Claremont in 1946, gardening was still a priority. They were of the old school, spend only what you could afford. They grew their own food, which they stored in their cellar, (they did not own a refrigerator). "If we couldn't grow it we didn't have it," said Field. They raised goats for milk and meat.

His love of nature goes back to his early years when he learned about wild flowers while a student in a one-room school in Norwich, Vt. It was at that time that he entered a contest to see who could find the most different kinds of wildflowers.

His knowledge of plants was rewarded when he was hired at the Slade Estate in North Cornish, as a groundskeeper. This allowed him a paycheck. Later he became in charge of the formal gardens on the Upham estate in Claremont. He loved working with the soil, and while keeping the gardens up he became more and more interested in learning about the various flowers.

He read extensively, and before he knew it, he became a member of a garden club, all the while learning more about many species of flowers. It was during this time that he and his wife decided to make their property into a piece of land the passerby could also enjoy.

With backbreaking labor, they cleared the land and planted all kinds of flowers that bloomed throughout the season, many species too unusual to name. Even the boulders on the property became attractive, the way they planted around them.

He loved working the land and the results, adding stonewalls

and a water shell over the little brook that cascaded down their hillside, work that made a picturesque setting. Later he added a gazebo, where visitors could sit to rest.

Field did not become involved with photography until about 1970. Everything was so beautiful around his home that he wanted to document that beauty. He purchased a camera and took pictures of the dozens and dozens of flowers he had planted and often sat for hours to get pictures of wildlife and birds. He enjoyed the results so much that he soon thought of sharing the beauty with others.

Field correlated his many slides and was soon holding slide shows, giving lectures on the many flowers and animals that he had spent time researching knowledge on. An activity that filled the void of employment, after his retirement.

He continued his love for photography after the death of his wife in 1982. Not only taking pictures in the area and several states, but spent three months of a picture taking tour in India, where he took more than 3,000 pictures of wildlife and flowers. Quite an experience for a man aged 77 at the time. A later excursion took him to Alaska.

His interest in photography found him at one time climbing a very steep hilly wooded area, slipping and sliding, to get shots of the ice out, that almost took out the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge. "I could not get there by highway so I climbed the hill off Town House Road, circling to reach the bridge," said Field. "I was lucky though, the fireman gave me a ride back down Route

12A in a boat."

What started as a new adventure for him when he became interested in photography has resulted in one of the most complete collections of photos and slides available anywhere.

Among the many shows he shared were slides of weather-vanes, taken in three states, activities such as hand gliding, backpacking the Appalachian Trail, snowmobile races and so many other activities, including activities at the Cornish Fair and Old Number Four Fort, in Charlestown.

His nature slides had many oddities. One of his slide shows was of a Cornish woman calling beavers out of dam, only to hop on her lap to be fed by her. His history of the Connecticut River and log drive show as been viewed by many. "It is one of my best shows and now all that history of the Connecticut River Valley has been put on this video," said Field.

Field resided at his home on Route 120, where he kept up the landscaped ground, until moving to the Marion Phillips Apartments in 1997. At age 92 (but one would think much younger) he has given up lectures and slide shows, many of them using his Yankee wit to bring laughs of joy from those attending, but his love and knowledge of the history of the Valley, still has to be shared and he has chosen this video as his way of doing it.

Anyone wishing to view the video entitled "My Tribute to the Connecticut River and its Valley" as a program for an organization, or that would just like to view it, contact Field at the Marion Phillips Apartments on Broad Street.

FOLLOWING PAGES DEAL WITH BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, TRADE



## Beauty at Lower East Gardens Greenhouse

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Lower East Road Gardens Greenhouse off Route 120 in south Cornish offers a variety of flower and vegetable plants and seeds for the gardener.

It offers well-started tomato, squash, bean, pepper, cabbage and cauliflower plants, as well as an array of perennials, herbs and annuals. There also are hanging plants, pansies and more.

Whiskey barrels for

planters, decorative water cans and garden signs, garden tools and magnets for flower decorations are among other offerings. There are also garden statues and there's much-needed bagged top soil, potting soil, bark mulch and manure.

Travis Dube, who was running the business for his mom wants customers to know corn has been planted and will be available.

The greenhouse opened last summer. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. except for Wednesday.

6-8-01  
Eagle Times



Esersky's Hardware and (inset) new owner Ray Evans.

## Ray Evans is New Owner of Esersky's.

Esersky's Hardware is a blend of the old and the new, a beautiful old brick building built in 1833. It houses all the latest in power equipment for industrial, commercial and home use. Ray Evans, new owner, wants to retain the flavor of an old country store and make it your headquarter for useful hard to find items. Since Mr. Evans bought the business on Nov. 1, 1977 from Jim & Dot McCusker he has expanded the wood stove line, added more wood burning accessories and Aladdin kerosene lamps. He has also stocked bird see, bird feeders and supplies.

Esersky's has wood stoves to fit every need including Jotul, Rite-way, Ashley, Huntsman, All Nighter, Down Drafter, Suburban, Upland, Patriot, Atlantic, Woodsman, Centennial and Franco Belge. They also stock a complete line of stove pipe and fittings, chimney brushes, furnace cement and stove polish. In addition the store carries a complete line of power & hand tools for home and business featuring Milwaukee, Starrette, and Black & Decker, Benjamin Moore paints and accessory items. Future plans include a separate room for paints and supplies.

You will find many gift items - such as crock pots, toasters, corning ware, blenders, corn poppers, cast ironware, Chicago cutlery, and blenders - just to mention a few. If you need an axe, wedge or splitting maul you are sure to find them and much more at Esersky's.

Ray Evans came to Claremont from Hudson, Ohio. He was employed as plant manager for Stouffer foods in Solon, Ohio, for 4 years and prior to that was plant manager at Howard Johnson's, Brockton Mass. for 11 years. Ray, his wife Loretta and their 3 children, Raymond, 13, Kristen, 9, and Sarah 1½, are currently living in Newport. They are searching for land on which to build a home of their own.

WATCHES, CLOCKS, & JEWELRY,

REPAIRED TO ORDER.

J. M. NELSON,

CORNISH, N. H.



*Ruth Rollins  
12-4-81*

**NOW OPEN** — The Cornish Riverhouse Gift Gallery and Gardens on Route 12A in Cornish opened its doors to the public on Nov. 25. The Riverhouse will be open throughout the holiday season from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. (Ruth Rollins photo)

### RIVERHOUSE GIFT GALLERY



**DIVERSE ITEMS AVAILABLE** — Ruthann-Marie Lang, owner and operator of the Cornish Riverhouse Gift Gallery and Gardens, stands beside some of the hand-crafted items available for purchase. (Ruth Rollins photo)

and Sherry Cass of Cornish, Vermont  
Photo by Tom Wolfe for Valley News



Nathan and Sherry Cass work on a coffin in their Cornish shop. (Valley News—Tom Wolfe)

Nate Cass, Sherry Cass

## Cabinetmakers Opened Some Eyes When They Started Coffin Business

By PAT YODEN  
Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — When Nathan Cass's father died last year, he and his brother Gary went to the funeral home to select a casket. Cass didn't like what he saw.

"They were either poorly made or much too expensive," he said.

Cass, a cabinet maker who appreciates good workmanship, decided that he could build a casket himself that would be better and cheaper than any of those offered by the funeral director. So he pulled out a tape measure, made a few measurements and went home to do just that.

It took him two days to construct his father's casket.

"I sat and thought for a long time first," he commented.

His project attracted a lot of attention in the woodworking shop in Cornish Flat that he operates with his wife Sherry. At first many people thought he was joking. The lumber dealer where he buys all of his wood refused to believe that he was serious. Some people told him what he was doing was illegal.

"People told me that I had to buy one from a funeral director," he said. "But I found out that there was no reason why I couldn't build my own. Someone has to make them."

As the word spread, Cass's neighbors began dropping in to see his project. Once they realized that he was serious, many people told him it was a good idea. Cass realized there might be a market for simple, inexpensive, hand-crafted caskets.

After his father's funeral he built another one, which now sits, along with bookcases, bird houses, and wooden toys in the small showroom adjoining his shop.

It is a simple but dignified box with natural finish pine and a plain wooden cross on the top. This simple model sells for \$450, and Cass expects to have several others finished soon. He plans to have two or three on hand all the time, ready for finishing according to the purchaser's choice.

The display model is a "real conversation piece," Cass said. "People come in here and they do a double take when they see it."

Making caskets at home is an old tradition. The early settlers made them for family members, just as they made everything else they needed for their homes and farms. Later caskets were made by local craftsmen in each town. Cornish had at least one casket shop in the 1800s, on Blow-Me-Down Brook near the Plainfield line.

Cass believes that his work will appeal to people who are interested in returning to a simpler, more self-sufficient way of life. For those who want to carry self-sufficiency one step further, he plans to offer his casket in kit form at a lower price. The kit would include pre-cut lumber and all the hardware necessary to assemble it with common hand tools.

"I even have the name picked out," he said. "Cass-Kits."

Proud of his work, Cass feels that his father's hand-crafted casket was more meaningful to his family than a purchased one would have been. He thinks



Nathan Cass makes sure the latches on the coffin work. (Valley News—Tom Wolfe)

that there may be others who would like to revive this old tradition.

Although the demand for his product has been slow so far, Cass believes it will increase as more people become

aware of its availability. Meanwhile, he is turning out more common products — bookcases, hatches, kitchen cabinets, or as the slogan on a business card reads, "Every From Cradles to Caskets."



Resource Optimization Technologies, Tim Schad

# Composting tested in Cornish

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Resource Optimization Technologies is a Cornish-based company involved in the design, building and siting of in-vessel compost systems.

It's a company that could provide the answer to treating organic waste and enable communities to treat organic waste as a resource, not to bury it in a landfill, or burn it in an incinerator, but to collect it, process it and turn it into compost that could be used again in a safer manner.

"There is no question the process is a very well-proven one," said Tim Schad, majority owner and manager. "It is well-documented in Europe and the United States. All we are doing is trying to do it on a small volume basis."

According to the company, it is unproductive to use landfill space for organic waste, and unsound and unnecessary to incinerate organic waste. Composting would substantially reduce the waste stream and produce a reusable resource.

"By designing small systems, the compost process will be made available to everyone and could solve waste stream problems within communities, where the problem must be addressed," said Schad.

Research suggests that the volume of organic waste treated by composting can reduce the waste stream by 60 percent, a significant reduction. By combining a compost program with an active recycling program, it is estimated that the volume of waste that needs to be incinerated or landfilled could be reduced by 80 percent.

*The machine has been used to compost sawdust, wood chips, paper, yard and kitchen waste and livestock manure during the project's research.*

Composting is the decomposition of organic waste, which happens with or without man's intervention. Successful composting, however, involves combining materials to obtain the desired carbon-nitrogen ratio, so that decomposition will occur at an optimum level.

After the materials are collected, they are loaded into a charging chute of the composting vessel where a Rot-O-Matic turner, which is similar to a high speed rototiller, is located. It has sharp knives that cut and reduce waste to particle size to allow microbes to enter faster.

The materials are mechanically turned for a seven-day period, during which time the contents are monitored for temperature and moisture level until "thermophile aerobic degradation" is achieved.

The process offers optimum aeration along with particle reduction and eliminates the need for pre-shredding of material. The turning process reduces any odor problem from the in-vessel composting.

The highly automated control system eliminates the need for constant monitoring, allowing for flexibility in site man-

After the turning process, the material is then conveyed from the vessel to enclosed storage by use of a loader. Once within storage shed, the compost is cured for 30 days, after which it is ready for application.

The end product of the process developed by Resource Optimization Technologies is homogenized, of uniform particle size and ready for horticultural or agricultural use.

The research and development of the composting machine has taken place at the property of North Country Door, owned by Nathan and Sherry Cass of Cornish, allowing them to compost the cabinet shop byproducts, instead of having a trash hauler pick them up for disposal.

The machine has been used to compost sawdust, wood chips, paper, yard and kitchen waste and livestock manure during the project's research.

Professor Andrew Friendland, a specialist in forest biogeochemistry at Dartmouth College, has been analyzing the compost material to determine nutrient and metallic composition and the final compost product has been tested by Dr. Peter Pappas, chemistry professor at the University of Massachusetts.

Several other professors at Dartmouth College have also shown an interest in the project. Data from the testing program has been used to make necessary refinements to the process.

The goal of Resource Optimization Technologies is to offer proven in-vessel systems

# Woman opens store and fulfills a dream

By CASSIE D. LAVERTUE  
Staff Writer

CORNISH — Marjon Teffner of Cornish said she's always dreamed about owning her own business. Now, she can finally say that wish has become a reality with the grand opening of "Marjon's Collectables" last month.

A potpourri of collectables — in this case, handcrafted items like homemade candles, crafts, stuffed animals and consignment articles like adult, children's and baby clothing as well as shoes, jewelry and accessories and even bridal pieces — fill the small storefront next to the general store and the leather shop in Cornish Flat. The last door on the right is where patrons enter Teffner's cozy store, where nearly everything, including the Shaker table where candles with scents like teaberry, coconut, patchouli and cucumber melon, is for sale.

"I've always wanted to own a business, just not sure what type of business," said the married mother of a two-and-a-half-year-old boy.

A graduate of Mascoma High School in Canaan, N.H., Teffner said she's looking to fill a niche for Cornish residents who don't want to travel to Claremont or Lebanon searching for a novelty gift item or a pair of jeans. Since her business is located along Route 120, a strip of road well-worn by motorists who avoid the interstate to get to the Upper Valley, Teffner says she anticipates curious out-of-towners will drop by once they hear about the



**OPEN FOR BUSINESS** — Marjon Teffner holds up one of many articles of clothing she along with craft items and clothing accessories, from her new shop in Cornish Flat along F 120. (Wayne Carter photo)

bargains.

The idea to open up a shop in a part of the building that housed Powers Country Store years ago came after a deal with an area bridal store owner to buy the business fell through. Teffner, who has experience working in the wedding field, decided to approach the owners of the Cornish General Store about opening her own collectables shop.

"When I passed the idea by the people at the general store, they

Marjon Teffner

thought it was a good one," she said.

Though the store is open on a trial basis for now, Teffner, who works during the day as a manager at a staffing service, says business is doing well and that she hopes to extend the staff beyond herself and her sister, who sometimes helps out at the counter. She says working with people is her calling.

"I get along well with people. I'm good at customer service and this is what I should do as a

livelihood," she said. "Even on a day people you're selling something to — even a two-and-a-half-year-old.

"Little by little we're starting to get our name out," said Teffner. "Word of mouth is the best."

Teffner is offering a 10 percent discount to customers who mention the store's print ad in the *Eagle Times* and said she takes custom orders for candles and for candle items, which

over (See STORE - P

## Bittersweet offers variety of timely gifts

CORNISH FLAT, N. H. — Bittersweet Antiques and Gifts, located off Route 120 on School Street, offers a varied amount of items.

A large assortment of gift wrap and greeting cards, as well as inexpensive gifts are available. Special items include coffee mugs in both colonial and flowered prints and mugs will be available following most holiday themes.

Antiques available are mostly Early American or Colonial, and include a pine table, pine cottage chest, a Jenny Lind bed, spool table, clocks and lanterns.

An assortment of china includes ironstone and a set of Minton china. Wood carved birds that look as if they were alive, carved by Augie Dworak, Cornish, and placed in the shop on consignment could make an attractive purchase.

The business opened in October with both Caroline Storrs and her mother, Hannah Schad, as proprietors. Both Storrs and Schad encourage visitors to drop in, whether to buy or to browse.

The shop is located in the newly renovated Thornton House, across Route 120 from Power's Country Store.



*Caroline Storrs is on hand to serve the customers at Bittersweet Antiques and Gifts, Cornish Flat.*

*(Ruth Rollins Photo)*



JESSICA AND JARED BELLAVANCE, Claremont, were among visitors at the grand opening of the Mouse Menagerie of Fine Crafts recently. A moose and a rein-

deer were stuffed toys the children found interesting in the Christmas corner of the shop (Ruth Rollins Photo)

## The Mouse Menagerie opens in Cornish

CORNISH, N. H. — Sheila and Scott Kearns held an open house at their new gift and craft shop, Route 120, Cornish Flat, Saturday. The "Mouse Menagerie of Fine Crafts" offers mice of many sizes, some as tiny as an inch and others several feet tall.

One display case holds the "Friends" series, 52 different mice, including mice outfitted as firemen, policemen, a postman, a ghost, a gardener, a bride and groom, a secretary, complete with steno pad, a graduate and Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

As well as the mice line, the Kearns feature many other crafts. Handcrafted items by area craftsmen include pottery, hand-blown glass items, hand-dipped candles, quilt pieces, wall hangings, quilts and special quilted pillows.

The shop also has colorful bouquets of both silk and dried flowers, lamps, clocks, stoneware cheese

boxes, pencil drawings, featuring the Cornish Covered Bridge, and a display of embossed greeting cards.

Also featured are wooden folk art items and magnets as well as a special "Christmas" corner, which includes ornaments, handmade wooden trains, fire trucks and tractors and numerous stuffed toys.

The Kearns started the micing business in their home, a business which has grown rapidly, with mice being shipped to many states, sold through a catalog.

The shop is the culmination of dreams and hard work and has included their children, Michelle and Brian, and Sheila's parents, Norman and Marion Hickey, Springfield. All have helped to make the business successful.

The Kearns also employ several people who pick up materials and supplies weekly, and who do sewing at their homes for the "Mouse Menagerie." Some sew dresses,

some dress "Friends," and some work on the miniature line. Some workers complete bodies and some work only on accessories. All workmanship is inspected by Sheila Kearns before it is put up for sale.

The materials are all cut by Scott on a huge table, designed especially for this purpose, from many bolts of cloth stored adjacent to the shop.

The Kearns exhibit their mice at the annual League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Show and the New England Buyers Market at the Civic Center, Hartford, Conn., as well as other gift and arts and crafts shows. Their Molly Doorstop mouse has been included in the Orvis Clothing and Gifts catalog.

The Mouse Menagerie offers gifts by artisans from around the country, and will be open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday afternoons till 5 p.m., now through Dec. 24.



VITALINE CARPENTER works on an old chair in her Cornish shop. The legs on the chair are hand hewn. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

Vitaline  
Carpenter

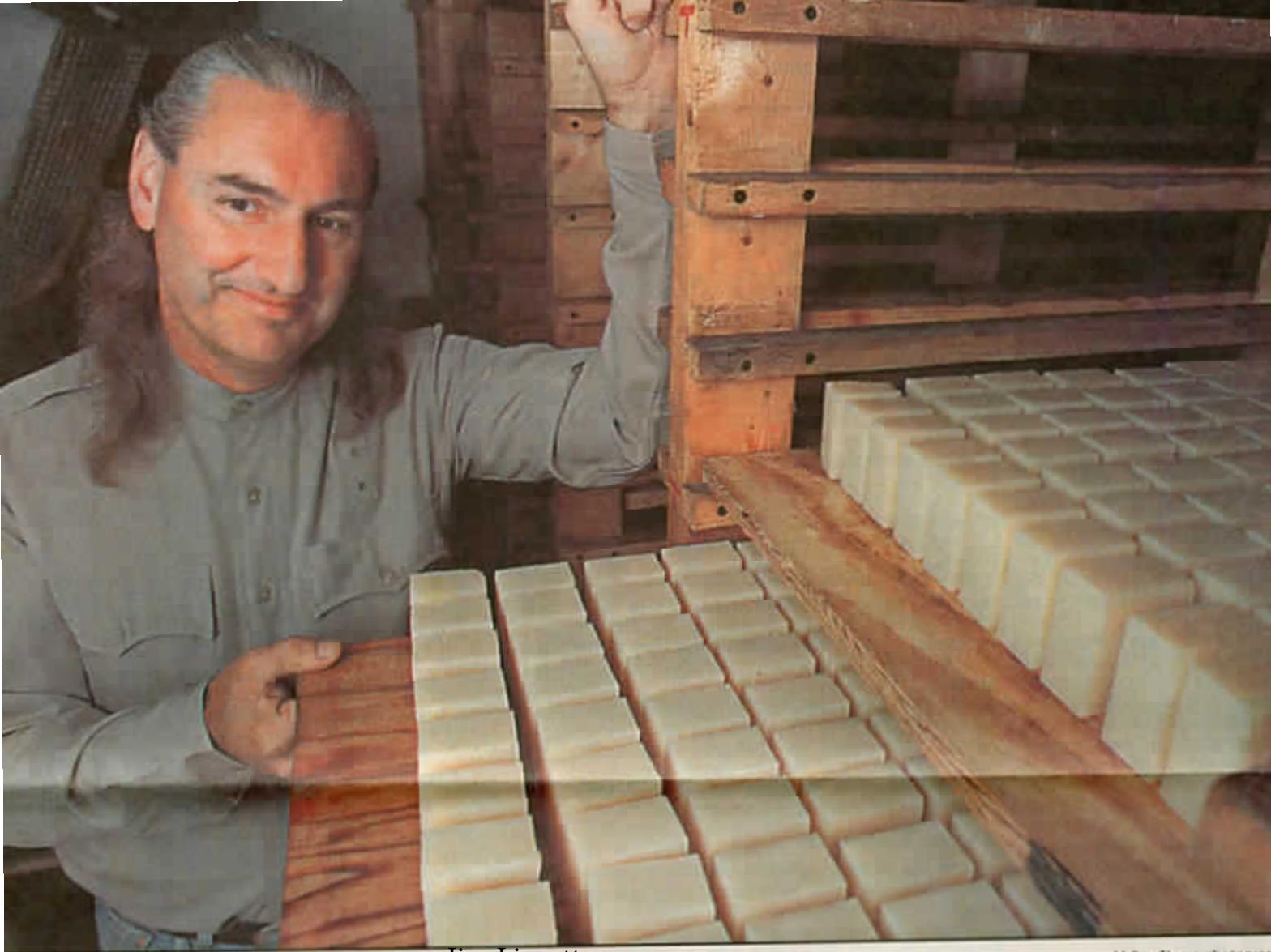
**VN Thursday**

Jim Howard attaches an oak strip to a barrel he's making in his workshop in Cornish. He and a partner sell the barrels and other craft items from a new shop, the Wood and Barrel Barn. **Page 19.**



Valley News —  
Dan Hunting

Jim Carpenter



Jim Liggett

Valley News photographs

Liggett displays his bars of premium shampoo at his shop in Cornish. Below, the finished product, ready for shipping in wooden crates.

# A Product For The Hair And

Jim Liggett, Liggett's

## Former Ad Man Seeks Niche In Today's Market With Old-Fashioned

By RICK JURGENS

Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — As an art director on Madison Avenue, Jim Liggett won a Clio award for his work on an advertising campaign that used the Pink Panther cartoon character to sell insulating material.

Now, he says, he draws upon that background to sell the shampoo he produces in a converted barn that stands next to his house on Route 12A. He says he wrote and illustrated most of his marketing materials himself. "I didn't have the money to hire somebody," he explained.

His shampoo is labeled "handmade in New England," an appellation that has better connotations than "handmade in New Hampshire," he says. Vermont-made has a good cachet, he says, but he is on the wrong side of the Connecticut River to claim that label.

Oct 14, 1997

---

**“If you know anything about being simple, it's usually the most difficult thing you can find.”**

Jim Liggett

Maker, J.R. Liggett's  
Old-Fashioned Bar Shampoo

---

Liggett was born in Nebraska but says the inspiration for his featured product — J.R. Liggett's Old-Fashioned Bar Shampoo — is authentic. "I found an old formula (for shampoo) in an old New England recipe book," Liggett says.

Liggett, who first made soap as a 5-year-old assistant to his great-aunt, said he experimented with the recipe he found and tried it out on



See Shampoo — Page E5

# Shampoo Marketed With Old-Fashioned Zeal

Continued from page E1

his friends. When they came back for more, he faced the question of how to go about marketing his own product.

His wife — Diane Miller, who still commutes to New York for her work in the film industry — helped him develop the "old-fashioned" concept that became the theme for his marketing effort.

The selling points listed on the packages of J.R. Liggett's came from discussions with 50 or 60 people about what they look for when they buy shampoo. "I simply fed it back to them," he says.

Liggett, whose Clio trophies are inscribed with the name Jim, said he reviewed hundreds of potential brand names before reaching the apparently simple conclusion that his own initials and last name would work best on his shampoo labels. "If you know anything about being simple, it's usually the most difficult thing you can find," he says.

The farm property he and Miller found in Cornish also took some effort to find. The couple decided they "wanted a place we could end up where we eventually got out of New York City," Liggett said. They began looking in the states that border New York for a farm near a body of water, between 25 and 100 acres, sold and with "commercial abilities," he said.

In 1982, after they extended their search into northern New England, they found their property about a mile south of the covered bridge to Windsor. They tried selling groceries from a roadside stand an experi-

Liggett says his advertising background was "imperative" for the startup of his shampoo company, especially in package design. Buying his own services on the open market would have cost "hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars."

ment that Liggett now calls "part of the delusion of moving to the country."

Liggett, who will turn 50 in January, said that after acquiring the farm he decided it was time to move on from Ogilvy & Mather, a large advertising agency, where the rule of thumb was "there are no 40-year-old art directors."

That led him to look for a way to make a living in the Upper Valley. "I could have moved up here and started an advertising agency," Liggett says. But running a small local agency would have been tough to swallow after being involved in multimillion-dollar campaigns on behalf of large corporations.

"To come up and here and wheedle and dweedle over hundreds of dollars would have driven me insane," he said. "I was lucky enough to be able to transfer what I knew to something else."

He says his advertising background was "imperative" for the startup of his shampoo company, especially in package design. Buying his own services on the open market would have cost "hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars," he said.

That wasn't feasible for such a

small company, where annual sales have not reached \$1 million although they are well over \$100,000, according to Liggett.

That's small enough to prompt Liggett to be on the lookout for every potential sale. The bar shampoo can be used as a shaving lotion, he suggests to one balding visitor skeptical about the value of any premium shampoo.

Still, Liggett promotes his product mainly as a shampoo since he believes many customers associate versatility with mediocrity.

The shampoo is sold through distributors to natural food retail stores, through representatives to gift shops and directly to some pharmacies. But don't look for it in big discount stores, Liggett says, because selling in such outlets would compromise the premium image of the shampoo, which retails for \$5 a bar.

The business has operated hand-to-mouth and without deep pockets, Liggett says. Profits have been invested back into the company.

Growing that way helped avoid the expensive pitfalls of spending money to create demand for the shampoo in excess of what the company could produce, or producing more shampoo than the company could sell, either

of which could have proved fatal to a small enterprise, he said.

Liggett, with the help of one-time employee and a bookkeeper, manufactures shampoo in a room where he formerly sold antique furniture.

The shampoo, with ingredients that include olive, coconut and clove oils, is heated in an apparatus that bears a resemblance to a maple evaporator, in batches that are rolled into large sheets, which are cut into 1,600 bars. Liggett said he designed all of his production equipment himself, aside from a pair of heavy wrapping machines in a room.

Prior to the arrival of the wrapping machines, each bar was individually wrapped, which slowed down production, Liggett says.

He is satisfied with his current production setup, which at full capacity could turn out 25,000 to 30,000 bars a month.

Liggett reports that his recent on-air appearance on the QVC network's at-home channel generated about \$100,000 in sales of an offering that included a bar of shampoo and a wooden storage shelf. The network's promotional strategy — charging more than the cost of including shipping, for a package that he suggests sell for about \$10 — dampened viewer response, he said.

With a marketer's characteristic optimism, Liggett insists it is important that any profile of his company include that the names of his retail outlets — the Harborside Consumer Co-op Society and the Lebanon Soap & Herb Co. — are not overwhelmed by calls afterward.

# Hardy's Salve Turns 150

By ANDY CORRIGAN  
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — Another chapter is drawing to a close in the long story of Hardy's Genuine Salve — a medicinal concoction made in Cornish for 150 years.

Robert LaClair, 70, says he is the latest to hold the secret formula to make the salve. "Recipes are for cooking. Formulas are for salve," he explained, adding that he is ready to pass the formula along.

Now that the Hardy's salve business is 150 years old — an anniversary LaClair celebrated with friends and neighbors last weekend — it's for sale, he said, sitting in the living

## Valley Business

room of his small house on a hill overlooking Cornish Flat.

"The money will tell who gets it," he said, though he cheerfully declined to say how much the rights to manufacture the salve are worth or who might be interested in buying them.

"It would be nice if it all stayed in Cornish, though," he said.

What does Hardy's Genuine Salve do? Why, it is supposed to cure lame backs, chilblains, cracked hands, splinters, cuts, bruises, corns, and callouses. Just read the label wrapped around the waxy 5-inch sticks.

"First it takes the hurt out," said LaClair, heating the end of a stick with a match to soften it for a demonstration. Once the stick was warmed up, he applied a blotch to his knuckle.

"Then it heals with a healing agent. Ever look at a butcher's hands — how nice and white and smooth they are? That's because he works with tallow, which is in the salve."

LaClair starts with beeswax, rosin and tallow as a base, cooking it up in a large pot. As it cools he adds "the essential oils" at just the right temperature. "If it's too hot, it'll evaporate the oils," he said.

Some of the other ingredients to the salve are listed on the stick wrappers: "Oil of Organum-compound, Barbadoes Tar, Oil Amber-rectified, Pure Spirits of Turpentine."

LaClair pours the gooey mixture into the wrappers which he places, rolled up, into wooden molds. The molds are housed in a small room not much bigger than a closet inside his house. They can produce 612 sticks of salve at a time, he said.

LaClair boils up batches of the salve only in the spring because nighttime temperatures then are most conducive to cooling, he said. He sells the sticks for \$5 each by mail order to customers as far away as Idaho, Oregon and California.

"My best state is Pennsylvania, New York is second, Massachusetts is third," he said, adding that New Hampshire and Vermont are fourth and fifth respectively in sales. "It's the older people that know of it. Some of the younger ones stick up their noses."

He said he is not exactly sure just how the salve works — "I'm not a chemist." But he is sure that it does, he said.

The salve was made for the first time by Dr. Samuel Hardy of Cornish in 1836. Legend has it that the good doctor got its secret

(Continued on page 27)

— SALVE



Valley News — Larry Crow

Robert LaClair poses with molds for Hardy's Genuine Salve, a company that has been in business for 150 years. LaClair says he is thinking of selling the small mail-order business, which he runs in Cornish. The salve is said to cure lame backs, chilblains, cracked hands, splinters, cuts, bruises, corns, and callouses.

## Salve

(Continued from page 19)

formula from a Cayuga Indian in New York State.

Hardy turned the formula over to his sons Charles and Philemon C. Hardy in 1869. They sold it to a neighbor, George Hunt, in 1886. Hunt eventually turned it over to his wife and then to his two sons.

LaClair is originally from Sutton, Vt., and moved to Cornish in 1931. He operated a road construction company for a time and retired after 13 years as road agent for town in 1977.

The Hunt brothers sold the Hardy's Genuine Salve business to Milton Sklar of Claremont sometime

in the 1950s, but Sklar contracted with the Hunts to have them continue making the salve in Cornish. LaClair bought the rights to Hardy's Salve in 1965. "I said then that I'd try to keep a hold to it until it was 150 years old, and I wondered if I was going to make it," he said.

He has survived a bout with cancer and a triple bypass heart operation last December.

Hardy's Genuine Salve never made LaClair a rich man, but he said he believes it might have. "A man told me once that if you promoted it right you'd be a millionaire. Well, I never wanted to be a millionaire," he said.



**SALVE SALE** — Bob LaClair, left, recently sold his Hardy Salve Co. to Bob and Eileen Weaver. (Wayne Cartor Photo)

## Hardy's Salve Salve formula sold to Weavers

CLAREMONT, N.H. — Bob LaClair of Cornish Flat has passed on the "secret formula."

Bob and Eileen Weaver, Claremont, recently purchased the Hurdy Salve Co., one of the oldest manufacturing companies in New Hampshire.

The Weavers purchased the company not only to preserve the historic value, but because the salve works so well. The

Weavers have used the salve for four years in their florist shop for cracked fingers, thorns, splinters and cuts. It soothes the hurt almost immediately and heals it rapidly. Over the years the salve has been used by farmers, carpenters, and meat cutters. Few households were ever without the trusty stick of Hardy's Genuine Salve.

Hardy's Genuine Salve in a black crayon-like stick and

when warmed, is applied to a Band-Aid to cover the affected area.

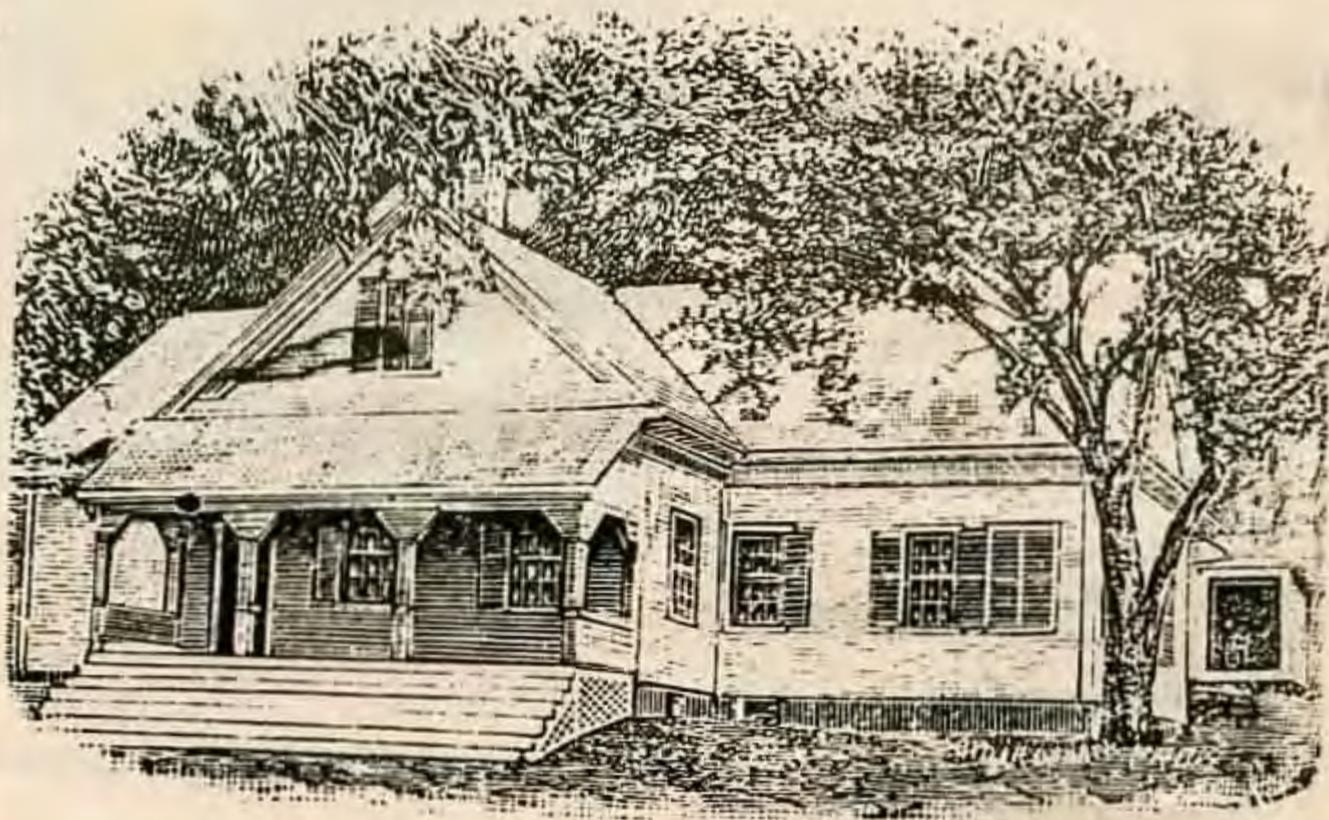
The salve will continue to be made in Cornish and can be purchased at Colonial Florist, Hannon Pharmacy, Powers Country Store, Emersky's Hardware, and Mouse Menagerie.

Hardy's Salve is currently on display in the apothecary at the Shelburne Museum, Shelburne.

# *Footprints of the Past*

by Virginia Colby

## *Help for the Housewife*



**HILLSIDE CREAMERY, CORNISH, N. H.**

Hillside Creamery

**W**hen the DCLAVAL Separator was invented, many "creameries" were soon established in farming areas. This process of separating the cream from the milk by rapid rotation had always been done by hand and usually by the housewife. So the invention of machinery to do the work was of great value, especially to the wife, who was usually regarded as the "butter-maker" of the family.

The Cornish Creamery, a cooperative company, was established at Cornish Flat in 1888. It annually distributed between ten and fifteen thousand dollars among its patrons.

Myron Quimby reports that his grandfather used the Cornish Creamery. Later, his father, made his own butter, but bought skimmed milk from the creamery to raise the calves on.

The Cornish Creamery went on to win many important awards under the management of Edwin L. Child. Child was a Cornish native educated at the N.H. Agricultural College associated with Dartmouth College. He became interested in butter making and graduated from the Vermont Dairy School at Burlington. He was superintendent of the Cornish Creamery from 1897-1909. He successfully competed with 972 of the leading creameries and dairies in this country and Canada, and at the Pan-American Exhibition at Buffalo in 1901, winning first honors in every case except one. At the Paris World's Exhibition in 1893 his butter scored highest of all N.H. butter and was awarded the only gold medal coming to the state. Twice he captured the grand sweepstakes prize of the state, winning the silver trophy offered by the Granite State Dairymen's Association.

The George Stowell Library in Cornish has a signboard listing the Cornish Creamery expenses per day for help. E.L. Child - \$1.41, B.E. Huggins - 72¢, E.B. Hunt - 41¢, A.H. Freeman - 65¢, R. Emerson - 59¢. Total for 5 men \$3.78.

Bert Huggins was the last superintendent of the Cornish Creamery and he left in 1918 to become an instructor at the University of New Hampshire. The Creamery building was sold and became a private dwelling.

The Hillside Creamery, located in the western section of Cornish just opposite the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge, was incorporated March 30, 1889. It was through the efforts of Charles C. Beaman that the Hillside Creamery was built. The old Israel Hall house was torn down to make way for the creamery building. By May 18 of that year the new roof was on and on July 1st the Hillside Creamery began to receive milk. In 1899 a new ice house was built and it was filled with ice from the Blow-Me-Down pond.

Beaman was interested in improving his dairy herds and breeding the best possible stock. He had a prize Jersey

bull whose portrait was painted by artist George deForest Brush in 1893. This Jersey bull's portrait was shown during the art exhibit in 1985, "A Circle of Friends: Art Colonies of Cornish and Dublin."

Many local farmers patronized the Hillside Creamery including the Westgate family, and it was also easily accessible for farmers from the Windsor area. A director's report to the stockholders for the first six months the creamery was in operation averaged 55 patrons a month, 5,235 pounds of butter per month. The farmers were paid 18 1/2 cents per pound for the butter. The directors felt that this was a good beginning. The directors for the Hillside Creamery included: Chester Pike, Dwight Tuxbury, Sylvester E. Hoisington, George M. Hodgman, William E. Westgate, Erastus Reed, Samuel N. Stone, William H. Barrett, Maxwell Evarts, and William E. Chadbourne.

At one time C.H. Waterhouse was superintendent, but tendered his resignation to accept the appointment of chief of the dairy department of the Agricultural College at Durham, N.H.

On November 28, 1916 the Hillside Creamery burned. The newspaper headlines read:

### **Big Creamery At Cornish Burns Severe Set-Back to Community Loss Estimated at \$5,000. Special to the Union. (Manchester, N.H.)**

Cornish, Nov. 28 - "The Hillside Creamery burned to the ground today, entailing a loss of nearly \$5,000, it is estimated, and throwing a half dozen hands out of employment, as well as interfering materially with the consumption of local dairy products.

The Hillside Creamery does a large business with local farmers and it ships its products considerable distances, having established a good reputation during the past years. The creamery was two and a half stories high, about 50-foot long and 30 feet wide, and was of good construction."

The Creamery was never rebuilt.

**The Windsor Chronicle**  
Official Newspaper for the Birthplace of Vermont  
Call for rates at (802) 674-2975

# Cornish ZBA approves controversial garage

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**  
Contributing Writer

**CORNISH** — The Cornish Zoning Board of Adjustment unanimously approved an application by Jeff Lamoureux and Bucky Demers last week for an automobile and small-truck repair facility in a commercial building located in a rural zone on Route 120.

The approval marks the end of two years of controversy surrounding the property.

Built more than 30 years ago as an auto repair facility, the building became a log transfer center under previous owner Max Jewell, who subsequently sold the property to Lamoureux.

Demers and Lamoureux in October had asked the board for permission to offer auto repair services on Lamoureux's Route 120 prop-

erty, which includes the two-bay commercial garage building.

The building's legal use then was as a logging operation that also allowed the company's logging trucks as accessory use.

The property is in a rural residential zone.

The board denied their petition Oct. 28 because there cannot be two primary uses on a property, such as logging and auto repair, in the 1971 building.

The owners appealed to the zoning board on Dec. 2 after Max Jewell, the previous owner, dropped a deed restriction he had imposed.

Jewell, who bought the property in 1978, had converted it to a storage place for logs in 1981. In 1995, he leased it to Global Timber, which treated logs with

paraffin coating before shipping them to overseas markets.

The ZBA in January denied the application by Lamoureux and Demers for a special exception, stating that Jewell's logging operation was a non-conditional use of the property, and the application would have meant applying a non-conditional use upon a non-conditional use, which is against the town's zoning ordinance, according to Karim Chichakly, ZBA chairman.

At the ZBA meeting March 3, Demers presented a petition with 66 names of Cornish residents supporting the application for an auto repair facility. The applicants listed hours of operation 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon on

Saturday.

The existing building structure will remain the same, a two bay garage with additional bays in the back. The property border will not change.

Signs will include one on the front of the building, one out front and an inspection sign. There will be no floor drains.

Waste oil and antifreeze will be placed in containers and recycled.

The number of cars will average 55 a week, with eight to 10 a day, Monday-Friday, and five on Saturday. From 13 to 15 cars will be on the lot for overflow.

Any after-hours work will be done on personal cars only.

The board in its deliberation reviewed and voted on each of the five conditions for

a variance:

- The proposed use would not diminish property values because of the garage because the applicants have already worked to beautify the property and keep it clean, said board member Caroline Storrs. Alternate Dale Rook said he had consulted a real estate agent who told him the change in use would not downgrade the property.

- Granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest. The board felt that an auto repair facility would be in the public's best interest.

- Denial of the variance would result in unnecessary hardship to the owner because the building may not be put to any other use, health, safety and welfare of the town will not be adverse-

ly affected, and the variance would not injure the public or private rights of others.

- Granting the variance would do substantial justice because Lamoureux purchased the building with the idea of operating an auto repair facility, and would not do unnecessary harm to adjoining property owners of the town of Cornish.

- The use is in keeping with the spirit of the ordinance because Route 120 is a commercial way with other businesses that serve Cornish, such as sawmills, gravel pits, campgrounds, utility structures and communication towers, and the property had a grandfathered use as an auto repair facility before zoning.

*George Chappell can be reached by e-mail at [gchap@sover.net](mailto:gchap@sover.net).*



**OPEN FOR BUSINESS** — Bucky Demers and Jeff Lamoreux, owners of the Straightaway Auto Service, located on Route 120 in Cornish, say their expectations for business have doubled since opening in March. Meanwhile, abutters have appealed to Sullivan County Superior Court to shut the garage down, the owners say. (George Chappell photo)

# The Trade Show Packed Them In

By DAVID WHEELER  
Valley News Staff Writer

HANOVER — Jim Blackmon wanted to sell a truckload of waterbeds. Robert and Mariet Jaarsma wanted to sell some wooden shoes. Paula Gray wanted to show people what Jazzercise looks like.

Each of the 85 exhibitors at the sixth annual Upper Valley Home and Trade Show over the weekend came with different goals, but all hoped to get their product or service in front of new people.

"All together we can pull people here that we can't pull individually," said Blackmon. "It's the mall theory of retailing."

The mall theory apparently worked, because the show attracted 9,000 visitors, establishing a new attendance record and topping last year's total by 3,000 visitors.

Jim Wechsler, executive director of the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce and one of the organizers of the event, said, "One-third of the exhibitors come for exposure, one-third, come for retail sales, and one-third come for future sales (from follow-ups on customer contacts)."

For Blackmon, the show was a chance to present his product to "qualified buyers" who don't normally walk by his store on Allen Street in Hanover. Because Blackmon's store is fairly small, he can't display waterbeds there. Exhibiting them at the show let adults reassure themselves that they won't get seasick romping on a waterbed.

"This is the best way we can inform the uninformed buyer," Blackmon said.

He ordered waterbeds especially for the show, and put them on sale. Last year, he sold the last waterbed ordered for the show five minutes after the show officially closed.

Robert Jaarsma of Cornish decided recently he wanted to try to sell a few wooden shoes as a sideline to his full-time job as sales manager at Cone-Blanchard Machine Co. Jaarsma ordered a couple hundred pair from Holland, where he is from. Last Thursday, he decided at the last minute he wanted to exhibit at the home and trade show, and Wechsler squeezed him in.

Jaarsma remembered wearing nothing but wooden shoes as a child during World War II, and his parents attached pieces of tire to the bottom of the shoes so they wouldn't wear out. Now he is selling them as an alternative to clogs or sandals. The wooden shoes need no maintenance, last a long time, have good support and are easy to slip on and off, Jaarsma said. He said they are good for mud season, camping or trips to the mailbox or the barn.

The American who first slips on the shoes may feel a little bit like a penguin, because the shoes are light but much larger than regular shoes. Mariet Jaarsma said children, less inhibited than their parents about how different the shoes look, take quickly to the sound and feel of the shoes.

Paula Gray was another exhibitor trying to accustom the Home and Trade Show crowds to something new. Gray is one of two women in Vermont who teaches Jazzercise, a method of exercising to music. Gray started in September with eight customers. Now she has 200.

She didn't try to register people for the exercise sessions at the home and trade show. Instead, she showed people what it is like.

She and some of her friends did periodic demonstrations on the floor of Thompson Arena, moving vigorously to lively songs. The Jazzercisers were occasionally joined by children, a clown and salesmen from adjacent booths. Gray said many people would be too shy to show up at a class if they didn't have an idea of what it is like, so the trade show was a good opportunity to show a lot of people that you don't have to be a dancer to Jazzercise.

Other exhibitors used raffles and give-aways to collect names and addresses of potential customers. If you want to win a free chimney cleaning, the reasoning goes, then you might be interested in paying for one too.



Valley News — Kristin

Robert J. Jaarsma of Cornish sells wooden shoes at the Upper Valley show.

**CORNISH JAIL,  
TOM SPAULDING**

**See separate digital file for Cornish Jail;  
Available at CHS Collection Page at the  
Town Web Site**



**"Momma,"** a 700-pound sow, lives on the farm of Donna and Tom Bleazard of Cornish, N.H.

*Boston Globe Mar 13, 1989*

CENTERPIECE

# Hogs and heritage in New Hampshire



**Michael Fuerst**, an attorney, serves as hog reeve for Cornish, N.H.

*Globe photos/J. D. Denham*

**C**ORNISH, N.H. — Michael Fuerst got married last year, so, naturally, he ran for hog reeve.

It wasn't the sort of job that led Fuerst to quit Buckley & Zopf, where he is a lawyer. "I haven't seen any hogs loose in Cornish this year," he said. "No one calls us up and asks us to chase hogs."

Like the repairman in the Maytag commercials, the town's hog Reeves have waited for years — even decades — for a request to spring into action. There just aren't that many hogs around these days.

But in Cornish, Jefferson, Dunbarton and perhaps other towns, the tradition of electing hog Reeves lives on at Town Meeting or in town elections. The candidates are residents who have been married during the previous year.

"It's more of a joke than anything else," said Opal Bronson, the town clerk in Jefferson, where seven recently married men are on Tuesday's ballot for the job. "It's just something fun that we do."

But it wasn't always so. In colonial times and through the mid-1800s, when farming was the prime trade, hog Reeves had a critical job.

"In an agricultural society you had animals running at large, particularly before they had wire fences," said state Agriculture Commissioner Stephen Taylor. "Pigs were apt to cause more damage than other livestock because they would root up gardens. Cows might eat the tops of potatoes, but hogs would dig them up."

Those complaints are written right into state law, which as early as 1767 fretted about loose hogs "rooting up the Soil, destroying the Meadow and Pasture Land, & the fruit growing on tilled Land."

"Be it Therefore enacted," the law said, "that no Swine of any kind shall be suffered to go at large."

And when one did, it was up to the hog

reeve to take on the messy and exhausting task of corralling the independent hog. For his efforts, the reeve would extract a fee, from its owner.

The reeve — the word is related to "sheriff" — may have been chosen from the town's recently married men because they would be the most vigorous. "I'm sure that in reality, if there were a couple of hogs out loose, everyone would drop what they were doing and try to catch the things, because they would be a threat to every garden or would upset the livestock," Taylor said.

In Jefferson, the job elicits something less than excitement from this year's nominees.

"I have so many irons in the fire now that I can't be paying attention to that," said David Hicks, who, as it turns out, is a descendant of the first hog reeve in Jefferson, Benjamin Hicks. Ben Hicks and another man took the job in 1798, shortly after the town was incorporated.

"It's nothing we take too seriously. It puts fun into something that can be drab — Town Meeting," said Joseph Marshall, another Jefferson candidate.

#### **Where buffalo roam**

But some people in Cornish take the idea seriously.

Fifteen years ago, Carol and James McSwain fulfilled a long-held dream and bought five buffalo for their farm. That made some people nervous, and in about 1976 the town elected a buffalo reeve to keep an eye on the beasts.

"I guess they were worried that if the animals got out, someone would have to go after them," Carol McSwain said. "We tried to tell them if they got out, there's no one who could stop them. It would be like a locomotive coming at you." The McSwains sold the buffalo in 1979.

Cornish Selectman Michael Yatsevitch said he got a call about five years ago from someone whose hogs had gotten loose. "I had to explain that the hog reeve is not a

service that the town provides at taxpayer expense, that it's at the owner's expense, he recalled. The owner decided to catch his own hogs.

Yatsevitch sees a serious purpose to the tradition today: "Usually, we elect the hog Reeves at the end of Town Meeting. Everyone is tired, and it's possible that emotion have run high. This is sort of a comic relief that eases the tension."

#### **Fence viewers, wood surveyors**

In Cornish, most newlyweds, male or female, and sometimes new residents all are elected to the job. Everyone can go home smiling, and the town has honored its residents and its heritage.

And there are several other colonial-era jobs to be filled at the Cornish Town Meeting, scheduled this year for next Saturday. Voters will elect four or five fence viewers who are charged with deciding which owner pays to fix a fence that runs between two properties. They also elect surveyors of wood, bark and lumber, who settle disputes over the worth of timber.

If the hog reeve was an early dogcatcher, the viewers and surveyors were early arbitrators. "Going to them would save court costs," Yatsevitch said. "You would pay them, but it wouldn't be as much as paying a lawyer and going to court."

In Jefferson, at least one candidate was surprised when told that he may end up as town hog reeve.

"Are you serious, now? Tell me, are you serious with this?" asked Jay Ronhock, who has lived in Jefferson for about a year.

Ronhock may be the most qualified candidate this year. When he was a construction worker in Norfolk, Mass., his duties included chasing the boss' pigs when they got loose.

"They don't catch too easily, not the ones I was after," said Ronhock, adding: "I don't think I want the job. Nothing personal. I just don't want to be chasing pigs too much."

## MILTON P. JEWELL

**CORNISH, N.H.** — Milton P. Jewell, 86, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2015 at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born on May 28, 1929 in Bridgewater, N.H. the son of Frank and Edith (Gage) Jewell. He attended Cornish School and Windsor High School. Milt married Josephine Tewksbury on July 15, 1950. Milt then served his country as a communications specialist in the Army during the Korean War. Upon the return from his military duty, he and Josephine made their home in Cornish where they raised their family of five children.

He was always industrious, very hard working and successful in building a reputable business. He began his career working for himself logging and trucking. When the logging was slow, he would fill in his work at Cone Blanchard Automatic. Over time he directed his efforts to building a trucking company. He was very involved in building the local interstate highways, working with Perini and Palazzi Companies. He plowed snow for the State of N.H. and several Claremont businesses for over 30 years. Following several years of local trucking he expanded his business into excavation and later in his career rebuilt salvaged trucks and had a truck dealership.

Milt was one of the pioneers that cut the local snowmobile trails and built the first "warming huts" in the area. He was a very active member and President of the Blow-Me-Down Snowriders for many years, as well as a member and President of the Lions Club in Claremont, N.H. He was also a longtime member of the Lebanon Elks Lodge, the VFW, the Moose, the American Legion and the American Truck Historical Society.

He enjoyed snowmobiling, camping in their RV, dancing on Saturday nights, playing cards, antique trucks, and time with his family and friends but his real passion was working with



Milton Jewell

and on his trucks.

He touched many lives and earned the highest respect from all. Many of his employees have remained lifelong friends. Milton's perseverance, his "can do" attitude, his sought after advice, his sense of humor and his quick wit will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved him.

He was predeceased by his parents, brother, Russell Jewell, infant brother, Bruce Jewell, granddaughter, Jennifer Jo Webb and a very special member of the family, Paula Berquist. He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years; two sons, Max Jewell of Thetford, Vt., Calvin Jewell and his companion, Hayley Cummins of Cornish; three daughters, Lea LaClair and her husband, Donald of Cornish, Diana Webb and her husband, Norman of Claremont and Anita Porter and her husband, Tom of Claremont; 10 grandchildren, Adam Jewell, Vincent Jewell, Christopher Jewell, Matthew LaClair, Brian LaClair, Jeff LaClair, Abby Roy, Nicholas Jewell, Chelsea Jewell and Cody Thornton; 10 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Visiting hours will be held at the Stringer Funeral Home, 146 Broad Street in Claremont on Friday evening Aug. 14 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A funeral service will be held at the Funeral Home on Saturday morning, Aug. 15 at 11 a.m. with Pastor Scott Kearns officiating. Burial will be held in the Edminster Cemetery in Cornish with military honors. A reception will follow at the Windsor Rec. Center.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to VNH for Vermont and N.H., P.O. Box 1339, White River Junction, VT 05501 or the Cornish Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 235, Cornish Flat, NH 03746.

To view an online memorial or send a private message of condolence, visit [www.stringerfh.com](http://www.stringerfh.com).

Freeman Johnson house  
also  
Alms House

Alms House, Poor House

P. O. Box 253,  
Porterville, California  
September 13, 1954

Dear Mrs. Hemstiger:

I was so glad to get your letter of September 2nd and to know that you like and are interested in restoring and improving the buildings where my husband was born and we lived for forty two years. Too bad that you have had such a cold rainy summer.

I wish I could remember more of the history as Father Johnson has told me many things of interest at various times. As for the cradle, I am so happy to have you have it. It was painted red. My children have all tried it but I don't think they slept in it as it was too low perhaps. You can easily see it has seen service in the past as the rockers indicate. We used it to put kindling, birch bark and cones in to be used in the fireplace. I would be pleased to know what use you make of it.

The house was built in 1812 by Deacon John Weld and his five sons. The brick was made on the farm at the West of the house. On March 13, 1838, the farm then owned by Horace Weld, son of Deacon Weld was sold to the Town of Cornish to be known by the name of the Cornish Alms House, where the Town's poor were to be cared for. The house was originally built with a hip roof like the large brick house owned by the Hunt Brothers and on the left as you approach Cornish Flat. Thinking they would need more rooms, this roof was taken off and the present roof put on. The rooms in the attic were never finished off. In changing this roof, a different shade of brick was used which I didn't like so we used an oil and brick dust to finish it all alike, penciling the bricks. The farm was sold back into the Weld name on December 1, 1868 to Auren Johnson who married Mary Weld. He died in 1883 and Freeman Johnson bought it. He died in 1932 then Eben Johnson had it until 1945 when Dayton Johnson purchased the farm. The history of the house with a picture is on Page 205 of History of Cornish, N. H. 1763-1910, Volume 1. The history of the builder of the house, Deacon John Weld, can be found in Volume 2, Page 392. These you may find at the Cornish Library or purchase of the Town Clerk.

I do not know if the house on the hill was built by Deacon John Weld. I have heard Father Johnson say the old road ran past there and that they moved in before it was finished and a child was born the day after they moved in. When the brick house was built, he said it must be finished before occupying it. The house on the hill was wood frame and was taken down by Father Johnson, the timbers were used in building the horse barn and storage for hay where the big barn door is, this was built in 1898, three years before I was married and moved there. The barn on the hill was a huge one, four stories high on the West side, with a gable from which there was a beautiful view. Cows and young stock were kept there. For some years after I went to the farm to live, I can see my

husband as he waded through snow to go up the hill to feed and water the stock. There was a good well of water up there. The barn was well built. I had a cousin living in Boston who was a contractor and builder and on each trip to the farm would go up there to look at the barn. He used to say that if the barn could be rolled down that hill to the main road, it would not loosen a joint it was so well built. This barn was taken down after we owned the farm and the storage building in the field back of the barn was built.

The Town property tomb or vault was used in the winter time when the winters were more severe and it was impossible to dig a grave. Then in the Spring of the year, when the frost was out of the ground and a grave could be dug, the body was removed for burial. The white building was built to store the Town horse drawn hearses. Father Johnson was a hearse driver for years and had many hard trips for out of town burials.

All fireplaces were closed except two upstairs, these were closed with papered boards. We opened two downstairs, the one in the Northwest room and the living room off the kitchen. If you have opened any, you know how much work is involved. I remember of thinking to surprise two teachers who occupied the upstairs Southwest bedroom by painting and papering their room and opening the fireplace while they were on vacation. I took off some plaster and a couple of laths and saw what lay ahead of me so closed it and papered over it. I am sure you admire the hand made mantles which were made by using a screw driver and narrow chisel, panels in the doors were all hand hewn.

If the old house could talk, it could tell of many happy occasions as well as sad ones. There have been many birthday gatherings, Thanksgivings and Christmases. One Thanksgiving there were 28 seated for dinner, each couple had a duty to perform in serving, the duty decided by drawing a ticket. One young nephew was to carve the turkey, I remember his Mother holding up her hands in horror but the bird was carved by he and his partner. On our 25th Anniversary, a surprise party was held there with a house full. Ice cream and cake were served. I never saw such a collection of the loveliest cakes. We ate cake for sometime besides giving away a lot. Our three children were all born in the south west corner bedroom down stairs. No one went to the hospital then or received treatment prior to birth. In 1904 the Doctor's fee for delivery and one visit after was \$10.00, in 1906, \$12.50 and in 1909 \$15.00. We will pass over a very sad occasion when we lost a daughter, a very promising child, when she was 11. Father and Mother Johnson passed on, she at the age of 74 and he 87.

I wish if you could find time, you would visit Mr. and Mrs. Charles Weld who are spending the summer at the Colonial Hotel on Pleasant Street in Claremont. He can give you more information than any one I know of for he is a descendent of John Weld, a distant relative of my husband and both very good friends of all of us.

I shall be interested in the changes you make and always glad to hear from you.

Most sincerely,

*Vernice Johnson*

*Mrs. E. M.*

Site of Poor House, Alms House -- Freeman Johnson Family





**SIGNING IN** — Members of the Jones family of Cornish and Hector Pellerin of Pellerin's Market in Charlestown, sign in at Tri-State Lottery Headquarters in Concord yesterday to pick up their Megabucks winnings. From left, Keith Jones, Pellerin, who received \$30,000 for selling the winning ticket, Sherry Jones and Jessica Jones, 8. (Staff Photo by George Naum)

## Cornish Couple, Megabucks Millionaires, Motor Down to the Mall With Their Money

CONCORD (AP) — A Cornish couple, one of three winners of the largest jackpot in Tri-State Megabucks history, claimed their first check yesterday and immediately headed to a shopping mall.

Before going off to spend some of their share of the \$9.7 million jackpot, Keith Jones, 22, and his wife, Sherry, 25, met with reporters at New Hampshire Sweepstakes headquarters.

"We're riding around in a limo all day and other than that we don't know," Keith Jones said when asked how the couple would spend its share of the jackpot. "It's a big weight off your shoulders. . . . You can do what you want. You can work at what you want to do."

Mrs. Jones said she and her husband went to three stores to check the winning numbers before they accepted that they had won the big prize.

Keith Jones said he told his boss at the Claremont junkyard where he works that he wants to quit. Mrs. Jones works in the county commissioners' office in Newport.

Dave Long, spokesman for the Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont lottery, said the three winning tickets for Saturday's drawing were sold at a Store 24 in Salem, Pellerin's Store in Charlestown and a

Maine. The Jones' bought their ticket at Pellerin's.

The other two winners had not yet stepped forward.

The three winners each will receive annual payments of \$161,000, less taxes, for 20 years. Owners of the stores that sold the winning tickets will get \$30,000 apiece.

Long said the jackpot, which topped the previous record of \$9.6 million set in 1986, sent ticket sales soaring. More than 4.7 million tickets were sold last week, surpassing the previous high by about 900,000 tickets.

Lower-tier prizes awarded in last week's game also set a record of slightly more than \$860,000.

The winning numbers were: 1-3-13-14-16-19.

Meanwhile, New Hampshire Sweeps Director James Wimsatt explained why many last-minute customers were unable to buy Megabucks tickets Saturday night.

About 90 minutes before the record-breaking drawing, sales were so rapid the computer system in Augusta, Maine, was shut down for 60 seconds to readjust the system processors. The readjustment was necessary to increase the intake for massive numbers of bets, Wimsatt said.

"Agents have to reset their

down) and apparently they didn't do that," Wimsatt added.

Some agents told the New Hampshire Sunday News their machines slowed down and, in some cases, stopped processing tickets altogether during the final 90 minutes before the game.

According to Wimsatt, there are 750 lottery terminals in New Hampshire and many agents have several different people operating those units. Some of those operators may have been unaware they had to reset the terminal after the system was brought down for 60 seconds, he said.

Despite the glitch in operation, the Granite State experienced record sales for the lottery, selling \$1,860,000 in Megabucks tickets.

"Business was fast and furious," said Alan McBurney, field supervisor for New Hampshire Sweeps. He said the frantic pace caused the temporary overload at the computer mainframe owned by Scientific Games. The mainframe handles all Tri-State Megabucks sales for New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine.

Yesterday, Wimsatt was at Scientific Games headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, to test the new CASH Lotto

# Cornish man who left \$80,000 to town in his will to be honored

By **NANCY A. CAVANAUGH**

*ncavanaugh*

*@eagletimes.com*

**CORNISH** — The Cornish Select Board held a public hearing on Monday, Aug. 3 to determine what to do with an \$80,000 gift left to the town by former resident James C. Kibbey. The select board members and residents shared information they had about Kibbey, his wishes and the wishes of his family before voting unanimously to accept the gift.

The Kibbey family moved to Cornish in 1914, according to Frank Hawkins, a childhood friend. Kibbey was born on Jan. 13, 1927 and lived at Cornish Flat. He attended school at the Mason Hall in Cornish before heading to Stevens High School. While at Stevens, Kibbey was on the Red and Black Yearbook Committee and wrote the Class of 1945 class song.

After graduation, he joined the U.S. Air Force,

enlisting on April 16, 1946. Kibbey served during World War II, ending his career as a sergeant and his name is on the war memorial in Cornish. He went on to work as an accountant.

Kibbey passed away on Aug. 3, 2014. He was cremated and buried at the New Hampshire State Cemetery.

The burial, however, did not match his wishes, according to Hawkins and Ruth Rollins.

"He told Barbara [Craig] that he wanted to have his casket brought around the church in Cornish Flat, then be buried in Cornish. He already bought the plot and headstone," said Hawkins. "Everything was arranged and paid for."

Barbara Craig, who lives in Cornish, is Kibbey's first cousin. She was unable to make it to the meeting.

"Barbara is very upset that this didn't happen and that he was cremated," said Rollins.

*Eagle Times*  
See **KIBBEY** - Page A3

however, Kibbey's will, which was dated 2004, did not express those wishes.

"We have been talking with the cemetery in Boscawen to find out if it is possible, and respectful, to bring him home to Cornish," said Dale Lawrence. "We will also need to talk to the power of attorney, who was a friend of his, in Virginia to get permission to do this."

"We will make sure he comes home to Cornish and have his headstone marked with the year of his death," said select board member Scott Baker. "We'll make sure he goes around the church like he wanted and then be buried in his plot."

"Barbara would like that," said Rollins.

The board voted unanimously to spend up to \$3,000 of the gift money to make this happen. The rest would go into the general fund to be held in trust until the town determined how to spend it. The select board promised to work on finding out where the cemetery plot is and getting the ashes from the state cemetery to be reinterred in Cornish.

### Commemorations

The select board opened the discussion on how to use the money left to the town by Kibbey. Any decision on how to spend the money would have to be done by a warrant article at the town meeting next spring.

"We have no thoughts or ideas on what to do with the money," said Baker. "It would be nice to honor him in some way. We're open to your suggestions or thoughts. Something long lasting so he can be remembered."

Rollins suggested that some of the money be used to put Hawkins and his son's names on the war memorial.

"It should be done while Frank's still living," she said.

Baker commented that there was still money, though not much, in the Veterans Memorial Fund that could be used to make that happen.

Bill Caterino, a Cornish resident, sug-

gested some of the money be put in the Veterans Memorial Fund to be used on a continuing basis to make sure the memorial is maintained. Currently, the statue is damaged.

Another suggested Kibbey be put on the front page of the Town Report. There was agreement by all that this should take place.

One resident suggested putting some of the money into a fund to help the music program in the

school and another suggested naming a road after him. Meanwhile, Hawkins believed the gift should be used for something that involved the entire town.

"Put some of the money into the general fund to reduce taxes," said Hawkins. "That way the gift would be given to the whole town."

Resident Heidi Jaarsma suggested that they didn't have to spend all the money on one thing.

"You don't have to do just one thing," she said. "You could use some to do a one-time repair like the statue and do something else another year."

John Hammond, select board chair, wants to have a plan for what to do with the money for town meeting.

"If something comes into your head, let us know before town meeting," said Baker.



**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** — Marjerie Kidder, left, a teacher at Cornish School for 40 years, visited with Doris Williams and Marlon Stone during an open house celebration held at her apartment, Sullivan Street, last

week, in honor of her 80th birthday. Williams and Stone are also retired Cornish teachers. (Ruth Rollins photo)

## *Marjerie Kidder remembers school as she celebrates 80th birthday*

CLAREMONT, N.H. — Marjerie Kidder, a teacher in Cornish schools for a 40 year period, found plenty of reason to reminisce about those years when former teaching colleagues and students attended an open house in honor of her 80th birthday April 2.

Kidder taught two generations of students. "When the grandchildren started to come along, I thought it was time to retire," she said. "I started my teaching in the little school which is now called the Little Town Hall, located just below the Cornish Elementary School of today."

Kidder taught in most of the nine one-room schoolhouses from 1931 to

with the idea that cod liver oil was good for the students. Every child brought a spoon and they'd all line up for a dose of cod liver oil daily, can you imagine that?" she asked.

During Kidder's teaching years, more so than today, each student was expected to memorize a part for a play, a Christmas program or Memorial Day. Much emphasis was put on teaching reading, writing and arithmetic during the 45 years Kidder taught. She taught five years in Grantham before coming to Cornish. Field trips were year end adventures.

Kidder retired in 1971 from the Cornish Elementary School where she taught first grade from 1954 un-

til that time. Previously, she had taught students in all the eight grades at the one room structures.

Hostess for the birthday celebration was her sister, Eva Thompson, and the party was held at Kidder's apartment on Sullivan Street. Throughout the day, 46 people dropped in to wish her a special day. She also received more than 100 cards.

A special cake for the occasion was made by Ruth Rollins.

Kidder is an active member of Park Grange, Cornish Garden Club, the South Cornish Home Economics Group and the Retired Teachers Association. She is also a member of Pomona Grange.

# Former Cornish teacher looks back on career

East Times Mar 30 2001

## Celebrates her 95th birthday on Sunday

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CLAREMONT — Retired teacher Marjerie Kidder will celebrate her 95th birthday on Sunday, and her many Cornish friends and former students are going to see that it is a real celebration. They will join together at the vestry of the United Church of Cornish, on Center Road, from 2 to 4 p.m., to wish her well.

Kidder was born April 2, 1906, in Washington, Vt., a small town near Barre, but only lived there for two years, when her parents moved to Chelsea, Vt.

"I went to school in Chelsea; the grade school was on the first floor, two grades to a room," she said. "The high school was upstairs in the same building."

When she graduated, she left Vermont to go to Plymouth Normal School (now Plymouth State College) to get her teaching degree and start a 40-year career in education. She spent the bulk of her career in Cornish, where she was one of the most respected teachers the town has ever had. She's considered one of the town's treasures by many who know her.

"I think I decided to become a teacher because my father worked hard and never earned much money," Kidder said. "He had no special education and had to take jobs that other people would turn down. He always took good care of us children, we had good meals and clothes to wear but he had to work hard to provide. People were more dependent on themselves then. We had a big garden, our own fruits and vegetables, had a cow, and slaughtered a pig for pork."

Her mother died when she was in eighth grade, leaving her and her only sister to do the housekeeping while her brothers helped with the outside chores. "Back in those days, there was men's work and boys were not expected to help around the house," she said.

Her first teaching position was in Grantham, where she taught for four years. She married Myrl Kidder on Aug. 26, 1928, and they moved to Cornish in 1932, living at

Nelson family and winters were like this one," Kidder said. "In those days schools were not closed so often because of snow. Not only did the students have to walk to school but I did too. The roads were not plowed and neither the superintendent or the school nurse could get there, so I was on my own all winter alone."

"They did not like to call off school and some of the children had hard times getting to school in bad weather. Once in awhile Mr. Nelson would take me with horse and sleigh, but he had his own business he had to attend to," she said.

Her duties included seeing that water was available for drinking. That usually meant sending two boys to a neighbor for a bucket of water that was placed in a cooler. Each child brought a cup or glass for drinking. Cod liver oil was dispensed with each child bringing a spoon that was stored in their desks.

"I would line them all up for their turn and can remember some of the awful faces they made," she said.

Not always, but almost always, someone would build the fire in the mornings. She had to tend it all day while keeping an eye on the children. "All we had was a wood stove and I would have to leave a reading class to put in wood," she said.

Kidder was the first Cornish teacher to see the value of serving something hot with the children's bag lunches. At first she had them bring a potato to stick in the coals to bake. Later, kettles of soup were kept hot on the wood stove.

After several years of planning and more than one vote, the consolidated school (where children are now taught) was opened in 1954 and Kidder was given the second grade class.

"After a couple years teaching second grade, I asked the school board to give me the first grade," she said.

The students coming to her were not able to read well, she said, and she knew she could help them do that much better. The remainder of her teaching career in Cornish, which lasted until 1971, was devoted to that task.

"During my teaching career, I remember my biggest problem was that I had no training or knew anything about dyslexia," she said. "I had a child that



**MANY MEMORIES** — Two generations of Cornish dents have learned how to read and write through dedication of Marjerie Kidder, who celebrates her birthday on Sunday. (Ruth Rollins photo)

birds and blue birds. "Some grasp things fast, I learned to read fast, other children needed help. I always used to read a story to the children when they came in from playing; it helped to settle them down and they would go to work easier," she said.

The after-recess story time resulted in classes that had a lifetime love of reading for many, but there were some students who weren't won over.

"I only had one child who did not like to be read to, that was during early years on Dingleton Hill," she said. "Each time I would read she would make some kind of noise to call attention to herself. I had to keep an eye on her while I was trying to read, which was aggravating at the time."

Kidder lived at the Child residence on Center Road for many years before moving to Claremont sometime after the death of her husband. There she maintained her own apartment on Sullivan Street, where for several years she shared lunch with her sister, who lived upstairs.

Mrs. Kidder owned a car and was able to drive for groceries and other staples until last

December, when she moved an apartment at the M. Phillips Apartments in Claremont where she currently resides.

She is an active member of the Sullivan County Retired Teachers Association, Grange at Cornish Flat, Cornish Garden Club and South Cornish Home Economics Club, all of which she has enjoyed since retirement. She is treasurer of the Cornish Old Home Association and also a member of the First Baptist Church in Claremont.

Her youngest brother, 70-year-old Cecil, still drives from Chelsea to see her as often as possible; something she enjoys immensely. Some of her nieces and others visit her herself has always made her daily life full. She remains an avid reader and has recently joined a group at M. Phillips who play cards, a time she has enjoyed for many years.

"I thank God every day for what I am as well as I am, even though I have to take a cane for walking," she said. "There are so many people worse off. My children and friends, each and every one of them, are special to me."

Her first teaching job in Cornish found her in charge of all eight grades, which she taught in the little school adjacent to the Cornish Town Hall.

"In those days there were no school buses and the children all had to walk to school," she said. "That's why all eight grades were taught in each school, to be near their homes."

Other teaching positions she held were at several of the other Cornish one-room schools — including Dingleton Hill School, the City School, Center School and South Cornish School.

"While teaching on Dingleton Hill, I lived with the Harry

and I couldn't understand why this child could not read. It was a terrible situation that took a lot of effort."

Another time, when she was teaching the first four grades, she had a child who could not speak any English. "My husband used to laugh and wonder just what I was taking to school each day, as I would take knives, forks, spoons and any other article you could imagine to teach the child how to read our language."

Kidder said she taught children to read in three different groups — the yellow birds, red



CHRIS BERTELSEN PHOTO

Richard and Susan Kimball of Cornish have nearly completed transforming their Jackson Road home into its annual Christmas carnation.

Christmas Lights

Eagle Times Nov 24, 2006 11

# The light fantastic

## Couple transforms home for holidays

By **MATTHEW McCORMICK**  
Staff Writer

For 11 months out of the year, they go by Richard and Susan Kimball. But between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Mr. and Mrs. Kringle will do.

Each weekend after turkey day, the pair jump into the yuletide season with gusto, putting the finishing touches on a 75,000-bulb light display that surrounds their Jackson Road home with glowing angels, elves, reindeer, griches and, most of all, Santas.

There are Santas on motorbikes, Santas taking off from rooftops, Santas disappearing down chimneys, Santas filling stockings — even Santa in the flesh.

Beginning this Saturday, Richard Kimball will dust off his red suit, stocking cap and shiny black boots to greet passersby with a “Ho, ho, ho” and a candy cane.

It is a ritual that he and Susan Kimball, who accompanies her husband

from now until Christmas. But their duties as the Kringles will not end there.

The Kimballs for years have invited area kids, young and old, to deposit their letters to Santa in a specially marked mailbox in their driveway. Each one — a total of 63 last year — receives a handwritten reply after the holiday courtesy of Mrs. Claus.

“They write wish lists, they want Momma and Daddy to be happy, that kind of thing,” Susan Kimball said. “I get writer’s cramp.”

The Kimballs first caught the Christmas spirit about 11 years ago, when Susan Kimball held the first of many holiday parties for area children from financially strapped families.

“It just got bigger and bigger every year,” she said.

That went for the inside as well as the outside of the Kimball’s home. Susan Kimball starts decorating the living room after Labor Day, filling it with garland, holiday-themed teddy bears, a Christmas tree bedecked with Santa ornaments and, of course, lights — some 5,000 of them.

All that holiday cheer has made the Kimball’s house something of a must-see for residents of Cornish and beyond. On busy days, Richard Kimball said as many as 20 cars line up on his out-of-the-way street to take in the scene.

“One kid last year said he knew it was the North Pole because it took so long to get here,” he said.

But it is not just the young in who the holiday house instills the Christmas spirit.

“It started to make little kids happy,” Richard Kimball said. “But it seems like the grownups are happier looking at the lights than the kids.”

One poignant visit came from a group of adults who had just lost a family member and, until spying the Kimball’s lights, were having a gloomy Christmas season.

“They said, ‘You know, you’ve put Christmas back into us,’” Kimball said.

It is moments like those that the Kimballs said help keep their holiday traditions alive.

“We’ve got to do it,” he said.

Matthew McCormick can be reached at [mccormick@eagletimes.com](mailto:mccormick@eagletimes.com) or 978-244-1011.



Cornish History  
Like This Page

King Elm Farm was the home of John Spaulding (Spaulding) who was one of the early settlers. He and his family were the settlers of Cornish, New Hampshire, located on Rt. 12A, burned in 1765.

In 1765, Spaulding, Dudley and their workmen came to the settlement in Walpole, near the mouth of Blow-me-away Brook, clearing for their settlement. For individual sites along the road, see History of Cornish, New Hampshire, page 13.

👍 Gretchen Hoim likes this

see back

# As characters go, Ford Kinsman

By FRITZ HIER

Special to the Eagle Times

CORNISH FLAT — Spring and early summer, as we all know, wear many garments, and one that has tickled my fancy, and memory, for a long time is — long johns.

The source of that seemingly unseasonal image is a long-deceased Cornish Flat resident named D. Ford Kinsman. It's hardly unusual for New England towns to have their share of characters and Ford certainly did his part.

He rarely bathed more than twice a year, once in the fall and again in the spring, and all the town knew exactly when he'd wrung out his washcloth, such as it were. He didn't have or need a clothesline, he dried his long johns (worn both summer and winter) by simply tacking them to the barn door, their arms outstretched like Christ on the cross.

For was born Darwin Ford Kinsman, but he never used his first name. He may have been eccentric, but as a descendent of Cornish's famous Salmon P. Chase, Abraham Lincoln's

secretary of the treasury and Supreme Court chief justice, he wasn't lacking in solid genes.

He was a friendly and reasonable neighbor who lived with his brother in the Flat until the brother fell off a hayrake one summer and broke his neck. From then on, he lived a quirky, bachelor existence, always with a ready smile and always ready to strike a bargain.

Bathing, or lack of it, wasn't Ford's only hygienic irregularity. In those years when he harbored a dog, he'd let the animal lick his dinner plate clean and then put it back on the shelf. When his kitchen floor got too crummy, rather than sweep he'd just lay another layer of linoleum (scavenged from the dump) over it. On a lazy day, when water wasn't right at hand, he'd let the chickens, who often had the run of the house, pick his dentures clean.

Ford was rarely sick and people said it was because he got a steady dose of penicillin from eating left-over doughnuts. He sometimes tossed the really moldy ones down the cellar

(Please see KINSMAN-Pg. 8)

was one of a kind *Eagle Times*  
June 23, 1996 P.S.



D. FORD KINSMAN'S pickup truck — a Ford, naturally — was one of the favorite possessions of the late Cornish resident, who is still remembered more than three decades after his death for his quirky lifestyle. (Photo courtesy of Fritz Hier)

stairs, hoping to lure the vermin there into nibbling on them rather than his potatoes.

One day two members of the road crew dropped in for cider. One fellow thought the cider more closely resembled vinegar, while the second complained about the glass. "It hadn't been washed in a while," he said, "and it was so sticky I couldn't get it out of my hand."

□

But if you didn't want to belly up too close to Ford, you could take pleasure in his music. He played both piano and violin and was self-taught if not exactly self-disciplined. He played in a duo or trio occasionally, and when the tune came to an end, Ford enjoyed it so much he'd go right on playing.

"He was very musically talented," said the town clerk who lived next door. "Unfortunately

we couldn't hear him half the time because his windows were always stuck shut."

When Ford was in his sixties there was a moment when he looked as though he was ready to give up on his musical career. A friend across the road lost a finger in an industrial accident, and Ford dropped out of the picture. "I was pretty commiserate. It was pretty rough," said the friend who witnessed his mutilation, "but at least he got \$1,000 in workmen's compensation."

### From Page 1

dump was Ford's second home. No mall in his present or future.

□

Ford once astounded the postmistress by showing up with a drop-leaf table, legs and all, for shipment to his sister in California. It was crudely wrapped in paper, except for one leg which was tied inside of an old rubber boot, which he'd found in the dump. "I ran out of paper," explained Ford. "You'd better run out of here and unscrew those table legs," she admonished.

Ford almost got himself killed one day delivering a load of wood in his Model A pickup. He drove down School Street and onto Route 120 without so much as a blink at the stop sign. He was hit amidships by another light truck, and Ford and his Ford and the load of wood were scattered all over the landscape.

"Didn't you see the other truck coming?" he was asked in court. "Yup, your honor," he said. "I saw it, heard it, and felt it all in one crash."

Prior to the accident, Ford's pickup was his pride and joy. When the sun was out, he did what he'd heard was right and hung wet gunny sacks over the tires; and when he drove into the big city, Claremont, he often chained the truck to a tree.

By all accounts, Ford's love life left Cupid in the starting blocks. He tried dating a few times, but a Barrymore he wasn't. He took a lady to the Cornish Fair one year and was seen at the ox-pull sharing a

banana with her — so much for the cheeseburgers and fried dough. He loaned another potential lady friend 50 cents, and when she came back the next day to say she'd lost it — boom, the end of that romance.

Local kids inevitably picked on Ford, pasting his house with rotten tomatos on Halloween, pouring water into his syrup sap or putting cow flops in his mail box. But he was good natured about such things, and mostly smiled.

Ford wasn't known to drink, smoke, or swear, although there was once an unconfirmed early morning sighting of a tipsy Ford and an even tipsier

friend pushing a couple of cases of beer up School Street in a wheelbarrow. His severest cussword was his very own, sourceless, "Condammit."

In his seventies, Ford called on the town sexton, armed with a hatchet and four stakes. "I know I'm going to go one of these days and we might as well be ready for the event." The two men went into the local Child Cemetery and marked out a plot.

That is where he rests today and for all days — Darwin Ford Kinsman, 1877-1964. Hardly an origin of the species, but, condammmit, certainly one of its originals.

Ford was back the next day. "I've been thinking, John," said the sexton. "I could sure use a thousand bucks. How about cutting off one of my fingers for me?"

It took John a while to explain to Ford the niceties of workmen's comp.

Money wasn't Ford's strong suit, but he did have a bank account and once loaned a town a few bucks to help some delinquent back to school. That same year he gave a dime and 25 cents in response to the church drive. He pinched pennies hard and feared letting them. Spare cash was hidden behind the woodbox or stored in a tin can in his stone. He sometimes nailed his books to the floor under the sink, both for security and so he'd know where it was.

He had plenty of nails to spare with because straight nails was one of his sources of income. That, and raising a garden of vegetables, and selling firewood and all kinds of junk he rescued from the dump. Those were the days of the landfills, and the Cor

# Land Use

A PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY

by James M. Patterson



Lipfert takes a business call while sharpening the blades of his brush mower over a long Labor Day weekend.

**Bill Lipfert**

James M. Patterson can be reached at  
[jpatterson@vnews.com](mailto:jpatterson@vnews.com) or (603) 727-3230.

Valley News Jan 22, 2007

During the week, Bill Lipfert commutes from his Cornish home to an office in Lebanon. On weekends, he walks the bank of a phantom blue lake.

The glacier melt that filled Lake Hitchcock drained 12,000 years ago, leaving behind forested slopes and strip of flat rich land in Cornish along the Connecticut River. Over seven years, Lipfert has purchased hundreds of acres, pieces of geologic history to restore and protect.

"This whole stretch of land...all steeply descends to the river," he said. "It's not a great place to have intensive development."

He deliberately is combining his efforts with others' to increase the effect.

The farmland he acquired recently is just north of Balloch's Crossing Farm where neighbor John Hammond shares his desire to keep the fields open, he said. Their land combined conserves one mile of the riverfront.

The network of trails he is developing through his forestland connects hunters, hikers and mountain hikers to the 270-acre town forest, bringing together "a nice big chunk of undisturbed land," said Lipfert.

"The Town Forest is a great parcel, but it's fairly inaccessible," he said. "That's both a blessing and a curse."

— Kristen Fountain

Next week: Farmer and sawmill operator Jim Fitch

# Landfill ordered closed

By **JEFF LANGAN**  
Staff Writer

NEWPORT, N.H. — A state environmental agency has ordered the New Hampshire-Vermont Solid Waste Project to immediately stop dumping Claremont's incinerator ash at the Project's ash landfill just east of the Claremont-Newport line.

Trucks dumped ash at the landfill this weekend and today despite the Dec. 28 order from the state Department of Environmental Services. Neither Project officials or the operators of the Grissom Lane incinerator have received a

copy of the order through the mail.

SWP project director John Cook said this morning that he had yet to receive the order and could not comment on it until he had seen it. The Project's offices were closed Saturday and today. A spokesman at the incinerator said he had heard nothing about an order. The plant manager, Al Haley, was not available for comment.

DES officials were also unavailable for comment because of the New Year's holiday. A copy of

(Please see ASH-Pg. 6)

**ASH** *Eagle Times*  
Jan 2, 1989

From Page 1

the order was supplied to the *Eagle Times*.

The DES has determined that several conditions its officials noticed during two December inspections indicate "potential slope stability problems at the perimeter berm." The berm is the boundary wall built up along the lined cell in which ash is deposited.

Problems cited in the order include groundwater seepage from the slope of the perimeter berm at points between the edge of the berm roadway and the top of the berm; saturated or near saturated conditions in the soils used to construct the berm; premature deterioration of the surface and shoulders of the berm roadway; and the apparent movement of a guardrail from its rail.

The DES inspected the ash landfill Dec. 7 and discovered several problems, including those listed above. On Dec. 21, the DES returned to the site and again found the conditions listed above.

That same day the DES received a report from the Project that on Nov. 7 a piece of heavy equipment being transported over the perimeter berm on the northeast side of the facility sunk one foot into the berm due to saturated soil conditions.

According to the order, "The precise nature and extent of these problems is not known, but the situation requires thorough evaluation to assure continuing com-

pliance' with the original DES permit for the ash landfill.

"I won't be satisfied until they close it permanently," said landfill abutter Bill Muzzy as he stood outside the entrance to the landfill this morning holding a large wooden sign stating, "Dump Closed." "This is supposed to be state of the art. All they've had is problems," he said. Muzzy was one of about two dozen abutters and landfill opponents who held a protest rally at the entrance to the landfill this morning.

# Accused of Setting \$50,000 Home Afire

Arthur Fedore, wealthy Linden, N. J., real estate dealer, was arrested this morning on a warrant issued by County Solicitor John H. Leahy of Clarendon charging him with arson in connection with the Wednesday evening conflagration which destroyed his palatial 27-room summer home in Plainfield's "Little New York" colony, it was stated by the solicitor.

The arrest of the New Jersey man this morning climaxed a two-day investigation conducted by Sheriff James McCusker and State Trooper Fred Bouchard, assisted by other State authorities. Fedore was placed under arrest and lodged in the Sullivan county jail in Unity pending arraignment later in the day.

The Plainfield conflagration which destroyed the former show place of Plainfield at an unofficially estimated loss of \$50,000 was discovered shortly after 8 o'clock Wednesday evening. Fire departments from five towns were called, but due to lack of water supply were forced to stand by as the flames consumed the large structure.

Mr. Fedore, it is reported, purchased the property from the **Albion Lang** estate about a year ago at a reported cost of about \$6000.

The Lang mansion was built in 1907 by Albion Lang philanthropist and one-time president of the Humane society at a reported cost of \$90,000. It was used by **Mr. Lang** as his summer home until his death several years ago. The estate was split up, it was stated, the farm being sold to Francis Perry who also acted as caretaker, and the dwelling to Mr. Fedore.

## Fedor Arraigned, Pleads Innocent

### New Jersey Man Held on Arson Count in Plain- field Fire

Arthur Fedore, Linden, N. J., real estate dealer, arrested Saturday morning in connection with the conflagration which destroyed his Plainfield summer home, was arraigned in Clarendon municipal court Saturday morning before Acting Justice Howard H. Hamlin on a charge of feloniously, wilfully and maliciously setting fire to his home.

Through his attorney, Jacob Shulles of Newport, Fedore entered a plea of innocent and waived examination. He was bound over to the September term of Superior Court in Newport, and was committed to the Sullivan County jail in Unity pending settlement of bail by a Superior court justice. It is understood that County Solicitor John H. Leahy has asked that bail be set in the amount of \$5000.

Up to 11 o'clock this morning bail had not been established.

HIGHLANDS - ALBION LANG



# ACQUITTED

## Verdict Is Returned At 10:15 Last Night

Newport, Nov. 21—The ordeal of his long arson trial ended with his acquittal last night, Arthur W. Fedor was waiting here today for physician's approval of plans to fly his ill wife back to their home in Linden, N. J.

Mrs. Fedor has been a patient in the Newport hospital since her husband went on trial on October 29 in Superior Court on a charge of setting the fire that destroyed their mansion in Plainfield's "Little New York Colony" last April 11. Her illness has been attributed largely to strain brought on by her husband's accusation and trial.

Fedor was acquitted by Justice Laurence I. Duncan who tried the case without a jury at the conclusion of a climactic day which began when the defense rested at the opening of court in the morning without calling a witness.

### 'Fair Treatment'

Fedor said today he has no immediate plans on his return to Linden except to rest for a while and take up his real estate and insurance business where he left off.

"Everybody has been very fine and fair and courteous to me," he said today.

"I have nothing but praise for the fair treatment I received from Justice Duncan, Atty. Gen. Harold Davison and County Solicitor Howard Hamlin, and I sincerely appreciate the hard work of my counsel (H. Thornton Lorimer of Concord, Jacob M. Shullins of Newport, Norbert T. Burke of Elizabeth, N. J., in presenting the true facts of the case to the court. I was never in doubt if the truth were produced as to the outcome."



This was the victory smile worn by Arthur W. Fedor as he emerged from the courthouse after his acquittal last night in the record-breaking Superior court arson trial at Newport.

Staff photo—Spargo.

The verdict came about 10:15 o'clock, four hours after the clos-

**FOLLOWING PAGE**

**LANGWOOD TREE FARM**



Colleen O'Neill  
301 Lang Road  
Cornish, NH 03745  
603-675-2030



*In active tree farm management since 1979*

# Librarian Resigns Post In Cornish

By WENDY DAUPHINAIS

Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — A conflict over library policy and procedures has led the town librarian to resign and several townspeople to petition to have her reinstated.

Nancy Newbold — librarian at the George H. Stowell Free Library in Cornish Flat for six years until her resignation — is known around town as "a real people person who took the time to help children find the appropriate book," said resident Mariann Thompson.

The three trustees of the small library don't dispute that, but trustee Kathryn Patterson said Newbold didn't do her job sending out notices and collecting money for overdue books.

According to Patterson, a professional librarian for 13 years at the Cornish Elementary School, "The town had over \$3,000 of overdue library materials as of October when Newbold walked out." The list of overdue items now is down to fewer than 100 from a high of 273.

The trustees have a policy where people with overdue books can either pay a fine of 5 cents a day up to a maximum \$2, or donate wood for the library's fireplace in lieu of payment. Those who don't return items must pay the cost of replacement.

Patterson said Newbold would not collect the money. Instead, said Patterson, Newbold would "tell the kids to donate money in the fund-drive box, or volunteer to help in the library. She was adamant that she would not collect funds because people couldn't afford them."

Newbold says she preferred to find a different solution than collecting dues. "I wanted to make the kids feel comfortable in the library, not run it quite as structured as the larger libraries."

Newbold was known to go to other libraries to get a book for a person that asked for it. Newbold said she agrees with the trustees that "this is not a realistic way to run a library, but I just love kids and books too

much to tell them no."

Library Trustee Bernice Johnson said Newbold was "a good librarian as far as public relations, but she didn't want to do the library work of cataloging books and collecting dues." Patterson added that Newbold allowed the children to "stamp and sign their own library cards, a big problem, when you are trying to find an overdue book signed out to 'Sarah.' "

When the trustees realized how extensive the overdue-book problem was, they asked Newbold for a list in March. When nothing was done about it, the trustees compiled a list themselves and sent out letters. Newbold said she wouldn't sign the letters because they made the townspeople feel uncomfortable. During a trustees' meeting in October, the trustees again confronted Newbold about the problems and she walked out, bringing in a notice of resignation two days later.

Newbold said she is now considering running for trustee in March. "I didn't leave in a hateful way, just a difference of opinion of how libraries should be run." She believes she could have more influence relaxing some of the library's policies if she were a trustee.

In the meantime, the three trustees and several volunteers have been acting as the Cornish librarian in shifts. Since rising fuel prices weren't a factor when trustees planned the 1990 library budget, Johnson said the town can save a bit by not paying the salary for a librarian for a couple of months. The pay for the part-time job has been \$5.10 an hour for 7 hours of work a week.

Johnson said the trustees have already talked to a couple of librarians and hope to hire one around the first of the year. They do not plan to follow the request of the petition signed by 29 townspeople to reinstate Newbold.

According to Johnson, "The people that signed the petition don't know anything about the problem."

# A NEW CHAPTER

In 1984, the then-town librarians in Plainfield and Cornish came to a simple and somewhat informal agreement. Cornish residents could take out books and other materials from Plainfield's two public libraries for free. In exchange, Plainfield residents had borrowing privileges at Cornish's library.



From a geographical standpoint, it made sense. Some Cornish residents lived closer to the Meriden Library or the Philip Read Memorial Library on Route 12A in Plainfield Village than to their own library. The same held true for Plainfield residents near the Cornish town line.

Besides, sharing community resources just seemed like a neighborly thing to do.

After 34 years, however, Plainfield's library trustees — with the support of the town's Selectboard — have ended the arrangement. On July 1, Plainfield began charging Cornish residents an annual fee of \$40 per household to borrow materials from its two libraries. Cornish, meanwhile, continues to abide by the decades-old agreement.

"It's important to us that people have free access to library resources," Cornish library trustee Kate Freeland said.

Over the years, Cornish residents have no doubt gotten the better of the deal. Philip Read, which underwent a \$1.5 million expansion and renovation in recent times, is the Four Seasons of small-town libraries.

Cornish's George H. Stowell Free Library, built in the early 1900s, has a relatively small collection and is not handicapped accessible. (Meriden Library is cramped and also lacks handicapped access, but a plan is in the works to raze the building and replace it with a one-story structure.) Plainfield's two libraries are open a combined 48 hours a week compared with Cornish's eight hours.

While it doesn't seem that many Plainfield residents were making the trip across town lines to check out a book or two, an estimated 100 to 200 Cornish residents were taking advantage of their Plainfield privileges.

And that's the real rub.

"This is a Cornish issue, not a Plainfield issue," Plainfield library trustee Nancy Liston told me. "Cornish is not supporting their library to the level that residents want."

Last October, Plainfield library trustees asked Cornish to start paying \$1,000 a year to maintain its residents' borrowing rights. In January, Cornish's three trustees unanimously rejected the request, pointing out that \$1,000 amounted to nearly 6 percent of the town's library budget. "For whatever reason, our library has always been run on a shoestring," said trustee Freeland, who has lived in Cornish for more than 30 years.

On May 1, Plainfield sent a letter to Cornish residents informing them of a change in its "use of library" policy. Mary King, Plainfield's library director, told me Monday that she hadn't counted up the number of Cornish residents who have paid the borrowing fee.

The decision to charge their neighbors to the south didn't sit well with a small group of Plainfield residents. They argued that Cornish residents have long served as library volunteers and written checks to support building improvements.

Trustees didn't flinch. (Remember, this is the governing board that in 2015 called Plainfield police during a public meeting to have a resident removed for talking out of order.)

Liston, the Plainfield trustee, stressed that "we're not the first town to do this." (She was talking about the non-resident fee, not calling police to have a resident tossed.)

True, Hanover charges \$140 a year per nonresident household. In Lebanon, it's \$75. But in a quick internet search, I found plenty of Upper Valley towns that don't charge.

Hartland issues library cards to residents of "surrounding communities." Thetford does as well. On the Vermont side of the Upper Valley, nine communities, including Hartford and Norwich, have joined the "One Card" program, which allows patrons to borrow materials from any participating libraries. How neighborly.

But I don't see Plainfield joining a similar program anytime soon. "Our ultimate responsibility is to Plainfield taxpayers," said Town Administrator Steve Halleran. "They're the ones paying the bills."

Plainfield is certainly within its rights to charge nonresidents whatever it wants. But do town leaders have to be so sanctimonious about it?

When I stopped by the town offices, Halleran handed me Selectboard member Ron Eberhardt's recent letter in support of the five library trustees who are apparently feeling some heat for being, well, unneighborly.

"It is my strongly held opinion that community should not end at town lines, or, for that matter, state or national boundaries," Eberhardt wrote. "That said, town governments make decisions and policy as to how to choose to allocate resources."

He pointed out that Plainfield spends 10 times more on library services than Cornish. Plainfield, which has roughly 2,400 residents, allocates nearly \$150,000 a year in taxpayers' money to its libraries. Cornish, which has 1,600 residents, spends about \$14,000.

Good for Plainfield. But I'm not sure that casting Cornish residents as a bunch of library freeloaders accomplishes much.

According to a recent Pew Research Center report, about a quarter of U.S. adults say they haven't read a book, in whole, or in part, during the previous year.

Requiring folks who happen to live on the other side of the town line to start paying an annual fee to borrow a book from a *public* library won't help change that.

Jim Kenyon ♦

*Jim Kenyon can be reached at [jkenyon@vnews.com](mailto:jkenyon@vnews.com)*

# Ginny Gage given award

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Cornish has many volunteers. Among the legions is Ginny Gage, a woman who believes reading is not only educational, but also provides enjoyment, and she has volunteered at the George H. Stowell Free Library for years.

She was recently presented an "Exemplary Service" award by Linda Matson of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association, during a meeting held at the Balsams Hotel in Dixville Notch, N.H.

Gage's personality is on the quiet side and she has always shied away from recognition, but Cornish librarian Kate Freeland felt Gage's contributions to the public library should be recognized, so Freeland nominated Gage for the award.

Many of the volunteers who work at the library work one day each month, but Gage is scheduled for two and fills in for those who can't meet their commitment. That often adds up to five days. "Each day she works on projects that I need completed and keeps at it until she is finished, often staying well after closing time," said Freeland.

"I know when I give Ginny a task to complete, she will do it correctly and ask for more to do as soon as she is finished. She has worked on some of the most

*Cornish librarian Kate Freeland felt Ginny Gage's contributions to the public library should be recognized, so Freeland nominated Gage.*

tedious jobs in the library, both cheerfully and with enthusiasm. She has a good eye for seeing what needs to be done and is not afraid to take on large projects," said Freeland.

Gage works as an office manager at a machine shop where the men who work there are not library visitors. Finding that unacceptable, she brings the library to them. She knows their interests and regularly signs out books that are circulated throughout the shop. The result: The men are turning into avid readers at their own "branch library."

Gage not only works at the library but for many years has been instrumental in helping to provide bookmobile service for elderly and homebound residents. She provides Freeland with a schedule of patron's needs, including large-print books, and she scours the shelves for books and authors she has learned will appeal to each. Her visits with her patrons of the bookmobile have become both a source of news and companionship.

# LIGHTNING MFG. Co.

## CORNISH FLAT, N. H.

GRINDING COMPOUNDS FOR ALL BRANCHES OF MACHINE WORK.

Address All Correspondence To The Factory.

Cornish Flat, N. H., Dec. 26/11. 191

Friend Geo.,

Yours received this A.M. I went to see Russell this P.M. and gave him the enclosed letter on Chicago as he is going there.

I think your Adv. is all to the good and it is all right the way you have it and I think it will do you some good. I see you have the old mail order fever yet and are going to get all there is out of it.

Have you seen the proof of Russels Cards Yet? They are corkers, Dont send me a statement of the standing of your business affairs, I am not intitled to that and do not ask it. What I meant by a statement is a report on all the orders you have sold during the month and how much.

The rest is your business and I am not supposed to pry into that unless you care to tell me.

I have been unable to secure any kind of a job so far, and I never had such a hard luck winter in my life. If something dont break pretty soon I guess I will end up over the HILL and Far away.

Believe me your Royalties will come in handy. The job in New York proved a fake. Trusting you will be rushed to death this New year I am,

Yours as ever-,

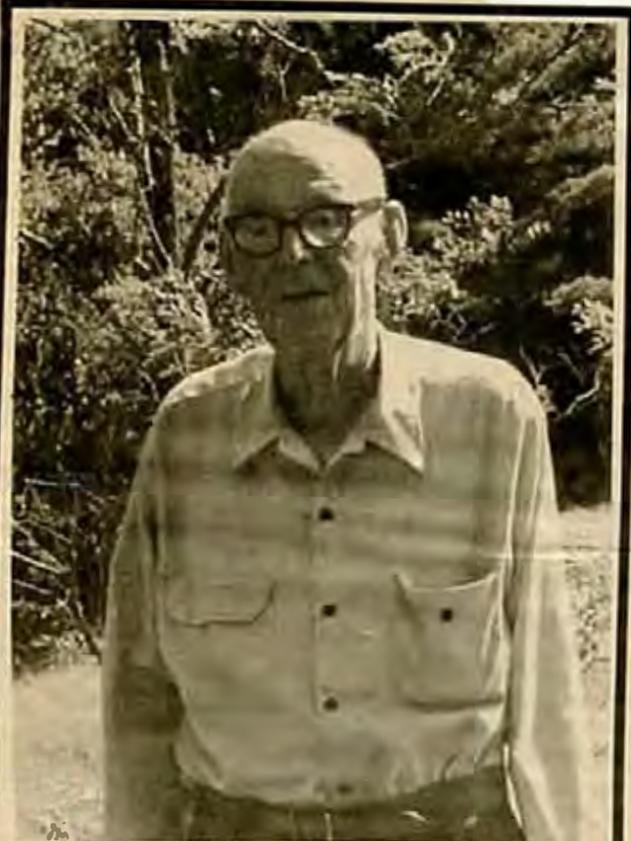
Herbert.

## Celebrating Arrivals

### Windsor Station Revisited

Whittemore Littell

Friday, June 20, 1986



**CORNISH RESIDENT**, Whittemore Littell, looks back on his arrival in Windsor 80 years ago. See Page 3.

**CORNISH** - Things had changed since Whittemore Littell and his sister Margaret Littell Platt first came to the Windsor Station. They were there most recently to celebrate that first arrival, and enjoyed the elegance and food. But the arrival they were celebrating was that which had taken place 80 years before, when the restaurant station was a railroad station, and when their father and elder brother first met them to take them to their new home in Cornish.

The year was 1906. Littell's father, Philip, had decided to give up his work in the newspaper business in Milwaukee and retire to the blossoming Cornish Colony to write - the world of Maxfield Parrish, Arthur Whiting and Augustus St. Gaudens. The elder Littell's Harvard roommate George Rublee of Cornish had recommended that they try it out.

"They stayed, that first time, for four years. "My father wanted to write," recalled Littell, "and he wanted a place in the country to do it. He wrote some plays, but after four years he went back to the newspaper business in New York City, where he became involved in the founding of the New Republic Magazine."

But those first years are still vivid ones for Littell. He recalled the train ride to Windsor, "My grandfather was a railroad man, so we were always very aware of trains," he explained, "We rode in a parlour car, and got off at Windsor

Station. We had been in Switzerland while my father and brother came here first. There was a livery stable run by Mr. Lamphere, and they met us with a carriage, then we drove across the covered bridge to our new home."

What were those first four years - which proved to be just the beginning of a long association with the area for Littell and his wife, Helen, whom he married in 1924 - like in Cornish? "We were oriented towards Windsor. We shopped in Windsor, used the Windsor Post Office, and our doctor came from Windsor. All the farmers were very puzzled by the artistic people who came up here to live. I remember my first ride in an automobile was in one owned by Dr. Brewster of Windsor."

After marrying Helen, Littell went to work for the Commonwealth Fund in New York, which was involved in bringing British students to the United States. It was at this point that he bought the property he now lives on, which had been the Bryant farm, after having spent summers in Cornish for some years. In 1933, Littell had central heating put into the house, and with the coming of the Second World War, his job with the Commonwealth Fund ended, so he and his family moved to Cornish year-round, while he taught Physics at Dartmouth. After the war, the family moved to Colorado, where Littell continued with his teaching for 26 years. In the early 1970s,

following his retirement, Littell moved, for the last time, to Cornish.

Have things changed? Yes, said Littell. In addition to the changes which have affected all Americans like automobiles, airplanes, radio and television, he noted especially the fact that so many farms in this region had gone back to forests. As well, he noted, the gradual build-up of houses, which has accelerated since the Second World War, and the change in the demographics of the area as more newcomers have moved in.

But he's here to stay, 80 years after disembarking as a small, and one can assume, rather timid young boy at Windsor Station. N.B.

## Cornish Man Recalls Ordeal As Hostage

By ANN GROBE

Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — Expressing hope that the hostages at the American embassy in Iran "will soon enjoy a wonderful homecoming," Lester K. Little of Cornish last week shared his "mildly pessimistic" thoughts regarding the situation and recalled his own experiences as a World War II hostage of the Japanese 38 years ago this month.

"I didn't know from one day to the next if I would be taken out and shot," he said, noting that his position with the Chinese government meant he had no diplomatic immunity at the time Japan went to war with

the United States and Great Britain.

Although he was not mistreated during the four months that he was under house arrest by Japanese soldiers on the island of Shameen in Canton, China, Little at age 87 vividly remembers that the worst part of the ordeal was the uncertainty.

A native of Pawtucket, R.I., Little graduated from Dartmouth College in 1914 and that year began his 40-year career with the Chinese Maritime Customs, which he explained was established in 1854 to improve corrupt revenue collections at Chinese ports. Half of the staff was British and

the rest was comprised of 20 other nationalities, he said.

When World War II broke out, Little was living with servants in a house on the small island of Shameen. The island, he said, was two-thirds British concession and one-third French, while the rest of the city of Canton was occupied by the Japanese.

### News Of War

Little said that prior to the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, he had been "strangely aware" something was going to happen. That morning he was awakened at 6:50 a.m. by his servant announcing that a German doctor had come to report that Japan was at war with the United States and Great Britain.

After looking out the window and seeing Japanese soldiers across the street, Little tuned in a Boston radio station on a long-distance radio, but it was too early for news of the war's outbreak to reach the mainland United States and he only heard a discussion of upcoming football games.

"It was a long, lonely, depressing day," he remembers.

The next morning, Japanese soldiers took all foreigners to the British Consulate garden. The French were allowed to leave and the rest were informed that they were prisoners of the Japanese army.

Placed under arrest, Little's job as commissioner of customs was taken over by the Japanese

and he was returned to his house and allowed to keep two servants. Taken from him were two gardeners and a chauffeur as well as his radio, telephone, shotgun and camera.

"I was not mistreated at all and could go out of the house twice a week for two hours," he said, noting that his confinement was accompanied by the dreadful uncertainty and knowledge that the Japanese had a dossier on him that contained unkind remarks about them.

### Constant Supervision

The four-month period of arrest was under constant supervision of the Japanese military, Little said, with "no possibility of contact with each other and no information as to how the war was going or if we would ever be repatriated."

One incident, however, did border on a human exchange with one of his captors.

"I couldn't play the piano, but spent a lot of time trying to," Little said, recalling one stint playing a familiar American tune: "A Japanese soldier banged on the door and requested me to play a particular song again, then in a loud voice he sang the song in Japanese and left."

It was on Good Friday, April 1942, that Little received word from the Swiss Consulate he was to be repatriated.

The "wonderful news" that he

(Continued on Page 8)

— LITTLE



**WORLD WAR II HOSTAGE** — At his home in Cornish, 87-year-old Lester K. Little reads from a diary of the early 1940s and recalls the four months he was a hostage of the Japanese in Canton, China. Speaking from his own experiences with loneliness and uncertainty, he says his sympathy for the Americans held captive in Iran is 'painfully real.' (News photo — Larry McDonald)

was going to be sent home was followed by several weeks delay in Shanghai before the released Americans and Canadians were put on an Italian ship bound for Mozambique (Portuguese East Africa), where they were met by the Swedish ship Gripsholm for an exchange of Japanese persons who had been interned in the United States.

On the way to Mozambique, while the ship was anchored off the coast of Singapore to refuel, Little said an old Japanese liner came alongside the ship.

"The Japanese held up two young children, a boy and girl, and asked if anybody recognized them. Nobody did and I have always wondered what became of those children," he said.

#### Returned To China

Little arrived in New York in July and returned to Chungking in the fall of 1943 to become the first and only American to serve as inspector general of the Chinese Customs.

Little retired from the service in 1950 when the Chinese took over the total operation and moved its headquarters to Taiwan when the communists took over mainland China.

One of Little's last acts as inspector general came in late 1948, when he was instructed to transfer the national monetary reserves to Taiwan. The transfers, which amounted to more than 200 tons of gold and silver, were made in small customs vessels "even though the government had well-armed naval vessels available."

In 1950, Little served as adviser to the Chinese Ministry of Finance in Taiwan. In 1955, he became deputy assistant director of personnel for the U.S. Information Agency, retired in 1960 as director, then served the agency several more years as a consultant.

On a visit to Hanover in 1963, Little purchased part of the Winston Churchill estate in Cornish, where he and his wife Ruth now reside. Surrounded by objects from China and looking out at Mount Ascutney from the comfortable living room of their home, the Littles said they would like to visit China again, but feel they would not be welcome.

Little said his pessimism regarding the American hostages in Iran centers around the advent of "the bomb" and the fear that any situation involving Russia will be "very dangerous."



### *Far From The Sea*

Margaret Kenyon, Lobster Trap

Margaret Kenyon, co-owner with her husband of Cornish Wood Products oversees the paper work from the second floor of the barn of the Parsonage Road farm. The firm manufactures 150 lobster traps weekly for shipment to ports in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. (News photo — Linda A. May)

# *Down East In Cornish*

# Makes Lobster Traps For New England Fishermen

By PAT YODEN

Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — With its 1810 vintage brick farmhouse and large red barn on the hill behind the house, it looks like a typical New England farm that has lost its way from the sea.

Inside the barnyard there are no horses and cows but a pile of sawdust and a truckload of lobster traps.

This former dairy farm on Parsonage Road — 100 miles from the ocean — is the home of Cornish Wood Products, Inc., manufacturer of lobster and crab traps. Every week, more than 150 traps are shipped to fishing ports in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Margaret Kenyon and her husband, Randall, own the small but thriving business, which was founded by her father, Willard Whitcomb, in 1954 as Whitcomb Lobster Traps. A farmer and chairmaker from Swanzy, Whitcomb became interested in making lobster traps while recuperating from an illness in Scituate, Mass.

"Every day he would walk to the harbor and talk to the fishermen," Margaret Kenyon recalls.

Whitcomb moved to Newport, where he began to make lobster traps part-time. After he died in 1962, the Kenyons took over the business, moving to a small barn near their Parsonage Road farm.

It remained a part-time operation until 1967 when Kenyon sold his dairy cows, because of "too many government regulations, telling us what we could and couldn't do with our cows," he says.

They converted the barn into a woodshop in 1968 and the business grew to a fulltime occupation for the Kenyons. In 1977 they sold out, intending to take things a little easier as they approached retirement age.

But the new owners were unsuccessful and closed the doors shortly afterwards. The Kenyons, along with partner Paul Christensen, bought it back and reopened in September 1979 as Cornish Wood Products, Inc.

Today they employ 10 people — 4 men and 6 women, one of whom works part-time. In addition 6 local women work at home knitting the nets, or trap heads, as the fishermen call them.

"I don't know why they call it knitting. It's not knitting at all," says Mrs. Kenyon, producing a plastic shuttle

about 10 inches long which is used to make the trap heads.

"Each fisherman has his own design for his heads," she says. "Each wants something just a little different. We make them the way they want them. They are very fussy about having the heads just right."

The traps vary in size and style. The firm makes four basic models in various sizes, for inshore and offshore fishing. But lobstermen have variations of these basic and often send in sketches or bring in samples for the Kenyons to duplicate.

Inshore traps are used for up to four or five miles out, and last three years on the average. Offshore traps, which have been in use about 10 years, last only eight or nine months.

"Of course, a good storm can destroy all your traps, no matter how new they are," says Kenyon sitting in her compact office upstairs in the barn, where she does the paperwork for the business.

"But it's usually the worms that get them," she says, displaying a used trap, riddled with tiny holes. "That's what sea worms can do, even to oak."

Red oak is used for their traps, since it is considered most resistant to worms.

The oak logs are bought in New Hampshire and Vermont, "as green as we can get them," says Kenyon, so that they can be cut and nailed without splitting. The pungent odor of fresh sap hangs in the air over a pile of planks fresh from the sawmill in the rear of the barn.

Nearby two workers use a table saw to cut the boards into smaller pieces. Toward the front of the building, David Gokey, one of Mrs. Kenyon's ten children, feeds wood scraps into the huge wood-burning furnace that heats the barn. He has worked there off and on since his grandfather started the business when he was in high school.

Upstairs, other workers are assembling the traps, nailing laths onto the frames. Randall Kenyon operates a specially designed nail gun; two women nearby perform the same task by hand.

The Kenyons have recently started making vinyl-coated wire traps, which Margaret Kenyon predicts will replace wooden ones within 10 years.

"They are more expensive, but they last longer and need less main-



**NAILING IT DOWN** — Randall Kenyon, whose father-in-law started the lobster trap business in 1954, uses a specially designed machine to nail the red oak laths to the base of the trap. (News photo — Linda A. May)

tenance," she says. "Many of the inshore fishermen are using only wire traps now. But the offshore fellows still prefer the wood."

"Offshore fishermen use 25 or 30 traps on one trawl. The ones at the end are under such pressure when they haul them up that they tend to collapse and fold up."

The Kenyons have experimented with wire traps on a wooden frame for added strength, but these have not been successful.

"They don't fish well," says Margaret Kenyon. "The combination of wood and metal creates electrolysis, a chemical process. Somehow the lobster sense vibrations or something. They won't go into those traps."

If the wooden traps do indeed become

obsolete, the Kenyons do not intend to give up the business. They are planning several novelty and gift items, which they hope will take up the slack. Just before Christmas they introduced a line of wine racks which retail from \$50 up. The couple has ideas for other items in a lower price range.

"We don't intend to retire for a few years," she says. She wishes she had more time for her other interests, such as knitting for her ten children and 20 grandchildren, and pursuing her interest in doll houses and miniatures.

Her husband agrees with her. In addition to working 40 or 50 hours a week on the business, he serves as a volunteer fireman.

"Keeping busy keeps us young," says Margaret Kenyon.

*A Celebration of Life*

*Holy Eucharist  
and  
the Burial of the Dead*



*Helen Bernice Livingston Lovell, SSG*

*February 26, 1914, - September 27, 2017*

Helen Lovell

UNION-ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Claremont, New Hampshire  
October 21, 2017

# Helen B. Lovell

Eagle Times 10/4/17  
p. A3

**CORNISH** — Helen Bernice Lovell, 103, of Root Hill Road in Cornish, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2017, after a short stay at Sullivan County Healthcare in Unity. She had previously been cared for at home by her son, Rodney Lovell for the past 10 years. She was born Feb. 26, 1914, in Claremont, the daughter of Byron and Bernice (Fitch) Livingston. She attended school in Claremont, graduating from Stevens High School, Class of 1932 and had attended annual reunions. She graduated from New York Training School for Deaconesses and had been a licensed Eucharist and Lay Minister. She married Rodney Lincoln Lovell in 1942 in Killington, Connecticut, and both served as active members of the Civil Air Patrol moving to Cornish in 1956. She was a member of the Cornish Historical Society, South Cornish Home Ec Club and Cornish Garden Club. Helen was the recipient of the Boston Post Card.

Members of her family include two sons, Rodney Lovell Jr. of Cornish and Frank Lovell of Manchester New Hampshire; six grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Rodney Lovell Sr., a son, Byron Lovell; a brother, Irving Livingston; and a sister, Ida Skinner.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday Oct. 21, at Union Episcopal Church, Old Church Road Claremont, NH. The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Cornish Historical Society, 408 Town House Road Cornish, NH 03745.

You are invited to share a memory of Helen with the family or leave a message of condolence in the family guestbook at [www.royfuneralhome.com](http://www.royfuneralhome.com). Arrangements have been entrusted to the Roy Funeral Home and Cremation Service.



*With decades of experience under his belt, Fred Weld has found several markets for the Hemlock he cuts, including these sawlogs on the landing at a recent job in Cornish, N.H.*

Fred Weld, lumber, logging

## HARVESTING HEMLOCK WITH FRED WELD

*Story and Photos by Jim Frohn, Grafton County Extension Forester*

**E**astern Hemlock, an abundant conifer in New Hampshire, can be a tough species to market. Among conifers, it isn't as in demand as Spruce or Fir for structural lumber or White Pine for finish work, so the demand for the logs is lower. Hemlock is also used for making paper, though only by a couple of mills within trucking distance of New Hampshire. With relatively low demand for both lumber and paper, marketing the species can be a real challenge.

When one has been in the logging business as long as Fred Weld has, marketing products is one of many skills that you develop in order to stay in business. On a 50-acre timber harvest that Fred was working on in his hometown of Cornish, N.H., recently, he had 12 different sorts of hardwoods and softwoods destined for various mills and end uses. Neat piles of logs awaited trucking on a clean landing that was laid

out in a loop, so the trucks wouldn't need to back up much. It was obvious that a lot of thought, borne of long experience, was put into laying out the landing and the harvest operation. Stream crossings were installed properly and removed promptly, and trails were laid out to avoid wet soils. The stand was being carefully harvested, with good quality, healthy trees being retained and poor quality, diseased, dying, or mature trees being removed. Fred typically likes to work with foresters, who mark the trees to be cut, but on this particular job Fred was making the decisions on which trees to cut and which to leave. It was clear that he's learned a lot about silviculture over the years and puts a lot of thought into harvesting decisions.

Fred runs a cut-to-length, or CTL, operation, consisting of a tracked harvester with a cut-to-length head and a forwarder. The harvester fells trees, removes the branches and tops, and cuts the stem

into various products, from pulpwood to sawlogs. The branches and tops are laid on the trail in front of the machine, creating a protective mat for the soil, and the logs are piled next to the trail. The forwarder, basically an eight-wheeled truck designed for the woods, picks up the logs with a loader and places them in bunks and carries, rather than dragging, the wood to the landing. This makes for narrower trails and smaller landings, and less damage to trailside trees.

Fred started his logging business in 1976, and has run most of the logging equipment configurations common in the Northeast. Starting out, he felled trees with a chainsaw and pulled them to the landing with a cable skidder. By 1987, the business was fully mechanized, with a feller buncher, grapple skidder, slide boom delimeter, and slasher. The company produced the full array of products including sawlogs, pulpwood, firewood,







**T**he 50-acre harvest in Cornish contained some Hemlock stands in the mix. The Hemlock was found in patches and along stream corridors and was growing fairly densely. The Hemlocks on the site were tall and straight and seemed to be of good quality. Hemlock often has sweep and curves in the stems, and is notorious for "ring shake." This is a condition where there is rot along the growth rings, and as soon as log is sawn, the lumber falls apart along the rings. It can be tricky to determine if a tree has shake until it is felled. Fred thinned the Hemlock stands by first removing poor quality, crooked, suppressed trees, then removing some of the straighter trees to reduce stocking and competition. Fred sells Hemlock to a number of different customers. Crooked, rotten Hemlock and those logs

## Logger Profile

—Continued from page 20

with ring shake are sold as pulpwood to Finch Paper and International Paper in New York, or to Catalyst's yard in Shelburne, N.H., which sends wood to the paper mill in Rumford, Me. Finch Paper is unique in that it takes eight-foot lengths only. Fred said it used to buy its wood in four-foot lengths and in four-foot increments, which was a benefit because it facilitated cutting out the shaky and crooked sections. The other pulp mills buy tree-length wood, basically 12 feet and longer.

A number of local small mills buy Hemlock sawlogs and saw them into beams, bridge timbers, and the like. There are also some large mills that buy large quantities of Hemlock logs, typically in the 12-foot and longer range, with

preferences in the 18-20-foot lengths. Fred has found an alternative market that pays well for eight-foot and 10-foot logs, as well as longer lengths, which can be helpful for merchandising a tree to its highest value. This results in the best return for both the landowner and the logger.

Merchandising each tree to its highest value is a hallmark of a quality logging job, along with a well-organized landing, well-placed trails, properly installed stream crossings, and a stand of healthy, vigorous trees left to grow for the future. All of these were in place on Fred's recent job in Cornish, confirming the words on the sign that greets visitors to the landing: "Another Professional Timber Harvest by Fred C. Weld Logging."

Professionalism, according to Fred, is what has changed the most in the logging industry. When asked what is the biggest change he's seen in the logging industry over his 40-plus year career, Fred said, "The improvement of the professionalism of the logging workforce, by far." Markets, mills, weather, and equipment have always changed periodically, but the increased professionalism is the biggest change, and for the better.

*Jim Frohn is a forester who managed private and public lands for over 20 years and is now enjoying his role in forestry education. He can be reached at [jim.frohn@unh.edu](mailto:jim.frohn@unh.edu).* 



The log landing at the Cornish timber sale had 12 sorts and featured a wide, curved design to minimize trucks having to back up to turn around.

# Benton MacKaye

## Trail pioneer

SHIRLEY, Mass. (UPI) — Benton MacKaye, the conservationist who pioneered the Appalachian Trail, died Thursday at the age of 98.

He was born in Stamford, Conn., and graduated Cambridge Latin School and received a bachelor's degree at Harvard University in 1900. In 1905, after a brief teaching stint in New York, MacKaye received a master's degree at Harvard's School of Forestry. For the next five years, he taught at Harvard and conducted field work for the U.S. Forestry Service.

MacKaye summed up his career for the 50th anniversary report of his class at Harvard:

"What have I been doing for the past half century? Well, I've been titled, officially or otherwise, a forester, a regional planner, a conservationist, a geographer and an economist.

"To tell you the truth, my job has been called by every name except the right one — that would be whatever you'd call the job of making our fair land more fair and habitable."

In 1921, MacKaye wrote an article for the October issue of *The Journal of the American Institute of Architects*, which offered a plan for what was to become the Appalachian Trail.

The idea was picked up by the Regional Planning Association of America, and the concept of linking existing mountain trails slowly materialized.

The project, which started in 1926, ended in 1933 — with

Funeral arrangements paths running through 14 states from Mt. Katahdin, Maine to Springer Mountain, Georgia.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete.



**MacKaye's studio at "Hilltop".**

Percy MacKaye

*Handwritten signature*



*Eagle*

# Maslan retires from his 12-year post as Cornish Selectman

By Ruth Rollins  
Contributing Writer

Robert Maslan will retire from the office of selectman on Tuesday after serving the Town of Cornish for 12 years.

During his tenure Maslan says his top priority was seeing that bills got paid on time, which allowed the town many discounts. Also during this time tax bills were gotten out early to avoid paying interest on loans.

Maslan also instituted a purchase order system for the town which demanded that any purchase more than \$200 had to be pre-approved.

While he has served as selectman the town has constructed a garage for the highway department, while keeping most budgets level funded. Any end of year surplus has been used to make payments on the town office and highway garage to help avoid extra tax burdens.

He has served as the town's Director of Federal Emergency Management Agency, and through this office has received grants that have also helped the tax base. He served as chairman of the Town Safety Committee and was a member of the Planning Board.

Maslan has been an active member of the Cornish Volunteer Fire Department and was president of the Fireman's Association.

His other activities have involved serving as vice president of the Cornish Garden Club and has been a member of Cornish Grange #25 for more than 25 years.

After coming off the frontlines in World II as a 1st Lt. in the United States Army, he was in charge of 1,500 people in a General Hospital.

Prior to moving to Cornish in 1979, he had been a plant manager at Baldwin Technology Cooperation in Stamford, Connecticut, for a 35 year period, where he was in charge of 182 employees.

## ROBERT FRANCIS MASLAN

CLAREMONT, N.H. — Robert Francis Maslan, 87, formally of Center Road, Cornish, N.H., died Friday morning, Jan. 30, 2009, at Elmwood Center of Claremont, N.H., after a long illness. He was born in New York City and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Sept. 26, 1921, the son of Francis J. and Sophie (Malotta) Maslan.



Robert Maslan

Mass started and enjoyed playing Santa Claus at many Christmas parties.

He married Mary C. (sell) on Aug. 3, 1946, and died on Oct. 10, 1991. He also predeceased by a Marie Kirschner and a companion of many Margaret Kenyon.

He is survived by his sons, Robert F. Maslan

and his wife Suzann and their children Catherine and Joseph of walk, Leo P. Maslan and his Kathleen and their children Fritz, Peter of Cornish, Joseph R. M. and his partner Stephen of Fairfield Conn., Jeffrey R. Maslan and his Stacey and their children Bill, and Jesse of Coral Springs, Fla. Jerome A. Maslan and his wife and their children Elisabeth and of Claremont.

He was a veteran of World War II having served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army serving with the 23rd General Hospital Unit. He served in the European and North African Theater. It was there that he met his wife Mary. After the army, they returned to New York then moved to Malverne, N.Y., and Norwalk, Conn., where he worked as a plant manager for Baldwin Technology in Stamford, Conn. Bob and his wife Mary moved to Cornish, in 1980. He was a member of the Frank J. Ruddock VFW Post 1073 of Malverne. He was a communicant of St. Joseph Church and served on many committees for the church. He was a member of the Grange of Cornish 25, a twenty-two year member of the Claremont Elks lodge 879 and a member of the Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree Council 1820. He was a past Cornish town selectman from 1992 to 2004. Bob was a lifetime member of the Cornish Volunteer Fire Department and a past president of the Cornish Fire Department Association.

He was also a member of the Malverne Volunteer Fire Department.

Bob will always be remembered for collecting quarters at church before

and his wife Suzann and their children Catherine and Joseph of walk, Leo P. Maslan and his Kathleen and their children Fritz, Peter of Cornish, Joseph R. M. and his partner Stephen of Fairfield Conn., Jeffrey R. Maslan and his Stacey and their children Bill, and Jesse of Coral Springs, Fla. Jerome A. Maslan and his wife and their children Elisabeth and of Claremont.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009, 11 a.m. at St. Joseph Church with Stanley J. Piwowar, Pastor, officiating. Interment will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery with full military honors provided by the Claremont American Legion Post 29.

A reception will follow. Friends may call at the Strickland Funeral Home, 146 Broad Street, Claremont, Friday afternoon and evening from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory to The Mary Maslan Fund c/o The Cornish Elementary School, attn. Dale Lawrence, 100 Townhouse Road, Cornish, N.H. 03745.

# Cheshire Lodge celebrates 175th

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. — Philip White, Most Worshipful Master of Masons of New Hampshire, was guest speaker at the 175th anniversary celebration of Cheshire Lodge No. 23, held at the Masonic Hall, School Street, Wednesday evening.

Master Roy Stewart presided over the event that found several past and present Grand Lodge officers attending, as well as area Masons, wives and friends.

Cheshire Lodge Master Roy Stewart and Grand Master White both gave history of the Cornish organization, which was chartered in 1815. "It is quite a milestone reaching 175 years," said White. He spoke of several other lodges chartered near the same time which are no longer in existence.

In giving the history of Cheshire Lodge he noted that when the Grand Lodge was petitioned to grant the formation of a new lodge in 1814, it was asked that it be named Mt. Moriah Lodge, but inasmuch as there was a lodge already named Mt. Moriah it was given the name Cheshire Lodge No. 23.

"At the time Cheshire Lodge was formed the Grand Lodge was located in Portsmouth, soon to be moved to Concord," said White. Presently the Grand Lodge is located at Manchester.

He spoke of District Deputy

Grandmasters traveling throughout the state by horse and carriage and the length of time this took. "They had to be stalwart individuals."

At that time each lodge had to pay for the deputies visits. White noted in secretaries reports that the cost was a total of \$4.97 for all lodges throughout the year. It was also noted that an oyster stew dinner could be served to members for a total of \$2.07.

Cheshire Lodge meets on the Saturday on or before the full moon and White said "no doubt that was a good decision, because back then travel was at a speed of about four miles per hour and they could use the light of the moon to return home, often a task that might take three hours. "Back then, churches and the Masons were the only organizations where people could go for charity, different than today with all the programs available."

White told those present that the 12,000 Masons in New Hampshire help support the D.A.R.E. program, a drug and alcohol program administered through the New Hampshire State Police, where trained officers visit elementary schools throughout the state educating students about the pitfalls of drug and alcohol use.

He also told those present that a donation would be given the Visiting Nurses Peer Outreach pro-

gram. A program which teaches youngsters to be counselors to other youngsters in trouble.

White was presented a 175th Anniversary Commemorative Mug by Stewart. Refreshments, including a decorated cake, made for the occasion by Ruth Stewart, was served in the dining hall.

Cheshire Lodge has met at its present location on School Street since 1927 when they began renting the upper level of the one-room schoolhouse owned by the Cornish School District, following a fire that destroyed their meeting place on Route 120.

The Masons purchased the property in 1955 when the new consolidated elementary school was constructed and opened for Cornish students, replacing several one-room schools.

Like so many organizations, the lodge has experienced high and low times, but has always maintained its rank and standing among other lodges in its order.

Officers in this anniversary year are: Bernard Stone, senior warden; Gary Ward, junior warden; John Kousman, secretary; Richard Ackerman, treasurer; Dereck Johnson, senior deacon; George Platt, junior deacon; George Hamlin, senior steward; Alonzo Spaulding, junior steward; Arnold Fox, marshal; Frank Ackerman, tyler; and Newell Keay, chaplain.



MASTLANDS On Rt. 12-A in Cornish will be the site of a new arts program this summer.

Aidron Duckworth, Arts Center, Mastlands

## Art Center Set In Cornish

CORNISH — A new art study center at the Mastlands on Rt. 12-A has scheduled a summer program in drawing, painting, sculpture and creative weaving.

There will also be workshops on sunprints, drawing and T'ai Chi, raku and carving.

Aidron Duckworth, director of Mastlands, currently chairman of the arts department at the University of South Dakota, said the center is "for people over 35 who might hesitate to undertake formal studies alongside college-age students."

Most participants in the course will be in residence, Duckworth said, but there will be courses available for people living outside the center.

Duckworth said the center seeks to provide a "Whole environment" for the "art experience" that "tends to become separated from everyday living."

To this end, he said, participants are encouraged to help with food preparation, gardening, chopping wood for fires and the like.

There is room for the newcomer to art as well as for seasoned veterans, he said.

Duckworth, was graduated from the Royal College of Art in London. He headed the sculpture program at Syracuse University and in 1973 received a Ph.D. from Ohio State University. He will teach courses in drawing, painting, sculpture and aesthetics.

Duckworth's wife Sandra will instruct in creative weaving. She has a degree in fine arts from Syracuse and has studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome.

Others on the staff include Henry Gernhardt, who heads the ceramics department at Syracuse; Wick Knaus, who has a fine arts degree from the University of Hartford; Andre Haluska, who has a masters in fine arts from the State University Of New York at Buffalo; and James McDermid, master of fine arts, Cranbrook Academy of Art.

## William S. Palmer, M.D. — Opens Practice At Mt. Ascutney Hospital

Pr

**Windsor** — The direction primary health care will take in the future is to the small, rural hospital, where nurses and doctors know their patients well. That is the opinion of Dr. William S. Palmer of Cornish, N.H. who has joined The Hitchcock Clinic and will open his practice of General Internal Medicine at Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center in Windsor.

"The small community hospital is the right environment to treat patients, especially the elderly, and the only place where you can give them what they want ... time and education. Concentrating on preventive care, primary care physicians can change health care. Here, you can succeed at talking someone out of smoking, to actually educate the patient about how to avoid lung cancer at 48 and heart attack at 60," said Dr. Palmer in a recent interview.

Before joining the doctors at Mt. Ascutney Hospital, Dr. Palmer worked for four years at Valley Regional Hospital in Claremont, N.H. with the Associates in Medicine; he also heads the Medicare Hospice Program in the Claremont area. He did his residency at Mount Sinai

Hospital in New York City.

"In a big city hospital, you can tell the drug addict why drugs are harmful to them, but you know once they leave your care, they won't do what you've told them. I think that here, doctors can make an impact, a real difference, because of the relationship that develops between patient and doctor. We get to know each other, my nurse knows you and your medical history ... those things seldom happen in the city," remarks Dr. Palmer.

More than his desire to practice medicine in the country brought William Palmer to New Hampshire and Vermont; "My grand-parents on both sides lived in Cornish all their lives; my parents and I spent time every summer here until I was eighteen. There was always somebody from the Platt family taking swimming lessons at Kennedy Pond," remembers Palmer. He has a special fondness for St. Gaudens National Historic Site; his parents were curators of St. Gaudens for five years when it was still in private hands, and his great-grandfather was a personal friend of the sculptor, Augustus Saint-Gaudens.



**William S. Palmer, M.D. will begin seeing patients December 1st at Mt. Ascutney Hospital.**

Today, Dr. Palmer and his wife Nelly with their children Daniel, 3, and Sarah, 2, live just above the beautiful St. Gaudens site with a spectacular view of Mt. Ascutney. Nelly Palmer, born in Ecuador, was a New York banker in her professional life; now she is very busy with their two young children, aerobic dance and volunteer community work. Dr. Palmer proudly mentioned that the long winters don't bother his wife: "She has a 4-wheel drive car so she loves it!" They cross-country ski and hike in their

*continued page 15*

free time together.

Dr. Palmer and his wife are pleased about this opportunity to work at Mt. Ascutney Hospital in Windsor because it allows them to stay in Cornish. "The Hitchcock Clinic actually hired me to work at MAHHC with the Mt. Ascutney Medical Group to bring their services to my patients; it's the closest thing to house calls. We are spreading out, all over this area, to serve patients locally and save them long trips," explained Dr. Palmer.

His former nurse, Carol

Hiltunen, R.N. will join him at Mt. Ascutney, much to his delight. "Not only does she know all my patients well, she'll put new patients at ease by assuring them that I am a nice guy and a good doctor, despite my youthful appearance," he laughs.

He will begin to see patients December 1, 1994. Until then, physicians of the Mt. Ascutney Medical Group — Drs. Beach Conger, Dale Gephart, Judith Hills, Marlene Sachs, and Robert Wilson will cover for him.



*Dr. William Palmer*

Please call 802-674-6711  
for an appointment.

The Hitchcock Clinic, Mt. Ascutney Medical Group, and Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center are pleased to announce that Dr. William Palmer will be joining The Hitchcock Clinic and opening his practice of General Internal Medicine at Mt. Ascutney Hospital in Windsor, VT., effective December 1, 1994.

During this interim period, coverage for patients seeking Dr. Palmer will be provided by the physicians of the Mt. Ascutney Medical Group; Drs. Beach Conger, Dale Gephart, Judith Hills, Marlene Sachs, and Robert Wilson.

**MT. ASCUTNEY HOSPITAL**  
AND HEALTH CENTER

Cornish Road, RR1 Box 5, Windsor, Vermont 05090

**FOLLOWING PAGE**

**MESSAGE THERAPY**

**STEVE GORDON**

**BRIANE PINKSTON**

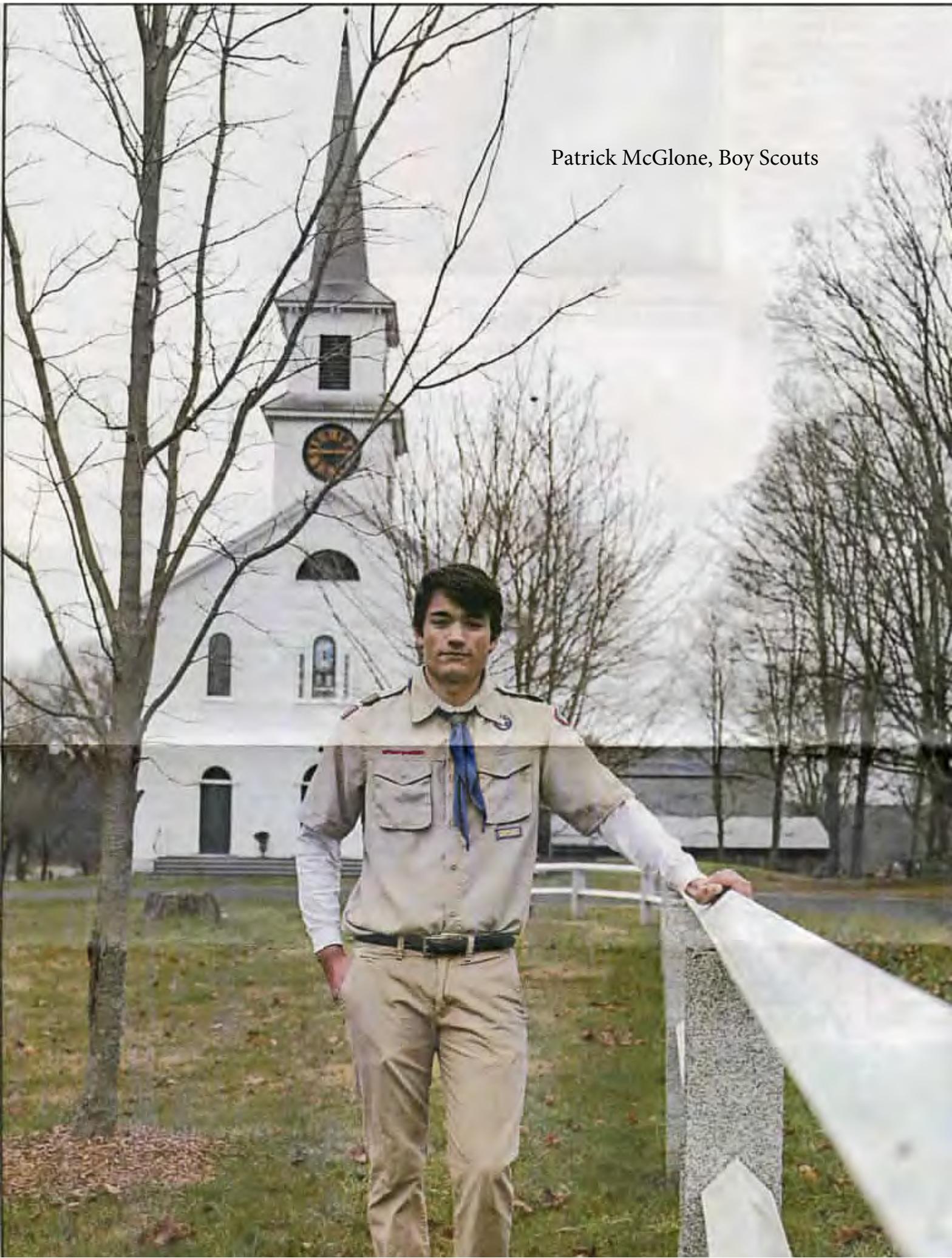
**CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF CORNISH**

**LILLIAN HICKS**



Steve Gordon of Cornish, N.H., has been offering massage therapy once a week to in-patients at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., for about 10 years. He founded The Hand to Heart Project, a nonprofit program, in 2007, after being inspired by a patient. Also pictured is Briane Pinkson of Cornish, DHMC healing arts therapist who works with Gordon in the project. She has been an oncology nurse at DHMC for 32 years and has been doing in-patient massage there for more than 25 years. Other Upper Valley massage therapists who have been involved in Hand to Heart are Jen Gelfan, Susan Prisch, Beth Rettig and Sally Thursby.

Patrick McGlone, Boy Scouts



# Eagle Scout Project Restores Historic Fence In Cornish Flat

By DAVID CORRIVEAU

Valley News Staff Writer

FOR AS LONG AS ANYONE in Cornish Flat could remember, an array of granite posts had stuck out of the town common, as random and crooked as a mouthful of neglected teeth.

After spending the better part of two years incorporating them into a replica of the fence that ringed the common in the 19th century, Cornish Boy Scout Patrick McGlone hopes that they stand firm into the 22nd.

"During one of the windstorms we had recently, a tree came down and broke the back of the bench that's there," McGlone said last week. "And a branch almost hit the fence. I was just out there in August with a paint brush, putting on the second coat of stain."

That final touch in McGlone's Eagle Scout project particularly cheered the trustees of the adjoining Cornish Meetinghouse, who in recent years have had their hands full restoring the 1804 building.

"The Scouts have done so many other projects in town," trustee Caroline Storrs said last week. "The help they've given us over the years on the common, replacing a lot of the trees, is phenomenal. We never would have replaced the fence if they hadn't done that project. It would just be one of those dreams you have."

The trustees deferred the dream until a few years ago, when Storrs asked longtime Cornish Scoutmaster Leo Maslan whether one of his troop's aspiring Eagle Scouts could reconstruct the original fence, using late 1800s photographs as a guide.

Maslan suggested it to one of his scouts who, he recalled, "looked at it and said, 'Well, maybe too ambitious.'" Then he thought of McGlone, who had shown determination and attention to detail in the tree replanting project.

"He's methodical and meticulous," Maslan said. "He stays with a job until it's all done. It was a good match, and he had the right stuff to stay with it."

The trick was finding the hours to do the job, in a schedule that included commuting to Hartford High School and playing varsity soccer, ice hockey and lacrosse.

"Time management was very hard my first couple of years," McGlone said. "I procrastinated a lot of my Eagle Scout work. Finally I realized, 'It's crunch time.'"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

had just snapped off." Eventually, they dug a series of 5-by-5-foot holes, secured each post and filled around each one with loam.

"We spent most of the summer of 2016 digging a lot of holes by hand," McGlone said. "I had scouts who were up to their waists and chests in dirt. Luckily, my troop is really good about things like that. I remember helping a lot of Eagle Scouts with their projects over the years."

Meanwhile, fellow Hartford High senior Ben Healy, an aspiring civil engineer, calculated how long the rails should be and how to arrange them where the stones curved inward to form a gate facing the meetinghouse.

"It was a really valuable experience, especially since I was doing it with a lot of friends," McGlone said. "It showed me how collaboration can go a long way in accomplishing a goal. I would never have been able to get this done without them."

That's one of the big lessons McGlone will cite when he goes before the board that reviews his Eagle Scout application in December.

"I was quite the shy person before scouting got me to be more social," he said. "I learned how to be comfortable with public speaking, with being a leader in various roles, like my sports teams."

In addition to learning those skills, McGlone discovered his town.

"I talked with a person at (the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site) who told me about the history of Cornish, including how the fence was aligned with the common, which initially was used by soldiers in the American Revolution to practice marching.

"Some of these things I knew a little about, but it took me until later to realize how significant the area was."

*David Corriveau can be reached at dcorriveau@vnews.com and at 603-727-3304.*

Glone was asking neighbors and friends for help raising the \$4,000 he estimated it would cost to do the project. He encountered generous donors at Town Meeting last year, then started shopping around for granite and for wood for the rails. Swenson Granite, in Concord, sold him 18 posts at a discount "because it was an Eagle Scout project." After he decided to go with rails cut from Douglas fir instead of pressure-treated wood, the budget climbed closer to \$5,000.

Then, after calculating where the posts should go, came the heavy lifting: With shovels and hammers, eight fellow scouts joined McGlone on site. While they were able to excavate some postholes with a motorized posthole digger, it kept stalling on rocks under the soil.

And in the course of realigning some of the existing posts, McGlone and his team found "the bottoms of some of the posts that were gone, the

SEE GRANITE — C



VALLEY NEWS — CHARLES HATCHER

Cornish Meetinghouse now has a replica of the historic fence that encircled the Cornish Flat landmark a century ago. Eagle Scout Patrick McGlone said that he was able salvage 11 original posts for the project.

# Cornish finishes work on new war memorial

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Construction of the new granite war memorial to be placed on the green at Cornish Flat is about completed, and local officials expect delivery within two weeks.

"The town raised money at town meeting for the one monument, and we need to have donations for the second memorial," Robert Maslan, chairman of the board of selectmen and a member of the Cornish Monument Committee, said Friday.

Voters approved \$15,000 at the annual town meeting "to replace the veterans' memorials that need replacement" and to allow the selectmen to receive and spend any donations for the replacement.

Two memorial bases were laid Sept. 9, Maslan said. An unveiling at the site has been planned for Veterans Day on Nov. 11.

The first monument will incorporate the names of veterans of the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars on a single granite base.

Payment for the three-in-

by the public funds from town meeting.

Cremation Art of East Montpelier, Vt., is doing the design and construction of the first new monument at a low-bid price of \$14,700, Maslan said.

The proposed granite foundation for a new second monument, a World War II memorial, will rely completely on money the committee can raise.

"The committee decided to do a second foundation when they saw how badly the current monument is deteriorating," Maslan said.

The current wooden monuments are rotting, and some of the letters are falling off. The committee said the granite will prove more durable than the wood.

The committee has double-checked each name for proper spelling and legitimacy.

Some of the 250 names on the old memorials are misspelled or have missing letters through exposure to the weather.

Only citizens who entered the armed services from Cornish can be listed on the monuments, Maslan said.

Page 10. 7. 22

Cornish Flat, N.H. ~ May 30, 2003 ~ World War II Veterans



Roland Baker ~ Bud Stone ~ Al Otton ~ Arthur Bailey ~ Joe Mayette  
Marion Tierney ~  
Paul Tierney

# Militia Member Tries To Muster Calm

By SUSAN J. RAND

Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — Cornish militia rally organizer Scott Stevens says he'll talk to town officials to try to calm what he says are unfounded fears over a militia event scheduled for the Cornish fairgrounds next month.

"Nothing that we're doing here should engender fear," Stevens said. "We're going (to selectmen) because we want to make sure they're not intimidated by what's happening here."

Stevens said no one would have paid any attention to the May 13-14 Cornish rally if the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building hadn't occurred last week.

Federal investigators have said suspects in the attack have ties to the Michigan Militia, an anti-government paramilitary organization.

Since the attack, Stevens has been quoted in media around the region disassociating the Oklahoma City suspects from the militia movement.

Cornish Selectman John White said it's not appropriate to "misidentify" local people planning the rally "with other people around the country

## White Mountain Militia Information

Service member Scott Stevens said no one would have paid any attention to the May 13-14 Cornish rally if the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building hadn't occurred last week.

who are causing problems."

Stevens said the rally may be moved from the Fairgrounds to private property "if it turns out that people are that shook up."

"If there's that many people who are upset about this maybe we'll do it on private property and not tell anyone where we'll be," he said. "I never intended it to be a circus like this."

Selectmen's secretary Mary Jean Garrow said a number of residents, and at least one person from

out of town, have called her office asking about militia event.

"They're getting really concerned," she said. Garrow said Selectman Robert Maslan told to give the callers Stevens' telephone number. Stevens said he hasn't had any calls from concerned residents.

Cornish Police Chief Philip "Joe" Osgood posters advertising the Cornish rally have been torn down.

Stevens said Osgood will be "on stand-by" to be called in and help with the rally if needed. White said Osgood plans to attend the rally, as the town police chief.

Osgood said he's not worried about the event. "Up until this Oklahoma deal everything's pretty quiet," he said.

Osgood said that when selectmen heard about the rally "they weren't too thrilled about it."

But White said he doesn't expect any problems at the event.

"They'll be no marching around muster

Friday, April 28, 1995 • 50¢

# Militia

(Continued from page A1)

There will just be a meeting, a gathering sort of thing," he said in a telephone interview via speakerphone. Maslan was took part in the interview.

"This is just going to be a very low-key thing. I don't really see any reason for any concern. We know these two people fairly well," White said of Stevens and Curt Wyman of Cornish, who helped organize the rally. "They're reasonable people. They're not radicals. They're just ordinary people."

According to Stevens, militia groups are defensive in nature, preparing their members to come to the defense of constitutional principles in case societal order breaks down in what he says would be an government-engineered conspiracy.

Such a breakdown will come through economic collapse, said Stevens.

A date for Stevens' session with the

three-member board of selectmen hasn't yet been set.

White said his board will meet with Stevens at one of its meetings next week. They're waiting until then to include Selectman Stuart Hodgeman, who is away, White said.

The board meets on Monday and Thursday mornings and on Friday evenings.

White said it's a good idea to talk to Stevens because "people are just inquiring. They want to know what's going on."

Stevens said the May 13-14 event is a "political rally." Fliers for the weekend session say it's a "rally to promote patriot networking," and will feature speakers from New England.

Before Oklahoma City, they had expected 75 to 100 people, Stevens said. Now he thinks reporters may outnumber the militia members.

"I think there will be more media there than there will be patriots," he said.

Wyman said he has reservations from people from Maine to western New York state and New Jersey. He said he expects "close to 300" people to attend.

Osgood said the hall at the Fairgrounds that will be used for Saturday's speakers can hold 150 people. If there are more than that, Wyman said the group will also use space outside on the Fairgrounds property.

Saturday's speakers are scheduled for the Fairgrounds site. Technical seminars billed for Sunday will take place both at the Fairgrounds and on private property, said Wyman.

Stevens' and Wyman's property and land offered by other Cornish residents will be used for camping by rally participants on Saturday night, said Wyman.

The rally begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Featured speakers that day include Bob Gale of Biddeford, Maine, who served as a medic in Vietnam.

Stevens said Gale runs a mail order catalog business called Patriot Supplies. Patriot Supplies and White Mountain Militia Information Service — Stevens' organization — are both as the weekend's organizers. Stevens said his family members make up White Mountain group.

The Sunday seminars listed battlefield medicine, by Gale, will deal with "serious, life threatening injuries and illnesses common to the battlefield, suturing and chemical antidotes," according to the flyer.

"This is a must for those who are in a ipate disaster," reads the flyer.

There will also be courses in basic firearms techniques and unorganized militia networking, a discussion group which Stevens will lead.

Wyman said the firearms course will be taught on his property, which he said he has a gun shop and shooting range.

# Shire, the Far Right Convenes in a Quiet Town

## CORNISH TOWN HALL



APRIL 19, 1995

The sentiments of the crowd at a rally of anti-Government groups in Cornish, N.H., on Saturday were clear.

Although the rally had been scheduled and well publicized for months, the organizer, N. Scott Stevens, head of White Mountain Militia Information Services, said he never expected more than a few dozen people. But once the April 19 bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City brought new attention to the far right, interest swelled. Mr. Stevens's event was one of the first of its kind in the nation to take place since the bombing, and he said he could scarcely get off the phone this week because of all the inquiries.

Organizations that monitor the activities of right-wing groups say the bombing is the latest in a series of events to draw new members to such groups. Others were the 1992 attempt to arrest Randall C. Weaver, a white supremacist, in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, in which Mr. Weaver's wife and son and a Federal marshal were killed, and the 1993 assault by Federal agents on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Tex.

Chip Berlet, who tracks right-wing groups for Political Research Associates, a watchdog organization in Cambridge, Mass., said membership in groups that call themselves mili-

tias had not grown as quickly in New England as it had in other parts of the nation. He said he knew of one group in Maine and two in New Hampshire — Mr. Stevens's and one called the Constitution Defense Militia, run by Ed Brown, an insect exterminator from Plainfield, N.H.

Mr. Berlet described the Patriot movement as a diffuse amalgam of right-wing groups linked by anti-Government sentiments that include opposition to taxes and gun control.

Mr. Stevens said he did not know the number of people in his group, Mr. Brown said the same. But Philip (Joe) Osgood, the Chief of the Cornish Police Department for the last 10 years, who kept an eye on the proceedings from a cruiser parked across the street, said he believed that Mr. Stevens's group had only two other members and that Mr. Brown operated alone.

"But a lot of people strongly agree with what they are saying," Chief Osgood said.

Mr. Buswell said that he was a member of a group called the Ghost Militia and that one of his reasons for attending the rally was to learn how to expand membership. He also



The Cornish area of New Hampshire was the site of a rally attended by about 100 people concerned about Government authority.

said he disagreed with the notion that such groups are loose-knit.

"There are more of them than you think," he said. "And they're not loose. They're very tight."

Mr. Stevens, who was master of

### Militia

ceremonies for the rally, welcomed the crowd, mostly men, and introduced the speakers. They included Sam Blumenfeld, a proponent of home schooling from Boston; State Representative Donald Gorman, a Libertarian; and Bruce R. Chesley, the New England field representative for Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, an organization based in Milwaukee.

Speaking to reporters before his presentation, Mr. Chesley said that his organization was needed primarily because some Jewish members of Congress who favor tighter gun control measures were feeding anti-Semitism in the United States, and Jewish citizens needed to protect themselves. He cited Senator Diann Feinstein of California, former Senator Howard M. Metzenbaum of Ohio, and Representative Charles E. Schumer of Brooklyn, all Democrats.

Among the material the group offered for sale was a poster showing Hitler in a Sing Heil salute with the words: "All in favor of gun control raise your right hand."

Ever gracious and eager to answer questions, Mr. Stevens, 37, insisted that his group embraced no racist philosophies. Rather, he said, it served merely as an information clearinghouse for groups opposed to regulations that restrict rights defined by the Constitution.

"We view with great disdain anybody that talks about hate, violence or the overthrow of the Government," he said.

He apologized for a flier prepared by a California group that was selling for 50 cents an ounce. The flier said that only white people were entitled to the full rights of citizenship.

The rally attracted a few local residents who said they had stopped by out of curiosity. Ho Rock, 67, a farmer who lives nearby, said, "I just came to see the wackus." He laughed and went inside.

But Annabelle Cone, a French teacher at Dartmouth College, was not amused. A former Brooklyn resident, she said she moved here in 1988 after being victimized by three crimes in two weeks. All the talk about guns and the need for self-defense against out-of-control Federal agents frightened her.

"Ironic, isn't it?" she said. "I thought I was moving to a relatively safe, civil society."

# Cornish veteran Wilson receives certificate for honorable discharge

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Walter Wilson recently received a framed certificate noting an honorable discharge from the U.S. Coast Guard, issued for service in the American Merchant Marine in Oceangoing Service during the period of armed conflict, Dec. 7, 1941 to Aug. 15, 1945.

He also recently received a commemorative medal in recognition of the "40th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War (World

War II)." Walter Wilson

The prestigious medal has been awarded to American veterans who participated in the Allied Convoy, which carried supplies to Murmansk and Archangel, Russia.

The commemorative medal received from the Russian government, on behalf of President Boris Yeltsin and the entire Russian people, was awarded in recognition of outstanding courage and personal contribution to the Allied support of their country, which fought for

freedom against Nazi Germany. The certificate was signed by the president of Russia.

Wilson joined the Merchant Marines when he was 18, realizing he would no doubt be drafted into the service anyway, and attended school in Baltimore.

"I did more studying there than I ever had before," said Wilson, "and received my engineer's license from the Maritime Service Academy in 1943. Before this I had been on ships for a couple of years, which was required before entrance to the academy.

"During World War II, we were sent a lot of places, among them Murmansk and Archangel where Germans were trying to occupy Russia. Often the Germans were trying to blow us out of the water. It was real dangerous, but I was so young I didn't worry.

"Our convoy of ships were going into Murmansk, Siberia, where it was cold, freezing even in summer. The last trip in was when the war was about over and Germans surrounded us. The German subs were all lined up on top of the water."

Wilson completed the course for Merchant Marine Officers School at Fort Trumbull, New London, Conn., and was commissioned an ensign in the United States Maritime Service in January 1945.

"I enjoyed boating and after 1945 worked on smaller private freight boats on Long Island Sound, carrying freight to New York, New Jersey and Boston until 1965, when the small boats went out of business. Shipping was taken over by the trucking business."



**Walter Wilson**

The next 10 years of his life were spent working for an oil company in Ivoryton, Conn., a town where "my wife's family worked for a piano factory, which the town named for."

In 1967, Wilson purchased the 15-acre property he resides on in Cornish and spent time remodeling. Several years later he moved there to take care of an ill mother until her death after which he worked as a maintenance person at Sunapee Park for the next several years.

Now in his retirement, Wilson fills much of his time working in a small woodworking shop at his home, where he makes lawn ornaments.

Wilson enjoys talking about his years at sea, but said he had joined the Navy instead of the Merchant Marines, "I would have a pension today, but hindsight doesn't help and I enjoy the boating."

However, the recent discharge he received from the Coast Guard will enable him to get medical care at a Veterans Hospital, if necessary.

# Dean recalls 'the war to end all wars'

By BERTHA EMOND

CORNISH, N. H. — Harold H. Dean was born in Cornish Nov. 21, 1893, and was 24 years old when he enlisted to serve his country in the "war to end all wars."

Dean's account of his experiences pours out as smoothly as milk from a pitcher. It has been noted that soldiers individually or in companies are not aware of the scope or importance of particular battle actions.

Soldiers simply slog along on orders, obeyed without question.

This was true of Dean, now 89, and in an attempt to provide a broader picture, we have consulted historical authorities and inserted background information to accompany his reminiscences.

"I enlisted in the army," — and he emphasizes it was "not the National Guard," — "in June or July, 1917 and shipped out of Syracuse, N. Y. I was with the 23rd Infantry of the regular army, second division."

"We were shipped out suddenly one night to France. We were two weeks getting there. We landed at St. Nazaire and stayed there a couple weeks."

A three- or four-day ride in French boxcars brought Dean to Beaumont, near Neuve Chapelle, where they were set to work building warehouses.

Entering a country which had been using up its resources in long years of war, the Americans had to do a great deal for themselves. Some of the construction undertaken was on a very large scale. Near Bordeaux 107 warehouses had been built by the Armistice.

"I was shipped to the front trenches May 17, 1918. To the Verdun section. The second division was supposed to go over the top, but the night before that we were raided."

Dean was caught out in what he refers to as "no man's land."

A defender of Verdun wrote, "We were increasingly rocked as if by an earthquake." The Germans launched a major offense and the compression of power and concentration on the narrow sections made them veritable hells.

"When shells land you hit the ground and they spray dirt over you," Dean remembers. "Two of our own shells landed near me while I was laying in the field. They adjusted the range and I went back to our lines."

The Second Division, in reserve near Montdidier, was sent by motor trucks and other available transport to check the progress of the enemy toward Paris. The division sturdily held its ground against the enemy's best divisions.

"May 27 we were told to roll our packs and be ready to leave instantly. The next morning we went around Rheims, heading for Belleau Woods. The Germans broke through the second front and were marching to Paris as fast as they could get there," says Dean.

"We had orders to attack. We rushed forward and got to the open plain. Rushed forward again and I hit in a depression. The Germans started machine-gunning. Their planes were like great

hawks. They laid down a barrage about 50 yards away...made holes as big as this house. There were 20 men killed and 80 wounded out of our company of 250.

"That afternoon in a rush forward I got separated. I went over a bank and nearly got killed.

"I remember vividly a big farmhouse where there were German snipers. I dove into a shellhole and got a bullet in the back of my neck. The doctor told me later if it had been one-quarter inch to the left I'd have been dead instantly," says Dean, smiling mirthlessly.

"There was a wheatfield about three about three feet high," he goes on, taking no time out for medical treatment at that point. "I told the man next to me, 'don't show yourself. Go as fast as you can across the plain to the field.' I watched him go and then waited a few minutes. Then I started and it seemed as if I'd never get there."

Dean recalls "a French soldier gave me a shot of wine from his rubber canteen. The sergeant said to me, 'I see you got hit'."

Dean was sent back to quarters, "feeling very weak and dog-tired, as fast as I could which wasn't very fast. I got up on the rise and gave the signal." He waves his arm about his head and pumps his arm. "That meant to assemble as fast as you can. They shelled the house immediately and blew it all to pieces."

On Sept. 12, prior to the attack on St. Mihiel, Dean was wounded again. "One fellow, we called him Zip, had a Colt 45 and when I went over the top about 100 yards I looked down and the middle finger of my right hand was practically shot off. I never felt it. I told Zip he was in command." Dean doesn't actually accuse Zip of shooting him inadvertently, but the sequence of his story suggests it.

Dean made corporal during the war, which he says was all he wanted to be. He took warning from observing generals dressed in the uniforms of private soldiers, to avoid being shot at.

Assigned to Hospital 57 in Paris, across from the Luxembourg



Harold Dean

tending beyond his fingers by several inches. It was still so encased when the Armistice came.

"I'm lucky, I'm lucky, I know it. One time when I was training some men I told one how to use the hand grenade — to pull the pin and count three seconds. He was so nervous he dropped it in front of me. I picked it up very fast and threw it. It was a wicked bastard of a thing."

Dean recalls there were only old men behind the lines in France. All the other men were doing battle.

"We saved them over there, Britain, France and Belgium. They realize we saved their lives."

Dean embarked for the return trip to the United States the night before Christmas and was discharged in January, 1919. He had earned a purple heart and an oakleaf for action above and beyond.

With conviction, Dean announces he would not go through

the best place on the earth. I'm lucky, lucky, lucky to be here. I'm old enough to know what freedom means."

Dean lived in Cornish, was a classmate of the late Ken Whipple, well known readers of the Eagle Times. North Charlestown's Fair School, and lived in Clarendon with his uncle Fred Dean, landscaper.

After the war, Dean studied surveying and mapping in a correspondence course from International College, Scranton, Pa., and made his life work.

However, "just before the war, I went across the water, I planted Norway maples at the plant in Springfield. When I left they were about two inches around. Today they are that big," and he measured a large circle with his arms.

Dean married a woman from Union Village, who some years ago. He makes his home with Mr. Mrs. Conan Johnson, and himself resembles a tree —

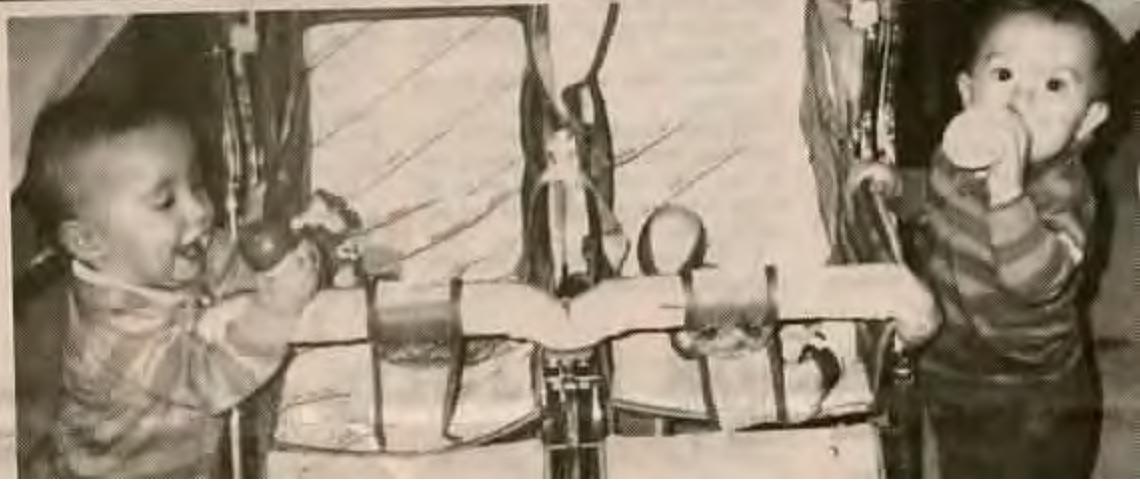


**A SOLDIER RETURNS** — Rep. Peter Burling of Cornish reads a proclamation signed by Harold Burns, speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives, recognizing and commending Army Spec. Robert "Soupy" Downing for his devotion and efforts during Operation Desert Storm Saturday at the town hall in Cornish. More than 200 well-wishers turned out for an open house to welcome Downing back home. He arrived in the United States a week ago, returning to Cornish Friday night to visit his parents, Martin and Lynda Downing. He was deployed to the Persian Gulf in August. (Ruth Rollins Photo) *Eastport May 19, 1991*



Richard Dow

**HONORED** — Sgt. 1st Class Richard Dow and wife, Debbie, (top photo) enter the Cornish Town Hall Saturday, where they were honored with a reception. Dow, who has 19 years of military service to his credit, much of it spent in Germany, recently returned from duty in Saudi Arabia. Joshua and Nathan Duford, twin sons of Caren and Keith Duford, Portland, Maine, (right photo) were the youngest relatives to attend the reception. (Ruth Rollins



# Cornish art gallery opens

## Works from 11 artists on display

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Eleven local artists exhibited their work at the opening reception of the town's new Mill Brook Gallery last Friday.

Approximately 50 people attended the opening of the gallery, located in the new town office building on Town House Road. The space was made available for the purpose of promoting area artists and their work.

The idea came about through resident Polly Rand, but she was quick to deflect the credit.

"It turned out to be a team effort," said Rand. "Peter Storrs and John Rand placed molding to hang panels and Larry Dingee made brackets for the panels. The artists met to cover them with panel cloth." Dale Rook also helped set up the gallery.

"We hope the gallery will attract more artists," said Rand. "We will rotate art every two or three months."

With two sons off at college, Rand has found her spare moments filled with the enjoyment of painting, giving her a chance to express the joy she finds in the world around her.

Upon retirement, Mid Davison was given a paint brush, canvas, five oil paints and a book on painting technique. She began painting to fulfill a lifelong desire to paint. She enjoys working in oil, pastel and watercolor.

"My choice of medium depends on the feelings for my



**OPENING RECEPTION** — These curious onlookers, from left, Judy Rook, Yvonne Howard and Loren Howard, were among the first to visit Cornish's new Mill Brook Gallery. An opening reception last Friday drew about 50 people, who viewed the work of 11 local artists. (Ruth Rollins photo)

subject at the moment," said Davison. Her subjects vary because of her variety of interests and her travels abroad. She has received several awards for her paintings in area shows.

Paintings on 155-year-old slate by Judy Rook were well received. She uses slate removed from the Cornish Town Hall when a new roof was put on. Her painting of a flock of geese flying over water also drew much attention.

Jayne Caselli said her art is inspired by nature. "My art reflects the essence or spirit of nature as I experience it in God," she said.

Peter Hoe Burling gets much

satisfaction from "trying to paint," as he puts it. It brought him peace during the stress that accompanied his campaign for the New Hampshire state Senate last fall. His picture of the covered bridge drew many comments. He does landscapes for the most part, all in acrylics.

Among the artwork by Peg Meyette was a picture of the Old Man of the Mountain and a winter scene. Sally Wellborn exhibited an oil painting entitled "Winter Nights" and an ocean scene. She has had several teachers "but for the past 26 years my teacher has been the sky and land of Cornish," said Wellborn.

Mariet Jaarsma chose property on Gap Road with barn and silo as her subject art and Nancy Wightman chose drypoint as her medium. She uses an old-fashioned press which takes all her weight and muscle to work.

"I like this medium, the way the shadows form, the quirky lines made by the scribe on copper," she said.

Photos by Kathleen Welke included a scene of Mount Ascutney.

John Glasco, a Cornish resident for the past eight years, used his motivation to draw scenic scapes when he began to draw. He said his claim to fame was walking his Siberian Huskie around Squag City.

*Edith 97*

## **Pauline 'Polly' Tierney Monette, 65**

**CORNISH** — Pauline "Polly" Tierney Monette, 65, died Friday after a 15-year battle with breast cancer at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H.

She was born in Hanover, N.H., on May 25, 1932, the daughter of Joseph Tierney and Josephine (Pinkham) Tierney. She lived most of her life in Cornish and was raised on Fernald Hill.

Mrs. Monette attended Tracy School on Lang Road and graduated from Windsor High School in the class of 1951. She was a loyal alumna, attending most sporting events and rooting for the Windsor Yellow Jackets, especially at the basketball games.

She met her husband, Donald Francis Monette, at Windsor High School and they were married on July 26, 1951.

Mrs. Monette worked at the Dairy Bar and at Knapp's Lunch in Windsor during her high school years, later cleaning summer homes in the Cornish Colony. She also drove the Dingleton Hill school bus for many years. Mrs. Monette worked for the Sheraton Inn housekeeping department and for the Veterans Home at White River Junction, Vt., in the dietary department until retiring.

Mrs. Monette went on pilgrimages to Merijore, Yugoslavia, and she was a member of the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Windsor where she was also a member of the Catholic Daughters.

She was a director and secretary of the Cornish Fair Association for many years and secretary of the Cornish Planning Board for several years. She was a member and secretary of the Cornish Grange No. 25, a member of the Sullivan County Pomona Grange and the New Hampshire State Grange. She was chairman of the committee to refurbish the war monuments in Cornish Flat and the grange member who persuaded the Cornish Grange to donate its building

She was the past president of the Cornish PTA and helped start the ski program. She was a member of the Cornish Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, a past member of the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association, the Farm Bureau and was a member of the American Canadian Genealogy Society.

Mrs. Monette volunteered at the Mt. Ascutney Hospital & Health Center in Windsor and at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in the Oncology-Infusion Department in support of other cancer patients during her remission.

Mrs. Monette enjoyed needlepoint, quilt making, mushrooming and taking walks with her grandchildren and poodles.

Survivors include her husband of Cornish; six sons, Steven Monette and William Monette, both of Lebanon, David Monette, Michael Monette and Peter Monette, all of Cornish, and Joseph Monette of Claremont; five grandchildren; four sisters, Louise Spaulding of Cornish, Marion Baribeau of Wilder, Vt., Ruth Stone of Charlestown and Barbara Wall of Portsmouth, Va.; two brothers, William Tierney of Cornish and Robert Tierney of Northfield, Vt.; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, two brothers, James and Edward Tierney and two sisters, Shirley Leonard and Katherine Levey.

Calling hours are from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Knight Funeral Home in Windsor. A scripture service will be held at 7:30 p.m.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church with the Rev. Robert J. Campbell, pastor, as celebrant.

Committal services will be held at 6 p.m. at the St. Francis Cemetery in Windsor.

Memorial donations are suggested in lieu of flowers. Contributions may be made to the St. Francis of Assisi Church, 30 Union Street, Windsor, Vt. 05089.

**SEE SEPARATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FILE FOR THE FOLLOWING**

**CORNISH HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**HAROLD MORSE**

**ROBERT BAYLISS**



*BIRDSEYE VIEW — Windsor, about 1886, as envisioned by an artist.*

# Changing Scene Eyed

**WHITE RIVER Jct.** — The landscape of the Upper Valley, past, present and future, will be considered artistically and in actuality May 10 at the annual meeting of the Upper Valley Community Land Trust.

The public program, titled *A Celebration of Upper Valley Landscapes*, will open with a presentation of romantic paintings of the Northern New England landscape followed by an open discussion on whether the landscape can and should be saved and the relation to the landscape of an agricultural economy.

The paintings will be presented and interpreted by Dartmouth College art historian Robert McGrath who will show slides of works by 19th-century landscape artists who drew their inspiration from the river valleys, fertile farmland and wooded peaks of North-

ern New England and the Hudson River Valley.

"We'll see how painters looked at the landscape and idealized it," land trust Director Timothy Traver said. "The Upper Valley still has a lot of that image. The question is, can we preserve that look, that image, and should we?"

"There is a whole different land settlement pattern going on now."

Many of the paintings, Traver pointed out, focus on open fields where animals graze with wooded hills beyond. The open fields and pastures, he said, are the aspect of the landscape most people want to preserve.

"Without a farm economy, how are we going to do that?" he said. "We can buy up development rights, but unless the fields are used for pasture

or planting, first brush will start to grow back and then they'll revert to forest."

The changing landscape has an emotional as well as a visual effect on residents of the region, Traver pointed out.

"There is a real relationship between scenic beauty, land use and the strength and character of our small-town community life that people are afraid is being lost," he said.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Vermont Room at the Hotel Coolidge and is open to all interested persons at no charge.

In addition to the landscape discussion, reports on the trust's second year of activities will be presented.

Those wishing more information should call Traver or Jeanie McIntyre at (803) 448-3062.

**FOLLOWING PAGE**

**FOLLOWING FEW PAGES DEAL WITH MUSIC, MUSICIANS**



**TRADITIONAL FOLK** — The Heaths bring their interest and evocative brand of folk music to the Plainfield Town

Hall Friday night at 8 p.m. The concert marks the debut of their recent release, "Gentle Fire."

*Dark Times Aug 8, 1996 p. 19*

## An acoustic evening with the Heaths

**PLAINFIELD** — The Heaths, debut their new folk release, "Gentle Fire," at the third annual concert at the Plainfield Town Hall in Plainfield on Saturday.

The concert is at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10.

Gentle Fire is a recording which celebrates the beauty of the natural world in music inspired by many folk traditions: Celtic, Appalachian, Native American and Elizabethan.

The concert will feature songs from the album, including instrumentals (piano, guitar, recorder, Irish whistle, flute, hammered dulcimer and cello), ensemble harmonies and intensely personal solos. Sis-

ters Sarah Heath, Lucy McLellan and Peggy Ogilvy have played over the last year in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Colorado and Maryland.

Seattle singer-songwriter Linda Waterfall writes of the Heaths' music: "arresting, full of surprises and risks. Very exciting..." Classical diva Frederic Von Stade writes of Gentle Fire: "just loving it. What a terrific combination of talent."

One of the songs was written specifically about the Upper Valley area: "Ascutey Rising," features drums from trader Mark Humpal of Cornish. The

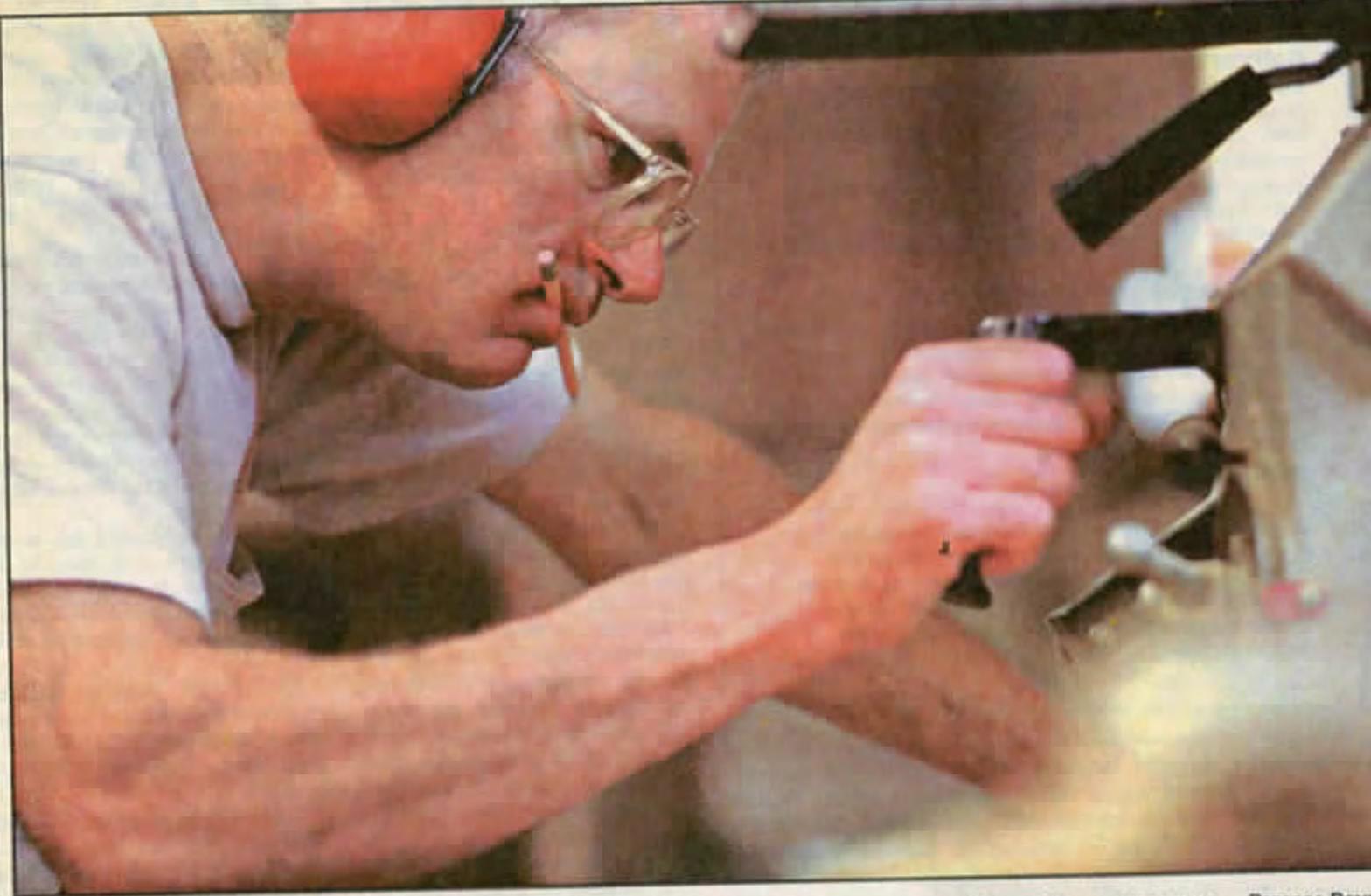
music of the Heaths, with images of blue sky, land, gentle rivers, light and dark, combined with the dawn to dusk lighting of the Maxfield Parish Stage Set in the Plainfield Town Hall will create a mood that will take you deep into the night forest, where you enter a zone of peace and tranquility.

Opening for the Heaths will be **Vince Junior** whose latest album of original music, "For Here or To Go," gives listeners a chance to hear guitar, voice and words that sound unique, yet warmly familiar. His strong, rich voice coupled with his aggressive acoustic and slide guitar playing make for a

sound that is quite unlike that of current singers and songwriters.

Vince Junior, composer, guitarist, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, first fell under the spell of the blues through the music of **Mississippi John Hurt**, a country blues guitarist and vocalist. Hurt's alternative bass fingerpicking style led Vince Junior to the music of **Chet Atkins, Muddy Waters, Lightning Hopkins** and others.

The concert is a benefit for the fund set up by the Plainfield Historical Society to benefit the Maxfield Parrish Stage Set and the Town Hall Kitchen.



Andy Smith of Cornish cuts toe boards to length in his woodworking shop.

VALLEY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS — REBECCA DENT

# Making the Music Play Again

# Cornish Woodworker Restores Old Organs

By JEC A. BALLOU

Valley News Correspondent

**CORNISH** — When Andy Smith picks up his tools every morning, he works on a craft that's frozen in time.

In a woodshop beside his house, he makes items requiring fine carpentry skills — cabinets and furniture and the like. But mostly he finds himself building and repairing church organs using the same methods as woodsmiths from long ago.

"It's very low-tech. There's nothing that can't be done by hand," said Smith, standing between long strips of felt and a beam of poplar. "The basic concepts we use today are the same as 500 years ago. We're not doing anything differently."

Smith said restoring these ancient musical instruments pushes him to a higher level of craftsmanship daily, a challenge that delights him.

He's been in the woodworking business for 20 years, first as an apprentice and then in a partnership before opening his own shop, The Woodsmith, in 1998.

He said he has enjoyed working with wood since childhood, but never thought about working on organs. Then, fresh out of college, he apprenticed with a master carpenter who specialized in restoring and rebuilding them. It seemed highly involved and intricate, but Smith was hooked.

"I thought I'd never get it. It was so complicated," he said. It took him four years to become comfortable.

"There are a lot of basic concepts. Once you understand the basic concepts of how everything works, it gets a lot easier. ... Now, I can look at a pile of parts and put it together without ever having seen it (assembled)."

He has rebuilt 15 organs since opening The Woodsmith. When he accepts a job, he usually disassembles the organ and brings it to his shop. Then, he approaches each project with surgeon-like precision.

Every organ is unique, he said. Some of the older ones just need cleaning. Others need to be almost entirely rebuilt, which can get tricky, considering that each original builder used different construction details. It can take a solid year of full-time work to repair some organs, he



What's a woodshop without a dachshund? Tobey (who belongs to Ed Boadway of Clare who rents space in Smith's shop) keeps watch as Smith works at his workbench.

**"The basic concepts we use today are the same as 500 years ago."**

Andy Smith  
The Woodsmith

said.

Tim Smith, an organ builder and contractor in Framingham, Mass., often asks Smith to collaborate on projects because of his reputation.

"He's more than just a woodworker," said Tim Smith. "Because he's restored so many instruments, he brings all that experience to new projects." The challenge, he said, is that each organ must be integrated into its unique church setting. Problem-solving alone won't work.

Repairing an old organ also requires a great deal of creativity. "You have to bring solid woodworking skills to the table and then add into that a balance of common sense and imagination," he said.

Andy Smith recently completed a major reconstruction of one of the oldest organs in the country, made by the famous builder Henry Erben in 1833. Grace Episcopal Church in Sheldon, Vt., commissioned him to restore the instrument, which sat unplayed for 60 years.

Working on the historic organ reminded of why he loves what he does. He stood workshop recently with photos from the past showing mice skeletons he found in sound and the warped keyboard.

"An organ like this, that was in unplayable condition, that's got years and years of grime, filth and broken pieces, to take something like this and put it all back together and essentially bring it back to life, that is very rewarding."

Smith has restored similar instruments in Orleans, Cleveland, Maryland and Texas, as well as New England.

Occasionally, he takes a break from work. In the spring, he built a table for a mouth College fraternity house that had specific specification: It must be indestructible.

Smith used white oak for the 12-foot by 6-foot table and reinforced it with 600 pounds of steel — more than enough to withstand the strain of having several young men dance on it.

The project required less attention than his work on church organs, but it was something unique, by hand, for the fraternity brothers was rewarding and it challenged Smith's woodworking skills, which he enjoys.

"They never called me back," he said with a chuckle, "so, I assume it never broke."



**OPERA LOVER** — Doug Coe of Cornish picks out an operatic accompaniment on the piano at the Claremont Opera House while he talks about his hopes to establish a small opera company in the area. Coe left a directing position with the New York Opera Company to come to the Upper Valley because he wanted a change in lifestyle, but he is convinced his new lifestyle can still include live opera. (News photo — Georgia Croft)

# Afternoon Crooner *Eagle - 10-8-04*

Davey Davis



**IN THE KEY OF C** — Davey Davis of Cornish sings and plays to entertain the shoppers at the last Claremont Farmers Market of the season on Thursday. DAVID BERGGREN PHOTO

Mark Humpal, Native Americans



Antiquities dealer Mark Humpal tends to items in his collection at home in Cornish.

VALLEY NEWS — JENNIFER

# Restoring a Collection

*N.H. Museum Raising Money to Buy 'Lost' Artifacts*

High in the hills of Cornish lives a man who has been sitting on a treasure for almost a decade.

The treasure is some 800 rare spearheads and other Native American artifacts from various sites in New Hampshire. The man is Mark Humpal, an antiquities dealer who bought the pieces from the widow of Howard Sargent, a leading figure in New Hampshire archaeology.

Humpal has agreed to sell his collection to a planned Sargent Museum in Manchester for about \$100,000 as soon as the museum raises the money.

That would restore important pieces to a large collection Sargent accumulated in his lifetime.

"I've been holding it for years, waiting for this moment," Humpal said in an interview at home, which itself resembles a museum, with everything from Polynesian war clubs to Revolutionary War muskets hanging on walls and displayed on tables.

Humpal, 54, sells the items both out of his home and at antiquities shows around the country. During a recent interview he was wearing leather slippers that he says were "native made" and a silk bandana around his head.

In his front yard, deer hides were being cured in the sun. He regularly travels to the Southwest to trade the hides with Native Americans for their baskets and dolls, he said.

Humpal met Sargent in a class the archaeologist was teaching at the old Montshire Museum, then in Hanover, in the mid-1980s. "We became friends," Humpal said. "I was a guest in his home many times."

Sargent was a longtime Franklin Pierce College professor who fashioned a museum of sorts when he was a teenager and lived in Georges Mills. He converted a lakeside cottage into the "Sargent Museum of Natural History," but gave that up when he went off to World War II.

After the war he studied at Yale and the University of Michigan. The Sargent Museum group credits him with conducting the first statewide archaeological survey, in the 1950s.

Over the years Sargent accumulated about a million artifacts, many of them from digs in the Connecticut, Merrimack and Pemigewasset river valleys. Among the significant excavations was the Hunter Site in Claremont, done in 1967.

"I always wondered after he died



These items from the original collection of Howard Sargent were used on the end of short spears for hunting by native peoples before they developed bows and arrows.

VALLEY NEWS — JENNIFER HAUCK

Valley News Feb 7, 2005

what would happen to the collection," Humpal said. Sargent died suddenly of a heart attack in 1993 at age 71, leaving no instructions as to what to do with his collection. "I didn't want to be an ambulance-chaser, so I never said anything," Humpal said.

But two years later, Humpal caught wind that Sargent's cash-pressed widow was selling artifacts at a yard sale. He bought some items at the sale, and after that continued buying from her.

Humpal said he showed her an artifact price guide so she would charge a fair price. "She let me look through the boxes and pick out the better pieces," he said.

Unbeknownst to Humpal, the organizers of a planned Sargent Museum believed they had an agreement to obtain the entire collection, according to Wes Stinson, who founded the museum project in 1994.

When Stinson and other museum board members found out she was selling pieces of Sargent's collection, they were not happy. "We don't know how many pieces disappeared that way," he said. One yard sale customer actually sent his purchase back to her when he realized how valuable it was, Stinson said. "He thought he'd ripped her off."

Stinson said he doesn't blame Humpal. "He's a good guy, just doing his job." But he would like to reunite Sargent's collection. "Ninety-nine per cent of artifacts is trash

that people leave behind from day-to-day activities," Stinson said. "We don't find that many easily recognizable artifacts. The stuff (Humpal) has are the best examples. He has the gee-whiz artifacts that are displayable to the public instead of the broken stuff left behind. That's why we decided it was worth the considerable effort to get it."

Humpal originally valued his collection at \$250,000, Stinson said. "I thought that was too high," he said. "But he's the only one who's qualified to give it a market value. He's a good Yankee trader — it's hard to get a bottom line." Now Humpal says it's worth \$190,000 and that he's donating \$90,000 of the value.

"From the beginning I wanted it to stay in the state," Humpal said.

"It's a rare and important part of New Hampshire's prehistory. Although I make a living buying and selling things, I like to think sometimes I can place artifacts where they'll have a nice home."

But if Stinson can't raise the money, Humpal will sell it elsewhere. "A lot of people have been bugging me to sell it out-of-state," Humpal said. "Auction houses and collectors covet rare New Hampshire artifacts. I don't field offers because I tell them it's not for sale." Humpal originally had set a January deadline for the sale to the museum group, but then agreed to give them more time.

Stinson said he should have the money together by the end of this

month. Most of the donations coming from private individuals want to leave a legacy, he said. Stinson said he hopes the museum open in Manchester in 2007.

If the deal does go through, there are several pieces Stinson will be especially excited to have in the museum. A soapstone pipe excavated from a Connecticut River Valley site near Mount Ascutney has research value, he said. Also, a barbed axe from the seacoast of New Hampshire is "incredibly unique."

Who once used all these artifacts is another question. "It's hard to know what tribes lived here," Stinson said. "They got so decimated and dispersed before there could be ethnographic accounts."

Humpal said he's sure one of the tribes was the Abenaki, an Algonquian-speaking people whose tribal leadership today is in Canada. "The collection is unequivocal evidence that they were here," he said. "If the pieces are on public display, it could help their claim that they occupied this land since Paleo times 10,000 years ago." He has made two replicas of the soapstone pipe and plans to give one to the Abenaki and keep the other as a souvenir.

The proposed sale of the collection touches on a longstanding debate about putting a monetary value on archaeological artifacts.

"It's a major league no-no in the minds of academic archaeologists. They're not even talking about values of artifacts, let alone buying and selling them," Stinson said. "They get sort of befuddled by the idea. It seems to discourage people to loot sites to add to their collections or sell. But it's a different world in the museum world from more pure archaeology. The fact is, there's a market value to the stuff, and I think we have to deal with it."

Humpal also said the Abenakis have expressed an interest in the collection. He said that the terms of the agreement with Stinson call for the Abenaki to be allowed to borrow artifacts whenever they want. "And I'll let them have it," Humpal said. Stinson said he would be open to Abenaki requests to borrow parts of the collection.

Most of Sargent's collection is in storage at the state archaeological facility in Concord. One thing Stinson and Humpal can agree on is that Sargent would be pleased to have his collection intact. "He started as a kid planning to have a museum someday," Stinson said.

# Neighbor-to-Neighbor volunteers meet

## Raising program awareness is goal

By **MELISSA LAFLAMME**  
Staff Writer

About a dozen residents came to the Plainfield Fire House early Thursday morning to discuss the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program and options to increase its awareness.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor, a program that is run with the help of local residents to assist other residents in need, operates on a volunteer basis.

Thursday morning, program volunteers teamed up with Connie Kousman, the head of the Cornish General Assistance and Senior Resources Program to discuss options for the pro-

gram to align more with the community.

"This is a wonderful group and I wish more towns had a group like this," said Kousman.

An issue that arose was tracking the number of calls that come through the program each year.

"I have no idea how many calls, maybe 10 last year," said Jim Fitch.

Fitch further explained that residents tended to place a phone call to certain individuals rather than through one source making the total count hard to track.

The discussion on phone calls led to concerns of contacts with a solution for a Neighbor-to-Neighbor phone book.

"I think a lot of times people don't want to call someone on the other side of Cornish, they want to call someone they know,"

ET 4/4/08 p. 2

said Steve Bobbin who suggested the program phone book.

"What we're hoping is to increase the outreach with the group as a whole," said Laird Klingler.

Kousman cautioned the volunteers that some residents may abuse the program and suggested a plan to thwart them might be beneficial to the program.

"You're gonna get people who abuse it and you're gonna have to sense it and cut it off," said Dale Rook.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor aids residents with physical ailments do daily chores around their homes, said the volunteers of the program when mention of participate criteria arose.

"It's not about money," Fitch said. "If we're volunteering we don't need to know how much money they make."

"The criteria should be physical need," said Bob Michal.

Each month the program meets to discuss its progress and areas of opportunity, but in the end the message is the same, more volunteers and more residents making use of those volunteers.

"People really have to learn not to hesitate to call," Bobbin said.

*Melissa LaFlamme can be reached at (603) 543-3100, Ext. 102 or [miaflamme@eagletimes.com](mailto:miaflamme@eagletimes.com)*

## Neighbor-to-Neighbor

**NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR NEWS Saturday, August 9th**, the Neighbor-to-Neighbor group sponsored a project at the Recycling Center to provide firewood this winter for those Cornish residents in need. We had a wonderful turnout and it was a fine demonstration of community spirit. A huge amount of wood was cut, split, and stacked.

Special thanks to Mike Ackerman for donating one splitter that was handled by Jeff Plant. Doug Miller also came with his own splitter. Dave Clifford and Steve Wright brought with them their excellent skills with the chainsaw. Colleen O'Neill provided refreshments that were much needed when everyone took a break. She was assisted by Sandy Guest who provided Pizzelli, and Italian specialty.

Thanks to the following people who participated: Rudy Aldghieri, Dave and Joanne Clifford, Joe Drury, Sandy Guest, Anne Hier, Henry Homeyer, Bernice Johnson, Laird Klingler, Doug Miller, Colleen O'Neill, Josh Orlen, Jeff Plant, Rev Wightman, and Steve Wright, Becky Townsend and Bruce Resnicoff.

And on **Saturday, August 23rd**, another successful firewood project at the Recycling Center. Still some more to go, but we're almost there. Special thanks to Dave Clifford and Dave Haseman for operating their splitters and to Bernice Johnson, Colleen O'Neill, and Marcia Paradis for providing the refreshments.

Thanks also to the following people that helped with the firewood: Jim Atkinson; Steve Bobin; Loel Callahan; Dave and Joann Clifford; Dave Haseman; Gretchen Holm; Henry Homeyer; Laird Klingler; Josh Orlen; Jeff Plant; Dan Poor; Remko Scharro; Joanna Sharf; Steve Wagner (a friend of Dave Haseman's from Kittery, Maine); Rev Wightman; and Steve Wright.

Consider This, September, 2008

**PRIMARY SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>.**

## Kids Pitch in



Tim Sprague, 11, right, Nick Kapuscinski, 11, and their teacher, Ruth Cassidy, stack firewood yesterday at Cornish Recycling Center. A group of Cassidy's fifth-graders were helping with the project, part of her effort to

get them involved in community service. The town's road crew gathers the wood from blow-downs and roadside clean-up. It's distributed free to residents who need help heating their homes.

APR 11, 2009  
VALLEY NEWS — JASON JOHNS



Klingler of Cornish pulls weeds from Helen Lovell's garden, a task he has been doing weekly during the growing season for the last five years.

Lovell, 95, holds the Boston Post Cane as the town's oldest resident. *Valley News* 5/6/26, 2009 p. E1



03745  
CORNISH, N.H.

*Laird Klingler is a member of Neighbor to Neighbor, an informal group of Cornish residents who volunteer their time helping elderly people in need with projects around the house. Here, in an edited interview, Klingler talks about his work for Helen Lovell.*

I'M A WIDOWER NOW, but when I was married, my mother-in-law was an Italian immigrant. I would always ask, "What do you think of the flowers I planted?" and she'd say, "Can you eat them?"

Helen's a bit like that. She's very old school in the sense that a garden is there to produce. I always have to fight for space for the flowers. She let me put in some dahlias over there.

Things grow well here, so the weeds grow well, too. I try to get over once a week, and it takes about an hour and a half.

When I was weeding, I saw the lawn needed to be cut, so Steve and Cathy Parks

who live down at the bottom of the road came up here and did it. Joe Rozzo came up and helped put the netting on for the blueberries.

That's the way these things go. This is a volunteer group. You don't tell people what to do, you just let them know what needs to be done. Everybody chips in a little bit here and there, and I think it works well.

We have contact people in town who let us know what needs to be done. There's Jim Fitch, whose family has been here forever, and Connie Kousman, who is the head of the general assistance committee in the town, and Henry Homeyer, people know Henry from his garden articles (in the *Valley News*). Henry's actually the one who came up with the idea for the group.

What happens is that they learn of people in need, let me know, and I maintain an e-mail list. I send out a message saying people need some help, and those who are

able, respond.

We built a ramp for handicap access to a person's home, that was a major project. We cut, split and stack firewood, there's a lot of yard maintenance. We go once a month over at Stubb's and L (cafe) for breakfast.

So much of what happens in the world is beyond our control. How many of us really understand what's happened in the banking thing? But with this, you actually do something.

I believe that the centerpiece of the New Testament is the Good Samaritan parable, and I take that to heart. It's not enough to think as a Christian in relation to helping those less fortunate; you have to commit to a physical act of helping.

I firmly believe that as you give, you receive. You feel better when you've made some sort of contribution to make the world a little better. And I like working with them, too.

*Photograph and interview by Jason Johns*

Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Laird Klingler

Exploring the diversity of experiences and circumstances in the Upper Valley, *Zip Codes* appears every Sunday. A collection of the columns can be seen in the Web Extras section of the Valley News Web site, at [www.vnews.com](http://www.vnews.com). If you have an idea you would like to share, contact Jason Johns at [jjohns@vnews.com](mailto:jjohns@vnews.com) or (603) 727-3230.

## Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Dan Poor, Rickey Poor

Valley News 4/12/11 p. A2

### Cleanup Crew

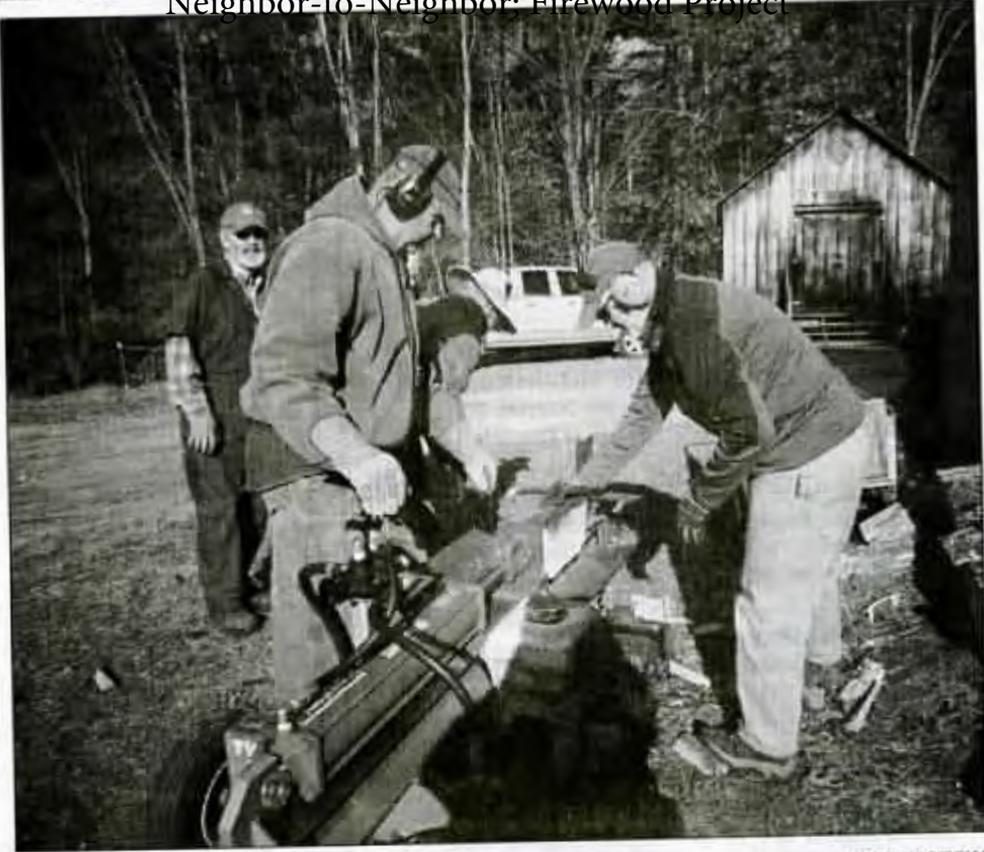


A half-dozen Cornish residents showed up unannounced Tuesday with work gloves and heavy equipment to help Dan Poor (center left) with the demolition and removal of what remained of his home he shared with his wife, Rickey, that was

destroyed March 14 by an explosion and fire caused by propane leak. The group included Laird Klinger, second from left, Patrick Clancy and Dale Rook. Rob Jaarsma, not pictured brought the tractor.

VALLEY NEWS — JASON JOHN

Neighbor-to-Neighbor: Firewood Project



JEFF EPSTEIN

Volunteers do various tasks to prepare wood for splitting on the machine set up by George Edson (far left).

# The Cornish accord to ensure everyone has a cord to burn

By **JEFF EPSTEIN**  
*Vtreporter@eagletimes.com*

**CORNISH** — A pickup truck with a donated load of wood rolls into the Cornish Recycling Center on Route 120. A few men gather around the pickup and quickly off load the wood. They add it to the pile that will be split and eventually go to Cornish residents who need it to heat their homes.

The men are among six to eight volunteers this afternoon who came here to split wood for this purpose. It's just one of things residents in Cornish do to help each other.

"I don't know a single house in Cornish that doesn't use wood in some capacity," says Marie DeRusha, the town's director of general assistance, who is also here. When a family urgently needs firewood to keep from getting cold, they go to her.

"So many people in Cornish have wood

stoves," she says. "Sometimes it's just a supplement for their heating system, and I know a few of them that heat primarily with wood."

DeRusha makes the decisions about who gets free firewood. She's only been in the job a few years, although this wood service has been happening in the community for at least 35 years or so, she says.

While some of the wood comes from the town, much of it is donated from others in the community. So DeRusha doesn't require a formal application. She knows who people are. If someone were to request wood when she knows they have seven cords in front of their house, she would decline the request, she says. But she usually says yes.

DeRusha also helps Cornish families get a Thanksgiving turkey, if they need it.

"The community is ... such a little bubble,"

she says. "Everyone is willing to help everyone else."

Over at the splitter, one man picks up a large piece of log and hands it off to another man, who loads it into the splitter. Then George Edson, who owns the machine, carefully makes sure the log is secure for cutting. It's a small machine, but it is loud, and the blade is sharp and tough. It has no trouble splitting the log into smaller pieces in seconds.

Other volunteers load the split wood onto a carrier, and then drag it off to the storage bin.

Once DeRusha has given the OK to someone, a person can come here to the recycling center on Saturdays to pick up some wood.

Cornish residents can let Marie DeRusha know they need firewood by calling her at (603) 558-0391. She can also be reached by email at [m\\_m\\_marie32@yahoo.com](mailto:m_m_marie32@yahoo.com).

Neighbor-to-Neighbor  
Firewood Project



# More than a close call

## Cornish woman nearly had house taken away by state

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — The Cornish Covered Bridge has always drawn widespread interest, but perhaps no one has been more interested than Rose Emerson Nelson. That's because the state nearly took away her home when it wanted to reroute a road leading to the bridge.

Nelson, who lives on a bank overlooking the Cornish Covered Bridge, recently celebrated her 89th birthday. She appears to be much younger, and her love of family and a jolly attitude play a big part in that.

In 1957, she and her husband Harry moved to the home on

I  
Remember  
When...

the bank. She still resides there with her son, Wayne, and his wife, Ethel, who help look after her.

"The house looked terrible when we bought it. The driveway had only a wagon wheel track with grass growing up the middle, but we fixed it up, and we liked it. I guess we bought it for the view."

For five years before the Cor-

nish Covered Bridge was repaired, the state told Mrs. Nelson that it was going to take the house. It wanted to put the road up near the house to allow drivers to come out of the bridge on a straight path. But after several meetings with both Cornish and Windsor residents, the state later decided that it wasn't necessary to reroute the road. Thus, the bridge was eventually repaired in such a way that this would not happen.

Rose Nelson and her daughter-in-law, Ethel, are authorities on the repair of the bridge, which was closed during the

(Please see NELSON-Pg. 6)



ROSE NELSON, 89, owns a house on the bank of the Connecticut River in Cornish. A few years ago, the state wanted to take the house away to reroute a road leading to the entrance of the Cornish Covered Bridge. (Ruth Rollins)

Spring of 1988. The grand re-opening was Dec. 8, 1989.

### Men at work

"I enjoyed watching the men at work. I especially enjoyed it when they worked off the barges in the river. A tractor or crane on the barge would lift everything up to do the roofing. When the barge needed to be moved a smaller boat would give the barge a push to where they wanted it to be. It would only take a couple of moves. They knew just how to do it, they were very experienced," said Mrs. Nelson.

"Many different people worked on the bridge at different times. Some of them only worked two or three days and when their part of the job was done, other workers would come. Some of the men lived in the little house across the bridge. The men were all very quiet; we only heard the sound of hammers or riveting. A nice group of workers."

Ethel Nelson documented everything about the project with her camera and has beautiful photos that she sells to residents and tourists. She used wood from the bridge to make frames for some of them.

Much of the old wood in the bridge was retained. Repair work was done to the upper cords, and some sections were replaced near the center of the bridge. Now the bridge is fitted with new, enlarged, laminated lower cords, new deck joists and a new deck. The lattice trusses were repaired. All this work to several months and helped while away the days for

BORN ROSE EMERSON, she lived her first seven years in Troy, Vt., attending first grade in a one-room schoolhouse. Then the family moved to Weathersfield Bow, where she attended another one-room school that held all eight grades.

"We moved from Troy because the farm we had was too big, and my father wasn't well so he wanted a smaller one. We moved to Cornish in 1909, living in the house now occupied by the Gobin family. I have lived here (Cornish) ever since."

"I was good friends with Mrs. Tift, who lived next door, and she used to pick me up for socials and on Sunday morning, so that I could attend services at the Congregational Church on Center Road."

Young Rose, along with her brother Ralph, joined Cornish Grange No. 25. At one of the Grange-sponsored dances, she met her future husband, Harry Nelson. He was born in the house now known as the Barker home on Tift Road. When he was less than a year old his family moved to a farm on Dingleton Hill.

Rose Emerson and Harry Nelson were married on July 10, 1926 and lived on the McClary farm for a few years moving to his family's farm on Dingleton Hill after the death of his mother. There, the

brought up their three children, Arthur, Wayne and Sara.

Their life was busy, farming and bringing up their family. Milk from their dairy cattle, which helped support them, had to be taken down the steep hill by horse and wagon to be picked up by a milk truck. In later years the road, which exited in Jonesville, was discontinued.

Harry Nelson was once the Cornish Highway Agent. He also served as selectman for 18 years, during nonconsecutive terms. Mr. Nelson was also known as the "Voice of the Cornish Fair" for many of the fair's earlier years, and the speaker's booth is dedicated to him.

### **Socially active**

The couple showed strong interest in town affairs and were also involved in social events. For several months the Nelsons held dances at the Grange Hall to raise funds to pay off the debt owed on the building. "We really thought we had done something. The very next meeting members voted to go into debt again to add the outside entrance to the building ... but I guess it was almost necessary," Mrs. Nelson said. That was about 50 years ago.

The building has just recently been given to the Town of Cornish to provide new town office space, which she said was a good idea.

Mrs. Nelson worked at the school cafeteria in Windsor for a time and also worked at the Windsor Hospital as a dietician from 1959-1966. "I worked five of those years without a dietician, but the hospital had to have a dietician to be ac-

"I knew what the patients could have, and I made meals accordingly. I never got any complaints. If a patient wanted something different — we served eggs on toast, and one lady always wanted Johnny cake and milk for supper — so that is what I served her. Might as well keep her happy."

"I only served one meal I felt bad about. The dietician had a recipe for a casserole using asparagus and hard-boiled eggs, but I think she left something out, because when it was cooked the eggs were all green and runny. I felt terrible, but it was time for supper and no time to do anything different. Well, I never had so many requests for eggs on toast as I did that night. Later one of the nurses came down to supper and said she liked asparagus and wanted to try it. She said it wasn't bad if you didn't have to look at it."

After working at the hospital Mrs. Nelson worked for another seven years at Newberry's, a five and dime store in Windsor, retiring to her home that overlooks the beautiful Cornish Covered Bridge, the longest covered bridge in the United States.

## Newbold Named New Head Of Windsor Group

WINDSOR — Michael Newbold of Cornish has been named executive director of Historic Windsor Inc.

He replaces Denis Kenny, who resigned to accept the position of dean of the faculties of humanities and social sciences at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia.

Newbold was formerly vice president, secretary and assistant treasurer of the Hospital Survey Committee in Philadelphia. He was also associated with Narco Scientific Inc. in Houston, Tex., and Hatboro, Pa.

A graduate of St. George's School in Newport, R.I., he majored in business administration at Pennsylvania State University and liberal arts at the University of Penn-



**NEW DIRECTOR** — Michael Newbold of Cornish has been named executive director of Historic Windsor Inc., replacing Denis Kenny of Windsor, who has accepted an academic position in Australia.

# Obituaries

## Clement B. Newbold Sr.

MOUNTAIN LAKE, Fla. — Clement Buckley Newbold Sr., 79, of Mountain Lake, died Wednesday at his home after a brief illness.

He was born in Philadelphia, Pa., and moved to Mountain Lake 24 years ago.

He attended Groton and St. Georges School and graduated from Princeton University in 1928.

Mr. Newbold was a retired investment banker and broker. He was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd of Lake Wales.

He was a veteran of World War II serving as a lieutenant in the Marines Third Division in the South Pacific.

He was a member of the U.S. Olympic Rowing Committee and was a coach for the Princeton Crew from 1936 to 1948.

He was affiliated with the Hazelton Smith Insurance Company and a partner at W.H. Newbolds and Sons Company.

He was a member of the Financial Analysis Social Club, the Philadelphia Club, the Rittenhouse Club, Sunnybrook Club, Bachelor's Barge Club. He also held membership in

the Athenaeum Historical Society and the Horticultural Society. He served on the board of the Children's Hospital, Abington Hospital and the Mountain Lake Corporation Board of Governors.

He attended the Church of Our Savior, Huntington Valley Chapel. He was instrumental in the foundation of the new hall of the Marine Corps Museum in Philadelphia.

He held an active interest in the research of the Philadelphia Natural Historical Museum.

He is survived locally by two sons, Michael Newbold and Jay Cheston M. Newbold, both of Cornish.

Private graveside services were held at the Lake Wales Cemetery. The Rev. Stanley Sheffer officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Memorial Fund, Lake Wales, Fla., 33853.

The Marion Nelson Funeral Home of Lake Wales in charge of arrangements.

December 16, 1922.

# THE NEWS OF CORNISH

Gathered by Our Faithful Corps of Correspondents

## SOUTH CORNISH

Hunters are numerous but only one so far has captured a deer in this locality, Duane Lawrence.

Bert Haines is working for W. A. Smith on the Red Water brook road, coming recently from Vancouver.

W. C. Grannis is more than busy in the butchering line, with engagements ahead.

All are pleased to hear that Mrs. Mary Goward, who was critically ill with pneumonia last week, is on the gain.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Emerson spent Thanksgiving with Mr. Emerson's parents at Manchester. The following Sunday they ate Thanksgiving turkey with other relatives and the Lawrence family at the Lawrence home.

Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Lawrence, Duane and Harland Lawrence, Miss Doris Tewksbury and B. F. Lewin family of Plainfield were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Emerson, Claremont.

Thanksgiving day at Charles S. Lear's, besides the immediate family, near relatives and the aged mother, were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kelly and children. The day was enjoyed all in all and the remark was made "Grandma Goward was the smartest one in the crowd."

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Goward and Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Mercer have all been at the Goward home since Mrs. Goward's illness to assist in many ways. Mrs. Goward during her critical illness has been tenderly cared for by her three daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. George C. Grannis were Sunday dinner guests of their son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Grannis, the occurrence being Mr. George Grannis' birthday. Mr. and Mrs. Grannis are very active people for their years and we hope they may enjoy many more birthdays in like manner.

George E. Fairbanks went to Claremont Thursday, Dec. 7th, to attend the funeral of his brother, H. H. Fairbanks at Stoughton's funeral parlors. Mr. Fairbanks was a native of this town and a former resident, well known and respected by all who knew him. After marriage he lived for many years on the Chandler Fletcher farm on the mountain near the Pooles' and Rowell's where many a neighborly visit was enjoyed.

## MERIDEN

Very little snow; no sleighs in use yet.

Mrs. Mattie Jondro has been the guest of Mrs. Georgia Dean the past week. She expects to go to Hartford, Conn., for the winter.

Dr. E. L. Huse has a new car which we shall expect to see in use next month.

Walter Stearns has a car.

The Red Cross dues are being paid this week. Eugene Fadden is one of the solicitors.

Charles Torrey is visiting friends in Windsor and Jamaica, Vt.

The sale held by the Ladies Aid society of the Baptist church was quite successful.

## CORNISH FLAT

Next Sunday will be Farmer's Sunday at the Baptist church, Dec. 17. All farmers and their families are most cordially invited to be present and hear the special sermon and interesting exercises.

The Ladies Aid society of the Baptist church will hold its annual sale next Tuesday evening, Dec. 19, in the vestry. A bountiful supper will be served from 6:30 to 8:30. All are invited to the supper the sale and the social following. All interested ladies have been asked to contribute something for the sale, fancy or useful articles or home made candy.

An oyster supper was served and a social evening enjoyed at the Thornton home last Monday evening, under the auspices of the Baptist church members.

Park Grange will have a Christmas program including a tree at their next meeting Dec. 26. All members are asked to bring one or more presents for the tree as in past years.

Corbin Thornton is working for Frost and Pierce in Claremont.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Davidson and son returned today to their home in Worcester, Mass.

Benj. Lindsay is working in Claremont.

A burning chimney was discovered just in time to prevent the loss of Arthur Stone's house last Monday afternoon.

N. E. Huggins was in Lebanon last Monday to take Mrs. Cuddy with the mail as Mr. Cuddy's car rebelled at the eleventh hour.

## CORNISH

Mrs. E. M. Johnson went last Friday to Concord where she will visit Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Small and then will go to Portsmouth to attend the State Grange.

Richard Platt, Master of Cornish Grange, is attending the State Grange at Portsmouth.

Everybody is glad to learn that Mrs. Goward is recovering from an attack of pneumonia.

## BLOOD—HUTCHINS

Miss Doris E. Hutchins, of Brattleboro, Vt., daughter of Mrs. Almira (Morse) Hutchins of Cornish, and Mr. Allie C. Blood of Keene, son of Daniel F. Blood of Cornish, were married in Keene Dec. 1 by Rev. Edward Newcomb, pastor of the First Congregational church.

Social News, 1922

# SKETCHES

## Our Gracious Ladies

By NATALIE GORDON

Mother of three sons and three daughters, Mrs. Arthur A. Shurcliff was the first American woman ever to ring a peal of tower bells, and was the second ever to accomplish this feat in London, where bell ringing is a famous art. . . . Ringing a peal, in case you don't know, requires three hours of steady pulling on the ropes, and mastering 5080 changes in one complete peal. . . an achievement requiring tremendous concentration and co-ordination and an exercise par excellence that brings into play every muscle of the body. . . . Taken to England as a young woman by her father, because those on Beacon Hill objected to evening practice, she practiced in London on various famous tower bells, including those of St. Paul's Cathedral, and for years rang the bells here in Boston's Old North Church. . . . Master also of the hand bells, she has rung these for 16 years as part of Beacon Hill's famed Christmas Eve celebration, and this year her little band of six, who practice sometimes four hours of an evening, will broadcast over WEEI at 10 P. M., following their ringing on the Hill. . . . They can also be heard tonight at 8 at the West Newton Unitarian Church. . . . N. E. tennis champion during 1903-4, she is an accomplished housewife, who wastes no time ordering meals, but intelligently leaves it all to the cook she has had for 30 years. . . . Thinks it silly to treat people who work for one as though they hadn't an ounce of sense. . . . With a famed collection of old tools, she is one of the little group of "Pegleggers" who make early American pine furniture. . . . Can also be found mornings painting the old Charles Street



MRS. ARTHUR A. SHURCLIFF

Meeting House, which she is interested in restoring and where, in January, will be held forums for young people. . . . Here is one of the homes where bread is still home-baked. . . . Treasurer of Community Church, she is vitally interested in the abolition of the death penalty.

(Tomorrow: Mrs. John Lavallo.)

Nichols, Margaret Shurcliff

Monmouth, who has been confined to the house, some little time, by illness, is able to be out and about again.

—The Boston Sunday Globe says: Dr. Arthur Nichols of Mt. Vernon street is going to Europe in a few weeks to join his daughter, Margaret, who has been spending the winter with the Darwins at their home just out of Oxford, England. They are to travel together through England pealing bells in the cathedrals. Miss Nichols is the only woman ever elected to the guild of bell peelers in England. Mrs. Nichols and her daughters Misses Rose and Marian are at their country seat near Windsor, Vt.

May 1902  
Windsor Lib 5/0

Boston Traveler Dec 20, 1939

**BRING YOUR ROD AND TACKLE**

Visitors to North Star start their adventure in a boathouse that does double duty as a barn and stable for the draft horses that the family breeds. Novices can choose from a wide assortment of kayaks, canoes or inner tubes to ferry them down the river. More experienced paddlers can opt to use their own boats. Once you've chosen your vessel, the North Star crew, which varies in size depending on the season, will load it aboard a boat trailer while you make yourself comfortable aboard the "Cool Bus" for a ride to your chosen launch point.

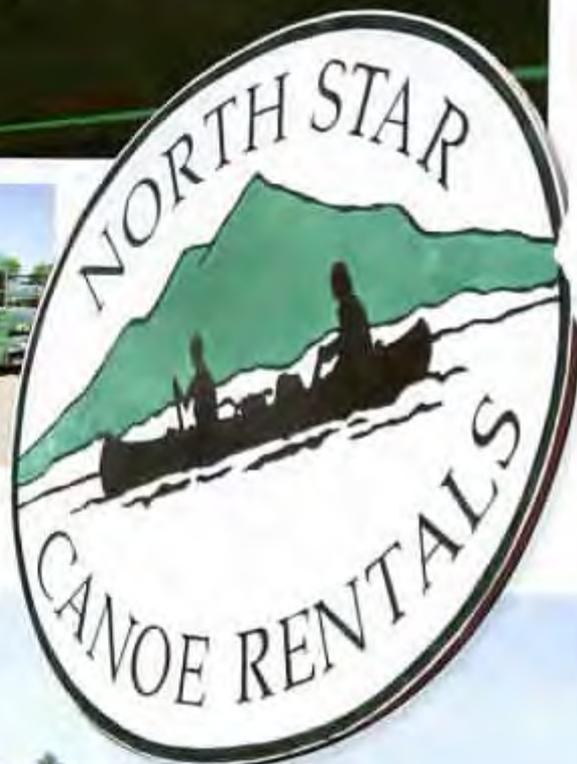
"The COOL Bus has become one of our trademarks," says Swoyer. "It came about because when a bus is purchased for use that is not school oriented, it cannot legally have the words 'school' printed on it. So we got rid of the S and the H, leaving the word COOL in place. It has been that way ever since."

Swoyer might be your guide, or it might be one of the owners, Linda and Jabez Hammond. "Most of our trips start out at a launch point just one mile north of the Windsor Bridge, and usually last anywhere from two to four hours," says Swoyer. From here visitors are treated to a fantastic view of the bridge as they follow the current of the river and slowly glide past the weathered stone pilings that have supported the span for more than a century. "Most of our trips are self-guided, though we're happy to point out places to stop and things to look for along the way."

Upper Valley Life  
May - June 2002

**Learn More**

Pricing for a half-day trip is \$25 per adult and \$20 per child. For a full day, it is \$50 per adult and \$35 per child. There are also a variety of specialty trips, youth group rates and special deals. Check out the possibilities at [www.kayak-canoe.com](http://www.kayak-canoe.com)



INSIDE

## 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

## 'OLD PEOPLE'S VISIT' OBSERVED AT CORNISH



Some of the most loyal former and present residents of Cornish are pictured here. Each has attended 50 or more "Old People's Visits" and was in attendance at the 65th annual observance held Wednesday in the century-old Congregational church in Cornish Center. Front row, left to right, Eben Johnson, D. G. Witherill, 85, oldest man in attendance; Leon M. Howard, Mrs. Lucia Balloch, Leroy H. Harlow, Mr. and Mrs. Erwin W. Quimby, Mrs. C. H. Barton. Mrs. Quimby is the daughter of Rev. James T. Jackson, founder of the "Old People's Visit" at Cornish, and her husband is a 78-year-old twin brother of Elwin Quimby of Cornish. At the rear, left to right, are A. J. Hilliard, Mrs. Ida Fitch, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lee and Arthur F. Bartlett.

# *Cornish Old Home Day brought out the young, and the not so young*



Clara Weld, Peter Storrs,  
James Fitch, Orville Fitch



**TRADITION CONTINUES—**  
Eight-month-old Nicholas Heggi Storrs and his dad, Peter, top photo, visit with Cornish Old Home Day Association President Clara Weld Saturday while 100-year-old James Fitch, left, came to the celebration with his son, Orville. Ninety residents participated in the festivities at the United Church of Cornish. These included a dinner served by the Park Garage and musical entertainment by the Old Home Day Chorus. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

August 1925

# Cornish residents recall one room schoolhouses

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — One room schoolhouses may conjure up thoughts of the horse and buggy era and the 19th century, but the fact is, in many rural communities one-room schoolhouses were used up through the 1950s and 60s.

Cornish residents gathered recently to reminisce about getting an education in a one-room schoolhouse. The Meetinghouse at Cornish Flat was packed when townspeople and visitors met for the recent meeting of the Cornish Historical Society to listen to stories of past school days in Cornish.

Farmer Fred Sullivan had many stories to tell.

He started school with his aunt, Winnie Barton, at Cornish Flat School. She became sick during the year, so he was lucky enough to have his mother, Bertha Sullivan, as a teacher. "She used me as an example. I spent many hours in the woodshed," said Sullivan.

He later attended South Cornish School, with Doris Williams as a teacher and

recalled a prank pulled on her. One day one of the students decided to put glue on the teacher's chair, remembered Sullivan. After sitting there a half hour the whole back of her dress ripped off when she stood up.

"However, that didn't stop her. She tied the student to his chair for the rest of the day," said Sullivan.

Linda Fuerst and Bernice Johnson gave illustrated talks on the old school houses used in early days, pinpointing locations on a map to show where the buildings were.

Following the meeting those attending were most interested in looking over class pictures taken during early days and were asked to identify students.

From 1827 to 1885 the town's population was 1700, with people residing in far corners of the town and throughout. This required schools to be opened in different sections, as travel was mostly by foot or horse and buggy. As many as 16 or 17

(See CORNISH - Pg. 8)

# CORNISH

From Page 1

schools were open at one time or another. When there wasn't enough students in an area the school might be closed.

Bernice Johnson told of attending the small Dingleton Hill school, where one wall was held up by old barn boards, "right from the barn too," she said. By the time she was in third grade the school had been rebuilt.

It was a time of long stockings worn by girls, no slacks were allowed. "You might be able to wear ski pants under a skirt, but you had to wear a skirt," she said. One of her wishes was to wear socks, like some of the other girls wore, but growing up in a family where a strict grandmother always lived with them, this was a no no. "My grandmother used to go visit relatives for a couple months in the winter, so that is when I wore socks," she said.

Other schools included the Chadbourne School, located not far from the Chase House on Route 12A. The Saint Gaudens Road School, located near what is now the historical site, where Mrs. Fitch, Bernice's mother taught with only an eighth grade education. The Tracy School, located next to Peter Burling's home and the Hell Hollow School, on Fernald Hill, far from the center of town.

Among others were the original Cornish Flat School, located further up School Street than in later years. A school which now serves as a Masonic Temple. The Center School, located on the corner of Paget Road, near the



Jackson Road School above, and the Goward School outhouse, below, were among the old buildings remembered during a recent meeting of the Cornish Historical Society. (Wayne Carter photos)



presently serves as the Little Town Hall, which is used during fair days, and the South Cornish School, located directly across from Jackson Road on Route 120.

Also the City School, on Town House Road, Poppy Squash School, located in Corbin Park, the Jackson Road School, and schools located on Root Hill Road, the South East Corner of White Water Brook Road and one on the corner of Edminster Cemetery Road.

A small school located on Hill Road, (presently renamed to East Road) was the Goward School, where Paul Rollins began his education. The school no longer stands, but when Ellsworth Atwood wanted to operate a garage at Cornish Flat, he could not do so without some sort of bathroom. The old Goward School outhouse was still standing at the time, so it was chosen for this purpose and was hauled to the garage. When it wasn't needed years later, the two door outhouse was again hauled up Route 120 a short distance, to the Decatur home, under hilarious shenanigans, where it was used as a snowmobile shed.

If schools were as close as two miles students walked. Further, they might be driven by horse and wagon in mud season, by sleigh in the winter months, and occasionally a Model T Ford in good weather. There were no blacktop roads in early years.

Students brought their lunch and sometimes in winter cocoa or soup would be heated on the old schoolhouse stoves.

Judy Rook told of attending school at City School where there was no running water and the

outhouse was located up a steep bank behind the school. A ceramic water jug was filled from a spring by the Spaulding home.

She later attended the Chadbourne School, where there were 35 children in one room. "In winter there were only three or four of us who came dressed to go outside and sometimes the teacher would forget we were out there and forget to ring the bell. Of course we would stay as far from school as possible," said Rook. She also remarked that each day classes began by saluting the flag and saying a prayer.

Stuart Hodgeman remembered his school days well, going to the Tracy School even before he was six years old, with his dad, who was a school board member. His mother, Priscilla, also played the piano for students, so he would also attend with her.

He later attended the school and had Eva Bernard as his teacher for seven years.

"The teacher would work with different groups. We would listen to the other students, learning by observation. Mrs. Bernard was a task master, there was no sassing back, she had much control. There was a baby corner and if a student was real bad she took them to the woodshed and closed the door."

He remembers being the janitor at the school his last three years there, getting up early to start the fire. Also how spelling bees and math contests were popular. "I was always in competition with Sara Nelson during the math contests," said Hodgeman.

Fred Sullivan later attended the Center School and when that school became overcrowded five of

them were sent to the Junior High in Claremont. "I came from a school of 15-20 kids. In a class of 100 I was one scared kid! We were all farm boys. When we went to school we all smelled the same, we didn't take a bath after chores. There I got the name "Barnyard." After two or three days we decided we better take baths before school."

It wasn't until the March 1953 meeting, which was long and with much controversy, did voters approve 203 to 62 to build an eight room school at the cost of \$120,000.

The amount to be borrowed exceeded the town's bond limit which required an exception. Following another highly intense meeting, with an investigating committee from the State Board of Education, the plan was approved by the governor and executive council and construction began. Even then, several residents made charges concerning the legality of the meeting and construction was halted. The case was heard at Sullivan County Superior Court, which agreed the meeting was legal. Not satisfied, those who were against building appealed to the State Supreme Court, which upheld the decision.

Next, opponents circulated a petition calling for a special school meeting to rescind the original vote and reconsider the proposal. The meeting was held and voters again approved of building the new school, which was dedicated in August of 1954.

In 1954 only six of the old buildings were being used as schools. They were sold and have been remodeled to be homes.

# 15 years later, memories of Pe

By BRIGET BURR  
Staff Writer

CORNISH, N.H. — Even after 15 years of returning from the Peace Corps, Patrick Pinkson-Burke still has contact in Washington with people from Afghanistan and volunteers he served with.

Pinkson-Burke joined the Peace Corps in 1973, a year-and-a-half after graduating from Illinois State University, during a period of political activity and social consciousness. He believes one of the reasons he was accepted was because they knew he would stay.

"President Nixon had just been re-elected and I didn't want to be in the country under his administration for another four years," said Pinkson-Burke. "The Peace

Corps wants people who are going to stay and they knew I had reasons to leave the country."

Pinkson-Burke left with 13 other volunteers for Afghanistan in November of 1973. Two weeks later, 60 other volunteers arrived. In April, after training was completed, five people were left in Pinkson-Burke's group of 13 and 40 were left out of the group of 60.

"There is a high attrition rate."

Training lasted for three-and-a-half months and for Pinkson-Burke was mostly language training. Pinkson-Burke held a degree in education and in Afghanistan was a teacher of Business Education to Afghanistan Nationals, but essentially taught English at the college level.

Training for the Peace Corps in

the 1980's consisted of foreign language instruction, cross cultural adaptation to learn about customs, history and laws of the country and technical instruction depending on what the volunteer will be assigned to do during his service. Training is usually in the host country prior to service and lasts eight to 14 weeks.

The biggest challenge for Pinkson-Burke was learning to accept limitations. "In the first year you have a lot of ideas and plans. Because of the limitations of the country and its bureaucracy, you won't accomplish much. You have to learn to be satisfied with what will be accomplished."

The friendliness of the people remains memorable to Pinkson-Burke, though at first the Afghan

## Peace Corps stint still linger

istansians were distrustful. "Back then they saw Americans and Europeans as foreigners out to use them. Once they saw that I was fluent in their language and a teacher, their opinion changed. They invite you into their homes and are apologetic for any inconveniences."

The Afghanistan society is one where nothing is wasted because of the extreme poverty. Pinkson-Burke remembers that he received a letter and after he had read it, he threw it away in the public dumpster. If things were found in this dumpster they were reused. Anything edible was taken out, anything that could be fed to the animals was taken out and cans were reused as they were needed. About two weeks after he had

thrown the letter away, Pinkson-Burke found the letter taped together with other pieces of paper forming a bag.

"I learned that if I wanted my private life kept private, I had to destroy it, not just throw it away."

Being in the Peace Corps taught Pinkson-Burke about resourcefulness. It prepared him to take charge of his business and his life. Through it he gained a commitment to social services which he is involved in presently with his work at Southwestern Community Services. He also learned to deal with hassles and how to work around them.

Pinkson-Burke was paid \$180 a month for his work, which then was 10 times more than what an Afghanistan National received.

While in the Peace Corps, all expenses related to volunteer service are paid. Volunteers receive a living allowance, medical protection, a readjustment allowance and a vacation allowance.

After returning from the Peace Corps, Pinkson-Burke went to Iran to work and in 1978 returned to visit. He left the country the day before the first coup against the president.

"Afghanistan is a hostile country. As the largest tribal society in the world they hate each other, but they hate foreigners more. It's also a loving country and too complex to describe in a few words. You can't force Western ideas on them, it's their beliefs."

Pinkson-Burke would definitely return to the Peace Corps. "It was an enjoyable experience. It gave me a worldly view of humanity. There is comradeship between volunteers. You enjoy the culture and are sometimes frustrated by it. You get to know the culture inside



Valley News — L...

and Cornish officials walk the common border between their state-ordered survey recently. From left are David Dessert

and Paul Franklin of Plainfield, Cheston Newbold of Cornish, Rondeau of Plainfield, Cornish's Michael Yatskevitch, Harold

# The Border, Or At Least Near

## Officials Search For Clues Digging Off Historic Boundaries

EGGY GRODINSKY  
Valley News Staff Writer

PLAINFIELD — A state law requires selectmen mark and record town boundaries every seven years, but officials in Plainfield let their automowalkers last week.

The word comes from the Latin "perambulare," meaning "to walk around." The current inter-

casual. Monday, seven men from Plainfield and Cornish gathered at the Plainfield town center to begin the trek which, without modern transport, lasted all day. The men trailed one another in a line. The vehicles in the procession: blue Ford pickup, blue Honda Civic, silver Honda Civic, gray Toyota and red Chevrolet

The trek, which began at the Cornish town center, seemed like a treasure hunt. Some were already in the know. The first was the 1973 perambulation which let them from stone marker to stone marker, relying on measurements in chains, paces and rods, and the locations of dead elm trees, live oak



trees and pine groves. Additional directions ranged from the simple — "the east side of Route 12A" for stone number 3 — to the obscure — "on a dirt bank lying between Mill Road and the old road from the Yeaton Place to the Yeaton goat barn" for rock number four.

"Is it a national monument or something?" joked Plainfield resident Dave Dessert.

Perambulators were expected to locate stone number 5 by remembering "the site of the old dam that was swept away in the flood of '73."

Most New Hampshire towns were

(Continued on page 12)

— WALK



Paul Franklin chisels an "88" onto a boundary marker placed as others in the group watch. At upper left are the results of his

# Walk

(Continued from page 1)

originally laid out in land grants from King George II in six-mile, neatly drawn squares, a geographical design that simplifies border-walking. But during the 19th century, some Croydon residents petitioned the state legislature for permission to secede from Croydon and annex themselves to neighboring Cornish. The area was henceforth known as Little Texas, a reference to the real state that switched sides before the Civil War to back Confederacy over the Union. Cornish's northeast border now zigs and zags as though drawn by a drunken man. Actually, the border followed the property lines of farmers at the time. Cornish Selectman Michael Yatsevitch said town officials have informally discussed straightening the kinks for years, but the talk has never progressed.

Years ago, Yatsevitch remem-

bered, a Cornish family paid taxes to Plainfield for their outhouse which stood a few feet from the house but in the neighboring town. The tax dollars probably didn't amount to a hill of beans, but today the stakes are high. State archivist Frank Mevers is helping enforce the law. He said that developers pouring millions into shopping mall construction want to know precisely where towns begin and end.

Accordingly, last summer, Mevers wrote New Hampshire's 236 towns urging compliance with the perambulation law. So far, he said, about 40 percent of the towns have responded.

The stone markers that delineate borders differ in shape, size and material. Thirty-five separate Plainfield and Cornish. The "walkers" carved the year on each, complaining of soft, hard and awkwardly placed stones. Even worse, they

said, carving gently-rounded, double eights required chiseling talent they didn't possess. At one time, said Paul Franklin, a proxy walker for Plainfield, walkers carved elaborate dates surrounded by angels. His own, simpler work won praise from Plainfield Planning Board member Armand Rondeau: "Michelangelo would be proud."

The walkers swapped gossip as they traced the border entertaining one another with tales of freakish accidents and lucky survivors; updates on births, deaths and marriages; and advice on sheep farming.

"I've just been elected tree warden," Rondeau announced and wondered what the heck he was supposed to do, "chase down delinquent trees?"

"There must be some vague statute that tells you you have no power," Franklin suggested.

For the Month of June 1990

The rebuilt  
Cornish bridge  
(right) and  
Pickering's  
violin (below).



Norman Pickering

## Making Do: The Bridge That Made Music

ONE DAY IN APRIL 1866 James Tasker laid down his tools, and the longest covered bridge in the country was finished. Three times before, men had built bridges at this spot where the Connecticut River separates Cornish, New Hampshire, from Windsor, Vermont, and three times before the river had torn them away. Tasker hoped that his bridge built of local spruce would finally stand the test of time. But he had no way of imagining just what would happen.

Before building the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge, Tasker constructed an eight-foot model of

spruce and took it to downtown Claremont one Saturday afternoon. There some corner loungers laughed at his flimsy-looking structure. Tasker, unfazed, beckoned them into a hardware store. Without a word, he stacked ten kegs of nails in a pyramid on his bridge model, then

climbed up and sat his 200-pound body on top. The on-lookers' laughter changed to cheers.

On this same design Tasker and a partner built the bridge using red spruce from nearby Mount Ascutney. Over the years farmers herded their sheep and cattle across the planks to market. Presidents Monroe, Hayes, Teddy Roosevelt, Coolidge, and Wilson passed over the bridge. But in 1987, after the pounding of the horse-drawn wagons had long since been replaced by 18-wheelers, the bridge was no longer considered safe.

A work crew was assigned to strengthen it and in so doing cut out half the timbers with chainsaws. They set fire to the old, seasoned wood. But the story does not end there.

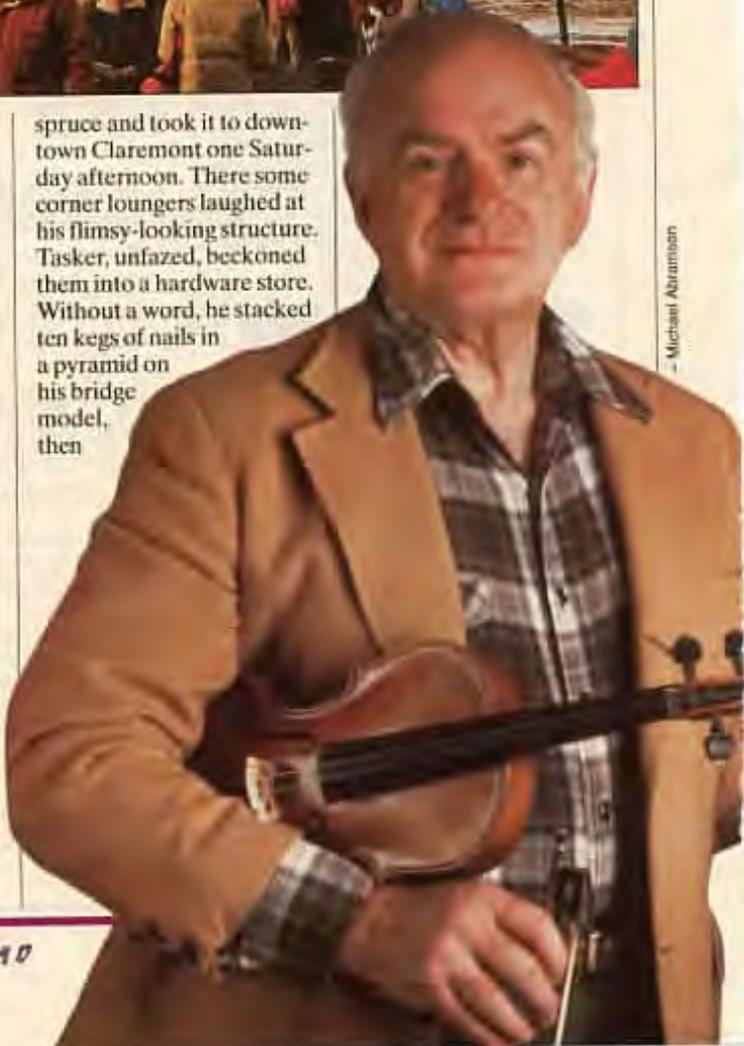
Norman Pickering, a maker of stringed instruments, saw the burning red spruce. "Hold everything," he said. "Instrument makers pay high prices for suitable old, seasoned spruce." The bridge restoration manager, Tony Roberts, offered him the wood for free, and that night Pickering took home timber for a violin. Through the Violin Society of America newsletter, he put out the word to other instrument makers that the wood was available. Roberts received about 50 inquiries

and today several dozen instruments have been made from the old bridge.

Last December, when over 1,000 people gathered to celebrate the restoration of the covered bridge, Pickering placed the violin he had made from a bridge timber under his chin and played "O Tannenbaum" (Oh, Spruce Tree) and "Old Man River."

Had Tasker been listening, he would have been pleased. Not only was his bridge still standing these 124 years later, but it was making music now, too.

—Christine Schultz



10

Tasker June 1990

—Colleen Salinger

—Michael Abramson

4 January 1990

Dear Mrs. Colby:

I have finally managed time to pack up the violin and ship it off to you. I am donating it to the Cornish Historical Society in the hope that it will be a reminder of the happy occasion of the bridge reopening. For your interest, the violin is worth approximately \$2500, which is the usual price of my violins.

The top was made during April 1989 from a piece of Vermont red spruce taken from one of the old chords of the bridge. It was given to me by Tony Roberts. I have since made a viola top from another piece, which turned out equally well. The insert in the lower left part of the top was made necessary by a small flaw discovered after I had carved the shape. It does not affect the tone. The rest of the violin is of European maple. It was made in France in 1880. It is the quality of the top which has the greatest effect on tone quality, and this violin was greatly improved with the new (old!) wood.

Please let me know if I can give you any more information, and best wishes for the New Year -

Sincerely - Norman C. Pickering



Alice Hendrick

Valley News  
Apr 5, 1990, 12

Alice Hendrick of Plainfield practices on a violin fashioned in part from wood removed from the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge during its recent renovation. She will play the instrument at the Cornish Historical Society's monthly meeting on Monday.

Valley News — Geoff Hansen

# Tractor Rollover Kills Valley Regional Doctor

By DAN RICHARDSON  
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — In what authorities are calling an accident and a tragedy, Dr. Jeremy Pierce, a longtime emergency room physician who was popular with patients at Valley Regional Hospital in Claremont, died Sunday when a farm tractor rolled over him.

Pierce, 51, died sometime between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. while riding a tractor alone in the woods on his 70-acre property on South Parsonage Road, New Hampshire State Police Sgt. Edward Kokoski said in an interview.

"It's being classified as an accidental death,"

An obituary, page A4

Kokoski said, noting that Pierce was pronounced dead at the scene by a state medical referee, a specially trained individual who helps determine the cause of death at accident scenes. Authorities said Pierce was driving the tractor up a steep slope on his wood lot when it rolled.

Pierce left his house Sunday morning, police said. Family members began searching for him when he did not return home that afternoon, and alerted authorities late Sunday night after an unsuccessful search, according to Kokoski. Family members found Pierce's body yesterday morning, he said.

"It's a tragedy for his family and for the community," said Sullivan County Attorney Marc Hathaway. He said in an interview that he had worked with Pierce on numerous occasions. As an emergency room physician at Valley Regional Hospital, Pierce often would treat people who were suspects or victims in criminal cases being investigated by Hathaway's office and local police.

"Dr. Pierce was a very sincere and caring doctor," Hathaway said. "And besides, he was a very decent man."

Family members could not be reached for comment.

(Continued on page A3)

— DOCTOR

Valley News Tuesday, April 20, 1999

## Doctor

(Continued from page A1)  
ment yesterday.

Hospital spokeswoman Becky Nelson said hospital workers remained in shock yesterday at the loss of their colleague, who had served on the facility's medical staff for 15 years.

"We're all extremely distressed and distraught. ... He was a very valued and respected member of our medical staff," Nelson said in an interview.

Pierce had previously served as emergency room director, she said. Pierce's wife, Jennifer, is employed at the hospital as a nurse and clinical staff educator. Survivors also include two sons and a daughter.

"It was a big family there, and they're hurting," Nelson said of the emergency room, where some employees took the day off. "In a small community hospital like this, everybody knows everybody," she said.

Emergency room nursing manager Patricia Ellison said Pierce's death had shaken the nine nurses, four secretaries and several physicians there.

The close-knit department will miss his presence as an emergency room mainstay, and patients will lose a "wonderful" physician for whom their care was the first priority, Ellison said.

Ellison said that emergency room nurses and physicians treat a wide range of ailments. "You see everything from major trauma to a child with a fever, or a splinter in their finger. And everything in between," Ellison said.

Many people without health insurance come to see a doctor only during an emergency, often through the emergency room, Ellison said. So Pierce became the de facto family physician for many uninsured residents in the Claremont area, she said. In fact, Pierce specialized in family practice medicine, said Nelson.

Ellison said Pierce's kindness was noted by his patients, many of whom would call the emergency room to make sure Pierce was on duty before they would come in for care.

"He's definitely going to be missed," Ellison said.

MY NEIGHBOR, MAXFIELD PARRISH

From the time I was a child, the name Maxfield Parrish was a household word in my home for the reason that my father who was a contractor and builder worked for Mr. Parrish for over thirty-five years. Mr. Parrish was in his earlier days of art, at the time my father started working there and the house was a small cottage. As time went on and Mr. Parrish became more and more successful, the house grew bigger and bigger until it became the large house which stands there today. My father said that he built onto the original house north, south, east, west, up and down. Besides this he built the three story studio and the carriage house; he also helped Mr. Parrish set up the machine shop of which so much has been written.

Our house was about one-half mile from that of the Parrish's as the crow flies; going around by the road, it is nearly two miles away. So my father, who wished to take the shortest possible route to his work, laid out a path across our fields, through the woods, and up a very steep cliff, almost impossible to climb. Father made a winding road up the cliff and with a strong rope railing, this was the way he went to his daily work.

Father was more to Mr. Parrish than a workman and the two became good friends. Every fall the high point of my father's year came, when Mr. Parrish took him to the big football game of the year at Dartmouth College in Hanover. Mr. Parrish would arrive about half past eleven in his big Cadillac and the two would start off happily like a couple of school boys. I believe they went to the Hanover Inn for a big luncheon before going to the game. They both loved every bit of it, I know.

Lucy F.R. Bishop  
Star Route 4  
Windsor, Vt. 2/7/74

I think the accomplishment that meant the most to my father was the building of the beautiful music room on the west end of the house, with the huge fireplace running along one side of the room and the beautiful arched windows looking toward the west. He used to come home and tell us how carefully he fitted around these windows with the heavy wood which was used. It was a work of great pride with him. In later years, I went to several concerts there given by artists from New York and Philadelphia.

As time went on I became a teacher; I taught in the public schools but mostly I taught and tutored private pupils and among them were the two oldest Parrish children, Dillwyn (or John as he later called himself) and Max, Jr. They were very interesting children and each inherited in some respect the talent of art from Mr. Parrish. Max was roguish and full of fun and sometimes I would find drawn at the bottom of an arithmetic paper a funny little brownie, or a turtle, or an amusing picture of a handyman who worked there complete with slouch hat and pipe in mouth. Dillwyn was more of a dreamer and he would scratch off at times a sunset scene, or a bird in a tree, or a fairy. They were extremely interesting children and I enjoyed working with them; they were also excellent scholars.

At the time of my father's death, Mrs. Parrish filled our house with flowers which made me understand how they all felt about him. I inherited the property including the very large house; my carpenter father had added on rooms as we needed them. After my children were grown and when they were in college, this old home burned to the ground. One very cold night in the middle of January 1941, the house turned into a blazing furnace. The cause of the fire was unknown; fortunately no one was burned and a few antiques were saved.

In the morning as I stood and looked at the rubble and our old

Lucy F. R. Bishop

barn standing alone, I knew that I must build again on that cellar hole and make a home there once more and soon I began interviewing possible builders. A few days later I was in a store in Windsor, where Plainfield residents did most of their shopping, and I met Mr. Parrish. He stopped me and said, "Oh Lucy, I wanted to tell you that in a few days I will be sending you a check. The reason that I am telling you about it now is that I don't want you to thank me for it!" I said to him, "Why, Mr. Parrish, I always thank people when they do things for me". He replied, "No, I am not doing this for you. I am doing it for myself." I have pondered over that remark of his many times. Was his gift because of the remembrance of my father? Or, perhaps when we give meaningful gifts, do we also give something meaningful to ourselves? I received the check that week.

The following Christmas I picked out the most beautiful card I could find and sent it to him, writing something like the following:

"Last summer you did a very wonderful thing for me, but you would not let me thank you. Every Christmas from now on, I shall send you a card and it will have a very special meaning." I did send cards to him at Christmas right up to the time of his death (over twenty years); this had a great meaning to me. I hope it did to him. This experience made me realize still more, the depth of this great man.

I did build a Cape Cod cottage on the original site of my old home and later had a rather interesting business deal with Mr. Parrish. When the state road was put in between my property and that of Mr. Parrish, it cut off about a half acre of my land next to his woods. He said to me one time, "If you ever want to

Lucy F. R. Bishop  
Star Route 4  
Windsor, Vt. 261

sell that piece of property, give me the first chance to buy it." This opportunity arose so I wrote to Mr. Parrish about it and following is a copy of his reply:

Sept. 28, 1948

Dear Lucy.

Thank you for your good letter of the 26th. Yes, I will gladly buy that strangely shaped piece of land of yours anytime you wish to part with it. Not that I covet the parcel particularly, but I doubt if any of us would like to see another shack go up on the property, and in such a conspicuous location at that.

So anytime you want to put the machinery in motion for the transfer, say the word. Whoever has the honor of writing out the deed is going to chew his pen at some length, in describing the piece, but I dare say it can be done.

Sincerely,

Maxfield Parrish

I treasure this letter because it all sounds so like Mr. Parrish with his whimsical way of expressing himself. Also, I am so glad to have his name, written in his beautiful script.

Mr. Parrish, in his quiet modest way, considered himself to be one of us, here in this little town of Plainfield, N.H.. He went to all the town meetings and he was genuinely interested in all of the town activities. He came to the village suppers, to plays, and to musicales at the Town Hall. We were given some very fine stage scenery for our Town Hall by one of the summer residents; later Mr. Parrish painted a beautiful backdrop for the out door scenes. It was a painting of Mt. Ascutney which he

Lucy F. R. Bishop  
Star Route 4

viewed from his house on the hill. We are so proud of this great gift from the artist who lived among us.

Mr. Parrish was asked once which state he thought was the more beautiful, New Hampshire or Vermont. He replied, "I will answer you this way. I live in New Hampshire and look at Vermont," which I think is the way most of us feel about the two states.

I cannot close this article without saying that I miss my neighbor, Maxfield Parrish. Sometimes in the autumn, which he loved, I look up across the fields and the trees with the bright red and gold leaves falling all around, and see the roof of his studio, and I think how fortunate I was, to have had such a wonderful and gifted neighbor and friend.

*Lucy F. R. Bishop*  
Lucy F. R. Bishop

MAXFIELD PARRISH, JR.  
7 PAUL REVERE ROAD  
LEXINGTON, MASS. 02173

January 26, 1974

Dear Lucy:

I received your note and the enclosure, a photo copy of the article on dad. What a nice thing that was. No, I wouldn't object to anything in it. I found it excellent reading, for your father was a person we all looked up to, even as he looked up to dad.

When Dillwyn and I were younger than our teens we had a little carpentry shop off from the main big shop, and we were always pestering your father for "little nails", and he would always ask us how little, and we'd show him with our first finger and thumb, the gap between signifying the length. He was very patient with us, and showed us a great many things I remember to this day, how to saw a board off square using nothing but the shiny reflection on the side of the hand saw blade, reflecting the image of the board in what seemed a straight line right through the saw. Also the right angle to sharpen a knife so it would cut the best in whittling wood, and how to pound a nail through wood so it wouldn't split even when the nail was large and the wood was thin. ( You clamp it in a vise so it can't split until it's all the way in. By that time it has been compressed by the nail, and lost interest in splitting. ) He was awfully patient with us kids, pestering him really an awful lot.

Then when Dillwyn was in his early teens he put up a one room house. It had a door, and one window, and was really impressive. After much talk about it for some days at the dinner table, mother came out to look at it and was utterly amazed with how good it was. He confessed later in an off hand manner, that Mr. Ruggles had helped him a bit, telling him what to do and where. Quite a bit, I think.

When the town changed Route 12 A going around Daniel's pond prior to hot topping it, they made a much larger radius bend so people could round the corner without tipping over at 60 miles an hour. I remember it left a piece of ground the shape of a new moon. I never knew what people did with it. Now I know.

May I keep the photo-copy of your article about dad? It is quite a different type of thing about him - most speak about what his art does for them, but this is about him as a person, and a lot more valuable to his family.

I am amused to have you say you thought we were, Dillwyn and I, bright children. I don't remember this phase of my life too well, but it seemed to me that you thought I was forgetful. Maybe I was, for a spell.

Thank you very much for this little story. I suppose I may keep it, and it will go into the family reminiscences file, a thin, but very select one. Oh yes, I whole-heartedly approve of its being published. "Yankee" Magazine, maybe?

Yours truly,

Maxfield Parrish

MAXFIELD PARRISH, JR.  
7 PAUL REVERE ROAD  
LEXINGTON, MASS. 02173

June 27, 1979

Dear Lucy:

Yes, that will be all right whatever you or the Parrish Museum wants to do with my letter to you of Jan 26, 1974. I give permission.

Now that The Oaks has burned down , I think it is high time that your father George Huggles got some posthumous glory for the really demanding carpenterial work that went into all the parts of that house where a sloppy fit would show . There were no such places that I remember , so he and his crew must have really done what amounts to a very large cabinet makers job.

Anything that can attest to his great skill at this late date, I am all for.

I have always remembered one bit of advice your father gave me when I was about to set out for my first paying job at about age 18 . He said, "Max, I want you to remember one thing, and that is , a man can spend his money faster than he can earn it." I have never been broke, for I never forgot what he said.

Sincerely ,

Maxfield Parrish

# Plainfield's Maxfield Parrish, 94, Is Part of the American Tradition

By John Litvich

The name is Maxfield Parrish. Once it was a household byword. His work is known to millions. Hardly a New Hampshire resident exists who has not seen at least one painting by the hand of the old master. But many do not recognize the name, and those who do, think he has gone with Hobbema, Greco, Gauguin and Van Gogh.

But, high on a rocky hillside in Plainfield, New Hampshire's best-known painter still lives at 94. These spring days the sky above the house is the blue that is known by his name: "Maxfield Parrish blue". His popularity has waned in an unromantic world, but the posters of the state of New Hampshire still carry two of his most familiar paintings — one of birches by a pool, the other of autumn hills.

Upon approaching the house one is amazed at its similarity to a medieval manor house. This is fitting. The majority of Maxfield Parrish's paintings have a medieval theme to them. Parrish frequently did fairy-tale scenes for children's nursery rhymes. Among his creations are "Old King Cole", "The Pied Piper", and "Sing a Song of Sixpence". Parrish's paintings are jolly. His figures are clear, robust and happy.

From the turn of the 20th century through the 1930's Parrish was America's most loved and best known artist. During this time the three most popular artists were Van Gogh, Cezanne and Parrish.

Parrish's happy fairy-tale characters appeared on the covers of Collier's, Harper's Weekly, Ladies Home Journal, the Old Life Magazine, Century, and Scribner's. His works are also in many children's books such as Kenneth Graham's *Wind in the Willows* and Eugene Field's *Poems of Childhood*. He was commissioned to do wall murals for The Curtis Publishing Co., The University of Rochester's School of Music, The Hotel Knickerbocker, The San Francisco Sheraton-Palace Hotel, and the St. Regis Hotel of New York. He also was commissioned to do a mural for a member of the duPont family for a re-



**MAXFIELD PARRISH** at 93, on the day in 1963 he received the Boston Post Cane — symbol of seniority — from the selectmen of Plainfield. (Eagle Photo—Swain)

ported \$20,000 fee.

**The Parrish Blue**

Parrish says the painting called "The Sandman" launched him as a success. But the painting that was the most well known and most successful was "Daybreak". It has sold over one million reproductions. This painting of a landscape scene with a mountain background has a sky of the blue that was to become known as the Parrish Blue.

The Parrish blue is like a part of the sky itself. As one looks at its rich, vivid color he may find himself dreaming of the peaceful spot in the country where he used to go in his childhood.

The artist makes this blue by a sequence of steps. First he paints his board entirely blue; then he puts on a varnish. When

this dries he paints the yellows, which gives him the greens. The yellows are also the basis for the browns and oranges. Next, he revarnishes the paintings and puts successive layers of blue on blue.

Born Frederick Parrish on May 25, 1870, in West Philadelphia, Pa., Maxfield (his middle name) soon started his artist's career.

In 1885 he went to Paris with his father. While in Paris he learned of the glazing effect that he was to use for his paintings. (This effect was also employed by Leonardo da Vinci.)

**Tuberculosis Victim**

He moved to Plainfield in 1898 but was stricken by tuberculosis in 1901. He went to Saranac Lake, N. Y. In spite of his condition he continued to paint. He often opened all the doors and windows for fresh air. He painted in frigid temperatures keeping his hands pliable by using heated soapstones. When his health improved in 1904, he

Parrish's popularity waned during World War II, for it was at this time that the American taste of art changed. Pictures of destruction of war turned the style of art from the romantic representation of Parrish's dreamworld to the abstractions of a world of fear. Hereafter, Parrish's fairy-tales were returned to children's literature; where, today's world leaves them to the happy dreams of children.

Today, Maxfield Parrish has slowed down. Although he continues to receive royalties from his works he has not painted for four years. He is attended by his son, John Parrish, a housekeeper and a nurse.

His paintings still enjoy some of their earlier popularity. A series of Parrish paintings is on display at the Manhattan Gallery of Modern Art. Fans often write and ask where they can get reproductions of his paintings. At 94, Maxfield Parrish enjoys what few live to experience, he is a part of the American tradition.

# Survey: Rural character key in Cornish

By TIMOTHY LAROCHE *Local Times*  
tlaroch@tauletimes.com *Jun 3, 2018 1:1*

**CORNISH** — The preservation of Cornish's rural character was one of the central themes among respondents to a community survey to be used in the development of the Cornish Master Plan update.

As the Cornish Planning Board gears up for its 2020 update to the town master plan, Planning Board Chair Bill Lipfert said Tuesday, citizen responses will help form the backbone of the board's efforts.

Of the 941 surveys that were sent to residents of the town, 340 were completed and returned — a 36 percent completion rate. The question of retaining the town's rural character garnered 227 responses indicating that it was "very important."

Unpacking the meaning of the town's rural character, however, is more involved.

See **SURVEY** - Page A4

## **SURVEY** FROM PAGE A1 **Cornish Master Plan Update**

Most of the town's lots are five acres or greater — with the village districts concentrating the majority of development. The town lacks any municipal sewer or water system, and density of housing is relatively low — the 1,640 people living there during the 2010 census gave the town a population density of only 38 people per square mile. Throughout the 1990s, 83 percent of the town's land was covered in forests.

"The rural character is what makes Cornish so attractive over the typical gentrified or bedroom community," one respondent noted.

Responses to the survey indicated that the town should encourage further development of single family dwelling units while discouraging the development of larger multi-family housing.

Meanwhile, responses to questions about changes in lot sizes in the town's residential, village and rural zones overwhelmingly supported leaving them unchanged. While existing lots are grandfathered into the zoning requirements, the regulations mean that newer parcels cannot be smaller than the minimum lot size.

Increasing the minimum lot sizes can decrease the housing density in a certain area, according to information from the Cornish town website, while decreasing the minimum lot size can have the opposite effect. As Lipfert noted, the planning board is currently investigating increased development in some areas of the town.

"We don't really want to see development done in a haphazard manner," Lipfert said.

Currently, lot sizes in the village districts have a minimum requirement of 1 acre, while lots in the residential districts have a 2 acre minimum size — leaving those metrics unchanged was supported by a majority of respondents. A majority of respondents also did not want the Parsonage Road or Route 12A residential areas re-zoned as village areas, and there was little support for the creation of any other village districts.

Aside from changing the minimum lot sizes, changing the zoning district would shift the permitted uses for properties. For example, while the construction of a new bank would be

allowed in the village district, barred from the residential or districts.

"Two of the hot button issues are phone service and internet service," Lipfert said. "We have a lot of people dissatisfied with those."

Of the surveys received, the majority of respondents identified as year-round homeowners, most of which lived in Cornish for more than 31 years. Almost half of the respondents also identified as retired or the age of 65.

In analyzing the data, Lipfert said the board will likely parse out the responses into subsections of the population and find a way to more effectively use the information to represent different demographic groups. Currently, the responses disproportionately represent older groups with only 24 total responses from people under 45 years old.

According to the New Hampshire Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, in 2015, the median age in Cornish was 49.6 years. That same year, the statewide median age was 42.7 years old — the second oldest state median age in the country. That means that more of Cornish's population skews older than the statewide figures. And census projections forecast a statewide trend toward a further aging population in 2020 and beyond.

Some of the responses to the survey indicated an interest in the town exploring more avenues for affordable housing — the 2009 master plan details some of the ways that could be accomplished, like requiring smaller house sizes or encouraging affordable developments. Meanwhile, several responses also urged for more interest in the town becoming more inviting to younger families and other investing in the schools.

For instance, one respondent said, "The rural aspect of Cornish is what we love for the most part, but we would like to see more of a 'main street' community develop to bring more small businesses, people, and opportunity for Cornish residents to meet casually."

Lipfert said the next steps for the Planning Board will be to analyze the data and form subcommittees for respective master plan chapters.

# <sup>Daily Eagle</sup> No Decision is Made On Cornish Land Plan

By GAYLE GODDARD

CORNISH — Residents of this town turned out en masse for a heated public hearing last night to vocalize their objections to a proposed subdivision by the Davis and Symonds Lumber Co., Inc., Claremont.

The Cornish Planning Board will review all arguments presented and will notify the company within 70 days as to its decision.

Kindling for last night's emotional conflagration came recently in the form of a newsletter circulated among Cornish residents by William Gallagher, protesting that the subdivision would violate Article I, General Provision D of the Zoning Ordinance of Cornish which states, "Any use of property that may be obnoxious or injurious by reason of the production or emission of odor, dust, smoke, refuse matter, fumes, noise, vibrations or similar conditions, or that are dangerous to the comfort, peace, enjoyment, health or safety of the community or

leading to its disturbance or its annoyance are prohibited."

The proposed subdivision would divide a 45-acre tract of land into 30 lots and the hearing was called for people to air their feelings as to how the subdivision would be dangerous.

A number of residents including abutters of the proposed subdivision spoke out against the idea, many relating personal experiences attempting to parallel the rapid growth of other cities with this proposal.

Breaking through the emotional testimonies, Mrs. Norris Weld interposed that perhaps the matter "needed serious, thoughtful consideration" and that residents should not be influenced merely by the circular.

Defending the proposal, Thomas Davis, president of Davis and Symonds, initially pointed out in answer to a query concerning maintenance of roads, that there would be no need of public maintenance of the road as the subdivision was not abutting any public highway and that the access road would

be maintained by the property owners.

It was pointed out by one resident that the Davis and Symonds Co. would also be selling parcels of land from the James Campbell Lewis estate and the question of what Davis foresaw as future development in detail was posed.

The question was referred to Stephen Tracy, planning board chairman, who read a letter sent previously to the board by Davis concerning future development.

Four considerations were listed in the letter including the offering of land for sale to the abutting landowners, a possible expansion of the St. Gaudens historical site with abutting land, the offering of one or more parcels of land along the river for public use and the increased value of the property as well as substantial gains in tax revenues.

Another resident protested the possible influx of children and flooding of the school.

Davis pointed out that the land would most probably not be sold immediately and those people that were buying land were mostly retired people or those who merely bought the land to hold for future use.

He also pointed out that in a similar development, less than 5 per cent of those buying property were purchasing mainly in desperation in order to leave the city and find employment in the country and that most were buying for future development.

He also questioned Gallagher as to the amount of research that went into preparing the newsletter which, according to

(See CORNISH—Page 2)

nish-

inued From Page 1)

contained a number of errors of fact. These errors included statements that Davis and Symonds owed \$1,000 in taxes to Cornish and that the company had obtained a \$100,000 loan.

Mr. Burling told Davis that the people of Cornish "don't know where you're going. The people are uneasy" as this

company is the first large organization of its type to come to Cornish. He inquired as to just what plans were made for this development. "We need to know the whole game," he commented, "not just the first inning. Rules must be made."

Davis replied that studies had been made on drainage but there was no guarantee on water and since the land would be sold as undeveloped lots. The property owners do have the protection of the planning board, he added, and the state, that certain guidelines have been followed. Davis conceded that no studies for fire protection, police protection or trash and garbage removal had been made. "We're just selling land," he added.

Another resident pointed out that there would be nothing to prevent someone from placing a trailer on one of the lots. Someone else queried as to what price range of houses would be permitted on the land.

Mrs. Weld explained that it would be illegal for the planning board to say "You cannot erect a house under a certain price" but that if a master plan was devised then certain guidelines could be established.

Tracy emphasized the need for a master plan and stated that the different departments had been contacted to prepare such maps showing soil, water, flood plains and topography. He also commented that such maps prepared by the board in the past had been rejected by voters at the town meetings. "I am encouraged by the enthusiasm shown here tonight, though," he added.

The question was repeatedly raised as to whether the town could prohibit the subdivision until such time as the maps were completed and a master plan devised to which Tracy replied that it would be illegal. Davis encouraged the

development of a master plan stating that such a plan would benefit the subdividers as well as the residents of Cornish.

Another complaint registered in Gallagher's circular concerned the appointment of members of the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment. It read, "The voters of Cornish elect four town officers and get fifteen! Is this representative and democratic?" It further stated that New Hampshire law only suggests that these officers be appointed and implied that an elected board would better serve the interests of the community.

Tracy replied that legal counsel had been consulted and that it would be illegal for such officials to be elected under existing laws but that future action might be taken.

The meeting concluded with a general consensus that plans to devise a master plan should be formulated to prevent action by future subdividers that may endanger the safety and comfort of the community.

# Cornish Specials

## Voters Defeat Plan To Elect Town's Planning Board

By JANE WHITTINGTON PICARD  
Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — Voters Saturday rejected a challenge to the town's system of appointing planning board members. By a vote of 114 to 39, they turned down a proposal to give voters the power to directly elect members of the board.

The special town meeting vote was taken by paper ballot after 40 minutes of floor debate.

Board members will continue to be appointed by the selectmen, as they have been since the body was established in 1972.

The question was brought before the voters in response to a petition signed by 65 of the town's residents, who said they would prefer to have an elected planning board. The petition drive was led by Sally Wellborn, Susan VanRenselaer, and Donna Higgins.

Wellborn said she was prompted to act because the town is preparing to revise its master plan, and because a survey distributed last winter by the planning board showed a majority of respondents were in favor of having an elected board. However, only a small percentage of the town's population completed and returned the survey.

Wellborn told Saturday's town hall gathering that she had no complaints against the present planning board, but was concerned with upholding the basic principles of democracy. "The voters of a town can directly elect people, or elect people who can appoint someone else," she said. "How much responsibility one can take depends on how much one can vote. Do we, the voters of the town, want future planning boards to be appointed by future selectmen, and

not really be exercising our constitutional right to vote?"

Resident Susan Chandler said present planning board members are not political beings, and probably would not run for the office. She said she is concerned that the only people interested in running for the planning board would be those allied with special interest groups. "We have a good organization," Chandler said. "Why throw it open to a system that might not work?"

Clara Weld, who served on the town's first planning board, said the selectmen and the planning board make up the two most powerful governing bodies in town, and asked voters to give serious thought to the issue before voting. "These two boards are so powerful and so important," said Weld, "I think it needs a great deal of thought about how they get to the positions which they hold."

The most heated exchanges during the debate had nothing to do with the planning board issue, but concerned the relative merit and expense of holding the special town meeting.

"How much does one of these out-of-step town meetings cost us?" asked resident Whit Littell.

Sally Wellborn said the cost of the last special town meeting was \$350, but others present said the cost can run as high as \$500.

Littell asked the petitioners why they didn't wait until the regular town meeting in March to present their petition, since they could have saved the taxpayers some money that way.

The answer came from Bo Rock, who signed the petition and opened Saturday's debate with

a motion to elect future planning board members. "The longer you delay democracy," said Rock, "the longer there is bureaucracy."

Resident Bob LeClair recommended that future petitions require signing by at least 10 percent of the town's voting population. "That way, we'd eliminate all these little town meetings," he said.

"This is not a little grievance," Wellborn responded. "The more we can vote directly, the more we can vote directly, the more it is democracy. Three hundred and fifty dollars is not very much to spend to preserve a democratic system."

Peter Burling stepped briefly out of his role as moderator to state his personal feeling, saying that every time a special town meeting is called, Cornish expends resources beyond just money. "We erode some of our traditions which is to meet once a year in March," he said. "Be thoughtful when you ask for a political decision on a question."

Burling, who has been moderator in Cornish for 12 years, later told the *Valley News* that there has been a drop in attendance at town meetings over the years, even though the number of registered voters has risen. He was especially bothered by the loss of people who were once committed to attending every town meeting, and who took pride in doing so, and thinks it is likely that people are unable or unwilling to attend special town meetings in addition to the annual March meetings.

Cornish has had a special town meeting every year for the past three years.



**HONORED** — Former Congressman James Cleveland was honored Saturday by the Saint-Gaudens Memorial trustees at their annual meeting at the site in Cornish. The presentation, made by Charles A. Platt, right, president of the board, included a print of the sculptor's major monument, the Shaw memorial in Boston, and photographs of the Cornish memorial by Thomas Palmer. Cleveland was in-

strumental in preparing the 1963 legislation which resulted in the transfer of the property and extensive collection of art works to the Department of Interior, the first such property to be included in the National Park System in honor of an American artist. At left is Cleveland and at center is Neil MacNeil, Time Magazine's Washington reporter. (Bertha Emond Photo)

Patent Trademark

Mt. Kisco, N.Y.  
7-17-85

## OBITUARIES

### Geoffrey Platt

Geoffrey Platt, noted architect and landmark preservationist, died Saturday at Northern Westchester Hospital Center after a brief illness. A resident of Bedford Hills, he would have been 80 on August 6.

He was born in Cornish, N.H., the son of Charles Adams and Eleanor Hardy Platt. Mr. Platt had been a partner with his brother in the New York City firm of William and Geoffrey Platt, Architects, and at the time of his death was a consultant to the successor firm of Platt, Wyckoff and Coles, Architects.

Among his works are buildings and additions he designed for Harvard University, Smith College, Princeton University, the New York Botanical Garden and the Pierpont Morgan Library. He also designed homes in New York and New England and the commemorative chapels honoring the dead of the two World Wars at the American Military Cemetery in Suresnes, France.

In Westchester County, he designed buildings for the Cisqua School, Mount Kisco; the Harvey School, Katonah; the Bedford-Rippowan School, Bedford; the Mount Kisco Presbyterian Church; the United Methodist Church, Mount Kisco; the Mount Kisco Library; the Rye City Hall; and branches of the National Bank of Westchester in Mount Kisco and Briarcliff.

Mr. Platt worked as a preservationist as a member of his firm and

as a private citizen. He designed the restoration of the Bow Bridge in Central Park and his firm oversaw the development and preservation of the Town of Grafton, Vermont, for the Windham Foundation. He served as the first chairman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission of New York City from 1965 to 1968.

He was graduated from the St. Mark's School, Southboro, Mass. and Harvard College before receiving his architectural degree from Columbia University in 1930. In 1980, Mr. Platt was inducted into the Harvard Varsity Club Hall of Fame which honored him for his leadership of the Crimson crew team which defeated Yale in 1927.

During World War II, Mr. Platt was a photo intelligence officer with the U.S. Air Force and served with the Eighth Air Force in England. He was later awarded the Order of the British Empire (Military).

Among the laurels granted for his professional achievements are the Gold Medal of the New York Municipal Art Society and the Medal of Honor for City Planning of the New York Societies of Architects, Engineers, and Landscape Architects. He was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

He leaves his wife of nine years, Alice Doubleday Holbrook Platt; a brother, Charles, of Cornish, N.H.; two sons, Nicholas and Geoffrey Jr., both of Washington, D.C.; four stepchildren, John Holbrook Jr. of New



Geoffrey Platt

York City, David Holbrook of Katonah, Phyllis Lichtenstein of New York City, and Peter Holbrook of San Francisco; and eight grandchildren and eight step-grandchildren. Mr. Platt's first wife, Helen Choate Platt, died in 1974.

The funeral services were held yesterday at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Mount Kisco. Burial followed in Stockbridge, Mass. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Penny Littell Fund, Hopkins School, 986 Forest Rd., New Haven, Conn. 06515; The New York Landmarks Conservancy, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y.; or St. Mark's Church, E. Main St., Mount Kisco, N.Y.

Arrangements were made by Clark Associates Funeral Home, Katonah.

# Poor Submits His Resignation As Cornish School Principal

CORNISH — Elementary School Principal Daniel A. Poor Thursday night submitted his resignation to the School Board effective at the end of the current school year.

Poor has been principal at the school for five years and in his letter of resignation said he hopes to remain in the field of education and continue to live in Cornish.

The board accepted the resignation with regret and expressed appreciation to Poor for his work at the school.

Poor, 32, graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from Harvard, a masters degree in elementary education from Boston University and studied for his doctorate in administration and curriculum at Boston.

In his letter to the board, Poor said, "I have appreciated the openness and candor of the board during its recent discussion with me about the aims of the school for the next

several years.

"I am pleased by and assured of the strength and solidarity of the board's commitment to excellence in the education of the youngsters of Cornish."

Poor said he has spoken to school officials in the area and expects to sign a contract in the educational field in the near future.

"I've enjoyed my years in Cornish and learned a great deal from the opportunities I've had here," Poor said.

He said he felt it was a time for a change for both the school and himself, and said he felt his professional career would be well-served by the position he is anticipating.

Poor noted the position had been, "Rewarding, frustrating and exhausting."

### Three Projects

In other action Thursday night, the School Board accepted bids for three school projects totalling approximately \$7,600.

The projects include tiling for three classrooms and kitchen, storm windows and formica countertops.

The board also discussed the purchase of approximately \$4,000 worth of classroom furniture including chairs for classrooms, science tables and reading tables, but made no decision.

The board also appointed several people to the committee to study goals and accountability for the district, including Jill M. Edson representing the School Board, four teachers and PTA representative Paul Rondeau.

Assistant Superintendent Richard F. Waldo said the committee wants further representation from community groups, and asked that any persons interested contact either himself or a board member.

Waldo also said any persons wishing work on the school census should see him.



Bruce Posner, a film preservationist, is putting together the film series showing at the Howe Library in Hanover.

VALLEY NEWS — JEN

Bruce Posner

Valley News Thursday, October 17,

## Cornish Man Screens Avant-Garde Film

By NICOLA SMITH  
Valley News Staff Writer

In the frequently mundane waters of contemporary film, curator, collector and filmmaker Bruce Posner is wimming against the current. Posner, who recently moved to Cornish after a five-year stint as assistant to the curator of the Harvard Film Archive, is an impassioned supporter and student of avant-garde film. And now it's his attention to introduce the works of such noted, but little known, American filmmakers as Kenneth Anger, Rudy Burckhardt and Maya Deren, and European artists Chris Marker and Peter Greenaway, to a general audience.

To that end, Posner has organized a series — "Ciné Salon: Impressions on the Art of the Cinematograph" — that is being shown every other Monday through Dec. 9 at the Howe Library in Hanover. Posner will both screen films and indulge, as he terms it, in "digressions" on the history of

cinema," says Posner, who's lived off-and-on in the Upper Valley since 1976, but decided last year to move here permanently with his wife. Posner, whose duties at Harvard involved programming and publicizing some 800 different programs each year, prefers a less-structured, more casual approach with "Ciné-Salon."

The next program in the series, "Images for All Hallow's Eve," which will be screened Monday evening, Oct. 21, at 7:30 p.m., is notable not only for a 1906 French hand-painted film, *The Red Spectre*, but for an extremely rare three-minute film titled *Midnight Party*, by one of this country's most idiosyncratic and brilliant artists, Joseph Cornell — an artist better known for his shadow-boxes than for his experimentation with film.

Closing the program are two famous films by Kenneth Anger (*Hollywood Babylon*), *Eaux d'Artifice* and *Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome*.

will include *Death in the Seine* by English gadfly Peter Greenaway (*The Cook, the Thief, His Wife & Her Lover*), *The Private Life of a Cat* by Alexander Hammid and Maya Deren — a relatively straightforward portrait of Deren's beloved cat that was banned in 1946 for the innocuous reason that it showed her cat having kittens — and *The Last Bolshevik* by French filmmaker Chris Marker (whose film *Twelve Monkeys* was adapted last year by director Terry Gilliam into a Hollywood film). The Nov. 4 program, which includes the Deren film, focuses on the "Pre-Beat Poetics of Cinema."

"The Beats (Jack Kerouac, Alan Ginsberg, et al.) would have seen these films and been influenced by them," says Posner. "There was so little that broke away from the everyday that everybody saw these films. You were wired in. These films were widely seen at the time and were widely influential. They're more lyrical, nostalgic."

As a college student, Posner had no

film, but a class with Stan Braaten at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago "opened up a whole world for him. Fascinated by the weird material — erotic, subversive, ironic and otherwise — found in native film, Posner quickly rebelled against the medium's most obvious problem: the size and expectation of an audience weaned on Hollywood fare.

"So I realized that the only way to see these films was to show them myself," says Posner, who's been doing just that for nearly three decades. And as a collector himself, the films being screened are from his own collection — this series is his "way of sharing."

"Ciné Salon: Impressions on the Art of the Cinematograph" will be screened Monday, Oct. 21; another following Monday: on Nov. 18 and Dec. 9. All screenings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Room of the Howe Library in Hanover. For more information, call the library at (603) 643-4120.



The new ...

## Cornish gets new post office

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer  
CORNISH, N.H. —

Those using the Cornish Flat Post Office will soon find themselves visiting a new building, one that will even allow room for a quick visit with neighbors, if they wish.

Since 1987, when Joanne Hall was awarded the postmaster position for the Cornish facility, she has been working to acquire much-needed space and improved working conditions.

Currently, the actual space where all mail is sorted is only 35 inches wide.

Several years ago, the United States Postal Service tried to find a location to construct a new post office building and was unsuccessful. It was finally decided to advertise for bids in August 1991 for a building, located on private land, which would be constructed to specifications.

Among five bidders, George Edson was granted the opportunity to construct a building, which will be leased by the Postal Service.

The building, which has 1,500 square feet of space, has been constructed on Route 120 and adjacent to School Street by Normand Beaudry of Charlestown.

The new location will allow Cornish Flat residents to continue to walk to pick up their mail, as they have in the past. It will even be a little bit closer to 91-year-old Martin Downing's



*Eagle Times May 11, 1992*  
son Darrell to pick up his mail twice weekly, then walks the two miles back to his home.

The new building, which is 32-feet-by-50-feet in size, will offer both customers and workers a comfortable situation, compared to the present post office space of 9½ by 14½ feet, which is located on the porch of a small home on Cornish Stage Road.

The building will also have a 10-foot-by-16-foot loading dock. Now, all mail bags are brought into the facility through the small lobby, which is difficult, even if only one person is picking up mail.

The outer lobby of the

### ... and the old

combination locks now used, and a large writing table will be available. An inner lobby will provide window service.

"The work area will have new equipment to make working conditions better," said Hall. There is also storage and bathroom space, which is unavailable presently.

The office will include more large mailboxes, where only four are available now.

"The hours will stay exactly as they are, the lobby will be open 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with service available from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.," said

ing spaces and is handicapped accessible. Entrance will be from Route 120.

The size of the new post office was determined by projecting use for the next 30 years.

Hall started her career in the Postal Service in 1974 when she became a clerk in a Level 15 office in Boulder, Mont., where she later became a postmaster.

When she moved to Claremont in 1981, she joined the Claremont staff as a part-time flexible city carrier until February 1987, when she was chosen from three final candidates to take over the Cornish Flat Post Office, upon the retirement of Ruth



**HISTORIC FIND** — James Atkinson holds a 1799 powder horn owned by Lebbeus Chase of Cornish. It was recently purchased by Atkinson at an auction. (Ruth Rollins photo)

# A piece of Cornish history

## Local man finds 1799 powder horn at auction

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — When James Atkinson, president of the Cornish Historical Society, read of a powder horn being auctioned off at Bill Smith's Auction House in Plainfield, he decided to go take a look.

Atkinson won the bidding and brought back a piece of Cornish history that was owned by Lebbeus Chase, whose family had a lot to do with settling the town.

The powder horn is marked Lebbeus Chase, Cornish, N.H. 1799. Lebbeus Chase was born January 21, 1779, and was named after one of the 12 apostles, Lebbeus, who's surname was Thaddeus (Matthew, chapter 10, third verse). He was the ninth child of Jonathan Chase.

He was a farmer and always lived in Cornish, on the farm inherited from his father. He was commissioned a colonel in the 15th Regiment of New Hampshire Militia. Lebbeus Chase was made a Master Mason of Hiram Lodge at Claremont, on June 4, 1800. He died February 22, 1865, in the same house in which he was born.

*The powder horn is marked Lebbeus Chase, Cornish, N.H. 1799. Lebbeus Chase, whose family had a lot to do with settling the town, was born January 21, 1779, the ninth child of Jonathan Chase. He was a farmer and always lived in Cornish, on the farm inherited from his father.*

Jonathan Chase was born December 6, 1732 in Sutton, Massachusetts, moving north to Cornish in 1765 when the town was settled. He became a land proprietor, farmer and surveyor.

He was the first person to open a store in Cornish and kept the first inn, which was where the first Cornish Town meeting took place. He also had the first Cornish sawmill and first gristmill in town.

He served a nine year period as selectman and three years

each as town treasurer and moderator.

He organized a militia, drawing men from Cornish and surrounding areas. In 1775 his outstanding leadership qualities resulted in his being commissioned a colonel of the territorial regiment, that included Hanover, Lyme, Orford, Lebanon, Plainfield and Cornish.

In the fall of 1776 he marched with his regiment to reinforce the troops at Fort Ticonderoga. He again marched to reinforce the northern Continental Army at Saratoga in 1777, a distance of 110 miles that was covered on foot, in only three days.

Jonathan Chase was instrumental in opening new highways in Cornish and responsible for establishing the first ferry to cross the Connecticut River, which operated from 1784 to 1795. It was found to work well in summer, but not during winter months so Chase again went to Concord, to appear before the General Court requesting to build a toll bridge.

The trip was successful and

(See HISTORY - Pg. 6)

Chase was the first justice of the peace in town and called the first town meeting. He was the first moderator and the first selectman. He was also one of the judges of Cheshire County (which included all of what is now known as Sullivan County).

In 1777, at the age of 70 he was among those who marched to Saratoga and Bennington in his son's regiment. He died on August 12, 1800 and is also buried in the Trinity Church Cemetery.

Atkinson is the president of the Cornish Historical Society, following in the footsteps of Virginia Colby, who was the society's president for 20 years. He co-authored "Footprints of the Past" with Colby, which depicts images of the past, with much emphasis put on the Cornish Colony. The publication is still available.

Atkinson was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1934. He moved to Cornish in 1989 where he transferred his interest in the literature of European Renaissance to the art of American Renaissance.

He has taught English and Comparative Literature at Dartmouth College, Earlham

he established the Proprietors of the Cornish Bridge, becoming its first president. Shares were sold at \$16.67 each, with Chase holding 40 of them. The first bridge was constructed in 1796 at the cost of \$17,099.27.

Jonathan Chase was appointed brigadier general in 1788. He served on the staffs of Governors Langdon and Pickering. He died Jan. 12th, 1800 and is buried in the Trinity Church Cemetery, in Cornish.

Lebbeus Chase's grandfather was Samuel Chase, commonly known as "Judge Chase." He was born September 28, 1707. He was one of the first original Chase families to move to Cornish. He made large purchases of land shortly after the charter for Cornish was granted on June 21, 1763.

His son Dudley and son-in-law Daniel Putnam, were two of the first men to bring workmen, up the river in a canoe, to make a settlement. The first clearing was located in the northwest part of Cornish, on property where Donald and Vera MacLeay now reside.



In first battle at Bull Run he was in the thickest of the action, but escaped without injury.— When his services were asked to take the command of a regiment from his native State his heart filled with pleasure, but he modestly stated that he thought himself too young for the responsible position. Upon being further urged he consented to the proposition, and with the permission of the War Department hastened to the "Granite State," where a thousand brave men welcomed the young commander with great enthusiasm. His regiment, which had been raised by Lieut. Col. Joseph C. Abbott of Manchester, was soon brought into the highest condition of discipline, and on the 14th of January, 1862, Col. Putnam departed with his noble command for the seat of war. During the first year of its service this regiment was stationed at Fort Jefferson, on Tortugas Island. Since then the command has been located at St. Augustine, Florida, Port Royal, S. C., and in the vicinity of Charleston. Though not engaging in any important action until the late assault upon Fort Wagner, Col. Putnam's forces were engaged in many skirmishes and expeditions, where, under their gallant leader, they never failed to be successful.

The most intimate of Col. Putnam's classmates was Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, son of Gen. Robert E. Lee, and a well known officer in the rebel army. That intimacy was never broken until the commencement of the war. At the time of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee's marriage Col. Putnam was in the West, yet he procured a furlough of several months and repaired to Virginia, where he witnessed the imposing nuptials. Just before actual hostilities commenced the deceased officer received his last letter from young Gen. Lee, in which the letter stated that he was disheartened and discouraged and hardly knew what course to take. "I want to stand by my country," he said, "but yet I believe the South has been wronged. I don't know what will become of me." Col. Putnam answered the communication and implored his old and long cherished friend and classmate to oppose the principle of secession and to stand up for his country and her flag. This was the last of their correspondence. For the past four or five months Col. Putnam had been an acting Brigadier General, and was fighting in that command when he fell on Morris Island.— His forces consisted of the Seventh New Hampshire Volunteers and several other regiments.— In the death of this officer the Union army loses

one of its best and bravest commanders. He will

one of his descriptions of a certain individual  
be mourned as one who united with the highest  
military talent a pure and spotless character and  
the most enduring qualities of head and heart.—  
In religious connections he was an Episcopalian,  
and in none of the eventful scenes of his life did  
he ever forget the religious teachings of his youth.

The recollection of his pure life and heroic  
death will ever be sacredly cherished by a large  
circle of kindred and friends, as well as by thou-  
sands of soldiers who have in his command, while  
a grateful nation will embalm his memory in her  
deepest and boliest affections.—[Journal.

from Paul Queneau  
Barb Rd., Cornish, N.H.



The Award for Personal Achievement in Chemical Engineering goes to a metallurgical engineer who has contributed greatly to chemical-process technology through his work in industry, academia, and the military. Holding 33 U.S. and some 500 international patents in chemical metallurgy, he has authored, coauthored or

edited 50 publications. He served in the U.S. Army from the Normandy beachhead to across the Rhine, and in the Arctic.

Earning B.A., B.Sc. and E.M. degrees at Columbia University, he studied as an Evans Fellow at Cambridge University (Cambridge, England) and earned a D.Sc. degree at Delft University of Technology (Delft, Netherlands). He worked at International Nickel Co. (Copper Cliff, Ont.) for 35 years, during the later years as chief technical officer. In 1971 he began his career as an Ivy League professor, and in 1981 he was elected

# CE SALUTES AN EXCEPTIONAL ENGINEER

An outstanding technologist, educator and patriot receives our Personal Achievement Award

**P**rometallurgy would have been different today if Paul Queneau had chosen a different career path. Much of modern practice is indebted to his leadership in pioneering revolutionary technology in metals production. The process and reactor innovations of his research and development teams bear the hallmark of decreased capital and operating costs, and increased conservation of metal, energy and the environment.

At the International Nickel Co. (INCO), Queneau captained the conception, piloting, reactor design and application of industrial processes for more-efficient and environmentally protective extraction of copper, nickel,

cobalt, iron and associated elements from their ores and concentrates. These include the following processes:

- Oxygen flash smelting and oxygen converting of copper and nickel sulfides
- Oxidation-reduction roasting, ammonia leaching and iron-ore pelletizing of nickeliferous pyrrhotite
- Selective reduction-sulfide smelting of oxide-nickel ores
- Atmospheric-pressure carbonyl refining of nickel in rotary kilns
- Nickel, cobalt and iron isolation from complex metallics via elevated pressure carbonylation

Perhaps the least-known of these innovations to *CE* readers, but one of great importance to the chemical process industries (CPI), is the circu-

to the National Academy of Engineering.

This year's winner was one of several nominees named by our readers in response to an announcement last February. A panel of six distinguished engineers (below) chose the winner.

Given biennially since 1968<sup>1</sup>, this Award is recognized as a prime means for drawing attention to the accomplishments of topflight engineers, and thereby to the stature and importance of chemical-process activity as a whole.

We suggest that you begin thinking now about a person to nominate for our 1998 Award. □

<sup>1</sup>It is given in years alternate to those of our Kirkpatrick Chemical Engineering Achievement Award, which recognizes a company (rather than an individual) for a specific achievement in chemical engineering technology. Look in our upcoming February issue for preliminary nomination details concerning the 1997 Kirkpatrick Award.

#### THE JUDGES

**Charles Barron,**  
*Clemson University*

**John Prausnitz,**  
*University of California*

**Ronald Rousseau,**  
*Georgia Institute of  
Technology*

**Eugene Cilento,**  
*West Virginia University*

**Gintaras Reklaitis,**  
*Purdue University*

**Jacques Zakin,**  
*Ohio State University*



lating fluid-bed reactor, which was invented and commercialized for pyrrhotite roasting by a joint INCO-Lurgi team in 1956.

#### Using oxygen for production

Longtime *CE* readers, however, will be undoubtedly familiar with Queneau's contributions to oxygen pyrometallurgy. He is rightfully known as the father of nonferrous oxygen technology.

In December 1945, intensive laboratory and pilot-plant R&D on the oxygen flash smelting of sulfide concentrates was initiated by INCO at Copper Cliff, Ont. Queneau's team established excellent validating metallurgical and economic databases in June 1947.

But the high cost and general unavailability of tonnage oxygen was a barrier to implementation of the process. This obstacle was hurdled with a 300-ton/d oxygen plant constructed onsite by Air Liquide (Paris), which allowed INCO's commercial oxygen reactor for copper concentrate to start up successfully in 1952.

This energy-efficient, environmentally friendly plant marked the begin-

ning of pyrometallurgy's ensuing intensive use of oxygen. Such later developments as the oxygen steel converter could not have been conceived without INCO's groundbreaking production of tonnage oxygen on a massive scale.

Queneau's many subsequent contributions to extractive metallurgy are detailed in numerous *CE* articles [1-12]. The most prominent of these was INCO's technology for nickel extraction, which won a Kirkpatrick Honorable Mention more than two decades ago [1].

Of Queneau's work during the past 25 years, particularly noteworthy is his 1972-1986 collaboration with Professor Reinhardt Schuhmann of Purdue U. (W. Lafayette, Ind.) to create a better pyrometallurgical reactor. The result is a closed, countercurrent, reaction-channel converter that breathes oxygen and is designed for continuous direct-metal production from sulfide flotation concentrates (e.g., chalcopyrite and galena).

The Q-S continuous oxygen converter is more efficient than conventional operations for copper, nickel and lead production in terms of energy

consumption, metal loss and pollution. It permits economic production of metal of low iron content, slag of low product-metal content and gas of high sulfur-dioxide content, all in one continuously operating reactor. Commercially successful Queneau-Schuhmann-Lurgi (QSL) lead converters are now operating in Germany, South Korea and China.

#### A truly diverse background

Queneau is a past visiting professor at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, Minn.) and the University of Utah (Salt Lake City, Utah). He has served as president of the Metallurgical Soc. (AIME) and as a Chairman of the Engineering Foundation.

A graduate of the U.S. Army Engineer School and Command and General Staff College, he rose from second lieutenant to colonel of engineers. Queneau has a World War II Bronze Star, Commendation Medal and ETO Ribbon with five Battle Stars. In addition, he served in the High Arctic after war's end.

Now a professor emeritus of Dartmouth College's Thayer School of Engineering, Queneau brings a rich and varied experience to academia. Never one to rest on his laurels, he is presently working with Lurgi on continuous steelmaking, with one patent granted and others pending. ■

*Edited by Irene Kim*

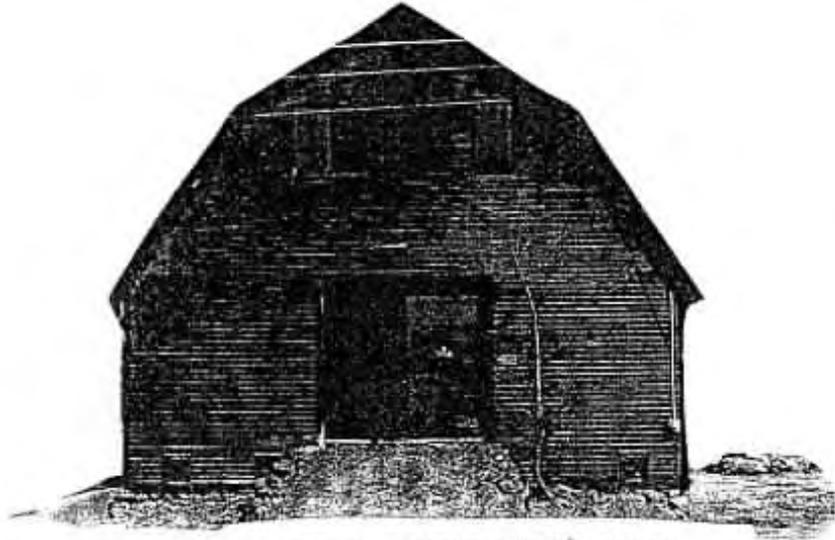
#### References (all are *CE*)

- Shortened route to pure nickel, November 24, 1975, p. 54.
- Nickel reduced directly in rotary converter (Process technology), January 21, 1974, p. 86.
- Nonferrous metals and the chemical engineer, Part III (Coppers), December 19, 1966, p. 109.
- New processes focus interest on oxygen (News feature), February 26, 1968, p. 90.
- Nonferrous metals and the chemical engineer, Part II (Nickel) and magnesium, December 5, 1966, p. 143.
- Search is on for clean ways to produce nonferrous metals (News feature), January 12, 1981, p. 57.
- Continuing lead-smelting trade seeks buyers (Process technology), November 28, 1983, p. 38.
- An advanced-technology "QSL" lead smelter will be built in China (Chementator), March 18, 1985, p. 38.
- Another vote for a low-emissions lead smelter (Chementator), March 1991, p. 19.
- Novel lead-smelting process promises lower costs, and environmental benefits (Chementator), July 28, 1980, p. 9.
- New lustre in metals processing (News), April 1990, p. 55.
- Copper routes assessed in economics report, April 8, 1981, p. 37.

**MATERIAL FOR ELMHURST BARN AND CREA BARN**

**HAVE BEEN LINKED TOGETHER**

## The "Elmhurst" Barn History From Marie Stevens



Elmhurst Barn, photographed in 1999

The Cornish Recreation-Education Area (CREA) Barn, "Elmhurst", was built in 1912 by William Deming Dow on the old family farm known as the William Deming homestead which originated in the late eighteenth century and was listed on Cornish's first "Partitioning of Lots" in 1800.

William Deming came to Cornish with his father, Ebenezer, from Pomfret, Connecticut. The exact date is not known, but early records indicate that in 1779 Ebenezer was a Selectman and that same year William graduated from Dartmouth College. Baker Library's Book of Alumni Sketches says he settled in Cornish as a farmer and was a landlord there for many years. Additionally, William served the town in many capacities including Selectman and Town Moderator. Child's History of Cornish adds that he was a man of acknowledged ability and influence, and Hugh Mason Wade's Brief History of Cornish notes that he was chosen by petition to be the second Justice of the Peace in 1781 – the first was Samuel Chase.

William Deming married Sarah Hall, granddaughter of the Rev. David Hall of Sutton, Massachusetts, and niece of Sarah Hall Chase (Mrs. Jonathan Chase). They had nine children; the first was born in 1791.

After William Deming died in 1833, his sons continued to work the 190-acre farm, but by 1843 only William Sumner Deming remained. He was a successful farmer and a Captain in the New Hampshire Militia. Following the family tradition, he served the community as Selectman and in various capacities including Representative in the New Hampshire Legislature in 1837 and 1838. His second wife was Eliza Dow of Plainfield. After his death in 1859 her brother, Lucius Dow, helped her run the farm. Lucius and his family soon moved in, and in 1871 his sister deeded the farm to him. Since Lucius had named his oldest son for William Deming, it was appropriate that after his death this namesake should become owner of the homestead.

William Deming Dow had spent time in California but returned home before his father's death in 1892. Later that year he married Nora Crosby of Croyden, settled into a farmer's life and raised four children. It seems to have been a happy life according to their frequent appearances in the Cornish section of the Vermont Journal. The following 1912 article is of particular interest:

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Dow dedicated their new barn Friday evening, July 5, by inviting their neighbors and friends to a barn dance. There was a large attendance, friends being present from all of the neighboring towns, over 100 in all. Barton and Ford Kinsman furnished music. Refreshments were served, and all enjoyed the occasion.

Vermont Journal  
July 12, 1912

Hattie Dow Brown, the last Dow to own the property, sold it in 1941.

# **HELP PRESERVE THE CREA BARN**



**The Cornish Recreation and Education  
Area Barn Committee**

In the spring of 2001, the Town of Cornish was chosen as one of the winners in the Historic Barn (Assessment) Grant Program which covers the costs of a comprehensive assessment of the barn's needs by an approved barn contractor. The program is administered by the NH Preservation Alliance in conjunction with the NH Division of Historical Resources.



At this time, when the Connecticut River Valley is trying to retain what is left of its past, we feel it extremely important to do our part in trying to restore and preserve the barn for our present and future generations. Its continued presence will be a tangible example of barn building in the mid-to late 19th and early 20th century.



Additionally, after restoration the barn could open its doors to various school and recreational activities, whether for organizational gatherings - Boy Scouts, 4-H Club, Outing Clubs, Astronomy Club - or as a shelter, warm-up spot for winter sports, athletic events, nature studies, and many more.

"We consider the Elmhurst barn to be an extremely important example of the gambrel-roofed, high drive type...Barns (and agriculture) are critical parts of the New Hampshire landscape...The Elmhurst Barn offers exciting possibilities for the town. Its reuse will assure that a key component of our history and identity will endure." *Nancy C. Muller, Director State Historic Preservation, NH Division of Historical Resources.*



"This structure is particularly notable for its relationship to the surrounding landscape...Once a building is demolished, it's gone." *Judy L. Hayward, Historic Windsor Executive Director*



#### A Bit of History:

Elmhurst was built in 1912 by William Deming Dow on the site of an older barn on the original William Deming Farm, which was listed in the town records in 1785. The 190 acre farm remained active and expanded over the years but stayed in the Deming/Dow family until 1941.

Since then, the barn has passed through a number of families until 1983, when it was acquired by the Town of Cornish for CREA property.

#### Former Owners of the Barn:

- 1941-Donald and Edith Fulmer
- 1951-James and Marie Ferguson
- 1952-Randall and Carroll Kenyon
- 1968-Anne Davidson
- 1983-Cornish Recreation and Education Area



"Mr. And Mrs. W.D. Dow dedicated their new barn Friday evening, July 5, by inviting their neighbors and friends to a barn dance. There was a large attendance, friends being present from all of the neighboring towns. Over 100 in all. Barton and Ford Kinsman furnished music. Refreshments were served and all enjoyed the occasion."

*Article in the VERMONT JOURNAL, July 12, 1912*





**CABIN QUILT** — A log cabin barn raising-designed quilt was presented to Marie Stevens, a member of the committee working to preserve the 1912 Elmhurst Barn. Stevens stands with quilters Mauri Hodgeman, Colleen O'Neill and Kay Wegner. (Ruth Rollins photo)

CREA Barn, Quilting

# Cornish Quilters donate quilt to raise money to preserve 1912 barn

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

*Eagle Times*  
Aug 21, 2001

**CORNISH** — The Cornish Quilters, a group of ladies who all have the same interest in quilting, recently donated a quilt with a log cabin pattern to be raffled by a committee interested in restoring an old Cornish barn.

The Elmhurst Barn is located on the Cornish Recreation-Education Area, which is bordered by South Parsonage and Townhouse Roads. It's an area that includes both soccer and softball fields and is used for hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and nature studies and is also used for overnight camping by Scout groups and other school activities.

The barn was built in 1912 by William Deming Dow on the old Deming Homestead, which originated in the late eighteenth century and was listed on Cornish's first "Partitioning of Lots" in 1800.

The *Vermont Journal* wrote in July 12, 1912: "Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Dow dedicated their new barn Friday evening, July 5th, 1912, by inviting their neighbors and friends to a barn dance. There was a large attendance, friends being present from all of the neighboring towns, over 100 in all. Barton and Ford Kinsman furnished music. Refreshments were served and all enjoyed the occasion."

Hattie Dow Brown, the last Dow to own the property, sold it in 1941. In 1959, while owned by the Kenyon family, the barn became the home of the Whitcomb Lobster Company. The company was started by Mrs. Randall Kenyon's father, Willard Whitcomb, who had devised a way of making lobster traps in a knockdown form. Margaret and Randall Kenyon continued to operate the business for a time after her father's death in 1962.

Following the closing of the lobster trap business in 1985, the barn has only been used to store hay and various items. Parts of the old Cornish Jail were housed there for some time.

A group of residents have been raising funds to restore the barn for several years. They believe that the barn can become a focal point for enhancing the recreational and educational activities for which the area was intended.

"The committee working on its preservation hopes it can be restored to hold exhibits with information which would allow school children learn about the history and evolution of barns and farming in New Hampshire and Vermont," said Marie Stevens, the committee member who has researched the barn's rich history and is spearheading this project.

Judy Hayward, executive director of Historic Windsor Inc., said "the barn is a great example of a gambrel roof barn. Its design documents the era in American agriculture when high drives were installed to make hay storage via wagon delivery easy, by using openings in the floor to feed cattle in stalls or stanchions on the floor below hay storage."

Nancy Muller Dutton, director of New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, also considered the barn to be an extremely important example of the gambrel-roofed, high drive type and wrote that "barns (and agriculture) are critical parts of the New Hampshire landscape. The Elmhurst Barn offers exciting possibilities for the town. Its reuse will assure that a key component of our history and identity will endure."

The committee has proposed raising funds to preserve and restore the barn without raising taxes. It recently received a \$500 Mini Grant from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, which Stevens said will be used to have an appraisal of just what it would take to restore the structure.

The quilt is on display at the town office. It will be on display, with raffle tickets available, in the Adult Art Department of the Cornish Fair, which will be located in the Old Cornish Town Hall on August 17-19.

# Barn Raising, Barn Saving

CREA Barn

## Community Effort Preserves Historic Farm Building

By TOM BLINKHORN

Valley News Correspondent

**A**TTERED, FADED RED BARN, almost a hundred years old, is being rescued from oblivion by a group of community volunteers who believe they are saving a distinctive piece of Cornish and New Hampshire heritage.

The Elmhurst barn on South Parsonage Road in the Fish Recreation and Educational Area, a 40-by-60-foot wooden structure overlooking open fields and wetlands, was built in 1912, when William Ward Taft was president. In keeping with tradition of the times, a barn dance marked the official dedication on July 5 of that year. More than 100 dancers and friends of William Deming Dow, the barn's original owner, attended.

Nearly a century later, the old red barn was headed for the scrap heap or the ash pile. "We were considering whether to tear it down or let the fire department use it for a practice burn," said Bill Gallagher, a Cornish selectboard member. "A group of interested people persuaded us that it was important to try to save it historically."

Now they have the papers to prove its value. The barn, according to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, is an "extremely important example of the gambrel-roofed, high drive" design common among late 19th- and early 20th-century barns in the Upper Connecticut River Valley. It was recently designated as eligible for listing in the state's register of historical places.

Originally, the barn was used to house livestock and hay and feed on a farm that once covered about 200 acres and traces its history to the late 1700s.

In the 1950s, the structure was used for the production of lobster traps. Subsequently, the building and 76 adjoining acres of meadow, wetland and forest were purchased by the town of Cornish. The barn fell into disuse and decay.

Marie Stevens, wife of a retired Dartmouth language professor, spearheaded the "save the barn" volunteer effort. The Stevens live across the road from the barn. "I got started on the project about 1985," Stevens recalled in an interview. She organized the original group of volunteers and also researched the barn's his-



Retiree Don Snowden of Cornish writes down measurements on a piece of scrapwood.

tory and ownership over the years, compiling an impressive collection of newspaper clippings, official communications and photographs that she organized carefully in piles on her dining room table.

"I never thought of myself as a historian, but I love the work," she said. "There were quite a few skeptics in the community at first and we had to convince them that this was a worthwhile project. One of our selling points was that we volunteers would raise the necessary funds to repair the barn without raising taxes."

The group launched a series of fund-raising events — square dances, barn days and special auctions. Anonymous donors contributed money. To date,



Organizers expect to complete the barn restoration in two years.

Valley News July 30, 2005

**"I have become so involved my wife calls herself a 'barn widow.'"**

Don Snowden of Cornish, volunteer on the barn restoration project

almost \$40,000 has been raised toward a goal of \$60,000. As interest grew, more volunteers pitched in.

One of the leading volunteers, Don Snowden of Cornish, a retired facilities manager for a Claremont company, said about 25 area residents are involved in various aspects of the project — helping raise money, contributing logs and timber, milling beams and floorboards, doing stone work and construction.

"We got started in earnest last January," Snowden said. "The first task was hacking away the thick brush that had grown up around the foundation, removing decaying wood, cleaning the site. The barn had become home to pigeons, swallows and at least one rattlesnake. We volunteers worked in two shifts, one in the morning, the other afternoons. I have become so involved my wife calls herself a 'barn widow.'"

The restoration strategy involves distinct phases of work. In the first two stages, Snowden explained, the objective is to establish a reliable drainage system around the structure, stabilize the foundation, which involves jacking up the barn almost a foot and replacing key load-bearing beams, and reinforcing the roof.

The volunteers hired an experienced timber framer, Richard Thompson of Cornish, who owns Sunrise Woodworks, to make sure the work is done correctly. Thompson has helped restore about 12 historic barns around New Hampshire.

"The challenge is to preserve as much of the original structure as possible without breaking the bank," Snowden said.

This challenge faces many communities throughout New Hampshire, according to Carl Schmidt of Orford, chairman of the state Historic Agricultural Structures Advisory committee. The committee was established in 1999 to assist owners in preserving historic farm buildings, including barns. It works closely with the New Hampshire Preser-

See BARN—

# KATHRYN MARIE STEVENS

Marie  
Stevens

**CORNISH, N.H.** — Kathryn M. Stevens, age 88, known by family and friends as "Marie", died under the full moon in the early hours of Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2016, at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Hospital, after suffering a tragic fall and severe stroke.



Kathryn Stevens

Marie was born on Oct. 20, 1927, at home in Colrain, Mass. to Catherine Lane Shippee and Amasa Darling Shippee. She is a graduate of Arms Academy, class of '44. Coming from a talented musical family, Marie was a gifted singer, singing on the radio as a child, and, later as a teenager she made recordings with several band orchestras.

Marie met her husband just after WWII while singing with a big band orchestra. He had just returned from intense Army Infantry combat in Western Europe, including D-Day & Battle of the Bulge. Fresh from the war he decided to resume his prewar possible career as an alto sax/clarinetist. Like Marie, his family was full of talented musicians, and, he had a Boston big band leader as a father, Perley Stevens.

On Feb. 26, 1948, Marie married her husband, then Sgt. Alanson P. Stevens III, of Boston, Mass. They were married at the 82nd Airborne Chapel, Fort Bragg, N.C. After a few parachute "close calls," and a baby on the way, they decided to leave, "The 82nd," and move to Hanover, N.H., where husband, Al, entered Dartmouth as a freshman on the G.I. bill. They began their family there, and forever had very fond memories of Hanover.

Four years later, they moved on to Yale graduate school in New Haven, Conn., with four children, and, a few years later moved to Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., with their fifth child. Her husband, Al, had been offered a position teaching Russian & German, at the

Academy.

Marie was recruited to become the Secretary to the Academy and to assist the director of foundations with fundraising. She later chose to be closely involved with the phenomenal music department at Phillips Academy, and, transitioned to become assistant the chairman of the

music department. She enjoyed every minute of her time spent with the music department until the day they moved away. In many ways, it truly fulfilled her love of music.

Marie and her husband both retired from Phillips Academy Andover in June of 1986, when they returned back to their favorite area of the country near Dartmouth College. They found a beautiful antique (1780s) home in Cornish, where they lived most happily for 31 years, creating a world of wonderful memories.

Marie continued to use her organizational skills as VP of the Cornish Historical Society for several years. She was instrumental in saving and restoring the 1912 Elmhurst Barn on the Cornish Recreational Property. It is known as, The CREA Barn. Marie would have loved to know that the historic, "CREA Barn," would always be maintained for future generations to enjoy and use for recreational/educational purposes.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to The CREA Barn Fund, at the Cornish Town Hall, Cornish, NH, 03745.

Marie is survived by her husband and four of her children; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A private family service was held.

She is missed dearly by her family and friends. Her honest, direct but gentle manner, and, her lovely smile and singing around the horn will remain in our hearts forever



Myron Quimby likes doing puzzles at his home in Cornish.

# Myron Quimby Of Cornish

## The Family Farm

By JANE WHITTINGTON PICARD  
Valley News Correspondent  
CORNISH — Myron Quimby's family has lived on East Road in Cornish for over a hundred years; he has lived there himself since just a few months after his birth in 1901.  
The white farmhouse where Quimby was raised, and where he now lives alone, was built by his grandfather, an agricultural and dairy farmer. Quimby brought his bride, Charlotte Coldburn, to the farm in 1931, and they raised three children there. Charlotte died 22 years ago, and his children have all moved away, but Quimby still stays. "It's my home," he says. "That's why I'm hanging on it to."  
At 84, Quimby continues to work his land, growing and selling native blueberries that are, he says, much

sweeter than cultivated berries, pretty tough to grow, and "the only ones in Cornish that I know of."  
He recalls the Cornish of his youth as a far more self-reliant, working town, with lots of open, cultivated land. There was a 28-room inn with an attached store in Cornish Flat; there were grist and saw mills, a paint shop, and a factory where they made buggies. There were probably more people living in Cornish during the early 1900s than there are now.  
The Cornish inn and store burned down in 1927, the water-powered mills gradually became outmoded, and people began slowly to move away. These days, most people work out of town, and there's not a great deal of activity in Cornish.  
Quimby has fond memories of the Cornish Art Colony, which was well-populated during his boyhood. "They established a city colony over in the west part of town," he says. "New York City people spent the summers there, but they didn't push themselves on native people. It was a very, very separate place that distinguished Cornish from any other town, in New Hampshire and Vermont anyway."

Quimby, who served as a selectman for 22 years, isn't quite as pleased with some of the "city people" who have settled in Cornish more recently. "They come in here, and they're dissatisfied. They want better roads in their places; they want special care of the roads in the winter. They want it plowed immediately after it starts to snow!"

Prior to the 1930s, the snow was never actually plowed away. "The snow-roller came out, which was usually driven by a four-horse team

and that just packed the snow down."  
By the end of the season there might be four to five feet of solid-packed snow on the roads. Horses transported people in sleighs rather than wagons, and folks who did own cars put them up on blocks for the winter. When the weather turned warm, and the snow softened, it could get pretty messy. "In the spring of the year," laughs Quimby, "we wanted to stay home most of the time."  
There was once an excellent view of the mountains from the Quimby farm, but tall trees have replaced the expanses of pasture land Myron Quimby loved; the best you can see now is one mountain top on a clear day.  
"My wife said she'd sell when she couldn't see the mountains from the house, but the hurricane of '38 cleared it back for a while," so she stayed.  
And so does he.

# The Wrong Side Of The Tr

## Developers Lose On Size Of Lot, Rail Crossings

By ERIC LIPTON

Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — When George Carroll of Concord and his partner bought land along the Connecticut River in May 1987, they thought building five homes there would be a simple matter.

The land is separated from Route 12A by Central Vermont Railway's track, but for years farmers growing corn and hay have used an unsignaled track crossing on the land. Before Carroll and partner Claudio Poles of Dorchester, Mass., bought the land, a realtor told them it was "at least 28 acres" and that "the railroad 'right-of-way' would not restrict the use of their property," according to court documents filed Thursday.

It turns out neither are true, according to Carroll. A survey commissioned two months after the deal went through found only 13.67 acres. Just over 10 acres are on the river side of the track; 3.36 acres are on the Route 12A side.

Also, the railroad company says that it owns the land under the track, and that the two crossings — only one of which is actually in place now — are for agricultural use only, not as driveways.

This morning, the state agreed. Mark Hanlon, transportation department hearing



road company, denying requests that either or both agricultural crossings be made residential crossings.

"I find based upon the testimony . . . and my view of the scene that the proposed crossings are not reasonably safe."

He specifically cited the grade and sight distances at the crossings as problems.

Carroll's attorney, who could not be reached this morning, said yesterday that if the state ruled against them, they would appeal.

Carroll — who had not been notified of the decision when reached at home last night — has abandoned plans to build five homes, and now wants to build just two: One would be his new permanent residence, the other would be Poles' vacation home.

They petitioned state authorities for the two residential rail crossings, but the railroad, Cornish selectmen and at least one neighbor opposed them, arguing that the crossings would be unsafe. The state determines the number and placement of crossings when a railroad and a landowner can't agree.

Carroll and Poles also have sued the former owners of the land — Robert and

This rail crossing in Cornish, seen from the north, cannot be used as a residential crossing

Mary Lefebvre of Charlestown — and the Lefebvre's real estate company, the Century 21-Carignan Agency in Tilton, N.H.

Carroll and Poles want back half of the \$65,000 they paid for the land. According to a court document, the requested settlement might be as high as \$40,000.

The Lefebvres in turn have sued Ralph and Leona Jackson of Canaan. Lefebvre says he bought what he thought was 28 acres from the Jacksons in 1982, according to court documents. The town's tax records record the tract as 29.97 acres.

"I don't understand how it has gotten to be this crazy. I never anticipated anything like this," Carroll said yesterday. "It is just too simple to be this complex. And yet it is. . . . It has really caused a lot of confusion, a lot of vexation, a lot of anguish and cost a lot of money."

For now, the land — with the Lefebvre's old mobile home, a collection of old pig farm buildings and some overgrown hay — sits untouched and uninhabited. The only thing that moves through the property are an occasional Central Vermont and Boston

& Maine freight train.

The track is part of the 49-mile Connecticut River line that Central Vermont recently finished rebuilding. It's expected that by the end of the year, the Amtrak Montrealer passenger train will be back on this track, too. Before the repairs, freight trains were running at about 15 mph; now they move at up to 40 mph.

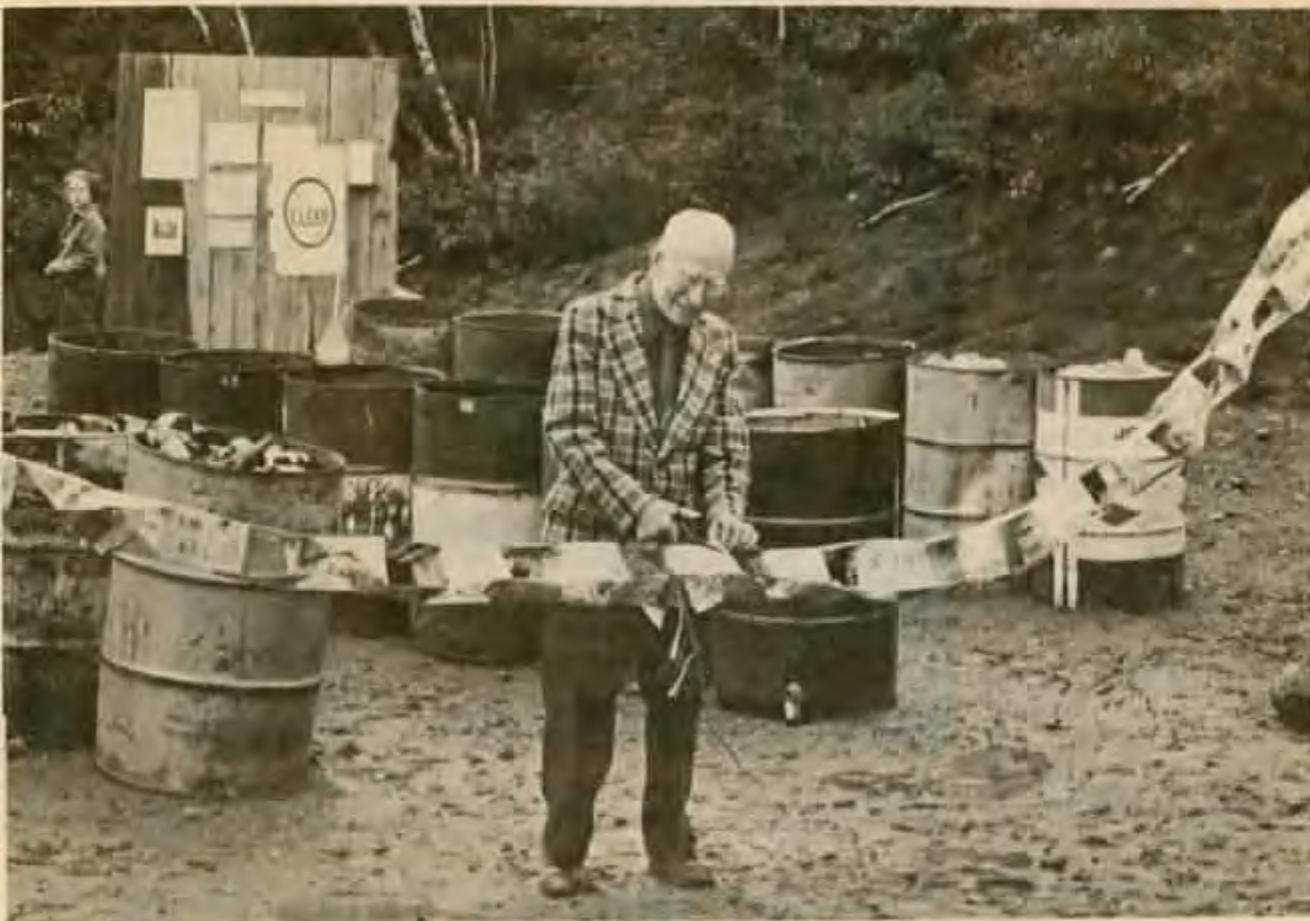
Slate Rep. Peter Burling, D-Cornish, has opposed the proposal for two new houses on the river side of the track. Burling owns the Chase House inn across the street and to the north of Carroll's land, and is a member of the town planning board. That board voted in April not to accept an application from Carroll to subdivide the land, although Burling stepped down for that vote.

At the state's hearing on the residential crossing request in Concord in November, Burling spoke of safety hazards that come with a residential crossing, the granting of which he said last week, would be a

(Continued on page 6)

— PROPERTY





**GRAND OPENING** — Myron E. Quimby, chairman of the Cornish Board of Selectmen cuts a ribbon of recycled newspapers Saturday morning to mark the opening of a recycling center at the old

dump site off Rt. 120. The facility, which will be open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., has barrels for recycling glass, aluminum, tin, brass and copper. (News photo—Catherine Pomlecko)

## Recycling facility open.

A recycling facility will open at the former dump site in Cornish beginning Saturday, Sept. 17. The hours are from 10 to 3 and it will be open every Saturday with exception of holidays.

The facility is arranged to receive glass that is sorted by color. The only kinds of glass not acceptable are electric light bulbs, mirrors, and glass cooking ware. Paper labels may remain on bottles and jars but metal and plastic parts should be removed. Food containers should be rinsed in order to avoid odors and insects.

Tin and steel as well as aluminum, brass, and copper may also be recycled here. Tin cans should be rinsed, opened at both ends and flattened.

The facility is open to anyone who will use it in an appropriate manner.

Monday, September 19, 1977

EAGLE-TIMES Claremont, N. H. Springfield, Vt.



Eagle-Times photo Art Silverman

**PART PICNIC, PART DUTY** were combined by residents of Sullivan County Saturday as they turned out with old bottles and cans on the opening day of the recycling center in Cornish. The collection point is located

at the site of the former town dump in Cornish, just off Route 120 at the Plainfield town line. The center will be open Saturdays from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. on a regular basis.



Valley News MAR 8, 1998

Valley News — Al Liao

Cornish Ballot Clerk Sandra Redlands greets voters before having them check in for voting at the school yesterday.

Sandy Redlands



Valley News  
25 June 2012

# 'She Knew Her Own Mind'

## Teenie Rock

### A LIFE

By AIMEE CARUSO

Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — After graduating from Stevens High School, MayBelle "Teenie" Rock studied at Hesser Business College in Manchester. Being away from home didn't suit Rock,

who missed her family, and she returned to Cornish after completing a business degree. But she never stopped learning.

A small baby, MayBelle Rock was nicknamed "Teenie"

by her older brother, and the name stuck. When she was an infant, her family moved to Cornish. She married her longtime beau, John "Jack" Rock, and in 1950, they built

a house next to her parents' small family farm on Harrington Road.

Rock worked in an assortment of places, among them a shoe shop, cheese factory and grain store, and spent her free moments exploring whatever subject grabbed her. The homegrown study program took her from wildflowers to rocks to antique bottles, and finally to genealogy, which became her greatest passion.

Her dedication — her daughters call it obsession — to these various projects kept Rock going years after her health began to fail. It also made for an interesting home life for her three children.

Earlier this month, sitting in their parents' kitchen, Sherry Cass, of Cornish, and Carmen Pinsonault, of Unity, reminisced about their mother.

Pinsonault, 51, reached for words to describe her. "She was very strong, and very ..."

"Strong willed?" Cass, 64, offered.

"Strong willed!" Pinsonault agreed, laughing.

"Independent," Cass added. "She knew her own mind."

"And once it was made up, that was it," said Pinsonault. Rock's search for antique glassware led her to decades

MAYBELLE  
'TEENIE' ROCK  
1925 — 2012

MayBelle "Teenie" Rock poses in a hat that belonged to her sweetheart and future husband, John "Jack" Rock. The couple met at school in Cornish. This picture, a family favorite, was taken around 1943, when Rock was about 18. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE FAMILY

# A Life: MayBelle 'Teenie' Rock

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

old dumpsites far out in the woods.

She and their aunt would "dig through all the stuff and get all the old bottles," some of which they sold, Pinsonault said.

Rock sometimes enlisted Cass, then a teenager and owner of a green 1955 Chevy, to drive.

"I was just thrilled on my day off taking the two of them to rummage in a dump somewhere," she said, wryly.

Rock's love for animals, especially wounded ones, added another element of adventure. Her menagerie included stray cats, a lamb, an opossum and an orphaned raccoon found by the Rocks' son, Seward.

Cass remembers caring for Knot-head, so named for a bump on his head.

"He'd lay in my arms like a baby and put his hands over my hands, and I'd feed him with a bottle," she said. The housebroken raccoon lived inside, but as he matured, his wild instincts kicked in.

When he started swinging from the curtains, "he had to go," Pinsonault said. Eventually, the family "turned him into the wild to find a mate," Cass said.

More recently, Rock befriended a mother skunk and her babies, which ate many a meal of macaroni and cheese on the back porch. The relationship created a challenge for

evening visitors.

"I'd pull in at an angle and shim (the headlights) on the porch to make sure the skunk wasn't out there," Pinsonault said. "She would take the broom, open the door and say, 'Get off the porch, Stinky.'"

Of all of her interests, however, nothing fascinated Rock as much as history.

Her nephew, Clyde Perkins, sparked her interest in genealogy. The two traveled to England in 1980 to research their family history. And when she ran out of leads on her own relatives, she started researching her husband's.

"She went way back and followed all kinds of branches," Pinsonault said, making telephone calls and writing letters to track down photographs "or anything she could get her hands on."

The genealogy books she compiled are a collage of old documents — cards, newspaper clippings and birth certificates. And accuracy mattered.

Sometimes she'd wake up, think of a fact that needed checking and get up to do it, Pinsonault said. Late nights would often find her at the kitchen table with her ever-present cup of tea, meticulously paging through her notes.

And, as she had when they were younger, Rock asked her children

for help.

"As soon as somebody died, she'd say, 'Make sure you get me a death certificate so I can put it in the genealogy,'" Pinsonault said. "That was her thing, so that's what we did for her."

As genealogical projects are, hers was a work in progress. On some pages are blank spots reserved for photographs of long-dead relatives.

"You girls will have to finish carrying on when I'm gone," Cass remembers her saying. It's a request they intend to honor, probably during retirement.

When her husband, Jack, retired and took on the job of sexton, Rock pitched in. Trimming weeds in the cemeteries soon led to an interest in documenting the lives of people she knew only by their names on worn stones. Family members helped, too, drawing cemetery maps and noting the location of unmarked graves.

She also worked with former town clerk Bernice Johnson to organize historic town records, like death certificates and town meeting records.

Jim Atkinson, president of the Cornish Historical Society, said Rock helped him learn about, and learn to love, the town he moved to in 1989.

"Teenie knew odd things about people, places and things," said Atkinson, the author of two books about the Cornish Colony. "As a new person in town interested in history I certainly appreciated it."

Atkinson said the town is in debt to Rock, who spent years compiling the records.

"What I am seeing in my mind's eye are these volumes that she produced," arranged by cemetery and then by family, he said in a telephone interview. "No one had thought to put them in order and make them available."

Perkins said the records, which date back to 1760, include more than 3,000 names.

A go-to person for Cornish history, Rock often received telephone calls from people wondering whether their relatives were buried in the town. And it wasn't uncommon for residents to

drop by her house for a cup of tea and a chat about "old Cornish things."

"She just loved that," Pinsonault said. "Any kind of Cornish history, anything about Cornish, she loved to talk about it."

During the last years of her life, Rock suffered from painful arthritis. Nonetheless, she continued to do her own housekeeping and even repainted her barn last summer.

"Everyone kept saying, 'You need to go to a nursing home,' but she wanted to be here, in her home," Pinsonault said. So they did what they could to make her comfortable.

Pinsonault recalled the times she drove her mother, who was susceptible to pneumonia, home from the hospital.

"She came so close so many times and came home every single time, but it was because she was so strong-willed and so tough," she said.

"You made it up onto the hill one more time, mother," Pinsonault would tell her.

As the end of her life approached, her daughters had difficulty believing she would really die.

"We kept thinking, 'One more time she's going to make it,'" Cass said. "But we knew that she wasn't. Common sense told us that, but our hearts weren't believing it."

Rock died in February, after spending just a few days in a nursing home. The kitchen looks much as she left it. Dried white hydrangeas stand in a vase on the windowsill, along with miniature teapots decorated with the elaborate "Blue Willow" pattern she collected.

After Rock's death, many people asked for a teacup, a memento of the hours they had spent together at her table, passing the time, talking about the past.

Her cupboards had once been full of the china, which the family had used all their lives, Pinsonault said. "She gave away a lot of it before she died."

*Aimee Caruso can be reached at acaruso@vnews.com or 603-727-3210.*

# The Rocks dedicated their time to Cornish

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

**CORNISH** — Jack and Maybelle "Teenie" Rock have dedicated much time to keeping Cornish cemeteries and burial grounds a place to be proud of. Jack retired as sexton on town meeting day, but the interest in the cemeteries will still be a big part of their lives.

Jack became sexton 14 years ago and Teenie worked along side him for several years, he running lawn mowers and she using a grass trimmer to make sure graves looked nice at all times. Weather conditions hindered that once in a while, but on the whole the cemeteries have been very well kept up.

Following a heart attack he had to rely on a couple of workers to get the heavy work done, among them George Abbott, a six-year employee in the department.

During Jack's years as sexton all the brush in the cemeteries was cut out, new picket fences put in all the cemeteries that had them and many sunken graves filled, as well as restoring head stones to proper levels.

He has also had trees removed that were dangerous to markers, as well as the usual grass cutting, mowing of larger areas, removing leaves and other debris from the area.

He is very proud of having had headstones cleaned in several cemeteries, during his tenure, and for making sure a new flagpole was placed near the war memorials in the park at Cornish Flat. He is also proud that World War I graves will be marked better.

During his years as cemetery sexton he was responsible for keeping up eight public cemeteries regularly and also took on the chore of clearing brush and debris from nine other unused cemeteries throughout the town.



**SERVING THE COMMUNITY** — Jack and Teenie Rock of Cornish reminisce about their cemetery work and the historical records, which they documented. (Ruth Rollins photo)

He not only was responsible for the cemeteries during this time, but he was also in charge of the town hall grounds, park in front of the meetinghouse, library grounds, vault area and the old selectmen's office, mowing the area around the fire station and some covered bridges.

"When I took on the job in 1988 records were not clear, many burial records were stacked in a pile, or had fallen down behind tight spaces in the old selectmen's office. No files were in order, so my wife, Teenie, dug all that paperwork out and we identified many graves and made up maps. We also made a record of each war that people had been in, so graves could be marked appropriately," said Jack.

"Years ago families took care of the graves, but any grave in a cemetery belongs to the town of Cornish, people do not own land in the cemetery, even though they put money into their lot for perpetual care," said Jack, who was recognized with a plaque for his years of service as sexton.

## Maybelle "Teenie" Rock

Teenie Rock's commitment to the care of the cemeteries was only a part of her dedication. The preservation of the cemeteries and the town having a lasting historical record of deaths was very important

to her. That dedication resulted in the community having three volumes of information on "Cornish Cemeteries."

The information collected in the historical records is the result of 14 years of researching town records, and written histories of Cornish, along with countless oral interviews of relatives and descendants. She worked tirelessly digging out the information and husband, Jack, learned how to operate a computer to create a lasting historical record to be used for genealogical research.

The information lists all 3,000 known burials within the town, with the exception of burials from the very early days when it was customary to bury the dead on the family farm, or where the markers of unrecorded burials have disappeared into history, leaving only mounds of earth.

During her research she found many stones with odd names. Teenie said, "The oldest stone found was dated Nov. 29, 1760, and is located in Trinity Cemetery. There are two graves marked 'unknown,' one is of a man killed in a steam car in 1905, another of a woman named Ann, who was buried in 1901."

When Teenie started researching old information her husband said, "I would wake up and the light would

be on and find her up working on it in the middle of the night. That is when something would come to mind," said Teenie.

She said, "My research led me to all the cemeteries, including the ones where we had to go on private property to get there. Sometimes Jack hated going, but he did. I was scared to go alone."

The information compiled alphabetically by the Rocks, states the first and last name of the person who died, their married name if a female and their age at date of death. If the person was a veteran, it notes what war they served in. Other information tells if cremated and if it is an unmarked grave, as well as the cemetery they were buried in. A map designating where each cemetery is located is also included in the information.

Teenie Rock's Historical Records book has been recognized by the State of New Hampshire Senate Research, which includes a picture of her books and notes that the "Cemetery Records of Cornish" are available at the Cornish Town Clerk's office. It also states that all known veterans, with burial records from 1760 to 2001, are listed.

The cemetery records were edited by Teenie's nephew, Clyde Perkins.

**FOR ROCKEFELLER, ONLY THE ENDING HAS BEEN INCLUDED HERE**

**FOR MORE ARTICLES ON THE SUBJECT, CONSULT THE VERTICAL  
FILES AT THE HISTORY CENTER**

# Former Cornish Resident Convicted

## 'Rockefeller' Claim Of Insanity Rejected

BY DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

WALL ST JOURNAL June 13, 2001

BOSTON — The man who called himself Clark Rockefeller claimed he was delusional and communicating telepathically with his 7-year-old daughter, who was telling him she was in danger.

In the end, a jury at Suffolk County Superior Court did not believe his claims that insanity drove him to kidnap her from a Boston street and race to Baltimore to a new house he had bought for them.



'Clark Rockefeller' listens to his sentence yesterday. AP

Rockefeller, the former Cornish resident and German national whose real name is Christian Karl Gerhartsreiter, was convicted yesterday of kidnapping the girl during a July supervised visit. He was sentenced to four to five years in state prison.

The jury rejected his defense that he was suffering from a delusional order and felt compelled to "save" his daughter, Reigh Boss, after he lost custody of her to his ex-wife Sandra Boss. Instead, the

jury found that he knew that it was criminally and morally wrong to take the girl away from her mother in viola-

"I take it they decided that as crazy as some of his behaviors may have seemed he certainly was capable of telling right from wrong," said Peter Burling, the Cornish moderator and former state senator. "A great and powerful name can still blind people to the reality of what's going on in front of them."

"I'm satisfied with how things worked out. Justice was served," said Cornish Selectman John Hammond.

Gerhartsreiter and his daughter were found in Baltimore six days after he snatched her and put her into a waiting SUV with a hired driver. The girl was unharmed and was returned to her mother.

Two mental health experts testifying for the defense said Gerhartsreiter had a long-simmering mental illness that exploded and caused him to have a "psychotic break" after he lost custody in December 2007.

Prosecutors called the diagnosis "preposterous" and said he planned the kidnapping for months because he was angry that his wife had divorced him and moved to London with their daughter.

Gerhartsreiter also was convicted of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon for ordering the SUV's driver to pull away with a social worker clinging to the door. The jury acquitted him on another assault count and on a charge of giving a false name to police. Gerhartsreiter, 48, looked sober but calm as the verdict was read.

Judge Frank Graziano said he considered Rockefeller's attachment to his daughter and his "despair" over losing her, but also his disregard for the law and lack of empathy for the girl, his ex-wife and the social worker.

"The defendant was by all accounts a loving and devoted father to his daughter," he said. But he said Gerhartsreiter has a "long and well-documented history of deceit" that included an attempt to "outmaneuver" his ex-wife by taking a \$800,000 divorce settlement from her and the

See Column

# Former Cornish Resident Convicted

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

planning for months to take their daughter.

Defense attorney Jeffrey Denner had asked for a maximum sentence of two years, saying his client was a "mentally disturbed individual who as a father loved his daughter too much" and never intended to hurt her.

In a statement read in court by Assistant District Attorney David Deakin, Boss said she has struggled to find normalcy for her and her daughter.

"The long-term effects of the abduction are yet to be known, but anxiety about Reigh's safety and protection ... will certainly be the most lasting," she said.

Jury foreman Michael Gregory, a Harvard Law School lecturer who specializes in the impact of domestic violence on children's learning, read a statement saying jurors are "confident that our verdict is fair and just and based on the information that we were legally allowed to consider."

After his arrest, authorities revealed that the man with the storied Rockefeller name was really a German national who had used multiple aliases since moving to the United States and was a "person of interest" in the 1985 disappearance and presumed slayings of a newlywed couple from San Marino, Calif.

A California grand jury has been hearing evidence in the disappearance of Linda and Jonathan Sohus-Gerhartsreiter, who was then using the name Christopher Chichester, was



**Defense attorney Timothy Bradl, left, talks to Christian Karl Gerhartsreiter in Suffolk County Superior Court in Boston yesterday.**

AP — CJ GUNTHER

erty when they disappeared. He has not been charged in the case.

Prosecutors asked the judge as part of the sentence to order Gerhartsreiter to undergo psychiatric evaluation, not to profit from his history or crimes and to be on 20 years probation. The judge did not impose those conditions.

The defense said he should not be forced to undergo evaluation while he is a person of interest in the California case and noted that his client faces a federal immigration detention when he completes his Massachusetts sentence.

The kidnapping trial featured incredible details about the many personas Gerhartsreiter, 48, assumed as he worked his way into wealthy circles in Boston, New York and Los Angeles.

He came to the United States in 1978 as a 17-year-old student in Connecticut, and three years later, per-

marry him so he could get a green card.

After that, he told a variety of stories: he was a physicist, a financial adviser who renegotiated debt for small countries, a collector who owned \$1 billion worth of modern art, a cardiovascular surgeon from Las Vegas, a ship's captain based in Chile and a member of the Trilateral Commission, a group established to foster cooperation among the United States, Europe and Japan.

Boss, a Harvard-educated management consulting firm executive, testified that she believed her husband's stories for much of their 12-year marriage.

Boss was awarded full custody of their daughter. As part of the agreement, he was allowed to see his daughter three times a year in visits supervised by a social worker. It was during the first visit that he snatched the girl.

Social worker Howard Yaffe testified that Gerhartsreiter pushed him to the ground and hustled his daughter into a waiting SUV, then told the driver to "Go! Go! Go!"

A Baltimore real estate agent testified that Gerhartsreiter contacted her months before the kidnapping and asked for help finding a house for him and his daughter. The week before the kidnapping, he bought one for \$450,000. The agent tipped off authorities after seeing his photo on news reports.



**ROUGH RIDER** — More than 1,000 people came out Saturday to watch a rodeo put on by the Claremont Rotary at the Cornish Fairgrounds. This unidentified rider seems to be in control of his bull, but he was to be dropped to the dirt some eight seconds later. The event continues today. Gates open at 11 a.m., and the rodeo



**PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT entering Windsor from Cornish through the toll-bridge, being driven by**

**Winston Churchill in his tally-ho, Saturday, August 30, 1902. Photo courtesy of the Cornish Historical Society.**

## Teddy Roosevelt Visits Cornish and Windsor

By Virginia Colby

A boar's head hangs in Sagamore Hill N.H.S. shot in Cornish, N.H. by President Theodore Roosevelt on Friday, August 29, 1902. The President was taking a swing through New England as a guest of Windsor resident, Maxwell Evarts. At the urging of Senator Proctor of Vermont, who was a member of the Blue Mountain Forest Game Club, Roosevelt found himself unable to resist the invitation to hunt wild boar in Corbin's Park. President Roosevelt's own account of the incident is quoted from the September 6, 1902 "Vermont Journal":

"We had no luck at first, but just about dusk a wild boar bolted out of the brush, fifty yards ahead of us. Bill Morrison, the guide saw him first, Senator Proctor and I last of all. The boar took a slanting course to the right through the thick brush, with us after him. A second later we lost him in the gloom. But we kept up the chase, and suddenly I spotted him. "There he is!" I shouted. "Wrong!" yelled the senator, squinting ahead. "That's a deer." "It's a boar, I tell you," said I, bringing my rifle to my shoulder." But I knew better and blazed away. It looked like a miss at first. Like a frightened rabbit the big boar plunged straight ahead, going faster than before the shot. But just as I took sight for a second try he pitched forward and rolled over dead.

"Now, that's the story of the hunt, gentlemen. And as to that shot of mine, all I have to say is that it was a mighty lucky one."

That night, following the shoot, the President slept in one of the plainly furnished rooms of the clubhouse, far from the crowds and the pressures of the presidential office.

A profusion of flags and bunting decorated the houses and stores at Cornish Flat in anticipation of President Roosevelt's visit on Saturday morning.

Nearly a thousand people turned out to greet him along with about fifty children, the boys carrying flags and the girls with bouquets of garden flowers. Roosevelt made a brief speech to the crowd lauding the veterans for their support in the Civil

War and urging the young people to follow in their elders' footsteps.

The children were lined in front of the Soldiers' monument with the veterans of the Grand Army on their right. The President was driven in front of the line and was saluted by the veterans. The children followed with the Salute to the Flag. They then marched by the carriage, the President taking the flowers from the girls. Upon request of the President, the veterans marched by the carriage where the President then shook each veteran's hand.

Saying goodbye to the New Hampshire delegation, who had accompanied him through the state, the President mounted Winston Churchill's tally-ho (a pleasure coach, drawn by four horses) and Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, Senator Proctor, Secretary Cortelyou and others, for the ride to Windsor.

Mr. Churchill drove his handsome four-in-hand, taking the President on a drive through Cornish and past his home, Harlakenden. The Presidential party crossed the Cornish-Windsor covered toll bridge and on to the Evarts mansion for a reception. President Roosevelt paid his respects to Mrs. Evarts, and in commemoration of the fifty-ninth anniversary of the day of her marriage to William M. Evarts, partook with her of wedding cake that had been preserved from her wedding day.

Following his visit to Mrs. Evarts, the President and his party went to the Horse Show at the Windsor County Fair and was driven there in the Woodstock Inn coach. Mr. Maxwell Evarts introduced the President to the crowd. Charles Taylor, a veteran sulky driver, won the race and was asked to step up into the President's stand whereupon he was congratulated by the President.

It was a day not soon to be forgotten by the residents of Cornish and Windsor.

\* Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y. (Home of Theodore Roosevelt) a National Historic Site, National Park Service, Department of Interior.

# He's Putting His Eggs Into Another Basket

## Robert Gordon Sells Alexander's Markets To Maine's Hannaford Bros. For \$27 Million

By STEVEN C. SWETT  
Valley News Staff Writer

Robert Gordon of Cornish has made his reputation as a food retailer.

Since he became president of Alexander's Markets Inc. 30 years ago, he built the family-owned business from a single food store in Lowell, Mass., to a chain of drug stores, bakeries and supermarkets with annual sales of \$200 million.

Gordon may be better known soon for his reputation as a major developer of shopping centers. He and his family own approximately 2 million square feet of property, largely in southern New Hampshire and northeastern Massachusetts, which consists of industrial parks, office buildings and shopping centers housing Alexander's supermarkets.

Looking ahead, he is planning to devote full time to being landlord for these properties and developing more shopping centers — "anywhere" the opportunities look best, he said recently.

The reason for the switch from retail to real estate: Gordon and his family last month sold their ownership of Alexander's to Hannaford Bros. Co. of Scarborough, Maine, a fast-growing supermarket chain and the largest food retailer in northern New England (estimated annual revenue before purchase of Alexander's: \$1.75 billion). The price for Alexander's was \$27 million and included two drug stores, three bakeries and 11 supermarkets, mostly in the Manchester and Nashua area.

The merger also will make Hannaford the biggest food retailer in New Hampshire, with estimated volume at more than \$300 million a year. Purity Supreme ranks fourth with sales near \$160 million, behind DeMoulas and Shaw's, both with receipts near \$300 million.

Gordon, 56, who moved to Cornish in 1985, ran Alexander's with his cousin Peter Gordon, who is vice president, and his father, Herman Gordon, 87, who is chairman of the board of Alexander's and described as still active by his son.

The family's stake in food retailing extended back roughly 100 years to a grocery store in Nashua run by Charles Gordon, grandfather of Robert Gordon. The family will

### VN Business Notes



Gordon: from retailing to real estate

continue to have a big interest in the success of their former supermarkets, since Alexander's are major tenants in the shopping centers the family owns. (Their stores will eventually be called Alexander's Shop 'n Save, adding the name of the Hannaford stores.)

What of Hannaford's plans? "I'm told that Hannaford intends to expand vigorously," Gordon said after the sale. One major location could be the proposed Valley Square shopping center on Route 12A in West Lebanon, where Hannaford wants to erect a major store (a Super Shop 'n Save) provided that the Juster Development Co. proceeds with the project.

"We want to be in the Lebanon area," said Larry Plotkin, a spokesman for Hannaford. The company is not looking elsewhere in the Upper Valley for sites, he said.

What of retailing and real estate generally? Gordon characterized the economy as "terrible," described a "recession in retail sales," which he felt had not yet bottomed out, and suggested that there might be more vacancies in his properties and more business bankruptcies to come. Nevertheless, he said of the economic downturn: "It will end."

Northcote, Robert Gordon; full-text in Cornish Historical Articles Notebook, Vault



THE ARCHITECT'S FIRST SKETCH OF THE HOUSE

NORTHCÔTE

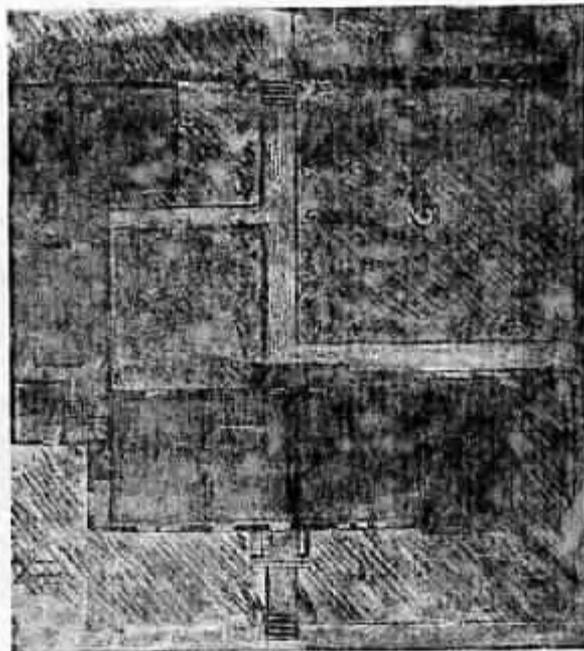
## A DAY AT NORTHCÔTE

A HOUSE AND GARDEN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN leaving the Connecticut River and penetrating the hills of Western New Hampshire, one is quickly in the midst of rural scenes and far from centers of feverish activity. Comfortable summer homes have come to lurk there in the cospes of forest trees, but the countryside itself bears no marks of disfigurement by restless citizens. From the highway which runs under the brow of Dingleton Hill and then crosses Blowme-Down Creek, a white cottage is seen rising above a hedge near the summit of a hillside. But little of the clapboard walls is visible, for their height is soon surmounted by a roof of dark red shingles. Several outbuildings of these same colors can be seen between clumps of verdure and above a wall of

shrubbery which is grouped below the hedge extending around the hillside and enclosing the habitation. Beyond all, the summit of the hill rises to a bare outline against the sky, immediately behind the house, and, farther to the eastward, it meets the dark background of a primeval woodland.

Arbor-vitæ, maples and slender poplars appear within an all-enclosing bulwark of young, thickly-set hemlocks. Occasional glimpses of a vine-clad arbor and orderly pairs of dark coniferous spires betray a design in the spaces between the buildings; and because, perhaps, these furtive views refuse at a distance to explain themselves to passers-by on the road below, one is eager to ascend the steep hillside and



THE ARCHITECT'S FIRST PLAN

**JULIET RUBLEE**



## LITTLE LEFT OF FARM HOME IN PLAINFIELD



George Ruggles

A brick chimney is all that remains of the George Ruggles farm home in Plainfield, burnt to the ground by an early morning fire Thursday. Residents of the town manned local fire apparatus to aid the Claremont and Windsor, Vt., fire departments in a futile attempt to check the blaze, which caused damage estimated at \$10,000. Six occupants of the farm fled to safety when awakened by an infant's

## Six Awakened by Infant's Cries, Flee Plainfield Fire

Class A Westgate's Scripps

Special to The Union.

PLAINFIELD, Jan. 16—Awakened by the cries of a year-and-a-half-old infant at 2 a. m. Thursday, six occupants of the old George Ruggles farm escaped in near-zero weather from flames which totally destroyed the two-story, 15-room, wooden structure and caused damage estimated at \$10,000.

David Armstrong, father of the child, summoned the Windsor, Vt., and Claremont Fire Departments as soon as he was aroused and dashed into the farmyard with the other four adults and the child.

Mrs. Lucy Bishop, owner of the house, and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd

Tracy escaped from upstairs apartments and Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong fled the main floor.

Members of the Windsor department arrived at 2:30 a. m. in one truck and laid 1,500 feet of hose to Blow-Me-Down brook in an effort to control the blaze, which was threatening a nearby barn containing livestock owned by Harold Wilder of this town. The barn was badly burned on one side but was saved.

A truck from the Claremont department arrived shortly afterward but the blaze was beyond control then. During the height of the blaze,

residents in Plainfield reported that they observed a hot water tank explode and shoot over 50 feet in the air, to come down on electric wires. A second explosion was reported to have shaken windows in the town.

Aroused by telephone, Stephen Plummer, proprietor of a general store, ran into the church and rang the bell to summon aid from sleeping residents. A dozen responded and rushed to the scene in two cars and the town chemical truck.

The owner of the house reported that it was fully covered by insurance. The Windsor department remained at the scene until after 10 a. m. today to wet down hot spots in the barn.

CORNISH FLAT, Jan. 12.—Mrs. Mary D. Nichols, 78, a lifelong resident, died Saturday night at the Claremont General hospital after an illness of a week. She had been visiting her son, Leon D. Hadley of Claremont before her illness.

She is survived by two sons, Leon D. Hadley of Claremont and Charles Norris Hadley of Ludlow, Vt.; a nephew, Charles H. Preston of Norwich, Vt., and eight grandchildren. She was born in Plainfield.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday afternoon at the McCusker Funeral home, Claremont, with Rev. Reynolds of Cornish Flat officiating. Burial will be in the cemetery of Plainfield Plains.

Mrs. Mary Nichols, 78, who has been in failing health for several years, and has this past year lived at Miss Mary Fifield's, went to visit her son in Claremont January 12, but taken ill was removed to the General Hospital on January 17 and passed away the next day. Funeral services in charge of Rev. W. N. Reynolds of this place were held at the McCusker Funeral Home on Tuesday P. M. with burial in Plainfield Plain. She leaves two sons, several grandchildren and other relatives.

ANNETTA ST. GAUDENS AND SON, PAUL ST. GAUDENS

Annetta St. Gaudens and Son, Paul St. Gaudens



# Salinger Widow Thanks Cornish

By JOHN P. GREGG

Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — J.D. Salinger put Cornish on the map by escaping New York in the 1950s for the seclusion of the rural Connecticut River town.

Yesterday, his widow rose at Town Meeting to thank her friends and neighbors for the protective cocoon they wrapped around the famous author, and continue to offer her.

"On behalf of my husband, I want to thank this entire town for respecting his privacy for so many years," Colleen O'Neill said in impromptu remarks at the end of Town Meeting. "This was the best place for him to live."

Salinger, the author of *The Catcher in the Rye* and other 20th century classics, died in January at 91.

O'Neill said her late husband "loved looking out the

See SALINGER—A2

Valley News 10 March 2010

## Salinger

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

window or driving the roads of town."

O'Neill, who is four decades younger than her husband, said she wanted to "stay out of the limelight" herself and thanked her fellow residents for continuing to steer the curious away from the Salinger home, which prompted laughter from the crowd.

She also thanked the Cornish Fire Department and townspeople for their neighborly response following a fire at the home in 1992.

O'Neill rose to speak after being commended for organizing a Web-based "Cornish Connect" listserv for residents.

She also had spoken earlier in the meeting to encourage passage of \$500 for the town Spirit Committee, which she helps lead.

"This year we want to plant some trees in front of the Meetinghouse and paint the interior of the Meetinghouse," she said. "Our budget is \$500, and I think we can do that this year."

An active quilter, O'Neill spent part of the meeting, held in the gym of Cornish Elementary School, working on a quilt.

She was greeted warmly during the lunch break by several residents, some of whom were seeing her for the first time since Salinger's death.

"She's a wonderful part of our community and the respect is mutual," Gwyn Gallagher, the new moderator in Cornish, said last night after the meeting.

John P. Gregg can be reached at [jgregg@news.com](mailto:jgregg@news.com)

or 603-727-3213.

# Many urge no change to park

Expansion, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site

By **PAUL CLIFTON**  
Staff Writer

WINDSOR, Vt. — National Park Service officials in town Thursday to gather public feedback on how best to develop the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish found only so many people willing to help them.

A majority of people in a crowd of 60 at the Windsor House repeatedly told members of a National Park Service planning team that they wanted no part in planning new facilities at sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens' home, studios and gardens.

"I would hate to see any enlargement of any kind to make the site any more accessible," said Stephen Sturff, Cornish. "Why should it be more accessible?"

The 150-acre site, which is located a couple miles north of the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge on Route 12a, is special for having remained much as it was when Saint-Gaudens occupied the site in the late 1800s, many people said.

Change in the site's ap-



**ARTFUL DASHER** — National Park Service Ranger Jim McKay picks a quick stride while making his rounds at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish this week. Pictured in the background is Aspet, which sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens called home in the 19th century. (Paul Clifton Photo)

(Please see HEARING-Pg. 6)

but might also jeopardize the spiritual essence which "this whole place exudes," said Alexis Gersumky, Cornish.

Throughout the two-hour meeting, people stood fast in their opposition despite discourses by park officials on the need for new facilities to protect the artworks, to provide space for curatorial work, and to assure the orientation of visitors and parking of their vehicles.

The meeting proved not to be a total loss, however, for park officials. Several people did make suggestions as to how they thought new facilities might work at the site, and a number of people did speak in support of the planners.

"I know they need these things they've asked for, because I've worked with them," said Joan Littlefield, Cornish, a volunteer at the site.

Park officials actually recorded 49 ideas, ranging from putting in a display on the artist's process, to using a shuttle bus to ferry visitors to the site from a parking lot down at the site's entrance on Route 12A.

Craig Cellar, planning team captain, added that while the "development concept plan" was indeed being prepared as a necessary follow-up on a 1973 master plan, the public would have a say on its scope.

That plan is expected to be put into draft form in six months, after two more public meetings. One is scheduled for 3 p.m. today at Howe Library in Hanover. A July 24 meeting in Cornish is also planned, the time of which will be advertised.

Judith Hayward, Norwich,

she said that she knows from having worked at the site that changes need to occur, and thought that moderation could and should be used to guide development.

But to some, development was just another term for bureaucratic boondoggle.

Joseph Dennis, Cornish, said the \$750,000 in federal money committed to the project was excessive, and disagreed with others' assessments that the site needed improvement on any grand scale.

"All it need is more toilets. That's a simple thing to change," Dennis said.

Much of the opposition appeared to be from anger over a trustees' feasibility study that Dennis said showed nearly 15,000 square feet of new facility space.

Assurances from Cellar and other park service officials that the plan indeed had been scrapped earlier this year met with skepticism. Cellar spent over half-an-hour at the start of the meeting explaining that his team was indeed "starting at ground zero."

But despite these assurances, Dennis ended the meeting stating that he doubted the public would be heard. "That's a challenge. Prove me wrong," he said.

Park official Kathleen Gavan said afterwards that the public's concerns are not falling on deaf ears, and that alternatives will be developed and brought back.

"Because we don't want people walking around saying, 'God ... They're still talking about putting 14,000 square foot structures on that place!'" Gavan said.

# Masque of the Golden Bowl





DSOR AREA OBSERVER • [observer@sover.net](mailto:observer@sover.net) • (802) 674

# Masque of the Golden Bowl unveiled this weekend

## GOLDEN BOWL



D

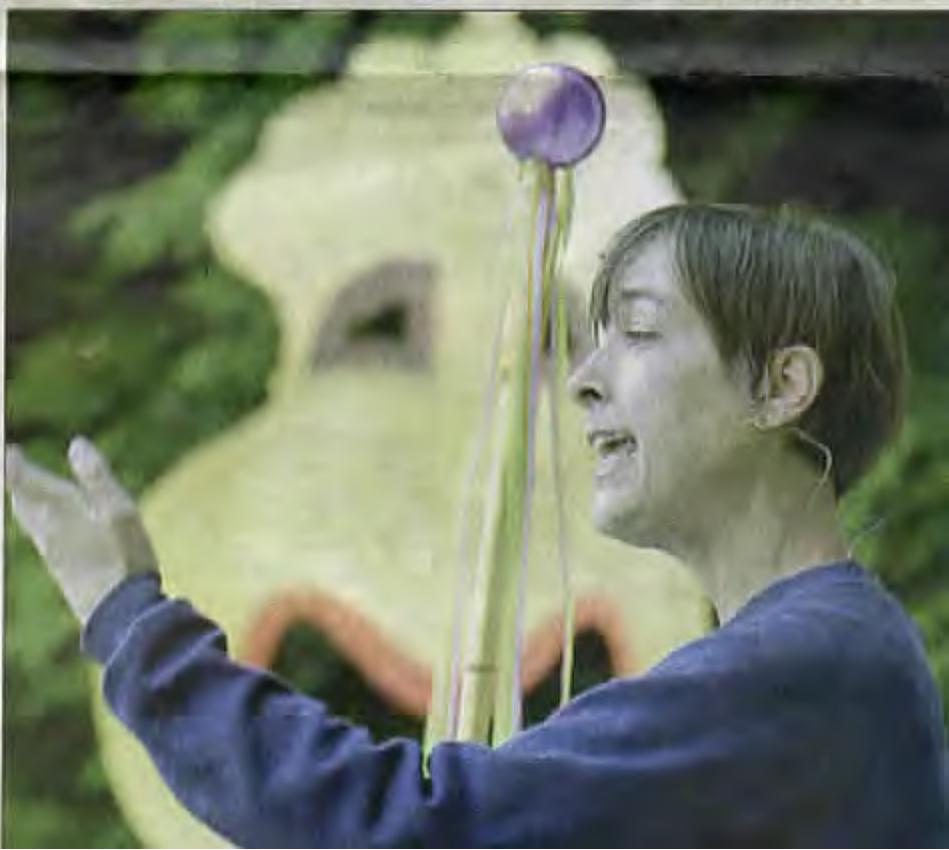
## GOLDEN BOWL

Above, Peter Beidler, right, as Mercury, in "The Masque of the Golden Bowl." This Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m., Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site will stage the outdoor pageant, written by local author Clyde Watson. The event celebrates the 100th anniversary of a pageant held to honor sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Admission to the pageant is free and a reception will be held after each performance. An exhibition of original objects associated with the 1905 pageant will be open to the public as well, a perfect pre- or post-pageant viewing experience. For more information, call (603) 675-2175 or visit [www.nps.gov/saga](http://www.nps.gov/saga). At right, Ayers Hemphill rehearses her role as Iris.

DON CLARK PHOTOS

*Eagle Times*  
June 23, 2005 p. 1

■ One of the many artists in the



## Cornish, NH Statue

### CORNISH COMMON

By  
Charles B. Fletcher

### War Memorial



*Cornish, NH Civil War Memorial. Baptist church in background.*

1918 - On the 11<sup>TH</sup> hour of the 11<sup>TH</sup> day in the 11<sup>TH</sup> month an armistice was signed that was supposed to end all wars. We all know this was not the case; however, the thought was at least hopeful. Since that date and cities, town and villages have erected monuments to those who have fought and served our country. During the past month I have taken time to visit two New Hampshire sites, the first is located in Walpole and the second in Cornish.

I believe the Walpole site was completed this year. It covers all the conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the present fighting in Iraq. The people who designed this monument had it built large enough to add many names and conflicts. Being new, it is shining and clean. The day my wife and I visited, a local man was taking time to wash panels that had become dirty; this gentleman was a wealth of knowledge and was extremely proud of the monument. The location is in a park in the center of Walpole and there is plenty of parking available should you happen to visit.

When you visit the town of Cornish driving on Route 120, there is a general store in what I call the center of the town. Nearby, you will see a small park with an old mill stone standing upright. Attached is a plaque that reads "Dedicated to all Cornish Veterans through peace and war". The memorials behind the millstone include a Civil War Statue, two fairly

new polished granite stones, and in the center, a metal memorial. The reason I say the granite stones are new is because pictures I took in 1998 show two different memorials made, I believe, of wood. The granite stone on the left mentions Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. Below each heading are listed those who participated. The granite stone on the right is dedicated entirely to World War Two. Between these stones is a metal memorial that was made by the Lebanon Machine Company, Lebanon, NH and is dedicated to persons serving in World War One. The Great Seal of New Hampshire can be found in the center on the top, and in each upper corner is a metal flame.

The first of the Cornish monuments erected was of a Civil War soldier. This had its beginning with a town warrant in 1889 that contained an article "To see what action the town will take in relation to a soldiers' monument, and raise money therefor". In the town history I find that three citizens were instrumental bringing this to pass: Joseph B. Comings who lost a son, Norman D. Comings of Company A, 16<sup>TH</sup> NH Infantry and Hiram A. Day, losing his son Charles E. Day of Company E, 9<sup>TH</sup> NH Infantry. Both of these young soldiers had been buried where they had fallen, many miles from home. The third person was William H. Sisson who fought in what was known as the "Rebellion." A fund was started to purchase a

# Cornish, NH Statue



*"Dedicated to all Cornish Veterans through peace and war."*

memorial. The town voted a sum of \$250.00, and with donations from others made a total of around \$900.00. It was decided that the monument would be a Civil War soldier and that he would be at "Parade Rest", forever facing due south toward the locations where the battles were fought. It was also decided that all those who gave their lives during that conflict would have their names along with their companies and regiments inscribed on the four sides of the base. On each of the four sides you can see seven names with the appropriate information.

A suitable location for this memorial was discussed, and it was decided to use a portion of the park in front of the Baptist Church, whose members had offered a section of ground sixteen feet square. The next step was to have master craftsmen using hammers and chisels perform the task of creating the soldier from a block of granite. This was assigned to a company located in Sunapee, New Hampshire. In 1889, Arthur Dodge published a local newspaper called *Lake Sunapee Echo*. The October 28 issue of that year contained the following: "The granite figure of a soldier at parade rest can be seen at the stone shed at Smithville, Messrs Dingle and Sutherland having completed it. It is a piece of work they can be proud of. We have seen many pieces of work of that sort, but none finer or more artistically done than this figure that has just left the shed of the Sunapee Granite Company." Another article written about that time stated the monument probably

would be moved to Cornish Flats by Capt. Rush Everett using his big teams.

The Sunapee Granite Company was formed in May of 1889 with the idea of pushing the granite business. The company purchased several granite quarries in the Sunapee area. These, along with the stone shed at Smithville, were the base of the enterprise. One article written in May of that year mentioned that as soon as possible the company would start using steam-drills. A granite business is still in the same area, but is now known as Sunapee Granite Works.

If you take the time to study the soldier, starting at the top, you will find he is wearing what was known as a forage cap. These caps, I believe, were copied from the French cap called a "Kepi" (a round cloth hat with a leather visor). He is dressed in an overcoat with the cape attached. Both hands are holding a musket. He has on trousers and either boots or shoes. On the base of the monument is written, "Erected by the town and grateful friends in memory of the sons of Cornish who fell in defense of the union. A.D. 1861-1865".

Monuments such as these are for all to study and learn about our past conflicts, so if you happen to be driving past the picturesque village of Cornish, stop and take a look. It is well worth a few minutes of your time.



*Inscription at the base of the statue.*

## Cornish, NH Statue



*Sunapee Granite Workers at Smithville, which was located on Lower Main Street in Sunapee - these were the men that made the statue for the Town of Cornish, NH. Mr. A. Dingle and the Sutherland Brothers were the main artists. Circa 1890.*

*- Joan Young Collection*

War Memorial



Hannah Schad

# District Schools

## SCHOOLS IN CORNISH, N. D.

1977

According to Child's History of Cornish there were in 1786 two local school districts in the Town. By State statute enacted in 1827 each town was required to raise money for the support of schools, and the local school districts became corporations subject to local control. In Cornish eleven districts were first formed, and this number was subsequently increased to sixteen. Eventually each of these sixteen districts had its own schoolhouse. In 1885 the State legislature enacted a statute abolishing the local districts and establishing within each town a single school district. Below is a brief record of the history of each of the 16 schoolhouses.

District #1 This schoolhouse was located on the west side of what is now Route 12A, a bit south of the Salmon P. Chase birthplace. It was later known as the Chadbourne School and continued to be used as a school until 1954 when the new central school was erected. It has been converted into a residence.

District #2 This school was located on the north side of Saint-Gaudens Road a bit west of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. It is no longer standing.

District #3 The original building was located across Lang Road from the Tracy Homestead and was called the Tracy School. Later it was replaced by a schoolhouse on the same side of Lang Road as the Tracy Homestead. It continued to be used as a school until 1954. It is now owned by Stephen Tracy, and is currently vacant.

District #4 Located on Dingleton Hill, this schoolhouse has been extensively remodeled and is used as a residence.

District #5 This school was located at the juncture of Saint-Gaudens Road and Hell Hollow Road. It is no longer standing. It was known as the Huggins School.

District #6 This district encompassed the area now known as Cornish Flat. The original school was a brick building located on the west side of Route 120 opposite the end of School Street. This brick building later became the "Wool House" and is now being used as a dwelling. In 1878 a new and larger schoolhouse was erected, and this new building continued to be used as a school until 1954. It is now the Masonic Building.

District #7 This building was located adjacent to the brick church at the Center and served as a school until 1954. It has been converted into a residence.

District #8 Located on the East Road, this building is no longer standing.

District #9 This building was located adjacent to the Town Hall. It has been kept in good repair and is now called the Little Town Hall.

District #10 This school was located at South Cornish. Originally it was on the west side of what is now Route 120 but was later relocated on the east side. It was used as a school until 1954. It is now privately owned and is vacant.

District #11 This schoolhouse was located on the Town House Road at Cornish City and it continued to be used as a school until 1954. It has been converted into a residence.

District #12 The original schoolhouse was located in Poppysquash inside of what is now the Blue Mountain Association (Corbin's Park) near the West Pass Gate. It was torn down and the Number 12 was assigned to a schoolhouse erected in 1818 near the Cornish line on Route 120. This latter building is no longer standing.

District #13 This brick schoolhouse was located on Jackson Road and has been converted into a dwelling.

District #14 This school was located in the "Hempyard" adjacent to Corbin's Park on what is now known as Skyline Drive. It is no longer standing.

District #15 This school was located south of Wellman's Hill and not far from the Claremont line. The road serving this school has long been discontinued but was a continuation of what is now Root Hill Road. The building is no longer standing.

District #16 This schoolhouse was located in the "Texas" area adjacent to the Burr Road. It is no longer standing.

It is interesting to note that of the sixteen schoolhouses mentioned above nine are still standing although most of these nine have been remodeled.

*Stephen P. Tracy*

**SCHOOL – CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL**

**CENTRAL SCHOOL, SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION**

**SEE ALSO IN VAULT AN ALBUM OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS**

**ASSEMBLED BY THE CORNISH BICENTENNIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE,**

**1963; MATERIAL USED IN HISTORY OF CORNISH BY BARBARA RAWSON;**

**SOME OF THE CLIPPINGS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES**

# Cornish Votes For Eight-Room \$120,000 School

Had Been Discussed  
Six Years Prior To  
Passage Saturday

CORNISH, Mar. 9.—The citizens of Cornish voted to build and finance an eight-room elementary school at the annual school district meeting Saturday afternoon at the town hall.

More than 275 voters, the largest gathering at a school district meeting in the history of the town, were on hand when the \$120,000 measure passed by a vote of 203 to 62 during a session that lasted from 1:30 until 7 o'clock.

A new school has been up for discussion at school district meetings for the past six years. The town has six wooden, one-room schools, from 50 to 100 years old, without running water and lacking adequate heat, light and ventilation. This argument, in favor of the new school, was presented Saturday afternoon. Another argument in the affirmative was the fact that enrolment has increased to the extent that next year 29 eighth grade pupils would have to be sent to Claremont or Windsor schools at a total cost of \$6340.

## \$120,000

The approval school measure calls for a total outlay of \$120,000 of which \$100,000 will be for the building and the balance for equipment, architects fees, and development of the site.

Also approved by a vote of 178 to 68, more than the necessary two-thirds majority, was a motion to raise the sum of \$100,000 by a bond issue. The balance of \$20,000 is available in the building reserve fund which has been accumulating for some years. Since the sum to be borrowed represents approximately 7.5 per cent of the assessed valuation of the town, the plan is subject to examination by a state board of investigation and approval by the Governor's council.

School district officers elected at the meeting included Raymond Mark, school board member for three years; Norbert Diotte, school board member for one year; Ray A. Smith, moderator; Joyce Darling, clerk, and Reginald P. Davidson, treasurer.

It was voted to form a six-member committee to advise the school board during the construction of the school. Three members, James T. McSwain, Mr. Davidson and Dwight Wood, were elected from the floor. The remaining three members will be named, one each, by the moderator, the selectmen and the board.

CITIZENS OF CORNISH  
Be Sure To Attend The  
Investigating Committee  
Hearing  
On The School Debt Limit, At  
The Town Hall On  
FRIDAY, APRIL 3rd, 1953  
AT 2 P. M.  
HARRISON R. STEEVES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ON APPLICATION OF THE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
CORNISH  
TO BOARD OF  
INVESTIGATION  
CONSTITUTED UNDER  
CHAPTER 9, LAWS OF 1953  
TO ALL INTERESTED  
PARTIES:

You are hereby notified that the Board of Investigation constituted under Chapter 9, Laws of 1953 will hold at public hearing at the  
**TOWN HALL**

In

the Town of Cornish on the third day of April, 1953 at two o'clock in the afternoon, on the application of the Cornish School District for approval of the Board of Investigation for said district to incur indebtedness in the amount of \$100,000 which is 1.2% of its last assessed valuation, to construct and equip a new elementary school, at which time and place all interested parties may attend and give evidence for and against the granting of the application.

Per order of  
Lawton B. Chandler,  
Chairman of  
Board of Investigation

CORNISH, Apr. 4.—A five-man investigating committee of the State Board of Education met at Cornish town hall yesterday afternoon a few minutes after 2 o'clock and took its place on a stage facing about 200 citizens of the town. Four hours later, after hearing at least something about almost every problem in rural education, the committee solicited from any or all citizens of Cornish signed letters stating their sentiments about the town's projected \$120,000, eight-room school and its ability to shoulder a bonded debt of \$100,000 for a period of 20 years.

Depending on the recommendation of the committee is the fate of the town's petition to bond itself to build a new school for its children, a step which the citizens approved by a 178-68 vote at the annual school district meeting March 7.

## Emotion

In spite of a deep undercurrent of emotion, which occasionally showed on the surface, tempers were kept under control.

It was apparent at yesterday's hearing that nearly all present wanted a new school plan for Cornish, to replace six antiquated and unsanitary buildings.

Equally apparent was the reluctance of many, for a variety of reasons, to place the town of Cornish in debt to the extent of \$100,000.

Uppermost in the minds of at least a few was the opinion that the March 7 meeting had been conducted with a disregard for parliamentary procedure and should be ruled until and void. The committee at first attempted to bar testimony on this line of thought and to confine the discussion to the previously accepted fact that Cornish had, indeed, voted to finance a school, and to investigate the soundness of the

town's ambitious plan.

## Testimony

When the committee returned to Concord it had heard eloquent testimony on the need for better school conditions, it had learned that the announced cost of the projected school is based on estimates and not on firm bids or contracts, and it had received and accepted evidence purporting to prove that illegal votes had been cast at the school meeting March 7 and had agreed to keep this evidence confidential.

Also accepted "for what it is worth" by the committee was a petition signed by 138 voters requesting that the March 7 meeting be voided. A request that the names of signers be read to yesterday's gathering was denied by the chair.

The state's committee consisted of Lawton B. Chandler, Concord, of the State Tax commission, chairman; Senator James C. Cleveland, New London; Dr. Hilton C. Buley, Concord, state commissioner of education; Fred L. Green and Henry G. Wells.

Word of a controversy within the town evidently had reached the committee since its proposed schedule of testimony allowed 45 minutes for the proponents of the school and bond issue, 45 minutes for the opponents, and, after a recess, a period for informal testimony in which proponents and opponents would be heard alternately.

## Case for School

The case for the school was presented by Ralph Meacham, superintendent of Supervisory School Union 5 which includes Cornish; Raymond Mark, school board member; and Burnham Carter, representing the Cornish School association. This group was introduced by Norbert Diotte, chairman of the school board.

Mr. Meacham described the present schools which provide 17 square feet per pupil as compared with a recommended 25 feet. He emphasized their inadequate heat and light and lack of running water. He cited the necessity of sending eighth grade pupils to Windsor and Claremont and the possibility that these schools, because of their own space problems, may soon refuse to accept Cornish students. He estimated an enrolment of 218 in 1953-54 as compared to the present 191 which is too large for the present facilities.

The projected school would simplify the transportation problem, Mr. Meacham said, but it would not necessarily decrease the required amount of transportation and might even increase it.

Mr. Mark reviewed the history of the campaign for a new school, stressing the fact that the present plan has been eight years in the making. He explained the choice of a relatively expensive central site for the new school by recalling that less expensive sites had favored one or the other end of town by their situation.

Chairman Chandler questioned Mr. Mark on a reference to past

proposals to merge the schools of Cornish with those of Plainfield and the school board member stated that neither town had favored the idea.

Mr. Carter exhibited a chart which has been inspected for some time by the townspeople, purporting to demonstrate that the financial burden of the new school can be carried by the town. He said that seven meetings had been held by the school board and the school association, providing, in his opinion, ample opportunity for all citizens to learn the facts. He said

## Cornish School Action Blocked By Injunction

Six Residents Halt \$100,000 Project; Claim Illegality

CORNISH, May 5—Action on the Cornish school project, petition for which was approved by the Governor and Executive council last week, has been blocked by injunction, according to Norbert Diotte, chairman of the board of the Cornish School district.

The paper was served yesterday afternoon by Sheriff James F. McCusker on Mr. Diotte, the latter representing the officers of the school district which is named as defendant in the injunction. Plaintiffs in the action, represented by Fred Jones, Lebanon attorney, are Roger Leonard, Russell Rock, Mrs. Edna Steeves, James Campbell Lewis, Floyd Rogers and Mrs. Irene LaClair, all citizens of Cornish. The defendant group is represented by the Claremont firm of Leahy and Denault.

The injunction, which is returnable at Newport May 15, enjoins the school district from taking action toward borrowing \$100,000 or utilizing a reserve fund of \$20,000 for the construction of an eight-room school. The document charges in part that illegal votes were cast at the school district meeting in March, that the moderator failed to challenge alleged illegalities in voting, that the article calling for the new school was voted on as an amendment and not as an amended motion, that the moderator and clerk assumed office prematurely and that ballots were improperly received for count.

On April 3 an investigating committee of the State Board of Education met at Cornish town hall for a hearing of the school district's petition to borrow \$100,000 for a school project. The hearing was necessary because the sum represented more than 5 per cent of the town's assessed valuation.

During the hearing, opponents of the school project raised the question of the legality of the regular March school district meeting. The committee at first declined to accept such testimony but later changed policy and accepted considerable testimony and some confidential evidence purporting to prove the illegality of the voting.

However, in making its recommendation to the executive council, the committee stated that in its opinion the question of the legality of the earlier meeting was out of its province.

The committee recommended approval of the school project, saying that it believed the school was within the financial capabilities of the town and that the school would meet the education needs of the town.

Yesterday's legal action in restraint of the project had been anticipated by observers, in view of the large number of signers of a petition, presented to the investigating committee April 3, requesting that the March meeting be declared null and void. The petition was alleged to contain 138 signatures. The committee refused a request from the floor that the names be read to the 200 or more people in the town hall.

## Court Hears School Case At Newport

NEWPORT — The controversial Cornish school project case was heard here yesterday before Justice Dennis Sullivan as a group of Cornish citizens petitioned the Sullivan county Superior Court for a temporary or permanent injunction which would prohibit the building of a new eight-room school.

Represented by Atty. Fred Jones of Lebanon, the group challenged the legality of the Cornish School district meeting held in March which approved a \$120,000 school and bond issue for construction of the new building.

Testimony yesterday by nine witnesses for the petitioners centered around allegations of illegality. Major contentions were that the action to appropriate money for the school was taken under an amendment and not the original motion; that the moderator and clerk took office prematurely; that the moderator failed to receive ballots himself, and that more than one ballot was cast by at least one voter.

Atty. Herbert Leahy of Claremont representing the officers of the Cornish School district requested the court to dismiss the petition on the grounds that the moderator under state law could set up any rules and regulations to govern the meeting, that the moderator and clerk if in office prematurely, were ex post facto officers and therefore legally competent to officiate at the meeting. He also claimed that even if there were some illegal votes cast, in order to invalidate a school district election it would have to be shown that the votes affected or changed the outcome of the election.

According to Attorney Leahy there was no evidence introduced to point this out.

Justice Sullivan took the case under advisement.

Following a recess, the hearing was continued in forum style. Testimony on both sides, too detailed for inclusion here, was delivered by a cross section of the community. Speaking for the school project was Principal David J. Breen of Windsor high school, who owns a farm residence in Cornish; Mrs. Earl Joyce, mother of nine; Ray Smith, moderator of the school district, and Mr. Diotte.

Speaking against the project were Mrs. Irene LaClair, farmer's wife and mother of five; Roger Leonard, originator of the petition that would void the March 7 meeting; Mrs. Edna Steeves, wife of H. R. Steeves, who presented to the chairman a sealed envelope which, she said, contained the names of eight witnesses who could testify that there had been illegal voting at the district meeting; Floyd Rogers, farmer; Mrs. James Campbell-Lewis, who considers the style of architecture of the projected school inappropriate to Cornish; and Mr. Campbell-Lewis, owner of a large Cornish estate, who stated that, in his opinion, as a business man of wide experience in financing, the school project is impracticable at this time. In summarizing the case for the opponents, he stated that they would like another chance to vote on the project.



CORNISH SCHOOL is discussed by Attorney Fred Jones of Lebanon, (left) and Roger Leonard, a 17 year resident of Cornish, prior to the special meeting conducted yesterday afternoon in the Cornish Town hall.

# Petition to Eliminate Cornish School Denied

Central School

CORNISH, June 1—The petition for an injunction on the Cornish School district, which would block the district from carrying out a project for an eight-room, \$120,000 school, has been denied in Sullivan Superior Court, it was announced this morning.

A trial of the petition was held May 15 at Newport with Judge Dennis Sullivan presiding. The finding of the court clears the way for the construction project, subject to appeal to the state Supreme Court. The petitioners have until the second Tuesday in July (July 14) to take any further action.

Norbert Diotte, chairman of the Cornish School board, told the *Daily Eagle* this morning that the school district will continue its normal plans for building the school. Already preliminary work has been done towards purchasing the land, and a well site has been located on the recommendation of the State Sanitation department.

Opposition to the school project developed, quietly at first, in the weeks following the March 7 school district meeting where the project was approved by a 203-62 vote and a bond issue of \$100,000 to finance it carried by 178 to 68.

The opposition came into the

open when Roger Leonard, a Cornish farmer, circulated a petition seeking to declare the March 7 meeting null and void, and obtained 138 signatures.

The opponents of the school projects and the proponents came face to face at an April 3 hearing of the investigating committee of the State Board of Education. Such a hearing is routine in cases where school districts seek to bond themselves for more than five per cent of their assessed valuation. The Cornish project called for an indebtedness of 7.2 per cent.

During the stormy, four-hour session the committee from Concord accepted evidence purporting to show that the March 7 school district meeting had been improperly conducted and that illegal votes had been cast and counted.

However, the state's committee, stating that the question of the legality of the meeting was out of its province, recommended approval of the petition to issue bonds. Shortly afterwards, the governor's council approved the project.

Fred A. Jones, Lebanon attorney who is representing the petitioners who oppose the school project, told the *Daily Eagle* this morning that he has not conferred with his clients since the denial of the petition and could not say whether or not the petitioners plan further action.

struction costing approximately \$40,000 less than the \$120,000 required for the cinder-block construction plans offered by the proponents of the new school.

## Question Legality

Pointing out that the individuals he represented questioned the legality of the original annual school meeting in which the \$120,000 was approved, Mr. Jones said, "We would be willing to drop the law suit if the proponents in the matter would agree to a special school meeting."

The legality of the original meeting is scheduled to be examined by the Supreme Court in September.

Stating that only one set of plans was discussed at the original meeting, Mr. Jones said that other plans should have been

presented. The type of building the group he represents has in mind, Mr. Jones said, was exactly the same in equipment and in interior finish, the only difference between the two proposed schools being the outside shell.

"During the session of the legislature just adjourned, the proponents of the \$120,000 school house asked to have a bill introduced to legalize the annual Cornish School district meeting and then soon after withdrew their request." Mr. Jones continued, and added: "During the last days of the legislature the chief proponent tried to have the legislature legalize said annual meeting but failed in the attempt."

"At that time he was told that if the propopents would call another meeting to vote again on the kind of building and the amount to be raised and appropriated for a new school house and use the checklist to prevent illegal voting and have a 'fair and square' discussion and vote, that the opponents would agree to abide by that vote and drop all law suits.

"This proposition was flatly refused," he claimed.

"The statement that a few taxpayers have shown an utter disregard for the welfare of the community and don't want a new school house is entirely erroneous. The issue is shall Cornish have a wooden frame school house at a cost of \$80,000, or a cinder-block building covered with wood at a cost of \$120,000. There is no dispute whatever about the specifications and equipment for the inside of the school. The sole question is whether the building shall be wood, or cinder-block covered with wood."

## Jones Declares Opposition Not Against School

### Lawyer Claims Cornish Residents Want Wooden Building, Not Cinder

LEBANON, July 14—"We don't want to cause the children hardship and we are not opposed to a new school," Fred A. Jones, counsel, said in an interview with the *Daily Eagle* this morning, concerning the controversy over the proposed new Cornish school.

"Moreover," he added, "the question arises as to just which side is blocking a new school."

Expressing concern over what he termed misinterpretation of intent, Mr. Jones said that the of a new school. The type of structure is the crux of the matter, he said, his group having in mind alternative plans for a building of wooden frame con-

Central School

Need for New Cornish School Questioned

To the Editor:

On February 27 last there appeared on the front page of your newspaper an item describing a proposal for a new central school for the town of Cornish. This item presented the views and specific proposals of the Cornish School association, an association comprised of six members. Since a large-scale undertaking, such as the erection of a new and extensive educational plant, is a matter of vital concern to all the voters and taxpayers of a small community, there is rea-

son to feel that a wider expression of opinion on the matter will better serve our democratic way of life.

The following views, recently articulated by a sizable group of Cornish taxpayers, have not heretofore appeared in your pages. As we all know, to every question there are always two sides; this is in a sense "the other side of the question." We should appreciate an opportunity now to express these views through the medium of a letter to the editor. For where indeed in America today can one find a more righteous-minded and public-spirited champion of freedom of expression than our daily newspaper?

First of all, it is perhaps well to point out what was not immediately apparent in the article heretofore mentioned, namely, the fact that the Cornish School association is not an official body elected by a majority of the town's voters for the purpose of making a proposal for a new central school.

Our impression was that at the regular school meeting last year—attended by about 150 voters of the town—the Cornish school board was commissioned by the voters then present to appoint a chairman of a committee to study the advisability or inadvisability of building a new school here at the present time. The association has considered only one side of a large problem, and to some of us it therefore appears to be a pressure group. It is perhaps significant that not one of the three members of the Cornish school board

(an officially-elected group) is a member of the association.

Secondly, the proposal which the Cornish School association is publicly and forcibly bringing to the attention of the townspeople does not take fully into account the exigencies of the local economy. The association proposes a five-room school at an estimated cost of \$85,000, an architect's plan and contractual estimates having been privately obtained by the association; or, alternatively, an eight-room school (this is preferred by the association) at an estimated cost of \$120,000, the roughness of the latter estimate being duly emphasized by the association.

On the official checklist of the town there are at present 519 registered voters, and this relatively small number of voters (and taxpayers) are the ones who chiefly must and will bear the burden of increasing taxes which any extensive building program necessarily entails. The total assessed valuation of Cornish is approximately \$1,330,000. Since 1947, when the town voted down a similar proposal for a new and extensive educational plant, the taxpayers have been accumulating a reserve fund against the time when a new central school may seem economically sound as well as educationally desirable. Over five years' time this sum has reached \$20,000.

To build the five-room school proposed by the association, the town would have to bond itself to the legal limit of its borrowing power (5 per cent of its assessed valuation) to build the eight-room school, the town would need to borrow at the very minimum \$100,000, at least (Continued on Page 14)

7½ per cent of its assessed valuation, thereby exceeding its legal borrowing power and necessitating an investigation by state authorities.

Third, and last, the proposal of the Cornish School association avoids all mention of the possible alternatives to a new central school—and there are several alternatives. To mention but a few, there are substantial town buildings which could be converted temporarily to school purposes, and thus be more economically utilized than at present. These buildings thus utilized would care for the present and, quite probably, temporary overcrowding in the existing six one-room schools.

We should likewise be able to work out a usable plan to house our eighth graders in some available town building, thus employing in a more sensible manner the sum now spent on tuition for these pupils in out-of-town schools. These two problems—overcrowding, and the high cost of sending our eighth grade to schools in Claremont and Windsor—appear to be our most serious educational problems at the present time. We can, if we will, view this situation realistically, putting our minds to work at solving the economic as well as the educational problem, determined not to permit ourselves to be unduly swayed by those who view the

situation emotionally.

It is easy to say, with great emotion, "Nothing is too good for my children," and perhaps to add, as something of an afterthought, "nor for yours either. Nothing is too good for our children that we can afford to give them, but we must be able to afford the good we desire for them, and we must be very careful not to pass on to them perhaps the greatest burden of all—the heavy burden of debt. Let us be ambitious for our children, certainly; but let us also see that reason and common sense ride along with our desires and our ambitions.

A GROUP OF CORNISH TAXPAYERS.

# Cornish Voters Will Decide On Proposal for New Central School

Central School



**PROPOSED CENTRAL SCHOOL** for Cornish, which will be voted upon by the community at the school meeting March 7. Under present plans, the school would be located on a six-and-a-half acre site adjacent to the town hall.

By Mel Wax

**CORNISH, Feb. 27**—Like a lot of other small communities in New Hampshire and Vermont, Cornish needs a new school.

And like a lot of other communities in the Twin States, Cornish's major problem is where to get the money to build it.

Cornish's approach to the school problem is interesting and may serve as a model for other towns in a similar predicament.

Several years ago the voters set up a reserve fund to be used toward building a school. In the treasury now is some \$20,000, which would be used as a down payment on the plant. The remainder will be raised through bonding, to be paid off in about 20 years, if the proposal passes.

In order to drum up interest in a school, the Cornish school board named a Cornish School association, composed of an executive committee of six, plus six regional chairman.

A series of meetings has been scheduled at each of Cornish's six outmoded one-room schoolhouses. At these meetings committee members have outlined the plans, told what the school would cost, what the alternatives would be, and shown a plan for the new school.

Monday a general meeting is scheduled at the Town Hall at 8 p.m., the final rally before the school meeting next Saturday.

School association members estimate about 200 of the 530 voters on the checklist have attended the regional meetings. They hope residents who have not attended these sessions will be on hand Monday.

## Regional Meetings

At the regional meetings, ten-

been for an eight-room rather than the projected five-room school building.

The school association has retained William Platt, an architect and resident of Cornish and New York, to draw plans for a five-classroom school and to prepare specifications and send them to six prominent New Hampshire contractors for estimates. The estimates have been received. On the basis of these estimates, which range from a minimum of \$70,000 to a maximum of \$87,000, the association believes a five-room school can be built and a site developed for \$85,000.

The plan would be to use the \$20,000 in the building reserve fund as an initial payment and raise the other \$65,000 by bonding for a 20-year period. If the eight-room school is the one approved by the voters, the cost would be \$120,000. That means borrowing \$100,000.

If the five-room school is built, three of the present one-room schools would have to be kept in operation. The one-room schoolhouses, incidentally, have no running water, have outdoor privies, and are built to house a maximum of 150 students—they now house 200.

## Eighth Graders

One of Cornish's many school problems is that the town now cannot handle its eighth grade students. They are sent to Windsor or Claremont. If the eighth-graders go to Windsor, which is closer than Claremont, tuition is \$240 a pupil. If they go to Claremont, tuition is \$200. Next year, for 20 eighth-grade students the community would pay tuition of \$6360, which would be about equal to the yearly debt payment on a new school. Under present plans,

eight-room building.

Naturally, there will be some additional expense involved in a new school. If the voters want a five-room school, the tax rate would be increased by 24 cents a hundred—from \$5.15 to \$5.39. For an eight-room school the increase would be 32 cents a hundred. After the first year, the amount would decrease as the debt decreases.

Additional expenses involved in the new school include the hiring of two new teachers and increased insurance rates.

Last year, when support for the new school was sought, voters were asked to select one of two sites tentatively chosen by the committee. Now a third site has been proposed, next to the Town Hall, where six and one-half acres is available in the geographical center of the town. An oral agreement to sell has been reached with the owner.

All the voters have to do is approve the association plans.

There is no state or federal aid available for building schools, but under state law a community is allowed to borrow up to 5 per cent of its assessed valuation for its school district. Cornish's valuation is \$1,333,000, so a \$65,000 loan would be permissible. To borrow \$100,000, necessary for an eight-room school, the town would have to get permission from the governor and council plus a board of investigation composed of various state officials.

Members of the executive committee of the Cornish School association are Dwight Wood, chairman; David Breen, Burnham Carter, James McSwain, Lillian Tyrrell and Bertrand Yeaton. Regional chairmen are Edna Guest, chairman; Polly Claflin, Bernice Johnson, Ethel



**ONE INSTEAD OF SIX** — The new Cornish school is nearing completion on the high ground adjacent to the town hall. The spacious, eight-classroom plant will replace six one-room schoolhouses that own neither central heating nor plumbing. The new building contains an assembly room, teachers' and utility rooms as well as the study area. Walls of the school are constructed of cinder block covered with wood sheathing. The MacMillin company of Keene is the contractor. Daily Eagle Photo—Titchen

## *Adjustment to New School Will Mark Cornish Meeting*

CORNISH, Feb. 12—A variety of items involved in adjusting the community to its new school will be an important item of business at the Cornish school district meeting on March 6.

At that meeting voters will consider a proposed school district budget of \$71,767—an increase of \$17,178 over the present school year's budget of \$54,589, \$5000 of which would go toward the first annual payment on the new building.

School Supt. Ralph H. Meacham sums up the big change to this small town in a part of his annual report which will be given to the citizens at the district meeting:

"The school board, teachers and your inauguration of programs of physical education, school lunch, music and dramatics.

"There will, of course, be many adjustment problems to be solved in terms of new friends, teachers, transportation, recess, noon-hour and playground activities. I ask that both parents and pupils be cooperative and understanding."

Following are the principal items concerning the effects of the new eight classroom school to be considered at the district meeting:

To see if the district will authorize the school board, as agents of the school district, to dispose of the existing school buildings and lots to which the

district has clear titles, and use the funds received toward equipping the new school or for development of the school site for recreational purposes.

"To see if the district will appropriate the balance as of June 30, 1954, in the school district account, toward payment of the legal fees (\$750), a charge incurred in the construction of the new central school—this amount not to exceed \$750."

Other effects of the new school are contained among the appropriations in the 1954-55 school budget.

There is the \$500 under "principal on debt" for the first payment on the new school and an increase in the "interest on debt" item from \$1200 during the present year to \$2349 for the 1954-55 school year.

The "principal and teachers salaries" item, which increased from \$14,356 in 1952-53 to \$18,100 for the present school year, is increased again in the proposed 1954-55 budget to \$22,500. The increase covers two additional teachers.

Another major increase in the school budget is that in tuition—from \$11,697 for the present school year to \$17,100 for the 1954-55 school year. The main reason for the increase is a jump in the number of Cornish students who will attend Windsor and Claremont schools.

Scenes At Cornish School Dedication

2182/04



OPEN HOUSE AT THE NEW CORNISH SCHOOL attracted hundreds of parents and children in addition to visitors from surrounding towns. The new school has been completed in time for the coming school session next week. Daily Eagle Photos by Titcher



PRESENTATION OF KEYS: Guy MacMillin, Keene, contractor of the new Cornish school, hands the keys to William Platt, (center), New York, architect of the building, who then handed them over to Norman I. Dlotte, (right) chairman of the Cornish school board.



CORNISH SIXTH GRADE TEACHER Mrs. Nettie Johnson, (left) meets pupils of the newly dedicated school during the open house Saturday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Guy Eastman introduce their son Jerry, 7, and daughter Judy, 11, to the teacher.

# Cornish Votes No On Gym Project

## Town Won't Break Claremont Pact

By ALLEYNE ABATE

Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — School district voters Saturday defeated a \$500,000 bond issue to add gymnasium-educational space to the Cornish Elementary School.

Voters at the annual district meeting also rejected a proposal to withdraw from an agreement under which Cornish sends its high school students to Stevens High School in Claremont.

Neither issue, however, is completely dead.

Voters decided on a 224 to 207 vote not to approve a \$500,000, 10-year bond issue for "constructing and equipping an enlargement to the Cornish Elementary School, including a new gymnasium." A two-thirds majority was required for passage, but the majority voted against the proposal.

The bond issue was voted on by Australian ballot throughout the day, and was the subject of a 1½-hour discussion during Saturday's meeting.

The proposal was the product of two years of work by a 13-member gymnasium committee. The recommended building addition of 8,900 square feet included 5,400 square feet for a gym/assembly hall to seat 550 to 600, and 1,700 square feet for educational space.

According to committee Chairwoman Fran Hills, contractor Neil Daniels of Ascutney proposed a \$465,000 plan that she called "a quality building at a reasonable



Moderator Peter Burling

---

“This is an issue that is not going away. I believe that the gym committee has acted fiscally responsibly. If this is defeated and brought up again in one, two, or three years, will the lowest project price be the same?”

**Susan Chandler**

Member of finance committee

---

Town officials had the need for a bigger meeting hall in mind when they prepared for Saturday's meeting. They had set up a video hookup in the elementary school, with the intention of limiting attendance at town hall to only those on the checklist. As it turned out, however, only a few residents watched the meeting from the school, and by their own choice.

"We need a safe, healthy place for our children to be educated. Now, we are going to play interscholastically in Plainfield. Safety is a very important factor and one year recently a basketball team left before the end of a game because of the slipperiness of the floor," said Polly Rand.

"The quality of education is of course the most important consideration. The current library is 2,000 square feet short of the new elementary standard. Currently student testing and guidance take place there, which restricts the use for that period of time. The new space could accommodate these activities," school board member Ellen Ballard said.

After hearing about the new elementary standards, which have to be implemented by 1991, some voters wanted to know why only approximately 25 percent of the addition is dedicated to educational space. In response, Hills said that since her committee was called the gymnasium committee that they could not present a proposal without gym space.

Finance Committee member Susan Chandler added that, "This is an issue that is not going away. I believe that the gym committee has acted fiscally responsibly. If this is defeated and brought up again in one, two, or three years, will the lowest project price be the same?"

Before the business portion of the meeting ended shortly before 7 p.m., voters agreed by voice vote to continue the gym committee in the event the bond issue was defeated, as well as a committee to look into the possibility of expanding the library and other educational facilities.

The vote to withdraw from the current AREA agreement with the Claremont and Unity school district came up 10 votes short of the required two-thirds majority if needed

to pass. The vote was 141 to 88.

But Barbara Homeyer, a member of the high school alternatives study committee who requested this article be included in the school warrant, registered a formal complaint to school moderator Peter Burling about the way the ballot was worded.

Homeyer contended the wording was "extremely misleading" because it required voters to vote yes if they wanted to end the contract.

She said she planned to seek an opinion from a lawyer on the fairness of the printed ballot in relation to the corresponding warrant article.

The Cornish High School Alternatives Study Committee "was charged with the responsibility to determine the best situation for placement of Cornish High School students by thoroughly exploring the existing contracts with Stevens High School in Claremont and by investigating various alternatives keeping in sight short- and long-term plans," according to coordinator Daniel Poor's report.

After compiling data since September, the 21-member group unanimously decided to request that the school board include the contract withdrawal article and one directing the board to look into other contractual agreements with area school districts and present a recommendation at the district meeting next year. The committee did, however, recommend that the town withdraw from the Claremont agreement first.

All school board members except Ballard said that the exploration of other possible contracts with area districts should come before withdrawing from the current contract.

In response, resident Louis Haas said to resounding applause, "I'd like to quote from that great American educator Satchel Paige. You can't steal second base and still have your foot on first base."

Richard Waldo, superintendent of schools for Cornish and Claremont, told the group that "my perception of conversations" with the Claremont School Board was that Claremont would not be interested in another contract at this time if the current contract is terminated. Claremont currently receives approximately \$240,000 in tuition from Cornish.

Also Saturday, in the only contested election, Raymond Evans and incumbent Jill Edson were elected to the two three-year school board positions.

# Couple gives back to town they love

By RUTH ROLLINS

CORNISH, N. H. — For several years, Norman and Shirley Chabot have wanted to do something special for a community that has been good to them.

At Saturday's annual school district meeting, the couple pledged \$50,000 toward the construction of a multi-purpose structure, which could be used by both the school and the community.

"We've wanted to do something for a long time," said Norman Chabot "and since the gymnasium bond issue was voted down at the 1987 school district meeting we have talked about this offer and finalized our plans during the past several weeks."

Norman Chabot is an amputee, having lost his right leg and undergoing triple bypass surgery in hopes of keeping his left. He has been declared legally blind, and with his eyesight failing, he hopes to encourage others throughout the community or area to pledge toward the construction to enable him to see the end results.

## No Tax Dollars?

"I would like to see enough money pledged to pay for the entire building, so no tax dollars could be used," he said, "but we'll wait and see."

"Memorial gifts will also be



**NORMAN AND SHIRLEY Chabot hope their donation for Cornish school expansion will set an example for others to contribute. (Ruth Rollins Photo)**

urged — maybe some people won't be interested in giving to the portion of the facility that will be used for physical education, but they might give toward enlarging the library space or help provide space for music or other educational activities," he added.

The members of Cornish Grange have already pledged \$1,000 in memory of Carol Fitch, long-time Grange secretary and town tax collector, which will be used toward library space needs.

"I grew up in a one-room school, where you would freeze on one side and roast on the other during winter months, but I'm sympathetic to the kids

today. I wish a gymnasium could have been built when the school was built in 1953-54, but the school warrant had articles concerning the new school proposal from 1948 to 1953 before that was approved," Norman Chabot recalled.

## Designs Criticized

He was a member of the committee to build the consolidated school. During that time designs were criticized because of flat roofs and water piping in the ceiling. The site was criticized as many people wanted the school to be built in the Cornish Flat area, where

(Please see COUPLE-Pg. 6)

# COUPLE

From Page 1

more children resided at the time.

Sites were chosen and discarded, plans were drawn and discussed and opinions on all sides were raised to a fever pitch throughout.

A plan drawn by William Platt was finally approved by the school board and Parent Teacher Association, which, after many heated hours of discussion, was approved by a district vote of 203-62. The cost of the eight-room structure was \$120,000.

Since this time the Cornish School has added a library and extra classrooms and due to state standards and increased programs, the need is for further expansion.

Presently physical education needs are met by use of the Cornish Town Hall, while art and music teachers move their classes from room to room.

Norman Chabot was born in the Halls Terrace portion of Windsor and his parents moved to Cornish when he was three months old, living off the Center Road. "I have a lot of respect for Vermonters, but I feel I am a New Hampshireite," he said.

Chabot graduated from the Concord School of Business and worked at a store and gas station operated by his mother for 10 years before purchasing the store that the couple ran for 41 years, presently named the 12% Solution, corner of Town House Road and Route 12A.

He served nearly four years in the Signal Corps during World War II. He marrying Shirley Clow in 1948. The couple resided near the store for a

time, later purchasing a home on Route 120. Their first child, a daughter, was one of the first classes of students to attend the new consolidated school, enrolling the second year the school opened.

## Return to Cornish

The Chabots lived in Claremont for 20 years, only moving back to Cornish in 1986. Their hearts, however, have remained in the community and some of their children have recently shown a desire to move back to Cornish.

Since the 1985 school district meeting, committees have studied the feasibility of having a gymnasium, with extra room to house an enlarged library.

The committee acquired plans from Fleck and Lewis which were unacceptable. The townspeople wanted the committee to look into alternative sites and other types of construction.

During 1986 the committee agreed upon a "design build" proposal which would utilize a pre-engineered steel framed building, after conferring with three contractors.

Neil H. Daniels Inc., Acutney, was chosen and its proposal of \$465,000 was presented as a bond issue vote at the 1987 school district meeting. It was defeated 224-207.

## New Attitude?

Norman Chabot feels a lot of those who voted against the construction have changed their minds and that the \$5,000 approved at the annual school district meeting Saturday, for architect's fees and other ex-

penses incurred by the committee, is proof of that.

The Chabot's pledged the \$50,000 over a 10-year period with several conditions to be met. The building must be started by year's end, have a stage and include space for needed programs. "The stage could be used for a music program perhaps, or classroom space if needed," he explained.

No money will change hands at this time but pledges will be taken until the time of the bond issue vote. The committee that will work on the project will be selected by the Cornish School Board before April 1.

## Donations Welcome

If the bond issue is approved, the Chabots feel donations of any kind would be welcomed in this effort. They also hope there will be some fundraising events held, which might include auctions, yard sales and a booth or two at the Cornish Fair.

Cornish students would also be invited to plan a fundraising event to help instill their pride in the new structure.

The Chabots hope that enough pledges will come in so that when a new bond issue vote is presented to the townspeople later in the year, it will be approved.

State funding for school-oriented multi-purpose buildings is available at 30 percent of construction costs if approved by the state. However, no interest debt monies are available.

Those interested in making pledges may contact the Chabots, Leonard "Bunny" Barker or Peter Storrs.

# Chabot, Spark Behind Cornish School Addition, Dies At 72

Norman Chabot

By ANDREA HEIL  
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — On Sunday nights you could sometimes find Norman Chabot sitting in the bleachers of the new gym at the Cornish Elementary School watching a pick-up game of basketball.

Three years ago Chabot galvanized the community to raise more than \$300,000 in donations toward construction of the gym, plus two classrooms and a library.

Chabot died yesterday, apparently of a heart attack.

It was near the end of a five-hour annual school meeting in 1988 when Chabot addressed his fellow voters. He elected to save his strength and stay seated, his cane at his side. But what he said brought the district voters to their feet for a standing ovation.

Chabot announced that he and his wife, Shirley, would donate \$50,000 for a multi-purpose addition to the elementary school if the town could approve the project and begin construction by the end of the year. Townspeople had shot down the building plan a year earlier.

The time limit on his offer, he said, had to do with his age and health. His eyesight was failing; he was legally blind.

"If I'm going to donate, I want to see it," he told the meeting. "I kind of want to see the building, instead of waiting until I'm gone."

His wish came true, elementary school Principal Tim Luce said this morning. Before his death of a heart attack yesterday a week before his 73rd birthday, Chabot often attended school and community events held in the gym over the past year and a half.

"He loved young people," his wife said today. "He got a kick out of them. He's always been that way. He had a beautiful sense of humor and he liked to have a good time with everybody, no matter their age."

Chabot grew up in Cornish and used to own the store at the junction of Route 12A and Townhouse Road. Even though he moved his family to Claremont for a number of years, he always owned property in Cornish. He said he wanted to give something back to the town.

Shirley Chabot said her husband of 42 years "was a person who was very much interested in the town of Cornish in more ways than one."

And he was very interested in the elementary school. "Anything that came up at the school — Christmas concerts, spring concerts, we always made a point of



Valley News file photograph

Chabot, left, chats with Bob Maslan of Cornish at the groundbreaking ceremony for the school addition that was completed in 1989.

going to them," said Shirley Chabot. "He was very proud of that gymnasium up there."

Luce said he's talking with students and staff members about doing something in Chabot's honor. "The kids really do have a genuine affection for him and really do appreciate what he did for the school."

Chabot had said that he thought the \$500,000 proposal for a gymnasium, meeting hall and stage might have passed if voters knew residents were willing to make private donations to the building fund.

After the proposal was voted down at the 1987 school district meeting, Chabot formed a committee to solicit donations, and was determined to give the pledge drive some momentum at the 1988 meeting when he announced his own \$50,000 donation.

When voters approved the addition at a special school meeting in June 1988, townspeople stopped by where Chabot was sitting, front row center, to praise him. One resident told him, "We're proud of you, Norman. You've united this whole town. You should be proud of yourself."

# Cornish residents hear school addition proposal

*East Times Oct 10, 1989 P. 7*

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — The Cornish School Board held its final hearing on the bond issue proposal for additional space at the Cornish Elementary School last week. The proposal will be put before the voters for approval at a special school district meeting set for June 23 at 7 p.m. at the Cornish Town Hall.

Neil Daniels, Daniels Construction, Ascutney, told residents attending that he had been in construction for 20 years and had seen people raise money for fire departments and other town facilities through private donations but he had never seen a town hold a fund raising drive for support of school construction. He felt it was a special situation. He called it a "commendable effort to support a school outside their tax dollars."

Presently George Edson and his fund raising committee have pledges of nearly \$190,000 toward a goal of \$250,000. A goal he hopes to reach by June 23.

"I am very optimistic," stated Edson, "we have a lot of people who have said they will pledge, we just do not have their signed pledge cards."

The fund raising effort began following a \$50,000 pledge made by Norman and Shirley Chabot at the annual school district meeting. Since that time a group of people have held informational meetings at private homes throughout town and Edson has personally taken a model of the proposed structure to residents' homes.

Principal Thomas "Tim" Luce gave an overview on present school facilities and the need for more space due to increased programs which have been instituted at the school, programs that have been mandated by the state board of education.

They include music, art and guidance. The present school has limited space for such activities, making difficult situations for teaching.

A teacher for gifted and talented students, a part-time position, will be added in September and by 1991 a reading specialist will come on board as a mandated position.

The addition proposed for the school would address space needs by adding a larger library, with 1,200 square feet, which would include a reading area.

Office space, two classrooms, a gymnasium, with locker rooms, storage and a stage area.

The stage is being designed with enough square feet to allow it to be used as a classroom for music or



**EXPLAINING** — George Edson, chairman of the capital fund drive charged with raising \$250,000 for construction of an addition at the Cornish Elementary School, gave this presentation in May at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Steven Blair on Tift Road. Thirty people attended this informal meeting. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

The present library at the school would be renovated to provide room for the principal and secretary's office. Room for the school nurse and a teacher's room.

The present offices would be used by the guidance counselor and Chapter I. The present library would be renovated in such a way to allow flexibility enough to be converted back to a classroom should future space needs require it.

The multipurpose area will be available for community use as well as school events, such as assemblies. At present the school cafeteria is often used for assemblies, however, if total student involvement is required the students move to the Cornish Town Hall.

The multipurpose area would be used during the annual science fair which draws hundreds of spectators. The area would also be used for physical education programs, interscholastic and intramural sports as well as an activity hall during poor weather.

The increase of nearly 20 kindergarten students this September making a total of 37 will demand double sessions, which can be handled at the present school. However, the following year it will be

necessary to have two first grade classes, the additional classroom space will address this problem.

Charles Metz, architect, told those present that the entire structure would be 180 feet by 68 feet or 12,500 square feet. Also, that the reading area in the library would be a recessed area with window space to have some solar gain.

Classrooms have been designed to have 910 square feet and the gymnasium would be a junior high school size 42 feet by 74 feet, a total of 5,800 square feet of space.

Metz said, "retractable basketball backstops and retractable seating for 200 would be included. Hardware equipment would be placed to allow for placing a divider curtain and extra backboards to provide for use as two basketball courts in the future, allowing for more student participation at the same time.

The \$775,000 proposal offers nearly 50 percent more space and addresses future needs that the \$500,000 proposal that was defeated in March 1987 did not address.

Edson stated that if the fund drive realized its goal and the district received 30 percent building aid from the state the entire building would actually cost the taxpayers an additional \$38,000 over the 1987 figure.

"If the project is put off I can envision costs to double in a few years, interest rates could be higher and funds from a fund drive in the future may not be available. We are addressing future growth needs." Edson also told those present that approximately \$2.34 would be added to the tax rate per thousand the first year. This amount would be less each year.

A meeting was set for Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. to have the building committee meet with Daniels and the school board at the school.

Gym

# Cornish votes school addition

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — For the second time this summer, Cornish residents approved the construction of an addition to the Cornish Elementary School with 94 percent of those attending the special school district meeting Thursday evening in favor of the proposal.

The hot humid weather, combined with the fact it was a repeat

performance, was blamed for the poor attendance as the meeting got underway to vote on the \$775,000 proposal.

However, before voting closed at 9 p.m., 251 people had cast ballots, with 236 voting in favor and 15 against.

After the reading of the warrant by Peter Burling, moderator, one resident asked if there was anything new to report since the June 23 meeting when the addition was overwhelmingly approved.

Jill Edson, school board chairman, stated that pledges that to-

taled \$291,000 at that time had jumped to \$322,050.

One resident wondered why the fundraising monies could not be used to pay on the principal and was told by George Edson, fundraising chairman, that the money was in pledges and would be given over a period of time, therefore would not be available to pay a contractor.

Also, that if the private donations were used in this way the school district would not qualify

(Please see CORNISH-Pg. 6)

THOMPSON PAGE 1

for state aid in the amount of 30 percent of the principal.

The funds from the capital drive will be used to pay the entire interest debt of \$271,000, the rest to provide items not included in the proposal.

Mark Thompson, representing Daniels Construction, was asked when ground breaking would take place. "Due to a safety factor we will begin after the Cornish Fair, we did not want to leave open excavations in the area during the fair," said Thompson.

Jill Edson told those present that the board had been advised to borrow the entire \$775,000 and invest it where it would collect a higher rate of interest than what the district will have to pay, while they wait for the sale of the bonds. Brent Edgerton, school district treasurer is looking into the matter.

Discussion ended after 20 minutes.

# Addition dedicated

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — More than 200 people attended the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremonies for the new addition to Cornish Elementary School Saturday. Among them was state Sen. George Disnard, former superintendent of schools, who has kept a watchful eye on Cornish School activities in the past.

Principal Thomas Luce beamed as he served as master of ceremonies for the event. The look of surprise on many faces as people entered the new gymnasium said it all: Many had wide-eyed, open-mouthed expressions.

"It is much better than I thought it would be," said Norman Chabot, who with his wife Shirley, pledged \$50,000 over 10 years.

George Edson headed a major fund-raising campaign, which, to date, has netted \$349,000 toward the project. Occasional gifts are still coming in.

The fund will provide \$271,000 toward interest on the bond debt incurred by the district and has provided for several extras not covered by the loan.

Edson and his wife, Jill, will continue monitoring pledge monies, which are handled by school treasurer Brent Edgerton. Jill Edson is chairman of the School Board.

The dedication ceremony opened with a flag salute. Sarah Evans presented the flag. Superintendent Karen Angello told those present she was proud to be a part of the education system in Cornish because of the community's commitment to education. She noted that New England gave birth to public education.

Peter Daniels of Daniels Construction spoke of Cornish's unique dedication to town and school activities. "I can't believe people would raise money through fund-raising for a public school project, instead of raising it through taxes."

Daniels said it was probably a good that a proposal he presented at the 1987 school district meeting was defeated, as the present building has much more.

Besides the gym, the structure has two large classrooms,

an enlarged library stage area, rooms for guidance and a nurse, locker rooms and storage space. Architect Charles Metz designed the facility.

Malcolm Grobe, director of athletics at the Plainfield School in Meriden, was present. Grobe was instrumental in allowing Cornish students to play their basketball games in the Plainfield School gym for the past three years. Grobe spoke of friendships made between students during that period.

School Board member Raymond Evans praised Daniels and Mark Thompson, construction manager. Evans also noted that George Hibbard, who was hired as clerk of works by the board, gave much time monitoring the work done by Daniels Construction for a small amount of pay.

Several plaques were unveiled by George Edson. The first in appreciation of the generosity, support and inspiration of Norman and Shirley Chabot.

Norman Chabot thanked all those who had contributed to the effort. "This is the greatest thing that has happened in Cornish since skim milk was invented," he said. He told students present that it was all done for them. "We got what we wanted and the reason for that is we love you." The Chabot's entire family was present for the dedication ceremony.

The second plaque unveiled was a gift of Margery Palmer Trumbull and read, "The Palmer Library, given in memory of her parents, Ernest and

Irene Palmer." Margery Palmer Trumbull also was responsible for the original library at the Cornish school.

Another plaque that will be placed in the library designates gifts given in memory of Edna Palmer Faulkner by Irene Palmer Norell. And a reading alcove was made possible by a gift from the Palmer family, with a plaque reading "The Rodney A. Palmer Reading Alcove."

Edson completed the ceremony by unveiling a large plaque that notes the names of everyone who pledged or gave to the project.

Edson said, "The inspiration for the construction of this addition came at the school district meeting, 1988. When townspeople realized that a new building might be too burdensome a tax on many of their friends and neighbors, they agreed to organize and privately fund-raise to lessen that burden."

Ribbon cutting for the gym was done by Shirley Chabot, and Trumbull cut the ribbon for the library. Refreshments, furnished by the Cornish School Parent Teacher Organization, were served under the direction of Loretta Evans.

Following the ceremony, students, adults and faculty joined in some basketball and volleyball games.

A story hour for the young set was held in the new Palmer Library featuring Mark Woodcock, storyteller.



THE NEW GYMNASIUM, at Cornish Elementary School. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

# Fish Derby A Bust

Fish, Trout Tournament

## Big Prize Unclaimed; Tourney Loses Money

By PEGGY DILLON  
Valley News Staff Writer

PLAINFIELD — The mega-prize-winning fish in Saturday's Cornfield Trout Tournament proved to be too slippery for the 400 participants. No one caught the trout that would have brought in a grand prize worth more than \$18,000.

Not only that, Quechee resident Chuck Currier, who organized the fishing derby under close scrutiny by state and local officials, said he and his partner fell more than \$4,000 short of covering their own expenses in the tournament. That means that the Cornish and Plainfield school districts — whose athletic budgets Currier said would share profits from the tournament — will get nothing from the event.

That angered Currier — organizer of the tournament with partner Tom McGary — and several of their supporters, who said after the day-long tournament that just about every public official in the two towns buried the fishing derby under negative publicity, contributing to the low turnout and driving up expenses.

Currier was criticized last month by several people in the two towns who said he had misstated the involvement of Plainfield and Cornish schools, as well as Fish and Game officials, in the tournament. He had since sought the approval of the two school boards, finally getting it early last week.

"Chuck Currier took a terrible pounding here," said Gordon Wilder, whose Plainfield trout farm supplied the

(Continued on page 6)

— FISH



Valley News — Geoff Hanaan

Joseph Marsar of West Newbury, Vt., hopes to hook the winning fish in Mill Brook in Plainfield.

June 3, 1991 Valley News

## Fish

(Continued from page 1)

1,500 fish for the tournament. With a few exceptions, most local officials in Cornish and Plainfield "sure didn't promote this derby," Wilder said.

"We were overrun with bad rumors about all the so-called illegal things we were going to do," Currier said. He said that other than Plainfield Police Chief Gordon Gillens, Plainfield selectmen Judy Belyea and Ben Judy, and Plainfield school board members Robert Cushman and Greg Marshall, "not one town official stepped forward and helped in any way whatsoever."

"Well, that's his opinion," countered Cornish Chief Philip "Joe" Osgood, who said town officials were only responding to questions raised by residents. "My feeling is that town officials were only doing what they should do when the people in town started expressing concerns to them."

One such concern, Osgood said, was what would happen to private property if hundreds of fisherman used it to fish in the three brooks stocked for the tournament. Osgood added that, "due to the moderate size of the crowd, everything went fine." Osgood said that other than minor parking violations, the only problem occurred when two men were arrested for fishing with a net instead of a pole.

Currier complained that local police billed the tournament for extra police duty — a service Currier said he neither requested nor needed.

But Plainfield Sgt. Lawrence Dore said it's common practice for local police to charge extra services to a special event, such as the fishing tournament or the Cornish Fair. He also said some of the additional help had been provided free of charge.

Hundreds of fishermen converged beneath a big tent off Route 12A in Plainfield late Saturday afternoon, as a weary Currier announced the winners of two dozen smaller prizes totaling nearly \$2,000. When he said that the big-prize trout — Number 194 — had not been caught, a disappointed voice called out from the crowd,



Chuck Currier awards prizes following the Cornfield Trout Tournament.

Valley News — Robert Pope

Had that fish been taken — all 1,500 of the fish had been tagged with numbers — the lucky angler would have won a Jeep, boat, trailer, outboard motor, trolling motor and depth finder, all worth \$18,625 — the two dozen smaller prizes totalling almost \$2,000 were all awarded to participants.

Wilder said that on Friday afternoon, three people — himself, Gillens and Belyea — picked from a hat the name of Blood Brook as the place to put the prize fish. The two other streams in the tournament were Blow-Me-Down and Mill brooks.

Wilder said he then picked one trout from a fish tank without looking at the number on its tag. He said only Gillens and Belyea knew what the winning fish number was until the tournament was over.

After that, Wilder said, he and Gillens placed the winning number trout in Blood Brook at a swift-moving point off a road near the Plainfield Elementary School. Wilder said he and many other people were hoping someone would get the grand prize. "A lot of us wanted

# Cornish Board votes 4-1 to stay with Claremont

By RUTH ROLLINS

CORNISH, N. H. — Cornish School Board members voted 4-1 in support of remaining in the AREA (Authorized Regional Enrollment Area) agreement with the Claremont School District to educate Cornish high school students, at its Monday evening meeting.

The board will present its recommendation for voter approval at the March 5th annual school district meeting.

Prior meetings had narrowed the choice between staying with Claremont or going to a no-contract situation. The board had also determined if it went to a no-contract situation it would recommend that there be no public transportation for high school students.

Jill Edson felt the budgetary impact created with a no-contract situation, possible low attendance and at times dropouts, were among disadvantages that outweighed any gains made.

Michael Yatsevitch said he would like to provide as much flexibility as possible and place students where they fit in best, but by all practical aspects felt Cornish should stay in the AREA contract. He verified a long-standing working relationship with the Claremont School District.

The newest board member, Raymond Evans, who was among members of the original committee to study high school alternatives, also backed the board's decision.

Evans felt the board has a voice in SAU decision making and the new vocational-technical center would be an asset to education offered by Claremont.

Board chairman Ellen Ballard agreed with Evans, "At this time our option is to stay in the AREA contract," stated Ballard.

Joan Baillargeon had the dissenting vote opting for a no-contract situation. She felt it should go to the people for a vote.

Several board members felt any one of the schools that were visited during its study of the high school alternatives were more than satisfactory for educating Cornish students.

Those parents opposing the AREA agreement with the Clare-

mont School District felt parents should have the choice of where they sent their students and stated that transportation would not be a problem.

The board was presented a petition article to be placed on the March warrant to see if the district will vote to withdraw from the existing AREA agreement with the Claremont and Unity School Districts to take effect at the end of the 1988-89 school year.

The article was not endorsed by the board but it did agree to include it as a petition article in the upcoming warrant. The same article was defeated at the 1987 school district meeting.

## Other Business

Cornish board members Yatsevitch and Edson were recognized for their many years of effort

(Please see CORNISH-Pg. 6)

on behalf of the Cornish School District.

Yatsevitch was recognized for 24 consecutive years, as well as six prior years on the board and Edson for 16 consecutive years as board member.

The two Cornish board members were to be honored by Gov. John Sununu Tuesday at the New Hampshire School Boards Recognition Day to be held in Concord.

Evans reported on the superintendent search committee of which he is a member. He reported that the committee had retained the services of the New Hampshire School Boards Association. A schedule has been set up to end advertising for the position by March 1.

Evaluations of resumes and applications, with an all-day interview session to be held April 9 for six-eight of the candidate finalists. "Hopefully by the end of April a choice will be made," said Evans.

Board chairman Ballard spoke of House Bill 645 which is still up for discussion and urged those present to contact their legislators to urge its passage.

The bill would increase the building aid given school districts from 30 to 40 percent and change the two-thirds vote needed to pass a bond issue to a simple majority.

Ballard, one of two board members up for reelection, announced she would not file for the position. Joan Baillargeon is also up for reelection.

Principal Thomas "Tim" Luce told board members he was in the process of writing a grant with the

\$15,000 to be used for the gifted and talented program. The funds would be used to hire a consultant to come to each school one day weekly to plan a school wide enrichment activity. No matching funds are required.

The board received a request that \$5,000 be included as a line item in the 1988-89 budget for use by the Building Addition Committee (formally the Gym and Educational Space Committees.) The amount would be used for architectural fees in its study of both gym and educational space.

The board's decision to include it as a line item was questioned by several people who thought it should be included as a single warrant article.

Luce told the board he would post the second grade personnel position vacancy March 28 at the school and April 4 publically. Ruth Schneider has been granted a one-year leave of absence.

Luce also reported that the California Achievement Tests would be shared with parents when report cards were sent home this week. They would include a parent report. The tests are administered to each student from Grades 2-8. Luce told those present the students scored very well.

Assistant superintendent Frank Daly told the board that \$142,696 would be received in State Foundation Aid, a lesser amount by \$1,308 than previously thought.

The board went into executive session to discuss teacher negotiations. The board will hold a budget workshop Feb. 1, 7 p.m. Waiver renewal requests are due

# Cornish, Plainfield May Share School

Valley News Jan 20, 1990 p. 6

By CLIFF DESROSIERS  
Valley News Correspondent

MERIDEN — The school boards of Plainfield and Cornish met this week to consider the possibility of the towns sharing a school.

Jill Edson of Cornish indicated that there was some positive talk in her town regarding the possibility that, sometime in the future, the two communities could share an elementary school, with Plainfield being the more likely site due to the flat topography of the land.

The issue may go on the town meeting warrants to determine interest in the communities.

Also this week, the Plainfield School Board was presented a proposed \$2,025,126 budget, up 17 percent over last year.

The board agreed that the budget, which does not include teachers' salaries, would be met with a great deal of opposition from the town and decided that a 13.5 percent increase would be more palatable.

It asked Assistant Superintendent Paul Rice what would need to be eliminated to reach the 13.5 percent goal, which would translate to \$90,000 in cuts.

Among the suggestions for elimination and/or reduction were a teaching position, field trips,

painting the school building, principal's conferences, school board expenses, reduction in library books and extracurricular activities.

Board member Robert Reeder said he was proud of how the board, in the past, was able to present a workable budget to the town, but this year's budget would be damaging. Cornish woman Maryellen Sullivan indicated that cutting would tear at the fiber of the school community.

The board was to meet this afternoon in Plainfield School at which time Rice and Plainfield Principal Joan Garipay would present a prioritized list of items to be cut. The board would then present its final draft for Monday evening's meeting.

Valley News Saturday, March 30, 1991

## No Stock In 'Cornfield' Plan Cornish, Plainfield Put Off Cooperative School District Idea

By KIMBERLY WOOD  
Valley News Correspondent

A committee studying a cooperative Cornish-Plainfield school district has disbanded.

Instead of the prospect of one school district (dubbed "Cornfield" by some) serving both communities, the principals at the Cornish and Plainfield elementary schools will work toward coordinating more closely programs such as art, music, sporting events, physical education and guidance.

Committee Chairman Michael Taupier of

the Plainfield School Board said that while the arrangement won't be a cooperative district, "it's a small step in that direction." Cornish Principal Tim Luce called the effort "planting a seed." He said that both schools will also work together to come up with a more appealing package when hiring part-time people.

Last month, three state officials met with representatives of both schools to discuss ideas for a cooperative school district to be in place possibly in the late 1990s.

"The timing is not right right now," said

Luce. He said the main reason for the study was the possibility of building a new school to serve both towns "somewhere down the road."

"We put this on hold because both Cornish and Plainfield have recently added (to their schools) and are comfortable with the space, and there's no real urgency to begin building again."

Referring to last month's meeting with the State Department of Education, Luce said, "The state stressed the need for a

(Continued on page 8)  
— SCHOOL

real commitment from the community" to form a cooperative school district. "It would mean a tremendous amount of PR and a real need had to exist."

While Luce said that at this time there doesn't seem to be a real need, he added, "We didn't kill it by any means — we will discuss it again at some point in the future. If either community discusses adding on to a building, it will contact the other community to get them involved with the plans."

The two schools are accustomed to doing things together. In the past Cornish and Plainfield have had exchange concerts where each school's chorus would give concerts at the other school. "We have also performed plays over there," Luce said.

Luce said that at a meeting last week, Cornish and Plainfield school officials talked about the need to hire part-time people in a joint effort and to put together a combined package for prospective candidates.

Personnel sharing already takes place, but with different schools. Cornish's guidance counselor, Wendy Ehlert, also works in Brownsville, but the arrangement was not coordinated by the schools; it was set up by Ehlert.

Plainfield's speech pathologist is shared with Lebanon, and art teacher Patricia Lobacz is shared with Grantham.

Luce said he wouldn't be opposed to considering other schools as well as Plainfield in a cooperative hiring plan. But he said there are "some problems even with (working it out with) Plainfield." They are still two different school districts. Differences in contracts, probable differences in pay rates, different rules for benefits, and character fit (who's right for which school) need to be considered in any joint hiring effort. "There are a lot of variables," Luce said.

"We work well together," said Plainfield Principal Joan Garipay in a telephone interview. She said that a

# New Cornish playground opens; fund-raising work is continuing

By RUTH ROLLINS

Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — Cornish Elementary School students returned to the school this week to find a new playground structure completed and ready for use.

Before being turned loose to enjoy the facility, Principal Thomas "Tim" Luce held an assembly near the structure, giving students the rules for its use, and reminded all to share, which was evident as students took turns on the monkey bars, slides, tire swings, rings and glider.

Thomas Petrin of Putnam's Flowers and Gifts, designed the structure and was present to see the fun the children had as Luce allowed them to use the facility.

The playground has been provided by a commitment made by the Cornish Parent Teacher Organization. Money was raised by staffing ticket booths at the Cornish Fair, receiving a percentage of ticket sale monies.

Other funds were raised through sale of school calendars, which include a picture of graduating students. Calendars are still available. Approximately \$4,300 of the total cost of the structure was borrowed privately.

The PTO will hold several fund-raising events to repay the loan and the first such effort will be held Friday evening. A "Sock Hop" will be held 7:30-11 p.m. in the new gymnasium, featuring a WTSV disc jockey.

Families are urged to attend, and a charge of \$10 will cover cost of families.

Carpenters who spent several weekends working on the structure include Steve Tribou, Richard Thompson, Cheston Newbold, Peter Storrs, Keith Beardsly, Jim Osterlund, Brook Moore, Robert



**TRYING IT OUT** — Benjamin Moore slides down the fire pole installed on the new playground. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

Oberkotter, Richard Heim and James Jordan.

Also, Jiri Zapletal, Jerry Pierce, Fred Schad, Steve Deboer, William Durant, Tim Therrien, Thomas Petrin and Merilynn Chilton.

Friends who either loaned additional funds or gave toward the project in some way or other were Jonathan and Sherrie Bulkeley, Robert and Ellen Oberkotter, Richard and Gail Heim, Jerry and Sheryl Pierce, Peter and Jean Burling, Cheston and Nancy Newbold, George and Jill Edson and

Joseph and Nicky Saginor.

Also, Ray and Loretta Evans, Michael and Sally Newbold, Donald and Sandy Powers, Paul Therrien, Francis and Heidi St. Pierre, Harold Morse, Dan's Service Station and the Blow-Me-Down Snowriders Club.

Several people ran errands, made lunches and acted as "Johnny-on-the-spot" whenever needed. They included Nancy Newbold, Kathi Osterlund, Susan Weld, Eddie Durant, Jill Edson and Caroline Storrs.

Margaret Regan



Valley News — Dan Hunting

School board Chairman Michael Yatsevitch, right, addresses voters last night.

## Cornish Crowd Questions Board On Principal Affair

### Most Answers Lost To Confidentiality Restrictions

By SALLIE GRAZIANO  
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — Discussion of Principal Margaret Regan's recent departure from the elementary school attracted more than 100 people to last night's school board meeting, but the issue gradually turned from Regan's performance to the board's actions.

Many residents charged the board with being out of touch with the school's staff, being unresponsive to community members, and communicating poorly with constituents.

For the first hour residents questioned why Regan left her position six weeks

before the end of school, and what problems the board has had with her performance.

"We're talking about ruining someone's career," said Henry Homeyer, one of a number of parents who circulated petitions calling for the board to review Regan's departure. "If she's done something terrible, she doesn't deserve the board's protection. If not, she doesn't deserve being treated this way."

Board Chairman Michael Yatsevitch continually cited the confidentiality of personnel matters. He moved from question to question last night, acknowledging each

(Continued on page 12)

— CORNISH

# Cornish

(Continued from page 1)

with a "Thank you," but no answer.

One frustrated man stood up and yelled at Yatsevitch. "We haven't had an answer from you all night!" Yatsevitch told the man to hold his comments until he was acknowledged. "What difference does it make?" the man asked. "You won't answer anything."

"We're asking you for leadership," said Homeyer, who turned in 106 signatures on petitions calling for the board to defend its actions or apologize to Regan.

Some residents, including current and former teachers, rose to the board's defense, saying the decision to replace Regan showed leadership. "I've been coming to school board meetings regularly, and it's been obvious the board hasn't been pleased with (Regan's) performance," said parent Susan Chandler. "They're providing the leadership they felt would get the school back on the track it should be. You can't crucify them and say they're a lousy school board."

Regan said this morning she stayed away from the meeting after talking with an attorney and with the executive director of the state's association of principals.

"If I was there, it would be as an employee of the district," Regan said. "I felt that my attendance was not appropriate. The public had issues they wanted to discuss with the board." Regan said she planned to review a videotape made of the meeting.

Regan notified the school superintendent's office in February that she wouldn't be returning after this year. She said last week her decision hinged on the board's dissatisfaction with her performance.

On May 1, Regan met with Assistant Superintendent Frank Daly and the two discussed the school board's recent decision to effect a smooth and quick transition from Regan's administration to that of her replacement, fourth-grade teacher Tim Luce. Daly said last night that he told Regan he thought the switch would take no longer than a week, after which she would be free to pursue other employment, but be available to the school if needed. Regan cleared out her office during spring vacation.

Residents remained confused last night about whether Regan left voluntarily or was forced out of the school. At one point

Yatsevitch said Regan certainly should know the issue," behind the board's dissatisfaction with her performance, but board member Richard Ackerman said moments later that there no specific incident prompting her removal before the school year ended.

Regan, contacted at her home this morning, said that if people walked away from last night's meeting under the impression she left voluntarily on May 9, they were mistaken.

"If I wasn't ordered out, I'd be there today and I would have been there all last week," Regan said.

"Right or wrong, this has been handled poorly," Fred Weld told the board last night.

Don Powers agreed. "The students weren't informed, the kids in the eighth grade were crying about it. It's a shame the way you as a board handled this situation. It's upset our kids, and that's made me mad. You can't tell me the idea was to have a nice, smooth transition because it didn't happen."

Difficulty within the school following Regan's departure is not necessarily the school board's fault, said Marilyn Chilton, whose daughter attends the elementary school. Much of the crying over Regan's departure was caused by the emotional nature of Regan's farewell address, she said.

"It was done to make the transition more difficult and to evoke a lot of sympathy," Chilton said. "That reason makes me support what the board's done."

Residents differed strenuously last night over whether Regan's departure was handled appropriately but they agreed the school board faces a larger issue — how best to repair damage caused by poor communication, confusion, rumor and misunderstandings.

Yatsevitch said the board will work in the next few weeks to address some of the concerns raised about communication and staff interaction.

Residents also made a point last night to say that despite the disagreement over the handling of Regan's departure, they all approve of Tim Luce as the next principle. Don Powers, angry over the board's actions with Regan, said that he and others like and support Luce. Powers was interrupted by scattered applause for Luce, who was seated with the board, that turned into a long standing ovation by most of the crowd.

# Cornish Opts Out Of Study Regional School May Be Doomed

By CRAIG TIMBERG  
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH – Bowing to the will of town voters, the school board decided last night to withdraw from a study into whether to build a regional high school.

Last night's vote is another blow – perhaps close to the final one – to the prospects for that regional school, once envisioned as serving six towns in two states.

The six towns are Hartland, Weathersfield, Windsor, West Windsor, Cornish and Plainfield. Of those, Cornish and Weathersfield have now decided to drop out. Hartland will decide soon whether to follow, and if it does, the plan probably will die.

Debate ran strongly against the school study in Cornish last night, as it did at the annual school district meeting in March. In an advisory vote at that meeting, residents urged the board to pull out of the study.

Continuing with it would have cost the school district just \$1,059, but even school board Chairwoman Brenda Jordan, who was on the regional high school planning committee, conceded that support for the project was lukewarm. Board member Daniel Poor was the other Cornish delegate on that committee.

"There's part of both of us that would really like this to continue," said Jordan. But she joined the majority in rejecting the study. The vote was 4-1; Poor was the only one to support the study.

"We're making a decision, and the town is making a decision, based on insufficient information," Poor said last night. He said that debate had focused too narrowly on the costs or potential savings of a new school. "We were looking for a high school to get our kids ready for the 21st century."

In the last 2½ years, the school district has spent \$2,108 on its share of the cost of studying the regional high school, said Jordan. If it continues – possibly in a scaled-down version – the study probably would be completed early this summer.

Several residents spoke against the study last night, citing the complications of a bi-state school, the fear that high-technology plans for the school are untried, and the town's reluctance to abandon hard-won school choice.

This has been the first year that Cornish families have been free to choose – within some limits – what high school their children will attend at town expense. Most now go to schools in Claremont, Hartford and Windsor, and the school district pays tuition. A few go to Hanover High.

"I saw the town struggle for choice for many years before it got passed and approved," Vice Chairwoman Joan Baillargeon said in explaining her vote.

The withdrawals of Cornish and Weathersfield have cast doubt on the viability of the \$17.8 million project. Now, attention will shift to next week's vote in Hartland.

Hartland voters are having their say on the regional

# Cornish

(Continued from page 1)

Hartland school board will ultimately decide whether to pull out of the study.

Chuck Knisley, superintendent of the Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union and a leading proponent of a regional high school, said the action by the Cornish school board was no surprise, but that the town's withdrawal does hurt the plans.

"It's dying with a soft voice rather than a bang," he said.

With Cornish and Weathersfield gone, and Hartland possibly reconsidering, proponents of a new regional high school may have to rethink their plans. He suggested that might lead to a coalition of only Vermont towns going forward with construction.

"Somebody's going to build something for the kids at some point in the next few years," Knisley said.

About 15 residents attended last night's school board meeting at Cor-

nish Elementary School.

In other business last night, Cornish Elementary School Principal Robert Campbell recommended a plan for sports user fees that might ease the burden for large families.

For each sport, a student would pay \$15, but for a family with more than one child playing in sports programs, the maximum fee for the entire family would be no more than \$50 for the year.

Families that request financial assistance for sports should be automatically approved, recommended Campbell. No financial documents, said as family budgets or tax returns, would have to be filed.

The users fees would help pay for equipment, referees and travel costs. Fees would not pay for salaries for coaches, who all volunteer their time.

The board took no action on Campbell's recommendation last night. Jordan said she expects the board to vote on the issue in May or June.

# Parents defend Cornish school ski program

Spokane Times Spout 22, 1996

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

**CORNISH** — The school ski program, curriculum development, an update on heating and ventilation, a report on available trust funds and space needs were all on the agenda for discussion at a recent Cornish School Board meeting.

A number of parents were on hand to defend the educational strengths of the school's ski program. The program was started by Betty Macy and Lois Baker and has been in existence at the Cornish Elementary School for more than 25 years.

In recent years, some parents whose children are not involved in skiing have questioned the validity of the full day ski program, which is held during several Fridays in January and February. Also questioned was whether the days should be counted among the 180 day school calendar.

But Superintendent Robert Patterson reported that he was informed by the the state Board of Education that as long as the program tied in with physical education it was an acceptable.

However, Patterson also said an alternative program must be available for pupils who do not wish to ski.

Board Chairman Raymond Evans said would continue to be held at Sunapee Mountain.

## Other business

Superintendent Patterson gave the group information on how curriculum development should be planned in School Administrative Unit 6, which serves the three communities of Claremont, Unity and Cornish.

"It should be teacher-driven, with more ownership by teachers," said Patterson, adding that after initial staff organization some parents would be given the opportunity to give input.

Parent Pam Lukash spoke about the need for a foreign language being available to seventh and eighth graders to help prepare them for high school. Jean Burling, also in favor of a foreign language, said that her and her husband, Peter and Leonard Rudolph had offered to defray costs of hiring a Spanish teacher to teach an exploratory class. Exploratory classes are held two days a week. Patterson then

recommended a curriculum for foreign language be written and submitted.

SAU 6 Business Manager Alan Damren said progress is being made on the heating and ventilation project at the school.

"ARC Mechanical has their crew on job at 4 a.m. to do as much as possible before pupils and staff arrive daily. They have a target date of Oct. 4 for completion," said Damren.

Cornish School opened with 21 more pupils than planned for, which has made space crunch in the upper wing. Jean Burling said immediate changes are necessary.

"There are six classes held in classrooms, one class is always up in air," Burling said. "It is not a learning environment and not healthy."

The board will research the problem during an upcoming special session.

Brenda Jordan, the new school district treasurer, gave the board a report on trust funds. Parents present were asked to help find a replacement for Don LaClair, athletic director, to allow school sports programs to continue.

Terrie Scott

## Cornish Voters Should Wonder

To the Editor:

At the Cornish School Board meeting on Monday, Jan. 19, the board accepted the resignation of board member Myron Kuhre. On Thursday, Jan. 22, it was publicly announced in the school newsletter that the board would be accepting applications for a temporary appointment to his seat effective Feb. 9. The following letter was written by the school board chairman on Jan. 21, one day before the announcement of acceptance of applications was made public:

"An update on those seeking election to the board: Katy Pond will seek appointment to the board, followed by election in March. She appears to be thoughtful and without an agenda, and she'll appeal to the right people at election time. With some training, I think we'll be able to work with her. There will be two elections, as it were. Each person who files will have to indicate whether he/she's filing for my 3 year seat, or Myron's 2 year seat. That may very well take the heat off me, but increases the chances that some lunatic will get on. However, if we back someone like Katy, we may be all right. So far Curt Wyman, David Gee, and Jim Strout have expressed interest. Will keep you posted."

This memo should have all Cornish voters wondering if we want to continue our chairman's elected term another three years. It would appear our school board chairman has already appointed her "puppet." This letter was sent to community members. As town elections near, remember, Cornish voters, we have the power to show all self-serving elected officials we will not tolerate actions taken that are not in the community's best interest.

JAMES E. STROUT  
Cornish

## Real Issue Is Cornish Budget

To the Editor:

The controversy swirling in Cornish these past few weeks has taken on a life of its own, and I must respond.

As a private citizen, I sent an e-mail to friends who had expressed interest in who was running for school board, informing them of the qualifications of one particular candidate. The husband of one recipient printed the e-mail and took it to his workplace in Cornish. It was then distributed by a few agitators who are attempting to cloud the real issue: funding a quality education while maintaining a responsible tax rate. Informed debate of the budget and its separate warrant articles will guide Cornish, not the malicious rumors that have passed for political discourse these past few weeks. It appears that those who fight to protect their civil rights and rights of privacy so stridently believe that an elected official should be stripped of hers.

The e-mail was a private message to my friends who had sought information about who was running for election. Who among us hasn't said something less than politic when speaking to friends in private? However, I am a responsible, thoughtful and responsive school board member, and any decision I make when I wear that hat is a professional one. I am allowed, though, to take that hat off, hold private conversations and maintain my right to free association. And, yes, if I am not divulging secret collective bargaining information, I am even free to discuss whatever I wish with the president of the teachers' union. Anyone suggesting otherwise is not the defender of democracy and civility that he claims.

The most serious misrepresentation made by those out to twist my words regards my use of the word "lunatic." I referred to those who would seek to win a seat on the school board for the sole purpose of the wholesale dismantling of programs and the budget without an adequate understanding of why these programs and budget are in place.

I am calling upon Cornish to put this tempest behind us and prepare to debate the merits of the school budget at

the public hearing on Monday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in the gym and again on Saturday, March 7, at 1 p.m. (voting takes place from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Saturday). The school board has pared the main budget down to an increase of just more than 5 percent, despite losing all our foundation aid and experiencing an increase in the number of high school students as well as high school tuition. Without these two essential changes, the school budget would have been nearly level-funded. We will also be putting forward a new teachers' agreement as a separate warrant article. The school board has worked very hard to meet the needs of the taxpayers while at the same time meeting the needs of our children, and it is time that we turn our attention to matters of real importance.

TERRIE B. SCOTT  
Cornish

# Storrs is Teacher of the Year

11-07-08

## Social Studies teacher to receive New Hampshire award today

By **KATELYN HARDING**  
Staff Writer

Caroline Storrs, a social studies teacher at Cornish Elementary School, will be named New Hampshire History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Preserve America today at 9 a.m. during an award ceremony at the school.

"Caroline Storrs has spent a lifetime devoted to teaching the children of Cornish," said Cornish Elementary School Principal Mary Bronge in a statement. "She has taken her

lessons outside of the classroom and tapped into the rich history of our community and state. We are fortunate to have a teacher of her caliber at the Cornish Elementary School and celebrate with you this wonderful award she is being presented with."

Storrs will receive \$1,000 and the Cornish School's library will receive an archive of history books and materials from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Storrs has been teaching at the Cornish School since 1980, where she organizes the National Geography Bee. She has received funding from Wal-Mart to lead her students on a

trip to Washington, D.C., and has also coordinated a trip to Cornish's twin city, St. Gaudens, France, according to a press release from the Gilder Lehrman Institute.

Now in its fifth year, the History Teacher of the Year Award is designed to promote and celebrate the teaching of American history in classrooms across the United States and honors one exceptional K-12 teacher of American history from each state and U.S. territory, according to a statement.

*Katelyn Harding can be reached by calling (603) 543-3100 Ext. 139, or through e-mail at [kharding@eagletimes.com](mailto:kharding@eagletimes.com).*



John and Terrie Scott, who own the online retailer Dharma Rose, outside their Cornish home with their sons Cassidy, right, Graham, bottom left, Dylan, bottom right, and their dog, MacKenzie.

VALLEY NEWS — CHRISTOPHER POWERS

Dharma Rose, John Scott, Terrie Scott

# Dharma Rose Keeps Truckin'

## Online Store Expands Focus Beyond Grateful Dead Memorabilia

By OMAR SACIRBEY

Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — When people think Deadheads, they often think grungy, spaced-out hippies living in communes. But like a lot of stereotypes, this one isn't always applicable.

Take John and Terrie Scott, a couple of well-groomed, thoughtful small-business owners living the capitalist dream.

And nine years after lead guitarist Jerry Garcia's death, which effectively ended the legendary Grateful Dead, the Scotts are very much keeping the band's memory alive with an online store featuring tie-dye T-shirts and other Deadhead paraphernalia.

vated minibuses and other vehicles of questionable reliability, pursued the band cross-country from show to show — even when they didn't have tickets.

"Who are the Grateful Dead and why are they following me?" was a favorite refrain.

In return, the Dead allowed fans to record their concerts, spawning a culture in which they traded tapes and memorized set-lists the way baseball aficionados traded player cards and memorized statistics.

Of course, after hundreds of shows, it got hard to remember all those sets. So in 1983, while enrolled in some Dartmouth computer classes, Scott started compiling set-lists for a database assignment. And with the help of a

**With no more shows  
to add to the  
DeadBase after Jerry**

# Group wants senior

## Senior Housing

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — A petition asking the town to encourage construction of more senior housing in Cornish has the board of selectmen full of questions.

The board attempted to reach Janice Orion of Cornish Friday night to find out just what she and 25 other residents have in mind. Orion's name was given as the contact

person for the petition.

"Of course, we'll add it to the warrant," Selectman Lawrence Dingee said. "But we'd like more specifics."

The petition reads, "If you are interested in the idea of senior housing in Cornish, please sign below. With 25 signatures we can have a warrant article at town meeting asking for an investigation into the possibility of senior housing."

Altogether 26 Cornish residents signed the document.

Selectman William Gallagher interpreted the petition to mean the signers would like the selectmen to form a committee to look into senior housing.

At present, there is neither housing for the elderly nor a senior center in Cornish. A senior dinner is held once a month at the Masonic building

TIMES

Sunday, February 2, 2003

# housing in Cornish

in Cornish Flat, Gallagher said.

Selectmen discussed local properties that might qualify, but they didn't know whether the petitioners meant assisted living apartments, a nursing home or a cloister of homes exclusively designed for the elderly.

Cornish Flat resident Bernice Johnson, one of the signers of the petition, said

Saturday the group is looking for a place, preferably in the village of Cornish Flat, where they could live together cheaply and still be independent.

"There are a lot of elderly Cornish people who have moved to senior housing in Claremont," she said. "They come back for Grange meetings and church, and sometimes they have to find someone to drive them. The village

would be nice because everything's right here — the post office, the bank and the store — and we'd have a cheaper place to live."

"We don't want it yesterday, or anything like that," she said. "All we want is to have a discussion and get them to look into the idea."

*George Chappell can be reached by e-mail at [gchap@sover.net](mailto:gchap@sover.net).*

# Woman offers land for senior housing

By **DAMIEN FISHER**

Staff Writer

02-18-05

One senior resident is trying to do something about the lack of affordable senior housing in town. Bernice Johnson, 84, is offering to give her house and two acre lot on School Street in Cornish Flat for a senior housing development.

"I've always been a civic minded person," Johnson said Thursday night. "I like Cornish very much."

Johnson wants the town to use her land for a development of up to 10 living units for low income seniors. The development would not be a nursing home or an assisted-living facility, but a place for people who cannot afford to keep up a house, Johnson said.

Johnson took her idea to the town and now a committee has formed to develop in into a plan. Stuart Hodgeman, who heads the

committee, said the town is very interested in Johnson's proposal.

"The town does not want this opportunity to pass them by," Hodgeman said.

Hodgeman said the committee has so far found that a small development on Johnson's land is feasible, but actually getting it off the ground is another matter.

"It's an idea, there's nothing hard and fast yet," he said.

Hodgeman said he hopes the committee will be able to bring the town a serious proposal within a year. In the meantime, they are still looking for answers to the many questions Johnson's gift poses.

The potential cost has not been worked out, neither has

any funding. An architect is needed to develop the plan and come up with a cost estimate, Hodgeman said. He is hoping the committee can find an architect to volunteer time.

Hodgeman is also looking to state agencies for possible grants as the proposal is too small for any federal funding. The initial investment might come from a combination of grants and private donations, he said.

Once it is built, though, the town may not own the development. Hodgeman said owning it might be too much of a burden and a potential liability for the town. Finding a person or organization to take it over is part of what the committee will investigate.

It is also investigating the actual need for the develop-

ment. Hodgeman has already heard from many residents who want to live in Johnson's proposed development, and he is checking town records to see how many people might qualify for the housing.

Johnson knows there are residents who need senior housing, herself included. She wants the town to get together to build the development.

"I want it to be a town project, run by ourselves and built by volunteers," she said.

Johnson said she would be willing to move into one of the units and give her four bedroom house to a young couple willing to work as caretakers. The important thing is to get it built, she said.

"I want to see it happen before I go," she said.

The committee will next meet on Monday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. in the selectmen's offices.

*Damien Fisher can be reached at 603-543-3100 ext. 139, or by e-mail at [dfisher@eagletimes.com](mailto:dfisher@eagletimes.com).*

---

**"The town does not want this opportunity to pass them by."**

---

**Stuart Hodgeman**  
senior housing committee

---

# Sexual Assault

Consult Librarian at History Center to examine  
Vertical Files on Sexual Assault



**Billy Sharff, shown walking across the Brooklyn Bridge, shot part of his film in New York City.**

Billy Sharff

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BILLY SHARFF

# Young Filmmaker Explores Loss, Grief And the Ties That Bind a Family

By DAN MACKIE

Valley News Staff Writer

Valley News Dec 9, 2004 p. C1



VALLEY NEWS — DAVID M. BARREDA

**"Making a film makes you see things more clearly."** — Billy Sharff

about his work. Billy was interested in still photography when he was younger, and made his first movie, about his dog, when his father was already sick with the cancer that would take his life. In *Milk of Many Years*, Billy Sharff notes that he decided to show his movie to his father when he came home from the hospital, but his father died there.

Billy Sharff largely taught himself how to shoot and craft a film. He used a digital camera for this project, technology that's far less expensive than movie film. The digital format allowed him to edit the movie on a home computer using specialized software. He used his father's lights for some shots, and one of his cameras as a prop. He also made use of archival black-and-white footage of the Nazis and World War II.

Sharff said making the movie probably helped him deal with his emotions. "It seems to make things easier when you're doing something concrete," he said. And, he added, "making a film makes you see things more clearly."

Sharff and several family members appear in the film, including his mother, Laura Foley, who reads poetry in a couple of scenes. She called the process of turning pain and loss into a creative work "just a wonderful way to deal with it."

The film relies heavily on the use of images, sometimes resembling a dream more than a conventional Hollywood movie. The people who appear in the film aren't actors, and Sharff's goal wasn't to make it slick as they perform scenes from his father's proposed movie.

Without much of a budget, Sharff used the opportunities life presented. He shot during trips to New York City and Monhegan Island, Maine. The North Hartland dam is a backdrop for several scenes.

Sharff's movie tries to express the connections between generations and the losses in his own life and his father's. He completed the film just recently, and wasn't sure it was entirely finished — "I can't see it that well right now," he said.

Sharff said he wasn't sure whether he would pursue film school in the future. "It's like a calling," his mother said. "I think he just needs to follow it and see what happens."

It is the most personal of themes — an exploration of grief after the loss of his father — but Billy Sharff hopes his new film is more than that.

"I don't want it just to be a personal experience. I hope other people can connect with it," said Sharff, a 16-year-old high school junior from Cornish who is the son of the late Stefan Sharff, a filmmaker and film scholar whose life was at times as remarkable as the newsreels.

Billy Sharff will show his hour-and-a-half film, *Milk of Many Years*, tomorrow and Friday, Dec. 17, at Hanover High, where he goes to school. Admission is free for both 7 p.m. showings.

Indeed, Sharff's movie is more than just his own story. It also uses elements from a synopsis of a film that his father had hoped to make. That story is an account of what may have happened to his sister during World War II, when Stefan Sharff lost his entire immediate family to the Holocaust.

Sharff lived what seemed to his son an ordinary life during his retirement in Cornish, but it had been anything but. Born in Poland, he fled the Nazi invasion to Russia, where he joined the Moscow Film School and apprenticed under film pioneer Sergei Eisenstein. As the war neared an end, he was a translator for talks between the Soviets and Polish diplomats, once even translating a discussion among Stalin and diplomats as they stood over urinals.

Sharff taught at Columbia University for three decades and for several semesters at Dartmouth. He wrote books about filmmaking, made several feature films and more than 100 documentaries, many for public television. He died in May 2003 at age 83.

But as often happens with sons and fathers, Billy Sharff didn't talk that much with his father

## Filmmaker, Columbia University professor

*Exile Times* Nov 16, 2003 p. A9

**CORNISH** — Stefan Sharff, 83, died Monday (May 12, 2003) at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., from pneumonia

Mr. Sharff was born in Lublin, Poland, on Nov. 29, 1919.

In 1939 Mr. Sharff fled the Nazi invasion of Poland and made his way to the Soviet Union where he joined the Moscow Film School. From 1943 to 1944 he was apprenticed to film pioneer Sergei Eisenstein at Alma Alta, participating in the production of *Ivan the Terrible, Part II*.

In the closing months of World War II, Mr. Sharff worked as a translator for Russian and Polish diplomats, who were laying the groundwork for the postwar Polish government. On one particularly ticklish occasion he found himself in a Kremlin bathroom, in the delicate position of translating a conversation over urinals between Josef Stalin and the Polish delegate.

Mr. Sharff returned to Poland during the closing days of the war and helped to liberate a POW camp. He later discovered all of his immediate family were lost in the Holocaust. At the end of the war he was rewarded with a diplomatic position as an emissary from the provisional Polish governmental to the Court of St. James in London. He soon found himself at odds with his Polish Communist leaders, and, in the early 1950s, managed to find his way to the United States and back into film work as head of the news-reel division of the United Nations.

In 1961, Mr. Sharff began teaching film courses at Columbia University. He retired in 1993 but continued to serve as professor emeritus in film. He served as chairman of the film division at Columbia for seven years and was responsible for the creation of the Ph.D. program in film studies.

As a filmmaker, Mr. Sharff had over 115 films to his credit, many of them documentaries created for public television. He produced a series for PBS on pivotal Supreme Court cases, another on famous authors, a prize-winning documentary on the Selma-Montgomery march and a film on Robert F. Kennedy during his year as attorney general. He also made two feature films, *Across the River*, which was honored at the 1964 Venice Film Festival.



**Stefan Sharff**  
Stefan Sharff

and *Run*, which was invited to the 1975 Cannes Film Festival.

Mr. Sharff's signature course at Columbia University was the analysis of film, which opened the eyes of several generations of budding filmmakers and film scholars to the underlying structural beauty and complexity of cinema. His theories on the elements constituting the basis of film as a true art form are detailed in his three books, beginning with *Elements of Cinema: Toward a Theory of Cinesthetic Impact*, published by Columbia University Press in 1981.

Mr. Sharff was a citizen of the world, fluent in four languages. He and his family traveled many countries in the world including Iran, Afghanistan, Indonesia, South America, Pakistan, Morocco, Egypt, Kenya and throughout Europe.

In the United States he divided his time between New York City, St. Augustine, Fla., and his beloved Cornish farm where he is buried. Mr. Sharff was an affectionate and loving father and husband.

Members of his surviving family include his wife, Laura Foley of Cornish; three daughters, Monica Sharff of New York City, Joanna Sharff of Conway, Mass., and Nina Sharff of Cornish; three sons, Mathew Sharff of Putney, Vt., and Aaron Sharff and Billy Sharff, both of Cornish; and a granddaughter, Magdalena Sharff, of Putney.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Cornish Town Forest Fund, Cornish Flat, N.H. 03746.

Shurcliff FF - Michele Peppers

# OBITUARIES ▼

► OBITUARIES, FROM PAGE 19

## Joan Shurcliff, 93



Joan Shurcliff, 93, of Cambridge and Ipswich, died January 31, 2007, at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, following a stroke. She was the wife of William A. Shurcliff, who died in June 2006. They had been married 65 years.

Born in Cambridge in 1913, she was the youngest of the five daughters of Elinor and Charles Hopkinson of Manchester.

Mrs. Shurcliff and her sisters attended the Buckingham School in Cambridge and the Winsor School in Brookline, a two-hour commute by train and trolley. She followed her sisters to Bryn Mawr College as well, and there she concentrated in English history, threw herself into theatricals and was president of the Glee Club.

Two days after her graduation from Bryn Mawr in 1935, accompanied by four classmates and a Bryn Mawr professor, Mrs. Shurcliff traveled by train throughout Russia — some 4,500 miles in all — studying life and conditions under Stalin and Socialism. Upon her return home, she got a job in New York City with the American Russian Institute, newly established to foster relations between these two countries.

Two years later, in 1937, accompanied by an old school friend, Mrs. Shurcliff drove across the American Southwest in the family car, studying cooperatives and conditions under the New Deal. Upon her return home, she went to work with the fledgling Massachusetts Civil Liberties Committee in Boston. She worked there three years.

She enjoyed the work and greatly enjoyed working with Mrs. Arthur A. Shurcliff, a lifelong social activist (in 1919 Mrs. Arthur A. Shurcliff hosted a meeting of fellow activists in her Beacon Hill home that led to the formation of the American Civil Liberties Union).

Soon she met the Shurcliffs' middle son, William. In a recent biography of Mrs. Shurcliff, Mr. Shurcliff wrote, "She and William had their first substantial conversation at a big picnic on Crane's Beach, Ipswich, in about 1937 when William was vacationing (from his job in New Jersey) with his parents in Ipswich. The conversation covered many topics but blossomed on linguistics, semantics, the English language, and books." They were married in January 1941 and joined the war effort in Washington, D.C. While Mr. Shurcliff, a Harvard-trained physicist, worked for the government, first on scientific research and then the Manhattan Project, Mrs. Shurcliff found herself more and more hors de combat starting and raising a family.

When the family returned to Cambridge in 1948, she returned to her volunteer work with foreign students, refugees, minorities and civil liberties. From 1953 to 1970, she was formally employed by Harvard University. She worked for two years at the Russian Research Center, processing information from defectors from the Soviet Union, and then she joined the Yenching Center, teaching conversational English to visiting scholars from Japan, Korea, and China.

"This was a wonderful time," states her son Charles. "My mother loved languages. And people. One day each fall the scholars came to Ipswich, nattily dressed in suits. They wandered all over the field and marsh. There was clam chowder and ears of corn roasted on the coals and apples from Goodale Orchard. A real introduction to one another and to New England. They all loved it and we did too."

Mrs. Shurcliff is survived by her sons, Arthur of Cambridge and Charles of Ipswich; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 17, at 11 a.m. at Story Chapel in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.

Dear Hannah  
My mother greatly enjoyed her  
correspondence with you she died  
in her sleep. I was with her. Best  
Charlie

# William A. Shurcliff, 97

William A. Shurcliff, 97, died June 20, 2006.

As a youth, Dr. Shurcliff loved the tidal creek that ran beside his family house on Argilla Road in Ipswich and built a succession of kayaks of wood and canvas. As indicated by their names — the electron, proton, photon and deuteron (a double kayak) — they were fast, perhaps the fastest in existence, 18 to 25 feet long but only 18 inches wide. They also suggested the course his life would take.

Two weeks after graduating from Harvard College in 1930, Dr. Shurcliff set off from Ipswich in his parents' Model A Ford to drive around the country. He was accompanied by Argilla Road neighbor Talbot Rantoul. They covered 10,000 miles in six weeks, wrote Mr.

Shurcliff years later, driving along "miserable washboard gravel roads" and experienced some 45 flat tires which they patched and re-pumped themselves.

Dr. Shurcliff received his Ph.D. in physics from Harvard in 1934 and spent the next five years working for the Calco Chemical Co. in Bound Brook, N.J., in spectrophotometry.

He married Joan Hopkinson of Manchester in 1941 and they moved to Washington, D.C., to join the war effort.

Dr. Shurcliff worked first in the Office of Scientific Research and Development and then the Manhattan Project. "The work was mighty exciting from the outset," wrote Dr. Shurcliff. "The OSRD was the world's largest research-guiding and research-funding organization. It received almost unlimited funding, with no questions asked. And the director, Dr. Vannevar Bush, reported only to President Roosevelt." In 1942, Dr. Shurcliff was shifted to the S-1 project, the project later known as the Manhattan Project and what Dr. Shurcliff called "the most exciting phase of my work." At war's end he edited the famous Smyth report and soon in 1946 served as historian of "Operation Crossroads," the atomic bomb demonstrations at the Bikini atoll. "I went there for a few days and then came back and typed like a madman." In the decades after the war, Dr. Shurcliff worked informally to keep nuclear arms and nuclear power in check, working closely with the Council for a Livable World and the Federation of Atomic Scientists.

In the 1950s, he shifted to the private sector working at Polaroid Corp. in Cambridge, exercising his skills in optics and invention (such as the self-focusing slide projector). In 1961 he wrote "Polarized Light," the first and still definitive work on that subject. From optics at Polaroid, Dr. Shurcliff moved to particle physics at Harvard University, first working at the Harvard Electron Accelerator (atom smasher) and later teaching physics to freshman non-physicists. "He really loved this little activity," states his son Charles. "He loved casting and recasting ideas to make them simple and comprehensible yet wholly precise and accurate." To the amusement of other Harvard physics professors he was able to explain the complete theory of special relativity on the back of a standard envelope — all in words of one syllable.

"He was very respected among the faculty and the scientific community," states Priscilla McMillan, historian and author of "The Ruin of J. Robert Oppenheimer and the Birth of the Modern Arms Race." "He was important to the Manhattan Project and it was he who stopped the SST."

Dr. Shurcliff is best remembered perhaps for his seemingly quixotic but stunningly successful campaign to stop development of supersonic passenger planes, in particular the proposed American Supersonic Transport Plane (SST), all in his spare time, evenings and weekends, while employed by Harvard. "On 3/9/67, I announced to a few friends the creation of the Citizens League Against the Sonic Boom (CLASB)." Dr. Shurcliff served as director and his friend John Edsall, a highly respected professor at Harvard and member of the National Academy of Science, as deputy director. "My

general strategy was to win over the press — get them to explain the threat of the sonic boom, airport noise, waste of money. Many persons urged me to tackle the Congressmen, but I felt that this was premature. They would pay much more attention after their constituents began to damn the SST program." Dr. Shurcliff prepared newsletters, technical reports, sonic boom zone maps and endless letters. "On a typical day I received about 20 letters, reports, etc., and mailed off about 20 replies. If one's desk is efficiently arranged, and one can type fast, and one is brief, one can type 10 or 15 letters an hour." The Federal Aviation Authority in Washington assigned one man full time just to handle the letters from Dr. Shurcliff and CLASB members. Dr. Shurcliff invented a machine of "wood and rubber bands and bicycle handlebars" to address mail to all members, eventually totaling 4,000. At the instigation of David Brower, former director of the Sierra Club and head of Friends of the Earth, Dr. Shurcliff wrote "SST and Sonic Boom Handbook" published by Ballantine Books, a concise summary of the many great drawbacks and failings of the proposed SST. About 100,000 copies were sold, 10,000 to Shurcliff himself, who distributed them widely including hand delivery to every office in the U.S. Congress. By 1970 the anti-SST campaign was embraced by the environmental movement, and in 1971 Congress voted down further appropriations.

When he retired, Dr. Shurcliff went back to his first love, solar energy. He catalogued all existing solar heated houses in America with successive issues every few months to keep pace with the burgeoning construction. He himself developed many solar heating methods and inventions. He wrote a dozen books, including "Solar Shutters and Shades," "New Inventions," "100 Daring Inventions Tried and Untried," and "Super Solar Houses." His work was distinguished by simplicity and common sense, a turning away from high-tech solutions. Dr. Shurcliff became recognized as one of the pioneers of solar heating and much of his work is current today.

Of all the books that he wrote, perhaps most satisfying to Dr. Shurcliff himself was the one written in 1952: "A Casual History of the Upper Part of Argilla Road, Ipswich, Mass., since 1897." It describes the earliest arrivals (mostly doctors, hence the name "the Pillbox Community"), subsequent residents, and the gradually changing way of life and enduring activities. Fifty copies were printed. Dr. Shurcliff's own fondest memory was "running the Fourth of July kite flying contest that he took over from his father," says his son Charles. "Up to 300 neighbors came, dispersed across the five-acre meadow and marsh, and nearly one hundred kites in the air if the winds were right. He really threw himself into it. It was great fun for everyone."

William Shurcliff is survived by his wife, Joan; his sons, Arthur and Charles; two granddaughters; and his sister, Elizabeth Shurcliff Lowell of Concord.

A memorial service will be held Friday, July 7 at 11 a.m. at the Storey Chapel at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.



Ipswich Chronicle  
June 29 2006  
(obituary)

## Footprints Of The Past

By Virginia Colby

### Dr. Nathan Smith Founder Of Four Medical Colleges

Twenty-eight-year-old Nathan Smith (1762-1829) was a farmer, until his interest in medicine was whetted when a country doctor ministered to a sick member of his family. Smith then studied medicine and went on to found medical schools at Dartmouth, Yale, Bowdoin and the University of Vermont.

Nathan Smith was born in Rohoboth, Mass. on September 30, 1762. His family subsequently moved to Chester, Vermont in 1770 where his father pioneered in farming.

Young Smith served in the Vermont Militia and at the age of eighteen was promoted from the ranks to a captain in his regiment. Later he served as a teacher in a local school.

Nathan Smith's first brush with medicine came when Dr. Josiah Goodhue of Putney, Vt. came to Chester to amputate a man's leg. Dr. Goodhue asked, of those who had come to watch the

Thankful Sherman Chase. Elizabeth died two years later leaving no children.

Subsequently Dr. Smith married the half-sister of Elizabeth, being the daughter of General Jonathan Chase and his second wife, Sarah Hall Chase. Dr. Smith acquired a large practice in Cornish usually making his rounds by horseback. Their first child, a son, was born in 1795.

In August of 1796, Dr. Smith presented to the trustees of Dartmouth College, a plan for establishing a Professorship of the Theory and Practice of Medicine. The trustees voted in favor of the plan, but to postpone action for one year. At this time there were only three schools in the United States where medicine was taught; the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia College and Harvard College.

Dr. Smith decided to spend the following year in acquiring for himself the best education he could



HOME OF DR. NATHAN SMITH, Cornish,  
N.H.

operation, if one of them would be willing to assist by holding the leg. Nathan boldly volunteered, and went so far as to tie the arteries. This episode so aroused his interest to study medicine that, after certain educational requirements were met, Dr. Goodhue offered him a home and medical tuition in return for necessary work required in the home of a country doctor. This arrangement lasted for three years. Following his apprenticeship Nathan Smith began the practice of medicine in Cornish, N.H.

Smith's Cornish connection resulted in the establishment of a life-long friendship with Lyman Spalding (1775-1821) with whose family Smith boarded while in Cornish.

Lyman Spalding, son of Col. Dyer Spalding, frequently accompanied Dr. Nathan Smith on his medical rounds through the countryside. Through Smith's influence Lyman Spalding became a doctor and the principal founder of the Pharmaceutical Guide, an authoritative text for all Registered Pharmacists and Physicians.

Two or three years of medical practice in Cornish emphasized for Smith the need for more knowledge in medicine and surgery.

Smith gave up his practice in Cornish and went to Cambridge, Mass. where he attended lectures on anatomy and surgery, chemistry, theory and practice of medicine and on natural philosophy. At the Harvard Commencement in 1790, he was awarded the degree of M.B. (Bachelor of Medicine), the only one in a class of four. His "Inaugural Dissertation on the Circulation of the Blood" was published at the request of the faculty.

Upon graduation Dr. Smith returned to Cornish and married, January 16, 1791, Elizabeth, daughter of General Jonathan Chase and Mrs.

get, by enrolling in the University of Edinburgh. Great sacrifices were incurred as he had to borrow money for the trip and also be separated from his family. He sailed on the ship "Hope" December 18, 1796. He attended classes, purchased books and supplies and spent three months in a London hospital working with eminent physicians.

With communications not as we know them today, and with death striking so swiftly, it was not uncommon for one to return home from a trip only to find a love one had died. Nathan Smith wrote the following letter, in part, to his wife Sally, "...yet my thoughts continually turn on you and our dear little son, whose name I cannot write without shedding tears on it. I imagine a thousand evils ready to befall him. ...Do my dear, if he still be living, and I dare not think otherwise, do, I say, watch over him with maternal care, kiss him for me a thousand times each day and tell him that his papa is coming soon." Nathan Smith returned to Boston in September of 1797.

The first full course of medical lectures was delivered by Dr. Nathan Smith at Dartmouth in the fall of 1797. Dr. Smith was appointed a Professor in August of 1798 "whose duty it shall be to deliver public lectures on Anatomy, Surgery, Chemistry, and the Theory and Practice of Physic." Thus the fourth medical school in the country was begun.

There is evidence in correspondence with his student, Dr. Lyman Spalding, that he had been experimenting with small-pox vaccination as early as 1800. Daniel Webster is listed in the ledger of students, that Smith kept of his classes, for the year 1800.

In 1801 Dr. Smith had so many students that he

Continued on Page 21

# Today's Solar Tour Offers a View Of Area's Energy-Efficient Homes

Jeff Plant, Christina Plant

By DONALD MAURICE KREIS

For the Valley News

**W**HETHER YOU are a fan of architecture, a connoisseur of interior decoration or if you just like to check out the homes of strangers, the opportunities are rare indeed. Today is a noteworthy exception, and it features a virtuous premise.

Today is the 10th annual National Solar Tour Day, a brainchild of the American Solar Energy Society. The Society collaborates with various local and regional organizations — around here it's the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association — and persuades the owners of solar-powered homes, residences with "green" design features and other energy efficient buildings to open them up to anyone who cares to stop by.

Organizers know that Americans are generally a cautious lot when it comes to the design of their houses. So the objective of the tour is to disabuse people of the notion that solar panels and other energy efficient design elements are only for hippies, llama owners, organic farmers and others on the counter-cultural back-to-the-land fringe.

Take, for example, Jeff and Christina Plant, whose home on Route 120 in Cornish Flat is on the tour. Both work at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center; he's a nurse-anesthetist and she's in care management. They watch TV in their living room, listen to a stereo and do not otherwise appear ready to catch the next love bus to the Woodstock Festival. They also live off the grid in a solar-powered house.

What made these people decide to seek out such a lifestyle? "We didn't," Jeff Plant readily admits. It was the previous owners, apparently, who wanted to live off the grid.



Valley News Oct 1, 2005 p. C1

taking craftsmanship of their dwelling place. Oak timber framing, held together by pegs, clever joinery and gravity, rather than nails, is the work of local timber-framer Tom Paige. The kitchen has elegant custom cabinetry of curly maple, with an ingenious special telephone desk and granite countertops, all by carpenter Dale Shafman of Cornish.

It was the countertops that hooked Jeff Plant, he recalls. And when the real estate agent mentioned that the place was solar-powered and not even connected to an electric utility, Plant figured: "We'll give it a year, see what it's like and decide."

The verdict, eight years later: "It's fine."

A wood stove in the basement provides nearly all the heat for this fiberglass-insulated home (rated R20 in the walls and R30 in the roof, for the tech-savvy). The stove is sensibly placed right in the center of the house, surrounded by a small opening that allows convection to move more warmth to the pair of bedrooms two floors above. A direct-vented propane wall furnace is useful chiefly when the owners will be away too long to feed the stove during heating season.

"We usually sleep with a window open in winter," Plant says.

To those whose mental picture of solar power was formed even just a few years ago, the Plants' array of photo-voltaic panels will seem shockingly small. They moved the panels from the roof to the ground adjacent to their garage when they bought the place, since the panels need to be kept free of snow to produce energy in winter. (February is a great month for converting light to electricity and November is by far the worst, according to Plant.) There are only eight panels, forming what looks like a small hut.

Being a nurse-anesthetist requires a certain zest for detail and science, and that side of Jeff Plant will come out if he talks you into going to the basement to see the





This energy efficient home in Cornish, owned by Christina and Jeff Plant, will be on the tour today.

VALLEY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS —  
DAVID M. BARRERA

who took their toys "out back" of the former employer to tinker) convert DC power to AC. Their microcircuitry can vary the charge to the batteries as appropriate, thus prolonging their life, and send beautiful sine waves of AC power upstairs. Square waves, and other kinds of harmonic distortion, are not good for today's sensitive consumer electronic devices.

The Plants are not the energy efficiency equivalent of religious fundamentalists. They have an 8,000-watt propane-fueled backup generator behind the garage — and they definitely use it regularly since they need it to run their washing machine. A refrigerator also runs on

corner full of wall-mounted gizmos that run the system, along with a vented cabinet full of deep cycle batteries at their feet to store the solar energy.

High-tech boxes by manufacturers Trace Engineering and Outback Power Systems (the latter apparently started by renegade engineers from the former,

**See ENERGY-EFFICIENT — C**

# Solaruno — A Most Unusual

Doug Miller, Betty Miller

By RICK MINARD

Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — Doug Miller and Betty Baumert would have to be snails to be more involved with their home.

Solaruno, as their house is called, is made of 750 tons of granite, cement, plastic and glass. The solar house gets its name because it is the couple's first house.

Yet the couple is even more committed to promoting alternative energy than to the unique house they designed and built. Miller and Baumert will host the third annual Sun Day Energy Fair at their home on Sunday, May 3; a day-long series of exhibits, talks and workshops.

"It's part of our main goal," Baumert said. They treat their home as a public resource, a civic reminder of the power of the imagination and the sun. Hundreds of people have toured the building, receiving a pamphlet describing its design and performance.

Baumert is 27, a spritely woman who works as an administrator of the Resource Policy Group of Dartmouth's Thayer School of Engineering.

Miller is 35. A solid man of average size, he works for his father at Miller Construction Inc. in Windsor.

Both speak softly, but with enthusiasm and assurance. They are good teachers, patient explainers. Schoolchildren can relax at their dining room table and ask questions for energy projects.

Solaruno's most arresting feature is its granite. Miller and Baumert bought their seven-acre site on Town House Road because it included a pit filled with granite blocks quarried decades ago on Mount Ascutney.

They used a logging truck to move the one





**HOLIDAY HELPERS** — These four members of the South Cornish Home Economics Group put together 18 fruit and food baskets that were later delivered to 19 home-bound people. The holiday basket project is some-

thing the group does every year. Left to right are Marion Boardman, Marjerie Kidder, Edna Guest and Betty Caterino. (Ruth Rollins Photo)  
South Cornish Economics Group





### **SPIRIT DAY IN CORNISH**

— This year's project for the annual Cornish Spirit Day held last Saturday was the Meetinghouse in Cornish Flat. Volunteers spent the day scraping paint off the Meetinghouse in preparation of a new coat of paint. Since the first Spirit Day in 1988, many residents have banded together in various efforts that have saved the town thousands of dollars. (Ruth Rollins photos)

*Ruth Rollins  
5-24-2000*

## Squag City



Old Photo of Squag City, located in Cornish, near the Cornish-Plainfield town line.

### SQUAG CITY

Story & Photos By Charles B. Fletcher

In the town of Cornish, look real close and you can find a city - Squag City, to be exact. If you have a copy of the New Hampshire Atlas and Gazetteer, see map 33 on the left side, next to the Connecticut River, just below the Plainfield town line. Driving from Claremont travel north on route 12A - once over the Cornish town line you will begin to see numerous historical buildings and sites. You first encounter the Chase House, home of Salmon Chase, Secretary of the Treasury during the Lincoln years. Continuing along the road on the right is the old Trinity Episcopal Church along with its cemetery. Down a hill and to the left you come to the Cornish - Windsor covered bridge. (A note about the bridge: James E. Tasker of Cornish along with his partner Bela J. Fletcher were in charge of the construction. Bela Fletcher was the great, great, grandfather of the

author of this article.) Still driving north, you will soon encounter more interesting places. First is the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Site, then the Blow-Mc-Down Mill. Just past the mill you will see the Chase Cemetery and the start of Platt Road where we will begin our journey into the part of the old Cornish Colony of which a portion is Squag City.

I had noticed Squag City on the map and happened to know a gentleman who lives in the area. I made contact and was invited to his home to talk about and take a guided tour of the Squag City. That is why on a cold November afternoon, Mr. Peter Burling and I were driving around; I was carefully listening as Peter related his vast knowledge of the area to me.

Squag City is a small area, but had some notable residents, along with a few small industries. Two indus-



# Squag City

tries involved working with lumber and both were on the Blow-Me-Down brook. On Platt road at the Cornish/Plainfield line where the new cement bridge crosses the brook, look upstream. It was there that a mill which manufactured several wooden articles was located. Primarily, the five or six employees made coffins; other items were axe helms (handle of an axe), wooden spokes, and fence pickets. During the Civil War they turned out wooden ram rods which were used with the artillery of the day to push the powder charge down the barrel.

Down stream, about a half-mile, near the Blow-Me-Down covered bridge, was the location of the second mill. This mill is described in the book *Choice White Pines and Good Land* as being located in Squag City. The book also mentions that the mill, without moving, has been located in both Cornish and Plainfield. When it was built the mill was in Plainfield, but with the changing of the town lines, its remains, old stone foundation and what was part of a dam, is now mostly in Cornish. The book also mentions that most of the lumber used in home and barn construction in Squag

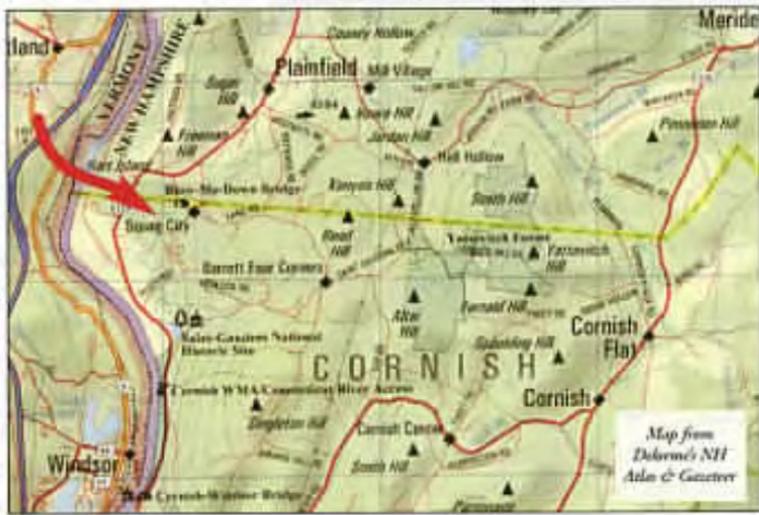
City came from this mill. Just over the Blow-Me-Down covered bridge we take Squag City Road to Platt Road, then turn right onto Lang Road. Up the hill, past the Burling home, on the left, is a small, white, clap-boarded building, with what appears to a bell tower on the roof. Today it is a



*Old Tracy School, now a private home.*

home, but started out as the Tracy District School. Traveling further along, Peter took a side road that lead us to another beautiful home in that same area. On the side of the road sits an old rail-road baggage cart - one can only wonder how it ended its career in a location so far from any railroad.

Another interesting site to visit, although not in Squag City, can be found further up on Lang Road. It is the Whitten family cemetery. In this peaceful location the Whitten quadruplets are interred. The History of Cornish notes that the children were named Wonderful, Marvelous, Strange, and True, but only lived a short time. The day my wife and I visited, someone had placed pumpkins around in the



# Squag City



*Whitten Family Cemetery on Lang Road*

cemetery. I asked, and was told the pumpkins appeared last year, then again this year. Perhaps a tradition has been started.

Back in Squag City we drive past another grand home which Peter relates was the home of Admiral William Mayhew Folger, a naval officer who, after his graduation from the Naval Academy in 1864, saw some action during the Civil War. During the Spanish American war he was the captain of the USS New Orleans and involved in action around Cuba. The Admiral commanded many naval squadrons and ended



*Admiral Folgers House*

his career as the commanding officer of the complete Asiatic Fleet. I read that the Admiral's wife had a sense of humor - once after the Admiral made the statement "I snap my finger, many men jump", his wife answered "When I snap my finger, one man jumps!"

On the top of a hill, with a view of a picturesque valley, is a home named "High Court." It was designed by a famous architect, Charles A. Platt. The owner was a woman by the name of Annie Lazarus. The

house had been completed, then burned to the ground. The second time it was constructed of brick instead of wood. The poet Emma Lazarus wrote a sonnet "The New Colossus" part of which we have all read the following: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore." If you said this phrase is on the



*High Court, built by Charles A. Platt.*

Statue of Liberty you are correct. Annie Lazarus was Emma's younger sister.

The architect Charles A. Platt built a home across the road from "High Court". I read that the home was beautiful - however, what set it apart from other homes in the area were the gardens that Mr. Platt designed and had built. Mr. Platt designed many homes in the Cornish Colony along with projects in several cities. In the book *Footprints of the Past* one can read about many of his works. There is mention in the book that during one study of his work it took over twenty two pages to list most of his accomplishments.

Social life in Squag City and the Cornish Colony hinged on taking the buggy or the sleigh, depending on the weather and going "Calling" or visiting with others in the colony. Whatever you had for a project for the day was completed, then you changed in proper clothing and then went calling. When you were calling and the host asked if you would like a drink, think about the

# Squag City



*View looking down Lang Road towards Squag City.*

ice served in that drink. There is reference that for one winter supply a home owner purchased "Three hundred sixteen cakes of ice at a cost of two cents a cake". Then came the cost of getting to the ice house on the property - he had to pay thirty five cents an hour for a team of oxen to move the ice and then paid one dollar and seventy five cents to have it stacked. All this was just for the winter supply, and spring was just around the corner.

It would appear persons of importance in the Cornish Colony and Squag City felt it necessary to attach a name to their homes. The following is a short list of such names: White House, Aspet, Treetops, Orchard Kiln, Tanager House, Chaseholm, Doveridge, Crossways, Harlakenden, The Oaks, and Mastlands. If you stop at Blow-Me-Down Mill there is a New Hampshire historical marker naming some of the famous inhabitants of the area. Others not mentioned are: Winston Churchill (American author) and Learned Hand (Chief Judge, second circuit appeals court, New York City).

Another famous person who vacationed in the area was President Woodrow Wilson, who stayed in the "Harlakenden" house. There were many more, too numerous to mention in this short article.

Squag City is a strange, fascinating place. No one seems to know where the name originated. Unlike most cities it has no public employees, no city buildings, and no city boundaries. It has no police department, but I did manage to find a plaque showing that it once had a fire department; of course it was one privately owned old fire engine, so do not try to find it listed in any phone directory under emergency vehicles.

I want to thank Mr. Peter Burling for his time and the loan of research material. James B. Atkinson and Virginia Reed Colby, the authors of *Footprints of the Past*, wrote one marvelous book on the area. If you'd like to purchase a copy just contact Mr. Atkinson at 603-675-6003.



# Three hundred turn out

*Easy Times* Mar 25, 1988 p. 21

CORNISH, N.H. — Marion and Jesse Stone were honored on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary with a celebration at Cornish Town Hall March 11. More than 300 people attended.

The Stones were married by the Rev. Thomas Ingram March 9, 1940, at the Plainfield Baptist Church. Both were born in Cornish and have resided there most of their lives.

Jesse Stone was employed on farms in Plainfield and Cornish prior to their marriage and has lived on McClary Farm, Cornish, ever since.

Marion Stone has played a part in the lives of many youngsters during her teaching career. Graduating from Keene Normal School in 1936, her first teaching position was in a one-room school in Cavendish, teaching all eight grades. Next, she taught in Plainfield and also Gilsam, before marrying and starting a family. After the birth of her daughter, May, she returned to teaching in 1943 and taught two years in the one-room school at Cornish Center, after which she

took time out for the births of sons Ray and Roy.

Marion Stone returned to teaching in 1956 at the new consolidated Cornish School, where she taught until 1970, serving as principal for two of those years. She taught the next seven years at Meriden-Plainfield, where she retired in 1977. She was among teachers honored during the 175th anniversary of Kimball Union Academy in 1988.

The Stones were not only parents to their own three children, but were also foster parents for George and Charles Abbott, who grew up with them and have continued the family bond.

Both Stones are members of Park Grange 249, as well as Pomona, State and National Grange. Jesse is state master of Pomona Grange and Marion is chairman of the education committee of New Hampshire State Grange.

Jesse is a member of Cheshire Lodge 23 and both were Eastern Star members when a chapter was

active in Cornish. Marion is a member of the Retired Teachers Association and both are members of the United Church of Cornish.

Jesse Stone is also a charter member of the Cornish Fair Association, serving as director 40 years and serving as president for 16 of those years. He has also served as a New Hampshire State Fair director for 18 years.

State Sen. George Disnard of Claremont was present to recognize Jesse and Marion Stone with a resolution stating, "The institution of marriage is most beautiful when lived in love and mutual concern, and is the nucleus for a successful society."

Congratulations from the N.H. Senate were signed by William S. Bartlett Jr., the body's president, and Disnard, who is deputy whip.

Most State Grange officers attended the anniversary celebration, as did officers and other members of area granges. Also in attendance were many New Hampshire State Fair officers.

Relatives and friends attended from New Hampshire, Vermont,

## for Stones' anniversary

Massachusetts, Maine, New York, Connecticut and Florida. Among them was Janice Stokes of Williamstown, Mass., a college classmate of Marion.

The party was arranged by the couple's children: Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stone and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stone of Cornish; Mr. and Mrs. James Sullivan of Intercession City, Fla.

They were helped by Charles and Pat Abbott, George and Betty Abbott, and Ruth and Paul Rollins, who all live in Cornish, and Myrtie Starkey of Lempster.

Grandchildren Marisa, Jason and James Stone were in charge of the guest book. Also attending was 3-year-old granddaughter Jennifer Stone and several children of the Abbott families. Unable to attend was granddaughter Shannon Stone.

The anniversary cake was made and decorated by Ruth Rollins. The couple received many gifts, including floral arrangements and a money tree.



Jesse Stone  
Marion Stone

Jesse and Marion Stone

## Stonewalls



Bruce Curtis, an examiner with the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain, gets a close look at a retaining wall being built by Travis Callahan of Claremont (background). Fellow examiner Dave Goulder is at left. Callahan

had a day to build the wall as part of his certification as a man. The testing took place last month in Walpole, N.H.   
 OCT 7, 2001 11:21 VALLEY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS BY

# The Sullivans: Still in love with the land

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

**CORNISH** — When Shirley Sullivan was a youngster, she loved animals and used to tell her mother that some day she was going to marry a farmer so she could have all the animals she wanted.

"My father raised chickens and we had a dog, but I wanted more," said Shirley with a laugh. "It was kind of funny the way it worked out, meeting Fred and actually marrying a farmer."

At a 4-H gathering, Shirley's 4-H group was suppose to swap dance partners and it turned out it was Fred she danced with. "We've been dancing together ever since," she said. Both graduated from Stevens High School and the couple married soon after Fred graduated from the University of New Hampshire.

Fred moved from Meriden to Cornish at age six, when his parents bought a 100 acre farm on East Road and set up farming with two horses and eight cows. "Even then Dad had a milking machine," said Fred. "He always believed in improvements."

Fred and Shirley Sullivan have spent their entire married lives improving and modernizing

Brokenridge Farm, which Fred took over in 1967. The dairy and sugaring couple have been recognized many times for their farming practices. Most recently, they were awarded the New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation's Profile Award for 1999. This is an honor that goes to people who make lasting contributions to the state's agriculture, their community and the Farm Bureau.

Over the years, the Sullivans have held open barn events, Dairy Herd Improvement Association picnics and farm visits by school children and adults. "The more attention the animals get, the friendlier they are," said Fred, adding that he likes the visits because it gives him the opportunity to explain agriculture and encourage its support.

People are also welcome to drop in at the Brokenridge Sugarhouse — which is located on Route 120 — where about 1,000 gallons of syrup is boiled down each year from 5,000 taps. Many school groups take advantage of this stop.

"Quite often, we have a person that wonders why we get \$34 for

(See SULLIVANS - Pg. 8)



**LOVING THEIR WORK** — Fred and Shirley Sullivan were recently honored with the New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation's Profile Award, given to people who make lasting contributions to the state's agriculture, their community and the Farm Bureau. (Wayne Carter photo)

*Eagle News  
1-9-2000*

# SULLIVANS

From Page 1

a gallon of syrup, when they can buy Vermont maple syrup for less," said Fred. When he asks them where they come from and why they moved here, most reply because it is beautiful country and the foliage is so pretty.

Then Fred, with his rich New England accent and slight twinkle in his eye, tells them New Hampshire maple syrup is better because the prevailing winds blow east. When the maple seeds fly off, the best ones land in New Hampshire. When he has them in his spell with his dry wit and Yankee humor, he warns them that if they don't buy syrup from him, he would have to cut down all the Rock Maples and they would have to move further North to Canada to buy good maple syrup.

Sugaring season is determined by Mother Nature and when the sap is running well it often meant one or both boiling night and day.

Presently, the couple operates their purebred Jersey herd and maple enterprise in partnership with their son, Charles, (better known as Chuck) and daughter-in-law, Cassie. The home farm acreage has been increased to 200 acres and another 66 acres has been purchased over the years. Also another 150 acres is rented for haying and growing corn annually. Most of the harvest is put into haylage and silage which is stored in underground bunkers.

Total mix ration (TMR) is fed to the cattle daily. Fred said TMR is made up of corn silage, haylage, brewers grain, cornmeal, focus meal, and "all the vitamins and minerals that our grain nutritionist figures is the right mix." The nutritionist is at the farm often to check the feed.

This is all put into a Reel Auggie mixer wagon, which is driven down through the barn to feed the animals. Previously, computer feeders were used, but Fred said agriculture changes so

often that to stay up with times they went to TMR mixed rations. "It was one of the better decisions we have ever made, our animals are fed rations mixed to produce an average of 40 pounds of milk each day."

The herd is housed in an environmentally cold barn. "All of our farm is environmentally cold, Mother Nature meant for animals to thrive in the cold," said Fred. All the cattle roam freely throughout the loafing barn, where water is readily available to them.

The stalls are three feet by six feet and each cow has free choice of where to lay down when tired. Some have favorite stalls, others are not so choosy and stop in anywhere. Fred said the cows stay a lot cleaner with this type of setup.

Using a tractor, the stalls are scraped out daily and the manure is pushed outside into a storage pit, with a concrete bottom. Waste liquids are siphoned off into a lagoon, designed to leach nutrients onto an adjacent corn field. The solid manure is stockpiled in heaps on the corn fields, ready to spread when the Sullivan's can get on the land in the spring.

The Brokenridge Farm herd totals 250 animals, with 150 milk cows. They raise calves which are housed in greenhouses. Fred and Shirley do the milking in the morning, going to the barn at 3 a.m. to get things ready. Milking begins about 4 a.m., and all milking is done in the milking parlor. The milk is then shipped to Cabot Creamery in Middlebury, Vt.

"By the time we clean everything up, and I get the calves fed, we are lucky to get in for breakfast by 9 or 9:30 a.m.," said Shirley, who then rushes to shower and get herself off to a job at North Country Door Shop.

Farming is a lot of work even today, but the changes have made life a little easier. "Back in earlier

days, Shirley and I climbed up into silos to shovel out food. Now there are no more towers, a bucket loader is used to ready the silage and the driver can sit in the heated cab of a tractor," said Fred, who also starts the evening milking and is presently helping to build a new barn.

His motto has always been "if you take care of the land, the land will take care of you."

"Our lives have been involved in our farming, but we have shared our time with the town too. We are very proud of our family and of our town. I can't think of a better place to live," Fred said.

Both have been active in the Cornish Fair Association and for many years were chairpersons of large cattle shows. They have also been active 4-H leaders.

Shirley was a charter member of the Cornish Rescue Squad, a member of the Volunteer Firemen's Ladies Auxiliary, trustee of trust funds for the Town of Cornish and was the first female director of the New Hampshire Maple Producers Association. They are both members of the Farm Bureau.

Fred is a member of the Sullivan County Soil Conservation Association and a member and past president of the N.H. Jersey Cattle Club. He is a former member of the Cornish Fire Department, Cornish Planning Board, Cornish Conservation Commission and Zoning Board. He also served one three year term as Cornish Selectman.

When the Sullivans retire, they want to do things together, which hopefully will include some traveling. However their love for their son, Chuck and daughter Joan and their families, that include six grandchildren, will always beckon them home to Cornish, wherever they choose to travel.

She worked in the medical surgical ward at Alice Peck Day Hospital in Lebanon and Claremont General Hospital in the maternity ward for 22 years. She retired in 1991.

Mrs. Sweetser was a member of the Circle 8 Square Dance Group and the St. Anne Society. Her hobbies included crocheting, afghans, doilies and quilts and many other crafts which she enjoyed giving to the children at David's House and Valley Regional maternity ward. She especially loved spending holidays and time with her family.

Members of her surviving family include four daughters, Elaine Beebe of Milford, Anne Toy of Largo, Fla., Reigh Helen Sweetser of Cornish and Julie Richardson of Claremont; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a son, Earl Sweetser, who died in 1963.

Friends may call at the Stringer Funeral Home, 146 Broad St., Claremont, on Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m.

The St. Anne Society will meet Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the funeral home for services.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Mary's Church in Claremont with the Rev. Shawn M. Therrien, pastor, officiating.

Interment will follow in St. Francis Cemetery in Windsor.

The family suggests that donations be made in her memory to the maternity ward at Valley Regional Hospital, 243 Elm St., Claremont, N.H. 03743. Funds will be used for babies with needs and their families.

Essex Times  
Oct 15, 2002 p. A 8



## Ruth V. Sweetser, 86

CLAREMONT — Mrs. Ruth Vetaline Sweetser, 86, of Wall Street, died Sunday morning (Oct. 13, 2002) at Valley Regional Hospital.

She was born in Hyde Park, Vt., on Sept. 21, 1916, the daughter of Lewis and Emma (Patnoe) LaClair and resided in Claremont for the past 20 years.

She married Carroll Melvin Sweetser on July 29, 1935, in East Hardwick, Vt., and moved to Cornish in 1946. Mr. Sweetser died in 1967.

Mrs. Sweetser graduated from New Hampshire Vo-Tech College in Claremont in 1969 where she received her nursing degree as a licensed practical nurse.

# Woman Views Unfairness in Vista Taxes

BY JOHN P. GREGG

APR 13, 2004

Valley News Staff Writer

**CORNISH** — When Kay Wegner looks out of her home on a subdivided old farm off Lang Road, she can enjoy a view of the far hills of Vermont.

When she looks at her tax bill for the 6.5-acre property, she sees a nagging disparity that hits Cornish and other towns in New Hampshire.

Under the town's rural residential zoning, she and her husband are taxed on the view from a 5-acre home site. But many of the larger properties in Cornish — including some elegant estates — are taxed for the view from a much smaller house site because they are enrolled in the state's current use program, which trumps local zoning for tax purposes.

As a result, dozens of landowners — such as reclusive author J.D. Salinger and House Democratic Leader Peter Burling — are saving hundreds of dollars a year when it comes to the so-called “view tax,” according to an analysis of 28 Cornish properties by Wegner, who served on a town Current Use/Tax Assessment Review Committee.

A similar situation also exists in Plainfield, which this past year assessed properties using a “condition” rating that includes an assessment of the view.

Wegner said the state's current use program, town zoning and the relatively new view factor are colliding to create a “witches' brew” that is unfair to many of the 350 homeowners in Cornish who don't have enough land to enroll in current use.

“I support current use,” said Wegner.

“The real issue is the increasing burden and squeeze is being put on the non-current use property owners.”

Here's why, as Wegner and her supporters see it.

In Cornish, the base value for land that comprises a house site is assessed at \$18,000 for 1 acre, \$19,500 for 2 acres, and \$24,000 for a 5-acre house site. Acreage in between those sizes is prorated for base value, and other factors,

**See WOMAN VIEWS—A5**

**Kay Wegner of Cornish is fighting a provision that taxes the views from house lots of those that have land in “current use” at less than others. She is standing on her porch overlooking Plainfield and Vermont.**

**VALLEY NEWS — TOM RETTIG**



such as the type of neighborhood, can also apply

But on top of that, the condition rating, based in large part on the view, can dramatically drive up the assessed value of the house lot.

Because the Wegners have a 395 percent condition rating, for example, the land that comprises what the town considers to be a 5-acre house site is assessed at \$113,000, not including the value of their home itself.

By contrast, Salinger's hilltop home has a 500 percent condition rating, in large part because of the view, but under current use he is considered to have a house site of just 2.4 acres, not 5 acres as the Wegners and dozens of other homeowners are assessed.

As a result, Salinger's house site land valuation is \$120,600, not the \$144,000 it would be if 5-acre zoning were applied to the property, according to the calculations by Wegner

With a \$24 per \$1,000 of valuation tax rate, being taxed for a view on the smaller house site under current use saves Salinger more than \$560 a year in taxes.

Similarly, Burling saves some \$120 a year on the tax for his view of Mount Ascutney from his 171-acre farm, thanks to his enrollment in the current use program. Burling's house site is deemed to be 2.75 acres, not 5 acres as town zoning might otherwise dictate in that neighborhood. (The "condition" of Burling's house site is rated to be 150 percent.)

About 84 percent of the land in Cornish — and 52 percent statewide — is in current use, a 31-year-old program in New Hampshire that provides tax breaks for farmland and forestland to promote land conservation. Vermont also has a current use program, though the assessments and acreage requirements differ.

At Town Meeting last month, Wegner proposed that all residential properties in Cornish should be able to use the smaller house-site definitions already claimed by the 280 homes in current use when it came to tax assessments.

But Selectboard Chairman Larry Dingee, who also has land in current use, said Wegner's proposal would require a major zoning ordinance change and should go through the Planning Board first.

When Wegner asked that a committee at least discuss her proposal, Burling, who is also the Town Moderator, called for a voice vote and deemed her request did not have enough support to pass.

However, a show of hands determined, by a 32-27 vote, that Cornish residents do want the measure to be studied and the new committee is to hold its organizational meeting today.

Clearly, opinion is split on the matter.

Several supporters of the existing system noted that Cornish cannot change the state current use program, which by its very nature is designed to lower taxes on farm or forestland.

Asked whether Wegner was raising a valid point, Barbara Reid, an assistant commissioner at the Department of Revenue Administration and the chairwoman of the Current Use Board, replied, "No, I don't think so, because the current use program is a constitutionally sanctioned, alternative way of valuing property. The way we value land in current use is different."

Because current use in New Hampshire generally requires a parcel to have at least 10 acres of land, mandating that house sites in the program conform with local zoning could disqualify some properties.

For example, a 12-acre property with a 5-acre house site would no longer qualify for current use, Reid noted.

And Cornish Selectman Bill Gallagher, whose 49-acre farm is in current use, said the view tax is simply magnifying New Hampshire's heavy reliance on the property tax to pay for schools and other services.

"Current use is a state law, and I guess when people come to a rural town and buy property, the first thing they should check on is the tax structure, and if they don't do that, then I can see where they might have a problem once reality is obvious to them," Gallagher said.

"I think (Wegner's) energy would be better spent work-

ing with townspeople to develop an ideal tax system for the town. I think the property tax is just putting the heat under this problem that she has.”

But Wegner is hardly a newcomer; she and her husband have owned their Cornish property since 1992 and moved into their house in 1996. They also previously lived in Hanover.

Moreover, the view rating was not directly applied in Cornish until about two years ago, and several people familiar with the issue believe she may be raising a valid point.

“I think it’s a valid thing for the town to research. Current use does create some assessing inequity because of zoning,” said Gary Roberge, the CEO of Avitar Associates of New England, the Chichester, N.H., assessing company hired by Cornish, Plainfield and some 96 other communities in the state.

Merilynn Bourne, a newly elected selectboard member whose Cornish home is not in current use, said she is also “curious about” the issue.

“That’s an interesting perspective to say everyone maybe should be able to describe the house lot the way people in current use do,” said Bourne.

“That may be a good idea. I don’t have a problem with that concept.”

And John Reagan, the executive director of the Coalition of New Hampshire Taxpayers, said his group doesn’t object to the current use program, but believes state law may need to be changed.

His group plans to meet with Cornish residents next month.

“Apparently she really hit on something that hasn’t been touched on before but is a very valid point,” Reagan said.

Burling said he does not have enough expertise in fair market valuation to determine whether Wegner was raising a valid issue, but said current use also inherently boosts the value of a house site “because it is surrounded by beautiful, preserved forest or farmland.”

---

## **“The current use lobby is one of the most potent and hardly recognized lobbies.”**

Steve Taylor  
New Hampshire commissioner  
of agriculture

---

"Certainly the fair market value of a house sitting in the middle of 20 acres of land in current use is worth far more than the same house sitting in the middle of 20 acres open to development," Burling said.

Roberge, the Avitar executive, said home site values of properties in current use can be higher than non-current use parcels, but "you see it more in urban areas," such as when a home with 12 acres in current use is surrounded by an otherwise crowded suburban neighborhood.

Most of the area around the Cornish Arts Colony, where Burling, Wegner and Salinger live, is rural residential, 5-acre zoning, though some parts of town have 2-acre or 1-acre zoning, as well.

If New Hampshire lawmakers ultimately believe Wegner may be raising a disparity that should be changed, they could look no further than Vermont to see how it might be addressed.

In Vermont, the house site is generally described as the house and first 2 acres, regardless of whether a property is enrolled in current use, according to several tax officials, although some condition factors may apply to the residual land.

Frank Ackerman, a Cornish resident since 1949 who sells real estate and is not in the current use program, said he believes it now benefits wealthy landowners more than farmers and said he supports Wegner's efforts to address the discrepancy.

"Now, basically, it seems as though folks are using it for their estates," Ackerman said of current use.

But changing anything about current use at the state level is difficult, said New Hampshire Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Taylor, a Meriden resident and member of the Current Use Board.

"The current use lobby is one of the most potent, and hardly recognized, lobbies," said Taylor, who noted that beneficiaries include institutional investors such as Dartmouth College and Lyme Timber Co. and thousands of individual landowners.

"They are a potent lobby."

# The "Tea Tray"

The "Tea Tray" was a landmark in the days of the Cornish Colony. The tea house was on Route 12A, the first house north of the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge. It was operated by Marie Parker, of Orange, New Jersey, who also shared her house with her sister, Mrs. Anna Parker Morris, her niece Mariamne (later Mrs. Clement Newbold), and her brother, the surgeon Dr. John Parker.

The "Tea Tray" will be remembered for its beautiful two-faced sign painted by Maxfield Parrish. Sue Lewin, Maxfield Parrish's favorite model, posed for three of the four characters in the sign.

The tea house was open afternoons and many members of the Cornish Colony, along with others, enjoyed a pleasant afternoon of sociability. President Wilson's family also patronized the tea house.

Lydia Parrish noted in her diaries of visits from Marie Parker, whose proper name was Marianne Meade Parker.

During the winter months Marie and her sister operated a Tea Tray in Aiken, South Carolina. The Cornish "Tea Tray" was sold to Elizabeth Perkins in 1922. Included here are some of the favorite recipes served in the "Tea Tray."



THE TEA TRAY, Cornish, New Hampshire

## Annual Meeting of Sullivan County W. C. T. U.

The Sullivan County Women's Christian Temperance Union held its annual institute at Cornish Flat, Thursday May 20th, in the The First Baptist Church; County President, Mrs. Alfred Whitney of Wendell, in the chair.

After customary opening exercises committees were appointed by the chair as follows: Courtesies, Mesdames Spaulding and Kibbey; Union Signal, Mrs. Chase; Young Crusader, Mrs. Moody; Granite State Outlook, Mrs. Stowell; distribution of literature, Miss Hunton; resolutions, Mrs. Sanders and Cowles; reporter, Mrs. Barnes.

In the absence of the recording secretary, Mrs. Chase was appointed secretary pro tem, and read the minutes of the last meeting, followed by the treasurer's report.

That our State president, Mrs. Ellen R. Richardson of Concord, was with us combined a pleasure and profit that we all cordially appreciated. She concisely stated the object of our county institutes: mutual helpfulness by comparing methods of the unions in their work.

Reports from six of the eight unions in Sullivan County followed, Mrs. Story representing the Mrs. Mary E. Partidge Union, Claremont; Mrs. Moody Sunapee; Mrs. Breed, West Unity; Mrs. Brown, Cornish; Newport and South Acworth reported by letters.

A propos an inquiry as to the status of "Votes for Women" in the unions of this county, the query having led into wider fields, Mrs. Richardson read an illuminative letter by a Boston liquor dealer to his confreres of the trade stating the disasters that would engulf the liquor traffic by the enfranchisement of women. She also read statistics from several of the equal suffrage states that showed very plainly why the "interests" fear "votes for women."

The noontide prayer service was conducted by Mrs. Breed of Unity. The singing of "I need Thee every hour," and reading of the 27th Psalm gave the keynote for this helpful service.

The "basket lunch" as per program was so metamorphosed under the hospitable hands of the hostess union as to be quite unrecognizable as such.

Between this and the hour of reassembling an opportunity was given us to visit the George H. Stowell Memorial Library, a courtesy we cordially appreciated.

The afternoon session opened with brief consecration service, the Rev. F. J. Franklyn leading in prayer. A most cordial welcome was given by Mrs. Brown of Cornish, to which Mrs. Moody of Sunapee gave a felicitous response. An essay on "Peace and Arbitration" by Master Kenneth S. Hunt received closest attention, showing as it did a remarkable grasp of the topic from a viewpoint embracing benefits resulting thereby from international to industrial relations.

An outline of the object of Peace Clubs, method of organization and an earnest plea for the formation of such clubs was read by the secretary. Mrs. Richardson moved that a message be sent from this institute to President Woodrow Wilson expressing an appreciation of the masterful manner in which he is guiding our "Ship of State" in these perilous times. Motion carried and Miss Partridge was appointed to forward the same.

Mercy Home at Manchester, founded and fostered by the New Hampshire Women's Christian Temperance Union, was vividly pictured to us by Mrs. Richardson and Miss Partridge, both speaking on the topic assigned Mrs. Coburn, treasurer of the Home, who could not be present, "Girl Life at the Mercy Home." Twenty-one girls are receiving an all-round education at the Home, State Superintendent of Education Morrison endorsing the school system that forms a part of their "all-around training."

Three State Superintendents, viz., Mrs. Story, Purity in Art and Literature; Miss Partridge, Mercy Work; and Mrs. Palmer, Prisons and Alms House; each gave interesting reports of the work of their respective departments.

The Temperance Battle Hymn, written by Miss Partridge for the State Women's Christian Temperance Union, was sung with the enthusiasm the spirited words evoke. Mrs. Dyer of Canada was introduced, bringing greetings from the Province of Quebec and telling most interestingly of Women's Christian Temperance Union work there. Mr. Skinner, pastor of the Congregational Church of Cornish, was also introduced and made encouraging and congratulatory remarks. An address by Mrs. Richardson concluded the program. The absorbed attention given her was a merited tribute to her inspiring resume of Women's Christian Temperance Union endeavors, successes and plans along all the lines of our work "For God and home and every land."

# SCENES

FROM

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

GIVEN BY THE CORNISH CHILDREN

CORNISH N. H.

July 1909

---

Quince, a carpenter.	Robert Littell.
Snug, a joiner.	Thomas R. Coward.
Bottom, a weaver,	Charles F. Fuller.
Flute, a bellows-mender.	Leonard Cox.
Starveling, a tailor.	Caroline Cox.
Oberon.	Clara B. Fuller.
Titania,	Sylvia Hyde.
Puck.	Ellen Shipman.
Peaseblossom.	Paul St. Gauders.
Cobweb.	Helena Mitchell.
Moth.	Arvia Mackaye.
Mustardseed,	Whittemore Littell.
1 <sup>ST</sup> Fairy.	Mabel Churchill.
2 <sup>ND</sup> Fairy.	Valentine Mitchell.

Other fairies attending the Queen;—

Evan Shipman, Margaret Littell, Anna Marie Dana, Rachel Daniels, Polly Williams.

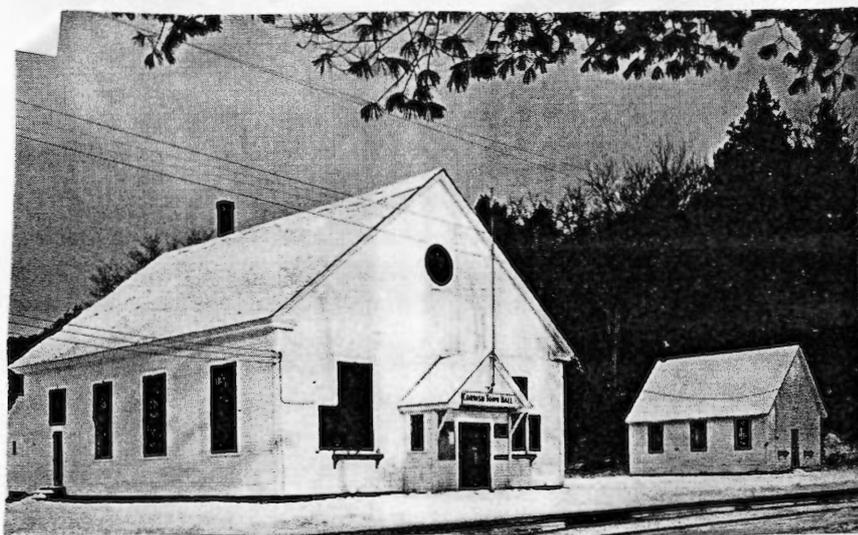
Fairies attending the King;—

Prescott Evarts, Elizabeth Evarts, Robin Mackaye, Godfrey Waters, Eleanor Hill, Ruth Whitaker, Grace Whitaker, Tracy Spalding, Eva Hill, Gordon Flummer.

---

# CORNISH ROAD TOUR

Beginning at the Cornish School turn east on Townhouse Road. Go a very short distance



\* The Old Town Hall was built in 1840 as a church. Its parishoners wanted to move to Vermont, and sold it to the town.

\*The small white building to its right was Schoolhouse # 9.



Valley News - Madara Hebert

An architect's model of the proposed town office building in Cornish.

Town Office

## Cornish Studies New Office Plan

By ED BALLAM

Valley News Staff Writer

**CORNISH** - According to town officials, this town has outgrown its town office - a little brick building built in the late 1800s.

That's why there is an article on the town's warrant requesting \$175,000 to construct a new town office on town-owned property on North Parsonage Road, near the highway department shed and the elementary school, said Cornish Selectmen Chairman Michael Yatevitch.

The current town office is "shabby in the extreme and relief must be found as quickly as possible," according to a report in last year's town report prepared by a committee on town office space.

The new building will accommodate the selectmen, town clerk, tax collector, treasurer and police department. It will have a fireproof 16-by-18-foot vault to store important town records, Yatevitch said.

The building will be paid through a long-term bond of 5 to 10 years, he said. Because the length of the debt has not been determined, the project's effect on the tax rate has not been calculated. However, the first payment would likely not be due until 1995, he said.

If the town were to pay for it in one year, the tax rate would go up slightly more than \$2 per thousand



Valley News - D. Marietta

dollars of assessed valuation, Yatevitch said. The tax rate for Cornish currently is \$23 per thousand, with property assessed at 111 percent of market value.

A public hearing on the issue has been set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Cornish School cafeteria.

Jerry Esty, chairman of the office space committee, said the building will be a one-story, wood-framed, cape-style building. The building committee recommended that it be 38-by-48 feet in size, but the select-

men have requested an additional 12 feet in length to accommodate the police department and enlarge the proposed selectmen's office.

As originally designed, the project would cost \$150,000, but the additional space will increase the cost by \$25,000, Esty said. In either case, the cost of the project covers site work, a well, a septic system and a parking lot, Esty said.

Last year, voters defeated a proposal to renovate the current town hall. The committee then explored the possibility of renovating the Cornish Flat Meeting House.

Esty said he believes the committee's recommendation to construct a new \$150,000 building will be approved by voters, but he's less optimistic about the selectmen's recommended expenditure of \$175,000.

"I've talked to a number of people who said they could support the smaller building, but not the larger one," Esty said. "There's a concern that if you build a large building, you'll have to hire the help to fill it."

According to Yatevitch, the enlarged building would allow the town to bring the police department into the town office, giving the department more room than it has in the fire station.

The town uses the school for meetings when large audiences are expected, he said.

# Cornish committee moves a

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

Town Office

**CORNISH** — During the past two months, the town Building Committee has been meeting to help make decisions for renovating the Cornish Grange Hall.

Grange members voted to give the hall to the town, with the agreement that they could still meet upstairs.

Voters approved \$164,000 at the annual Town Meeting for the purpose of making the building into town office space.

The building, which was constructed between 1838 and 1842 for use as a church, has been the home of Cornish Grange No. 25 since 1874. It was first rented for \$5 a year and purchased by the Grange for \$400 in 1917.

Before the actual deed transition from the Grange to the town, options for financing were discussed, with the front-load costs of bonding rejected as too costly. The option for initial construction financing with a loan at completion was considered the best and lowest cost. The selectmen have finalized the financing, with a five-year loan from the Fleet Bank in Claremont, with the first payment due in 1995.

The property has been surveyed and test pits dug for the septic system, with excellent soil percolation test results.

After much discussion and suggestions, the

committee voted to have architects Banwell, White, Arnold, Hemberger & Partners of Hanover as the architects to take on the project.

Time has been spent discussing the future utilization of the second floor, with respect to the needs of the town and the promises made to Cornish Grange — especially deciding just how stairways can be placed to allow access to the upper area, while ensuring that the lower floor is kept secure.

The committee has worked on the problem of first-floor configuration, where offices are to be located, in order to give the architect an idea of the space that needs to be created. It has been decided a vault will be added to the exterior of the building, which will allow more space for future needs.

A problem of bat infestation in the attic concerns the committee. It appointed Donald Snowden, Brian Meyette and Peggy Meyette to research and act as a resource to the committee in finding a way to clear out the bats. Rotted soffits have allowed the bats access to the attic area for years.

Soffit repair, wiring and other interior work can begin once the bat situation is taken care of. Repair of a beam, and a roof truss and the removal of the chimney, are other problems needing attention.

SUNDAY EAGLE TIMES, June 19, 1994 — 5

## Ahead with Grange plans



**CELEBRATING** the transfer of the Grange building to the town of Cornish are, from left, Polly Monette, Michael Yatsevitch, Michael Monette, Robert Maslan and Stuart Hodgeman. (Ruth Rollins photo)

# Cornish explores new town office

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Warrant articles calling for voter approval, above the already proposed budget of \$598,064 presented by selectmen, will include \$12,000 to be put toward plans for a new town office facility.

At the 1991 Town Meeting, voters requested that a proposal be presented for such office space, which resulted in a plan to add a new addition to the Town Hall.

Extensive work in estimating the cost of the proposal was done, with a figure of \$160,000 to provide an additional 2,500 square feet.

The proposal was presented in two parts, the first being to determine if the location was acceptable. But because the proposal was soundly defeated, no bond vote was taken, although voters approved continuing the study.

In 1992, the Town Office Space Committee studied the possibility of using additional rental space, since the town already rents space for the tax collector and to house the town's computers.

Even though the concept would avoid construction costs, it was determined that before 10 years, expenditures would exceed the cost of a new and appropriately designed building.



## Cornish Flat Meeting House?

Next, the possibility of renovating the Cornish Flat Meeting House was explored, a building that would need much renovation to provide acceptable space. Work would include insulation, putting in a new heating system, and providing adequate water and toilet facilities, as well as making the building handicapped-accessible and providing parking space.

In meeting with Linda Wilson of the State Division of Historical Resources, the committee was informed that the state has major deed restrictions on the building, which is on the National Historic Register, and that it would be quite difficult to make changes that would affect the historical character of the building.

Also, negative feelings from the

community concerning the use of the Meeting House were considered, and that plan was abandoned.

## Proposal for new building

At a recent meeting the committee voted to propose that a detailed construction-phased plan be designed and estimated this year, which would allow a new town office facility to be built on a 3.9-acre tract of town-owned land on North Parsonage Road, the present site of the Cornish Highway Garage.

Construction would consist of a new moderately sized, handicapped-accessible building for selectmen, town clerk and other town officers, facilities for the town computers and attendant personnel, as well as secure document storage.

The building would be designed to allow for future expansion for use by the Highway Department and for other needs.

Other warrant articles call for voter approval of establishing a committee to review the business-use section of the zoning ordinance and make recommendations to the Planning Board, an article that requests \$2,000 for the support of such a committee.

Town Meeting will be held March 9, with the polls open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the business meeting beginning at noon at the school gymnasium.

Valley News Thursday, March 3, 1994

Local

## Town Office Big Issue In Cornish

By DAN BILLIN

Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — Cornish residents will vote at Town Meeting on whether to build a new town office.

The selectmen are asking voters for authority to borrow \$175,000 to build a new office on North Parsonage Road. The old town office is a cramped brick building in Cornish Flat about 100 years old.

The new office would be a one-story wooden building with a large, fireproof vault for town records. In addition to the selectmen, town clerk, tax collector and treasurer, the new office would also house the police department — which currently operates out of the fire station.

The selectmen's plan is to issue a bond to finance construction. The length of the term of the bond has not yet been determined, so neither has the project's impact on the tax rate.

The proposal for a new office resulted after last year's town meeting, when voters rejected a proposal to renovate the current offices.

Also on this year's town warrant is a \$125,000 expenditure for a new fire

### Cornish Town, School Meeting

- Where: Cornish Elementary School.
- When: School meeting on Saturday, March 5, at 1 p.m. Town meeting on Tuesday, March 8, at noon.
- Voting: Polls will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on both meeting days. Town and school officers will be on the printed ballot, along with a proposed town tax exemption for solar energy systems. Budgets and other warrant articles will be voted on from the floor during the meetings.
- Key issues: Town and school budgets, new town office space, new fire truck, replacing fuel tanks at the school.

truck. Of that amount, \$95,000 would come from a capital reserve fund and \$30,000 would come from taxes.

A petitioned article asks voters to adopt a state law that would exempt solar heating and cooling systems from property taxes, up to a value of \$3,000. That question will be on the printed ballot.

The proposed town operating budget for 1994 is \$558,406 — virtually the same as last year. Other warrant articles, such as the new town office, would increase town spending over last year, however.

The Cornish School District's annual meeting will vote on whether to replace aging fuel tanks at the school. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$30,000. Of that amount, up to \$18,000 could come from an existing capital reserve fund.

The proposed 1994-95 school budget is \$1,594,262, up 2.9 percent from the current year. The estimated tax levy required to finance that budget is \$1,436,709, an increase of 7.2 percent over the current year.

Figures provided by the selectmen project that if both warrants are passed as presented, the total property-tax rate for Cornish (including the county assessment) would rise from the current rate of \$23 to \$24.65.

That would add \$165 dollars to the tax bill of a house assessed at \$100,000.

# Cornish town building proposal to be revised

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — The Town Office Space Committee was shown drawings of a proposed town office building last week, but the absence of police space set things back to square one.

The proposed building would be 38- by 48-feet, and be built by Treat Arnold of Banwell-White-Arnold-Hemberger Architects of Hanover. The proposal was shown last week during a selectmen's meeting at the Cornish Elementary School.

The 1,800 square feet of

space would include office space for selectmen and the secretary-tax collector, town clerk and treasurer and have a 12- by 14-foot conference room and a vault.

But it would have no office space for the Cornish Police Department, which was unacceptable to Police Chief Phillip "Joe" Osgood.

Selectman Michael Yatsevitch told the committee that the Board of Selectmen felt the Police Department should also have space in the building. The committee then asked Arnold to refigure costs

for an additional 10 or 12 feet added to the length of the building.

Cornish has been in need of new town office space and committees have worked on proposals since the 1991 town meeting.

The first proposal presented to voters, to build a 2,500-square-foot addition to the Cornish Town Hall (which would have included police department space) at a cost of \$160,000, was defeated. This was partly because it was using land needed by the Cornish Fair Association and the pro-

posal called for renovating the Town Hall to provide a conference room.

The next year, 1992, a committee worked on other proposals. The town already rents extra office space to accommodate current needs and the committee considered the feasibility of expanding rental space to eliminate need of construction. However, it was found that in less than 10 years that proposal would exceed the costs of a new, appropriately designed building.

The committee was also informed that the state of New

Hampshire held major deed restrictions regarding the use of the building and it would be quite difficult to make changes that affected the historical character of the building, which is on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

At the last March town meeting, voters approved \$12,000 to defray expenses of obtaining construction phased plans toward a long range project for a new town office facility, to be located on the 3.9 acre town owned land on North Parsonage Road, which the committee has worked on.

**The old...****...and the new**

**CORNISH TOWN OFFICES** soon will be moving from the small building on the left to larger quarters, right. (Ruth Rollins photos)

## New Cornish offices set to go

By **RUTH ROLLINS**  
Contributing Writer

**CORNISH** — Selectmen have targeted Feb. 27 as the date to open town business in their new office space on Town House Road.

The former Cornish Grange building has been extensively renovated and is just about ready for occupancy.

The brick building, constructed in the 1840s, was voted for used a town office space at the 1994 Town Meeting, which approved \$164,000 for the project. Grange members felt they could no longer maintain the building and agreed to deed it to the town if they could continue to hold meetings in the building's upper level.

The building was originally built as a one-story church. The top floor was added 100 years later. The renovation includes removal of an outside fire escape. A rear entrance and an inside stairway to the upper floor have been added.

Soffit work was completed, insulation and petitions added, and several residents cleaned the attic to take care of a bat infestation problem.

One of the original windows that had been bricked in at the time an outside fire escape was added has been replaced. This was made possible with donations from residents.

Office space is included for selectmen, town clerk, secretary, tax collector and treasurer, plus a small room where small meetings can be held and several boards can share space.

A computer room and space for the Police Department are also included.

The present town office building, which has only two small rooms with a hallway in

between, has been used as a town office since it was constructed in the late 1880s. No decision has been made on its future.

The small brick building located next to the George H. Stowell Library was constructed to store town records and cost \$800. At that time the selectmen's meetings were held either in homes or at the local hotel.

It has a Steam Fire Proof safe originally purchased for use in the Boynton Brothers store on School Street, operated by E.P. Brown and later by A.C. Thornton. For several years the town has rented space in the old store building located across the street from the town office to house the computer and to use as office space for the tax collector and treasurer.

In 1895, an addition was added to the little brick building for use as a jail. It cost less than \$500. After many years the town made an arrangement with Claremont and Unity to take care of any need for jail space and later the addition was used as a civil defense office.

In the late 1970s, the space was turned into a town clerk's office. Previous to that all town clerk work has been done in the clerks' homes. For much of the time the small town office has been in use it was heated with wood and at one time a gas stove.

Though in later years an oil furnace was installed, the town office space never graduated from the indoor outhouse to a flush toilet, which the new town office includes.

The new office affords space for the accumulation of paperwork that has been stored in individual homes until now.



**MAKING PROGRESS** — Cornish selectmen met with Scott Lencioni, project superintendent for Ingram Construction, far right, to check on the construction of new town office space, which will be located in the

former Grange building on Town House Road. Ceilings are presently being installed. Standing, from left, are Selectmen John White, Robert Maslan and Stuart Hodgeman. (Ruth Rollins photo)

# HISTORY OF CORNISH GRANGE #25

## SOON TO BE CORNISH TOWN OFFICE BUILDING

The Grange -- Patron of Husbandry -- Is devoted to promotion of Agricultural interests -- A better life for the farmers who grow foods for feeding the world's people. The Grange originated in Washington, D.C. on Dec 4, 1867.

The present Cornish Grange #25 hall was built during the years 1838 to 1842; by the Evangelical-Congregational Society, who were active for a few years, then disbanded. The Methodist people held services in the old brick schoolhouse in Cornish Flat, but finally rented, in 1853, the empty brick church on the corner of Center and Townhouse Roads. They too, finally dissolved.

On March 25, 1874 Cornish Grange #25 was formed, with 25 charter members, and leased the building for \$5.00 a year, and in 1917, on March 2nd, bought the building for \$400.00 and have maintained it for 120 years. Throughout these years upkeep of this hall was kept up -- sanding floors, painting walls, puttying windows, the renovation of the kitchen, etc.

In 1941 the second floor was built, from monies earned through card parties and dances. Also that year the "tenement" or former parsonage (home of Ray Eastman) was sold for \$1,000.00.

In 1943 the Cornish-Windsor toll bridge was freed in June, much due to the work of Cornish Grange in circulating a paper for this purpose. In 1950 the outside fire escape was built. In 1961 the church steeple was removed. Mike Monette was Grange Master in 1974, when the Grange celebrated its 100th anniversary setting a precedence in the state for being the youngest master. In the 50's Cornish School used the building for graduations, and later the PTA used it for Halloween parties. At one point, trees were cut, and wood went to needy causes. Grange gardens raised harvest that was donated to school lunch program. In 1963 Grange members worked to make the town hall a suitable place for playing basketball. In 1964 they improved their stage, and honored Emer Bartlett. In 1972 the Grange youth participated in the State Rose Drill.

Other community service projects include about twelve years of donating an amount from our profit in running a food booth at the Cornish Fair to the 7th and 8th grades. Also in the early 1980's Cornish Grange made a memorial for those Cornish Veterans who fought in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, erecting it in the park at the Flat. We also had a bronze plaque made by a sculptor, and attached it to a standing mill wheel, in memorial of all Cornish Veterans. In a more recent year

Norman Chabot came to a meeting and told of a vision--He and Shirley had attended school sports regularly, and he wanted a new gymnasium for our students. He spearheaded this idea with the offer of a very generous donation, and the Grange backed him up by also donating to the project.

Down through the years Grange members have held important offices in the town -- on the planning board, tax collector, town clerk, selectmen, fire chief, conservation and others.

From the earliest years of this organization, when they put through the idea of rural free delivery of mail, to get it to the farmers, to the present time when Grange members are active in legislation of laws to help rural people, the Grange is recognized as a helpful institution.

# THANK YOU CORNISH GRANGE #25



## CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS:

Ray Evans and Myron Kuhre elected for three year term to the Cornish School Board.

Brenda Jordan elected to two year term to the Cornish School Board.

Stuart Hodgeman for three year term of Cornish Selectmen.

Charles "Chuck" DeAngelis for Cornish Road Agent.

Elizabeth Caterino for three year Trustee of Trust Funds.

# Pomona Grange is 100

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — Sullivan County Pomona Grange celebrated its 100th anniversary recently, with Park Grange hosting the event.

Assistant Steward Cedric Brown held a ceremony honoring past masters, including an opening prayer by Worthy Chaplain Frank Brown.

A white candle was lighted in memory of deceased past masters of Sullivan County Pomona Grange, a red candle in honor of the six past masters present and a green candle for hope for peace on Earth for the next 100 years.

Communications from Past Masters Ralph Emerson and Clyde Bartlett were read. Also conveyed were messages from Past State Masters Everett Poor and wife, Mildred, and Ernest Odell and wife, Marjerie.

Past Masters Jesse Stone, Pansy Penniman, Kenneth Tashro, John Moore, F. Rendy Marro and Frances Ward all reminisced about times and events when they served as Past Masters of Sullivan County Pomona Grange. Secretary Marion Stone gave a thumb-



**HONORED** — Edythe Craig, master of the Sullivan County Pomona Grange, receives a plaque from Paul Davis, state grange master, during a ceremony marking the 100th year of the local grange chapter. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

nailed sketch of the last 25 years.

Among the many things mentioned were the start of the Lecturer's Guild and the Outstanding Citizen Award program, as well as drill team work and the many boat rides and trips enjoyed by members.

A tableau, "Getting Ready for Grange," which included members of the Brown and Collins families, was presented by Park Grange.

Other entertainment included a song "Silver Threads Among the Gold," sung by Bernice Johnson and a reading "Mama's Christmas in the Kitchen," by Marion Boardman, both members of Cornish Grange No. 25.

A special candlelight ceremony depicting "The Lord's Prayer" involved 11 members present and a skit, "Star of Bethlehem," was presented by Marion Jones, a member of the

state Executive Committee and Connie Brown, Park Grange member.

State Grange Master Paul Davis also gave a little history of Sullivan County Pomona Grange. "It was organized Dec. 4, 1891, and your celebration is being held as near that date as possible." He congratulated those present and spoke of the many changes over the past 100 years.

Davis also presented Edythe Craig, present master, with a plaque on behalf of the National Grange, "in honor of reaching a milestone that eludes most organizations, a milestone of service to your community, to our Grange Fraternity and to all mankind of 100 years."

The plaque was hung in the Park Grange Hall in memory of the 100th celebration.

# Cornish eyes buying property

By **KATIE BETH RYAN**  
Staff Writer

At the conclusion of a public hearing on Tuesday night, the members of the Cornish Conservation Commission voted 7-0 to use

**▲ Cornish** \$35,000 from its funds to help with the purchase of a property next to the Cornish Town Offices.

By the meeting's close, however, the three members of the Cornish Select Board had succeeded in raising more than \$34,000 in private donations that would be repaid to the Conservation Commission's cof-

fers.

The former owner of the property defaulted on a loan, and a quit claim deed was signed to the credit union. The hearing was necessitated by the fact that the town had until Oct. 3 to come up with the funds necessary to purchase the property.

The plan had been discussed by the select board, who then presented it to the Conservation Commission on Sept. 4.

"We felt it would be advantageous to the town to (have the lot) added to our property here," said Selectman John Hammond.

See **CORNISH** - Page A6

## **CORNISH** FROM PAGE A1

"To today's market, it's a good idea to purchase the property."

Selectman Keith Jones said that the board and commission had not yet decided on how the property would be used, but speculated that it might be an expansion site for the town offices.

"We don't know what the future's going to bring," said Jones. "For the future, it protects this piece of property for expansion, whenever that may be."

Questions raised by citizens revolved around the guidelines set by the commission in April of 2007 regarding properties in town that could be purchased.

Mary Beth Heiskell, who chaired the commission when the guidelines were set, said she didn't believe that drawing \$35,000 from the commission's funds was in line with its purpose.

"I want to hear why this property is advantageous to the town. I haven't heard enough of that," said Heiskell. "There's a lot of work and time that go into those funds."

Other residents echoed Heiskell's concerns, and questioned whether it was the place of the commission to purchase property that would not be used as part of a conservation easement, as is the case with

the properties that the conservation normally purchases.

"If we start bending the rules, then we lose some of this, because precedents do matter," said Cornish resident Nancy Whiteman, referring to the commission's set guidelines.

Selectwoman Merilynn Bourne emphasized the fact that the commission funds were temporary and would be paid back.

"The reality is that we are not using Conservation Commission monies," said Bourne. "They're like Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. They're going to ensure that we have the check on Oct. 3."

Conservation Commission Chairman Bill Gallagher said the commission had considered the matter carefully, and had decided that loaning the money to the town to purchase the property would be advantageous to the town as a whole.

Furthermore, Gallagher added, if the commission had refused the money, "[the lot] goes on the market, and the next step would be to bring this to the town meeting for approval. That's why this expediency is necessary."

**Katie Beth Ryan can be reached at (603) 543-3100 Ext. 102 or by e-mail at kbryan@eagletimes.com.**



Lionel Tracy

**T**HERE have been Tracys in Cornish ever since Captain Andrew arrived in September of 1772, and there probably always will.

The adult Tracys of today are respected, hard-working citizens. The men include a caretaker and odd-jobs man (Lionel), an apprentice welder (Floyd), and a machine operator (William, Jr.). William augments his earnings with two other jobs as well: he is an artificial inseminator — for “nine breeds of cattle,” he says proudly — and he also sells gravestones for a White River Junction firm.

William lives with his wife and four children in the house his father built; his mother has a separate apartment in an adjoining building. She is 73 and “very spry,” her children say. One of her special pleasures is the annual meeting of the clan at Christmastime, which draws in the three Tracy boys and their sister, Mrs. Herbert (Priscilla) Hodgeman, as well as two sisters and a brother who have left the valley.

If you drew a circle with a two-and-one-half mile radius, with the old Tracy homestead (built by Captain Andrew in 1793) as its center, you would include the homes of all the Tracys in Cornish. You could make the circle a lot smaller if it weren't for Floyd, who lives over on the other side of the township. “I'd move closer if I could,” he says. But if he did move, he'd leave a lot of

William B. Tracy, Jr.



unhappy kids behind. He's Scoutmaster, Cubmaster, and Neighborhood Commissioner for three Boy Scout troops in Cornish and one in Plainfield.

All the Tracy boys went to Windsor high school. They didn't have to go far to find their wives: William and Lionel married Windsor girls, and Floyd traveled only as far as Claremont. Priscilla's husband, de-

Floyd Tracy



scribed as a “jack of all trades and master of many,” is also a selectman, a deputy sheriff, and a substitute mail carrier.

Priscilla, like the wives of Floyd and William, is active in many town organizations. She plays the organ in the Plainfield church, belongs to the Mothers and Daughters club, the Blow-Me-Down Grange, and the Ladies Aid Society. “I joined the Plainfield groups because they are closer,” Mrs. Hodgeman says, “although I do try to do something for Cornish in the Red Cross drive.” Her habit of belonging to Plainfield societies once confused an elderly lady who had seen her at many club functions and assumed she was a resident of the town. It was Town Meeting day in Cornish. Mrs. Hodgeman noticed that the elderly lady had been staring at her for quite a while.

Finally the lady could stand it no longer. Leaning over, she whispered to Mrs. Hodgeman: “What are you doing over here?”

Lionel and his wife take no active



Priscilla Tracy Hodgeman

part in community affairs. They live with their two-year-old son Stephen in a house high on the Clement B. Newbold estate's “Dingleton Hill” with its breathtaking view of Mt. Ascutney across the river.

The Tracys know they'll never get rich living in a small town, but they love the valleys and hills around them, and, if tradition means anything, what better place for a Tracy than Cornish?

# Among the animals at Cornish farm is a ewe who thinks she's a dog

Anne Tracy

By BERTHA EMOND

CORNISH, N. H. — Among the five cats, four dogs, three horses, 18 sheep and three goats quartered at the Stephen Tracy homestead on Lang Road, Arabella the ewe is probably patently Anne Tracy's favorite.

Arabella, who once lived in the house as a member of the family "thinks she's a dog," says Tracy, 43. "She won't herd. The dogs don't herd her because they know she won't come. She used to come on walks with me and loves to be petted."

After a period in the barn, however, Arabella forgot she was once housebroken and now is but one of the girls catering to Barley, the single ram in the troop.

"He thinks they're all his," Tracy laughs. "He didn't do his job well the last time and I had to borrow a ram to breed most of the ewes. But he's a very good father. The lambs crawl all over him. He's gentle. With some you can't turn your back."

Barley's next round of fatherhood will begin in February.

Tracy's love of animals was surely encouraged if not inspired by the Nashua milkman who, when she was about three, allowed her to ride his horse as he made deliveries.

About 20 years ago the family moved to the family farm from Nashua. The 1792 house overlooks deep meadows and a broad horizon from its hilltop.

Stephen Tracy is an architect and has designed schools and churches at New England College and Kimball Union Academy, as well as



ARABELLA AND FRIEND receive personal attention from Anne Tracy, Cornish. (Bertha Emond Photo)

numerous residences. His work today is mostly residential.

Deep into our conversation with Anne, he passes through and announces humorously he is on his "way" to deliver "whey" to a neighbor. (Whey is the liquid remaining from cottage cheese.) The neighbor maintains his chickens produce more eggs when fed the substance.

With five goats producing milk, the Tracys are often over-supplied. Never having tasted goat's milk, we ask if we might sample it.

It could have been cow's milk, except that it is already homogenized by the goat, a neat little machine. Dorothy Tracy, Anne's mother, brings in a plate of crackers topped with boursin cheese she has made from goat's milk. It is herbed with basil, dill and parsley and delights the palate. We eat every cracker.

Goat's milk makes a superior oyster stew and custards, Tracy says, explaining also that pasteurization is unnecessary because the goat is not subject to the same diseases as a cow.

"A lot of people say 'yuk' when you mention goat's milk," she continues, "but goats are very tidy. Much cleaner than cows. Goats and sheep won't eat off the ground. They're great hay-wasters and make great garbage pails, but they don't eat tin cans or things like that."

That may be so, but one followed us around with her nose pressed inquiringly into our tote bag. Another sampled the taste of our camera carrying case, leaving it wet but undamaged.

"They're bored in winter," observes Tracy, an English literature major who graduated in 1950 from Colby-Sawyer College and in 1961 from Middlebury. ("I studied at college three days a week and at a horse farm four days a week.")

Unlike the goats, she is not bored at all, nor does she have time to be on a daily schedule that includes feeding and watering the troops, cleaning barns and shoveling hay, as well as matchmaking among the animals.

Her bedroom is connected via intercom to the barn and in lambing season she is alerted by the sounds of the laboring ewes.

"Most of the lambs bah, but Arabella calls me with 'ehhhhh' about half an hour before she's due. "They say 'cosset' lambs — those brought up in a house — are not good mothers, but Arabella is. She'd still love to live in the house."

Lambing season is wakeful season for Tracy, who explains you can tell when ewes are pregnant beneath their thick wool coats. "They lie around more. And moan and groan. And waddle."

Also, she adds, the ram keeps his distance as soon as the ewe is with lamb.

The goats are French Alpine, the sheep Romneys and Suffolk crosses, the cats part Siamese, the horses thoroughbred and Anglo-Arab, and the dogs, which she breeds, are Scottish border collies, shepherding animals who "are not happy in apartments. They're very intelligent and have got to have something to do."

Each of the 35 animals is given an

appropriate given name, an occupation which delights Tracy. She selects according to "circumstances and personalities." Also from the alphabet.

The first were given names beginning with the letter A, hence Arabella and Aubrietia (a perennial of the mustard family); the next year it was Chantilly, then Delphinium and Daphne. This year's crop will begin with the letter F.

Tracy's horses are named from old Cornish (England) words: Syjan (silk); Perthyan (endurance) and Kyla (companion). One cat is named Carousel because, somewhat deranged, she makes three turns at the door to go out, but if not in the right position at their conclusion, she begins all over again until she is.

Tracy relishes the naming more than she enjoys the trip to the slaughterhouse.

"That day is not pleasant, but it makes things come out even (financially) at least. I'm not going to get rich but it works out." She sells freezer lambs at \$2 a pound.

In addition to writing up and photographing equestrian events, she has published articles in Yankee and New Hampshire Profiles magazines.

Tracy's respect for life and the personal attachment which brings her to attach names to each reminds us of Henry Reed's "Naming of Parts," a well-known poem which includes relevant lines:

"The point of balance...and the almond blossoms silent in all of the gardens and the bees going backward and forwards, for today we have naming of parts."

# TRACY FARM HISTORY

By Stuart A. Hodgeman

The Tracy Farm/Homestead on Lang Road in Cornish has been in the family for over 200 years. Captain Andrew Tracy arrived in September of 1772 and the farm has been owned and operated by members of the Tracy family since that time. It is good to know it will remain as an agricultural piece for the future generations.

It is now occupied by my cousin Anne Tracy who has maintained the agricultural integrity of the farm through the raising of sheep and goats and horses and even a donkey or two. She usually has a Border Collie at her side and of course a few cats round out the farm inventory. Also in my memory are Grandfather William Tracy and Uncle Lionel Tracy who raised crops, had cattle and horse and-shipped milk by truck to Bellows Falls Creamery.

The property includes a one room schoolhouse known as the Tracy School which was attended by family members since the 1800's. I attended school there from 1946 until where I completed grades one through seven. My memories of that time are the material for a storybook about a very nice life of a young country boy in New Hampshire in the 40's and 50'. The walk to school or sledding to school in winter was easy going down hill for one mile from my home, but the trek back up hill took longer. Since I lived fairly close. I was the young lad that went early in the morning to start the wood stove and sweep-up the classroom to prepare for the new school day. My Uncle Lionel did those chores until I was old enough for the job. We had no water supply so pails of water were carried up the hill from the Austin Farm which was owned by Floyd Rogers at the time. Hot lunch was prepared by my grandmother Pearl Tracy, who lived just a quarter mile up the road on another Tracy property. Students were chosen, two at a time, to get the "soup bucket" and return promptly. Lunch was usually salmon wiggle, homemade soup, or American chop suey with noodles and hamburger which we ate with gusto along with what we had brought from home. The hot soups were especially popular in winter. The hot buckets of soup were kept warm by sitting on top of the wood stove and served by the teacher. Students brought their own bowls since there was no dishwashing facility at the school. Our drinking water was from a ceramic crock that had a spigot. Our little paper cups were like small envelopes that you squeezed and they opened into a small cup. The ceramic crock was filled daily from the water bucket carried from the Austin Farm and this task was also the job of students. The Restroom facilities consisted of a green outhouse in the back of the schoolhouse with one side for girls and another side for boys. The "green outhouse" remains there today.

Eva Bernard was my teacher during all of my school years at Tracy School. She was firm but fair and expected her students to perform and they did. Students worked independently on a lesson while she was working with another grade in a different subject area. She would be pleased at the many varied and successful paths taken by her former students at Tracy School. My mother, Priscilla Tracy Hodgeman, would come and play the piano during our music period for singing and such things as the Virginia Reel, and even act as the substitute teacher on a few occasions. Tracy School was indeed a place of family and friends and neighbors as well as a serious place for learning. Many local families have stories to tell about their time at this One-Room School on Lang Road.

The Cornish Central School opened in 1955 and the Tracy School was closed. Eva Bernard was one of the eight elementary teachers at the new school and served as the principal there as well.

Anne Tracy's father, Steve Tracy, acquired the Tracy School and moved it some 200 feet up the hill to its current location. His architectural skills were just what Tracy School needed at the time. He had a foundation/basement put under it and remodeled it for residential use. It is occupied today and the school bell still functions as it did for many years at Tracy School.



*Stephen P. Tracy*  
1905-1987

In the Spring of 1973, Steve Tracy was instrumental in founding the Cornish Historical Society and became its first president. It is with much sadness, that we mark Steve's passing on January 5, 1987.

Steve was an avid collector of Cornish historical memorabilia. He contributed to the historical documentation of town property. He was the architectural consultant for the Meetinghouse and designed the historical society's room. He was a great source of inspiration and information and will be sorely missed.

**From 220th Cornish Annual Report, year ending Dec 1986**

Stephen Tracy

# Cornish Town Hall

Town Hall

By Virginia Colby

*Windsor Chronicle  
Mar 21, 1986 p.7*

Author Leland Jamison's definition of Perfectionism: "The doctrine that 'perfect sanctification' or complete holiness and the 'second blessing' were attainable or even necessary to the salvation of the converted Christian."

Perfectionism found its place in many radically untraditional contexts, often in strange combination with other tenets. During the 1830's Perfectionist emphases were becoming pervasive among Revivalists.

William Miller (1782-1849), whose followers came to be known as "Millerites," grew up in Vermont. After a long revival made him a devout member of a Calvinist Baptist Church, he devoted most time to the study of the Bible, along with tending a large farm.

Miller studied the King James version of the Bible with Archbishop Usher's chronology in the margins as his only guide, concentrating on the book of Daniel. Counting the days referred to in certain passages of this highly symbolic apocalypse (especially 9:24-27 and 8:14) making each "day" a year, and accepting Usher's date for these events as 457 B.C. (see Neh. 2:1), he discovered that "seventy weeks" added up to the date of Christ's death (A.D. 33, according to Usher) while "two thousand three hundred days" added up to A.D. 1843.

Between 1840 and 1843 meetings were organized all across the country, with Miller himself lecturing hundreds of times. Despite warnings and condemnation from many quarters, thousands began to prepare for the Lord's coming.

As in Reformation times, there was even a comet to heighten popular apprehension. When the Great Halley's Comet appeared in 1843, coincidental with Millerite predictions of the Second Coming, thousands of believers were alerted to Christ's impending reappearance on earth. With its huge, brilliant tail overshadowing a less visible head, the comet hovered in the sky for a month. Many felt it was a sign of the last days.

As this religious fervor and revivalism was sweeping the country and particularly New England, Cornish was not left out. Meetings were held in homes of local residents until Hiram C. Fletcher of Cornish deeded a tract of land (deed dated August 12, 1840) to a group consisting of John Johnson, Gilbert Hilliard, Constant W. Smith and Judah S. Deming, and a house of worship was erected known as the Perfectionist

Great excitement prevailed among the parishoners and was heightened as the "Second Coming" day approached. Yet March 1843 and March 1844 passed by, and time still continued. Finally October 22, 1844 went by, the last definite date to be set by the movement's leadership. The mass movement collapsed amid a general feeling of betrayal. Following the "Great Disappointment" the congregation dwindled and the church finally closed.

Meanwhile the Town of Cornish was in need of a building in which to hold its annual meeting as well as other necessary large gatherings. An 1845 town meeting was held at the Perfectionist Meetinghouse. A November 1845 warrant for town meeting included an item, "To see if the town will provide a suitable place for holding their annual and other meetings and appropriate a sufficient sum of money for that purpose."

The following statement resulted from that meeting: "Voted that the providing at this time for the use of the town of a permanent and convenient place in a central situation for holding their annual and other meetings is a desirable and important object. Therefore voted that the Selectmen be a committee in behalf of the town to accomplish that object and that said committee be and hereby is authorized (if it may be done on reasonable terms) to contract and agree with the proprietors of the "Perfection Meetinghouse" so called in this town for the use of that house for the above mentioned purpose; and if said committee shall so contract with said proprietors it may for convenience be called in the warnings of the Selectmen the "Town House." (Hence the name Town House Road).

Action was postponed indefinitely but future meetings continued to be held in the Perfectionist Meetinghouse.

Finally in 1849 Hon. Eleazer Jackson, justice of the peace, was appointed a committee of one "to see upon what conditions the Perfection Meetinghouse can be purchased."

It was not until October 26, 1850 that the Perfectionist Meetinghouse was deeded to the Town of Cornish for the sum of \$300. The few remaining members reserved the right to hold religious meetings on the Sabbath.

Now, 136 years later the building continues to be used as Cornish's Town House.

# Funds sought to finish town hall renovations

Voters will be asked to authorize \$15,000

By **BARBARA NOLL**  
Contributing Writer

01-31-85  
The venerable Cornish Town Hall, built around 1870, is still used as a multi-purpose building at its original location on Townhouse Road, between the Cornish Elementary School and the Cornish Fairgrounds.

It has been home to town meetings, basketball games, gym classes and community suppers. It continues to be used for Bingo, budget hearings and Boy Scout meetings. But all buildings 135 years old need repairs from time to time.

In the past, repairs have been done by both volunteers and hired professionals. The Spirit Committee, formed to complete projects around the town, have organized many of the worker bees.

Now the needed repairs have passed beyond the expertise of town volunteers.

Nancy Newbold, a Spirit Committee member since its formation in 1988, noticed recently the clapboards needed more work than the volunteers could provide. She approached the selectmen with a request for help with the town hall repairs.

The Selectboard confirmed the Spirit Committee's assessment.

"We are being asked to put an article on the warrant for replacing the clapboards on the building; the rear addition needs a roof; as well as upgrading plumbing in the bathroom," Chairman Larry Dingee related.

On January 29 the Selectmen met with the Finance Board and finalized a \$15,000 warrant article.

"We are putting the article on the warrant — we all agreed that maintenance of



BARBARA NOLL PHOTO

**TOWN HALL** — Volunteers have done much of the repair work at the Cornish Town Hall. Money is now being sought to pay for professionals to complete the work at the 1870s building.

Bernice Johnson CHS Alum

"We are putting the article on the warrant — we all agreed that maintenance of the town hall is important. If an old building is not used and maintained it will deteriorate."

**Merilynn Bourne**

Cornish Selectboard

the town hall is important. If an old building is not used and maintained it will deteriorate," Selectman Merilynn Bourne said.

Over the years many townspeople have volunteered in order to aid repairs.

Recently the Fire Department and Auxiliary raised money and volunteered their services for remodeling the kitchen. Bob Michal, a Cornish resident with carpentry experience, was hired to do the carpentry work and Rick Bean of Cornish built the cabinets. Mike Minette, both a firefighter and the person responsible for the cleaning and upkeep of the town hall, volunteered along with others.

The town hall is rented nearly every weekend for var-

ious functions. Selectmen's Secretary Marge Kolenberg, who is responsible for the Town Hall rentals, elaborates

"Birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, and wedding receptions are held here," Kolenberg said. "We've had the Cornish art fair, a monthly art show put on by Nancy Wightman with various artists.

"There are paintings, slate paintings and quilts. The art teacher from the school displays stuff from the kids. We had somebody rent it for stamping; the fire department holds barbecues there. There are craft bazaars, flu clinics and one lady uses it for every holiday. It's a well-used building — a great place to have a function."

# Cornish Acquires Land For New Town Forest

By LORIE M. McCLORY  
Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — Residents will soon be able to enjoy the outdoor recreational opportunities offered by their own town forest, and officials hope good forest management efforts will make the venture self-sustaining.

Town officials last week signed a purchase and sale agreement with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests to buy a 270-acre parcel in the southwest corner of town for \$70,000. The money will come from the town's conservation fund.

"It was too good a deal to pass up," said Herrika Poor, chairwoman of the Cornish Conservation Commission.

"This is a very exciting project. It's not often that a town of our size can make that sort of purchase to preserve that type of land because of the money we're talking about."

The deal came about when the conservation group purchased 2,700 acres from the Olsen Family Partnership, which had acquired the land as an investment 25 years ago from a defunct timber management company, said John Olsen of Norwich. But it was "not a great investment" after taxes,

he said, and the family was always examining its options with regard to the land.

"We were (recently) looking into the possibility of selling vs. maintaining and managing the property," Paul Olsen said Friday.

"There was some conservation value that intrigued me, and I thought the society could do a good job of managing or selling the land."

The society decided to keep a few of the eight parcels that made up the total, including a 120-acre parcel that abuts the society's 800-acre Yatsévitch Forest on the Cornish-Plainfield town line, and to sell the rest, said Paul Doscher, senior director for land conservation for the society. The 120-acre parcel will be annexed to the Yatsévitch Forest, Doscher said.

The conservation commission decided in November to pursue the other Cornish parcel that the society was selling, Poor said.

"It all happened quite quickly. We haven't been actively looking for land, but at the same time we are aware of what is available," Poor said.

Doscher said the selling price originally was based on the fair market value at what the land would be worth after conservation.

See Cornish — Page B5



Valley News — Geoff Hansen

Jan. 31, 1999 p. B1

## Cornish Buys 270-Acre Site To Create New Town Forest

Continued from page B1

conservation restrictions were placed on it. But because the town would not be building a residential dwelling on the land, the society and the town negotiated the \$70,000 purchase price, he said.

Poor said the restrictions include that the property not be developed and that only buildings used to support agriculture, such as a sugarhouse, or for educational purposes be placed on the property.

"Even with those restrictions, this is a wonderful opportunity for the town," Poor said. "We certainly would like to see it used for a multitude of uses: cross country skiing, hiking, whatever recreational uses people would want."

Voters in March will see a warrant article asking that the town designate the 270-acre parcel a town forest. Poor said the formal vote will allow the town to set up a committee

to oversee the property and set up an account that will be funded by timber cuttings, making the forest self-sustaining.

"It won't be years and years before we begin to actually see something (financially beneficial) from it," Poor said.

"With a good forestry plan, in a couple of years we could do a light cut and that will continue to enhance the value of the property and build the timber value without hurting the recreational value."

## The Town Forest in Cornish receives a Shelter.

*" For my Eagle project, I plan to build an elaborate lean-to be located in the Town Forest. This will be available to anyone who would like to use it: people who like to hike or bike can travel all day in the forest and stay in the lean-to during the night. It will be built from 2x4's and other building materials. It will be complete with a wooden floor, insulated from the cold ground, and a metal roof (this was the only change in the plan- changed to a shingled roof), providing shelter from rain, snow, etc. It will be a rectangular building with three walls and one open side. This building will allow many people to enjoy the town forest with the comfort of being able to stay overnight in a shelter without any charge. This will also hopefully attract more people into the forest to see the natural beauty of it and give them a place to stay if needed."*

This text was the introduction for a proposal by Bryan Gee submitted to the Daniel Webster Council of Scouting in Manchester NH, in order to become an Eagle Scout. Bryan's plan for the Adirondack type shelter was approved. The Selectman and the Cornish Conservation Commission were contacted for approval of the plan. A site was chosen and a plan formed to transport the needed materials. Around Easter the project was started. It turned out that snow on the ground was helpful!

With the guidance and help of the scoutmasters of Troup 332 Bob Demars, Leo Maslan, the ex-scoutmasters Larry Duval, and Bob Cunningham, the work began. From donated wood and some logs of the forest itself, Jim Fitch milled the needed lumber with his portable sawmill. Keith Jones and Kyle Witty assisted with equipment and transportation. Exceptional is a large log of red pine Leo brought back from New London. You can spot it as inside support in the overhang of the shelter. With hard work of the scouts Kyle Ackerman, Tabor Chichakly, Fritz Maslan, Alex Jameson, Bobby Annis, Asa Smith, Brendan Ackerman, Michael Ackerman, Sean Taylor, Justin Kuzma, and Lucas Jameson, the project progressed steadily. Bryan also was supported by his family: mother Sandy, father David and brother Shawn with his fiancée Brittany Desmairas.

On Sunday, August 12, we gathered in front of the Town Offices, Bryan, his parents, scouts, friends, and a few folks from Cornish, to be guided by the Chair of the Town Forest Ginny Prince, and Scoutmaster Leo, to the new shelter in the Forest. Ginny welcomed the group at the dedication of the shelter, and Bryan gave answers and explanations to the gathering. The project took him some 368 1/2 hours to completion.

After the tour of the structure we sat down on furniture, made from left over lumber around a small circular campfire place, enjoying lemonade and cookies made by Town Forest Commission member Kate Freeland. David Gee had made a commemorative wooden plaque of the event with the name of his son Eagle Scout Bryan Gee. Ginny handed this over to Bryan with a firm handshake, and it was placed on a wall in the shelter. Before leaving, Ginny had the attendants vote on a name for the shelter: "*Eagle Ledges*" was the winner, and that is how it will be known. Sandy Gee made a DVD of the beginning and completion of the shelter: it is available for the asking. Robert & Mariet Jaarsma, for the Cornish Conservation Commission .



# The fascinations of nature found in Cornish forest

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Naturalist Ned Swanberg led a small group of people on a fascinating tour of the Cornish Town Forest recently.

Swanberg, a Cornish resident and naturalist from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, generously donated his time for the tour, identifying numerous types of wood and ornamental brush.

Many were surprised when he showed them a witch hazel bush, which they did not think grew in this area of New England. Another surprise

was when Swanberg told them Goldenrod is not an allergy-causing plant, and gets blamed for allergies caused by ragweed, which does cause allergies.

They learned that it was normal for dead pine needles to shed, with the older ones shedding every three-four years, and that some white pine drop their needles even sooner, showing stressfulness which is an indicator of ozone damage.

Speaking of Bass wood he told them how easy it is to carve. They also learned they could tell what a sugar maple tree is by seeing the pock marks

on the trees, which is scarring done by squirrels when they nip the bark for its sweet taste.

In just a few hundred yards of ambling he pointed out and discussed details of the lives of fiddlehead ferns and discussed some intricate mutualistic inter-relationships of fungi and other plants, and how fungi is cemented to the roots of trees and nutrients are drawn from it. He said fungi can cover acres in the forest and weigh tons. It is one of the largest organisms

---

*He spoke of the interweaving lives of oak trees, red squirrels, mice and hobcats.*

---

in a forest. He also spoke of the interweaving lives of oak trees, red squirrels, mice and hobcats.

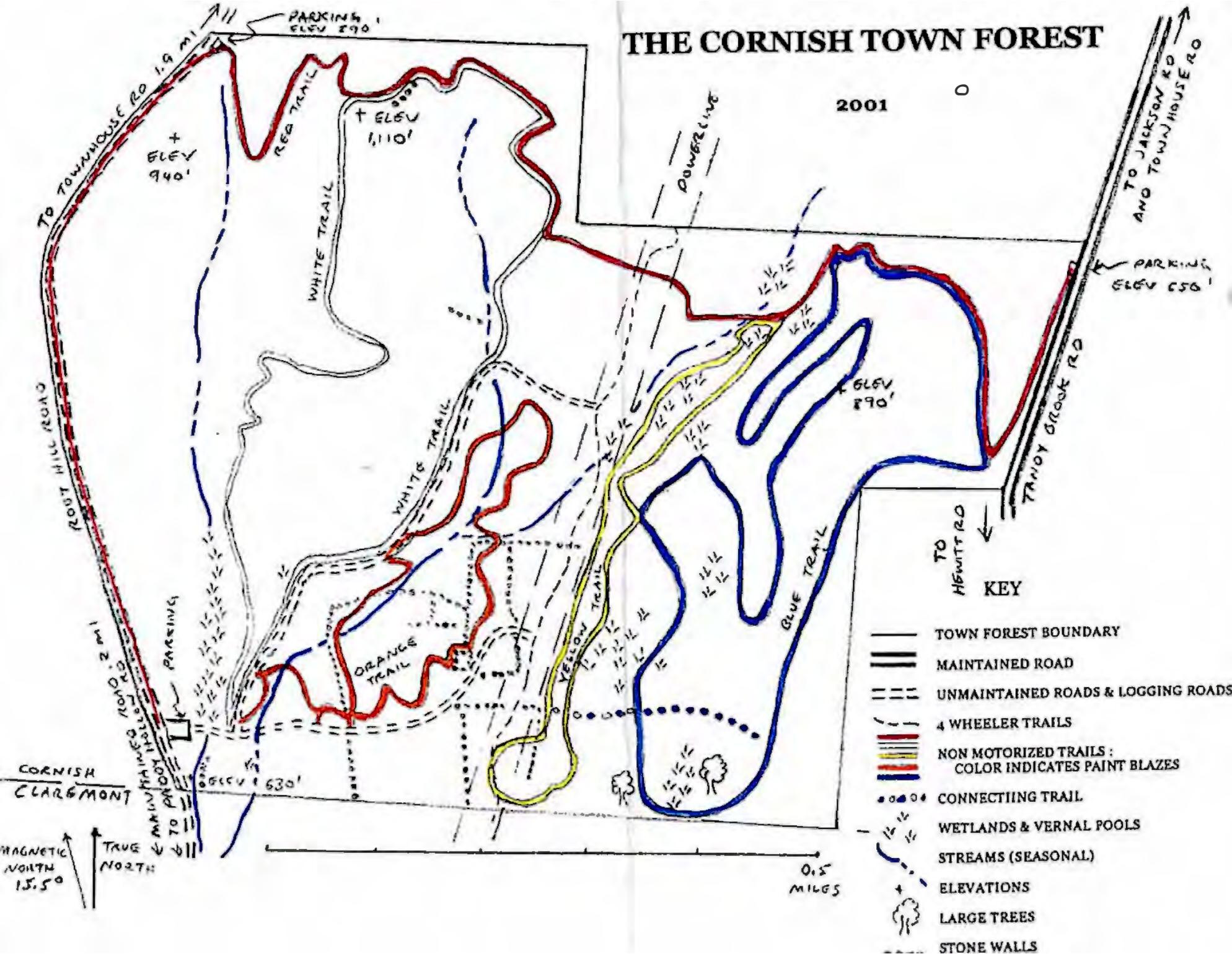
He told why leaves turn colors in the fall, the evidence of geological history shown by rocks, and many other illuminating nuggets of knowledge about the natural world.

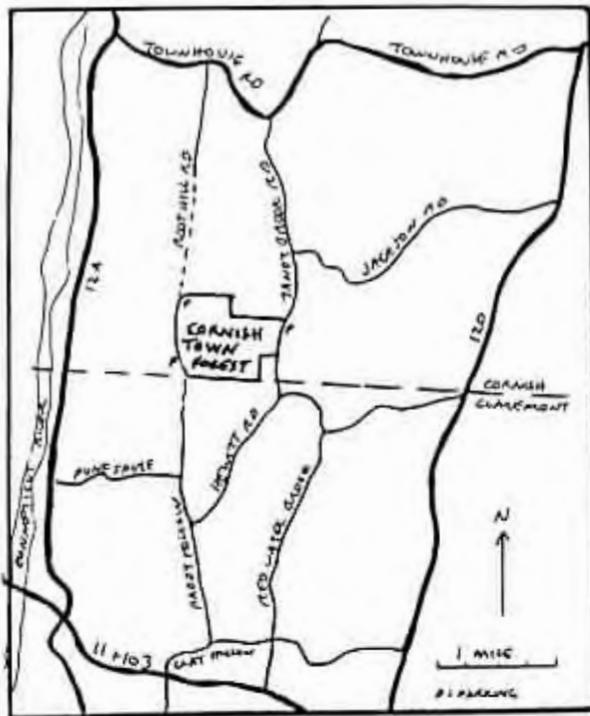
Also during glacial activity thousands of years ago Mt. Ascutney, Sunapee and Cardigan mountains were what was described as "want-to-be volcanoes," and that our land mass might have been connected to Japan at one time.

Swanberg said, "the forest is really nice. It has well blazed trails, and a map is being made. It shows a lot of work has been done."

Page 1  
10-22-01

# THE CORNISH TOWN FOREST





## THE CORNISH TOWN FOREST

The Cornish Town Forest was set aside in 1999 for the benefit and enjoyment of Cornish residents. Please help take care of it!

Non motorized visitors are welcome at all times and the property is open to licensed hunters in season.

Motorized vehicles and horses please remain on Root Hill Road, the logging road and powerline service trail and do not enter between March 1st and July 1st.

Please refrain from gathering wood and rare plants, littering or otherwise harming our forest.

For more information contact the Cornish Town Office (603.675.5207)

Thank you for your interest,  
the Cornish Town Forest Management Committee

**TRAIL NOTES:** All trails except the red trail are loops: if you stay on 1 color trail you will eventually return to your starting point.

**THE RED TRAIL** traverses the forest from Tandy Brook Rd to Root Hill Rd via the look out. There are steep and rough sections. Total elevation change 590 ft. Distances from Tandy Brook Rd: to jct with blue trail .15 mi, to powerline .7 mi, to lookout 1.25 mi, to northwest parking area 1.5 mi, to southwest parking area 2.25 mi.

**THE BLUE TRAIL** is a meandering, rolling loop. Runs partly in common with the red trail touring the eastern half of the forest, vernal pools, rock ridges and two 4 ft diameter trees. Total elevation change 450 ft. Distances from eastern junction with the red trail: to western junction with the red trail and the first vernal pools .3 mi, to junction with the yellow trail 1.1 mi, to the large trees 1.5 mi, return to red trail 2.3 mi.

**THE YELLOW TRAIL** (completion 2002) is nearly flat. It visits the other vernal pools, an apple grove, and denning trees. Total elevation change 40 ft. Distance from red trail to apple grove and south boundary .5 mi, return to start 1.1 mi.

**THE WHITE TRAIL** is a loop from near the southwest parking area to the lookout. Elevation change 475 ft. Logging road to lookout .75 mi, return to logging road 1.25 mi, return to start 1.75 mi.

**THE ORANGE TRAIL** has gradual grades. It loops within the logging road, visiting stream crossings, stone walls, a foundation and denning trees. Very short loops can be made using the connections with the logging road loop. Total elevation change: 190 ft. Distance to first logging road exit 50 yd. to 2nd exit .15mi, to 3rd exit .2 mi, to 4th exit .4 mi, to foundation .8 mi, return to main trail 1.0 mi, return to start 1.2 mi.

**THE LOGGING ROAD** is open to motorized wheeled vehicles and horses from July 1 to March 1 and to snowmobiles in season. It forms a loop 1.2 mi. long by connecting with the powerline service road. Total elevation change 195 ft.

# Marion D. Trepanier, 95

**WINDSOR** — Marion D. Trepanier died at her Windsor home Saturday, Nov. 25, 2006. She was 95.

She was born April 15, 1911, in Windsor, Vt., the daughter of Edward and Jessie (Huggins) Dannatt.

She married Homer Trepanier in Windsor on Sept. 7, 1936.

She is survived by six nieces, one nephew, one Godchild, and several grandnieces and

grandnephews.

Friends may call at the Knight Funeral Home in Windsor on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2006, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday, Dec. 1, 2006, at 11 a.m. at the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Windsor. The Rev. Paul N. Belhumeur, pastor, will be the celebrant.

Burial will follow in St. Francis Cemetery in Windsor.

*Red Times 11-28-06*

# CHURCH STEWARDS

*TRINITY BELONGS TO CORNISH*



THE BACK STORY OF Trinity Church in Cornish, an architectural and historical landmark built in 1808, gets more interesting all the time. Readers may remember that one Clark Rockefeller, then a part-time Cornish resident, stepped forward at Town Meeting in 2004 with a not-so-modest proposal. He would assume stewardship of the church from Town Moderator Peter Burling, who had owned and cared for the building for 20 years. In exchange, the mysterious man with the famous name would give Cornish \$110,000 to build a new police station. The town thought the swap a marvelous idea, as did we, taken as we were by the philanthropic double play.

Now Trinity's owner is offering to give the church back to the town. That's a better idea, and residents should graciously accept at Town Meeting this year.

Of course, there's more to the story — a lot more. Intrigue swirls around "Rockefeller," who has since been identified by police as German national Christian Karl Gerhartsreiter. He is now in jail, having pleaded not guilty to charges of kidnapping his daughter during a custodial visit. He is labeled as a "person of interest" in the disappearance of a California couple in the 1980s. The man who held the deed to Trinity Church appears to have a sensational back story of his own.

But never mind. The church is now owned by Gerhartsreiter's ex-wife, Sandra Boss, whose lawyers wrote to the Cornish Selectboard in November. "Due to changed circumstances," said the letter, "our client is no longer able to continue to support the church and is pursuing the necessary steps for its orderly disposition."

Certainly the church would be well disposed of if it were to be returned to the town, which owned it for a time in the mid-20th century. Cornish has an obvious interest in preserving and protecting the building, which is a stunning example of the spare architecture of the era and a site of historic significance recognized by the National Register of Historic Places. Generations of Cornish residents have used the sanctuary for both religious and civic purposes. In a sense, Trinity Church already belongs to the town — to its landscape and sense of place; the town ought to assume title and responsibility for it. As Selectboard Chairman John Hammond said, "It's a historic landmark. There are a lot of people who use it for weddings and that sort of thing, and we'd like to keep it the way it is." (Photographer Walker Evans captured the way it was in a famous image that will be on display beginning Jan. 13 at Dartmouth's Hood Museum of Art as part of a larger photography exhibit.)

Of course, if the town does re-assume ownership, it would have to honor the separation of church and state and ensure that the building continues to remain open to all for community use. Once the property of the Episcopal diocese, Trinity Church is now used in the warmer months by the Anglican Church in America. That relationship could in theory continue. There is ample precedent of government- and school-owned buildings being used for religious purposes, as long as those buildings do not impose restrictions on any one denomination or religion.

Members of the Cornish Selectboard are exploring the church-state questions, and they are right to do so. But we see no impediment to the town resuming stewardship as long as it makes clear that ownership of the building implies no endorsement of a particular religion. There is a long history in New England of towns owning ecclesiastical architecture. Cornish would be all the richer for owning Trinity.



**OLD AND NEW** — The 12% Solution, a Cornish landmark, changed hands last week when Jerri Danielli, left, and husband Domenic, second from left, sold the store after 11½ years to Mike Hamel, second from right, and his wife, Janis Hamel. The name, which was fashioned after French wine, will stay the same. (Katherine Miller photo)

## Solution: new owners

By **KATHERINE MILLER** 12% Solution  
Contributing Writer

**CORNISH** — There are solutions to puzzles, problems and algebraic equations, but the 12% Solution store in Cornish provides another type of solution, one local shoppers have relied on for years when they ran out of milk or bread.

Thursday Jeryl and Domenic Danieli, owners of the mom and pop convenience store at the intersection of Town House Road and Route 12A, signed papers selling the store they'd owned and operated for the past 11½ years.

"It was time for a change. Our two boys are grown now. It's time to do something else," Domenic Danieli said.

The store started out as a hotdog stand, but in 1966 Norman Chabot of Cornish took over the

*East Time Jun 24  
1996 p. 1* (Please see SOLUTION-Pg. 6)

# OWNERSHIP HISTORY 12% SOLUTION

TO	FROM	DATE
Michael M. Hamel Janis S. Hamel	Dominic R. Danielli, Jr. Jeryl A. Danielli	06/22/96
Dominic R. Danielli Jr. Jeryl A. Danielli	Wayne VanVoorhees	12/12/84
Wayne VanVoorhees	George B. Minckler Cheryl A. Minckler	10/3/83
George B. Minckler Cheryl A. Minckler	Charles E. Raymond Linda L. Raymond	10/22/79
Charles E. Raymond Linda L. Raymond	Norman A. Chabot Shirley V. Chabot	5/18/77
Norman A. Chabot Shirley V. Chabot	William H. Talbert Eva M. Talbert	11/2/66
Norman A. Chabot Shirley V. Chabot	Frederick J. Chabot Louis E. Chabot George W. Chabot Madelyne L. Hamel	7/7/61
Norman A. Chabot Shirley V. Chabot	Jennie Chabot	7/7/61
William H. Talbert Eva M. Talbert	William H. Talbert	1/22/54
Fred L. Chabot Jennie Chabot	Royal Wallace Celia M. Wallace	11/26/28
William H. Talbert (under the name of William Talbot)	William H. Hicks	5/23/27

father and added on to the existing snack stand and made himself a small grocery store. Chabot owned and operated it until 1977, when Charles and Linda Raymond bought and ran it until May 1979. The next owners were George and Cheryl Minckler, who sold it in 1983 to Wayne Van Voorhees.

It was Van Voorhees who gave the establishment its current name. A lover of opera and posh French wine with 12% alcohol, Van Voorhees not only sold such wine, but gave his store its distinctive name, though he owned it only from October 1983 to December 1984 when the Danielis bought the store.

Since then, the Danielis have had good times and bad. When the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge was closed for about two and a half years in the late 80s, the Danielis lost 65 percent of their business.

But many faithful Windsor patrons who had stopped by on a daily basis to pick up a loaf of bread or gallon of milk were not deterred — they detoured 11 miles, driving to Ascutney to connect with Route 12A to get their provisions from the 12% Solution.

During those difficult years, Jerri worked outside the family business "I had to. We were determined to make a go of it," she said.

There was also a lighter side to their lives as storekeepers as well. Over the years Dartmouth College students, area high school students and celebrity chasers have stopped at the store to inquire about the residence of author J.D. Salinger, a noted recluse who lives not far away in Cornish.

Jerri Danieli recalled people asking her if she knew where the author lived. "I'd tell 'em, sure, I know where he lives. 'Well, how do I get there?' the person would ask. And I'd say, 'I'm not telling.'" Some emboldened students desperate for an interview with Salinger or even a peek at his house offered to pay her money if she'd divulge where he lived. "Others just begged," she laughed. She's never met the famous author "I've met his wife, though. She's very sweet," she said.

Ah, but does she really know where he lives? "I know which driveway is his," she chuckled and remarked that most people in Cornish know where Salinger lives, but they respect his desire for privacy and don't reveal his whereabouts to anyone.

The Danielis feel "bittersweet" about selling their

making decisions" and wants to work for someone else. "I'll do anything as long as its five days a week," joked her husband, who has put in his share of seven-day weeks at the store.

The Danielis' three part-time employees, their son Eric who lives above the store, Karen Cline and Barbie Shamo, will continue working under the new owners, Mike and Janis Hamel of Claremont.

Ironically, the Hamels had considered buying the 12% Solution in 1984 when the Danielis bought it. They decided against the purchase because they were aware of the time, effort and devotion required of store owners, and they wanted to spend time with their two small children. Mike Hamel is a Claremont native and his wife, a medical secretary, is originally from Charlestown.

Hamel is no stranger to grocery stores. For the past six years he worked as a department manager for Shop 'n' Save in Claremont. Prior experience includes a four-and-a-half-year stint with P&C in the towns of Springfield, Brattleboro, White River Junction, Windsor, back to Springfield again, West Lebanon and finally Hanover. Despite all the moving around, Hamel said he enjoyed it. "I'm a people person. I've wanted to own my own small convenience store for a long time," he said.

After looking at the 12% Solution in January of this year, the Hamels decided to make it theirs. One of the conditions of the purchase was complying with EPA regulations requiring the removal of large gasoline storage tanks left in the ground from the days when various owners sold gas. That was accomplished this winter. Necessary soils tests happily revealed no contamination.

The Hamels say they'll maintain the same store hours as their predecessors and also continue the same line of goods. The bulk of business is the sales of groceries like bread and milk, in addition to soda, beer, tobacco, lottery tickets, some fast foods and even fish worms.

As far as making any changes to the store, Mike Hamel said the only things he plans to do this summer is some painting, cleaning and shelf stocking. Before doing much more than that Hamel said, "We'll see what the community needs are." He added that during the winter he might make some "minor renovations" and that eventually a

# Cornish church to celebrate its bicentennial

Ensl. Times Jul 27, 1997

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — The congregation of the United Church of Cornish has made many plans to celebrate the 200th birthday of the church, including a special dinner to be held at the Cornish Town Hall Aug. 25.

Members will also join the festivities of Cornish Old Home Day held at the church and hold a special church service of rededication, memories and plans for the future.

Several highlights of the church history will be in tableau form and special music is planned. A time capsule containing many items of past and present interest will be buried.

Several bicentennial items will be available for souvenirs, including placemats, notepaper, mugs and tiles, and copies of the United Church history will be on sale.

Robert LaClair will hold an exhibit of historical items at the Masonic Hall, School Street, Cornish Flat, where many photos and other historical items of interest will be available for viewing during the event, also.

Only 13 families were located in Cornish in 1767 and "these families organized the church, choosing Rev. James Wellman of Sutton, Mass., to become their minister," it was noted in the church history. It was called the Congregational Church of Cornish and Windsor.

Cornish town records of April 28, 1768, note that it was voted, "for the first year salary to pay 40 pounds to Rev. Mr. Wellman, to be paid in white rice and Indian corn.

Also voted to give Rev. Wellman 200 acres of land in the back lands and 15 pounds to be paid in boards and labor toward his buildings."

Rev. Wellman asked that they assist him yearly in cutting and hauling firewood, which was agreed upon, and he accepted the call.

After fording the Connecticut



**The United Church of Cornish**

River on his horse, Rev. Wellman stood many a Sabbath afternoon in the pulpit in Windsor in wet clothing. Mornings he preached in Cornish homes and barns.

The first meeting house, or church, was built in 1773 across from Gen. Jonathan Chase's house. It was later called the Trinity Church and still is. It is the oldest church in the Town of Cornish.

The building had extensive rebuilding done in 1803 and underwent another major restoration project in 1985. It was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in the year of 1978.

The original group of churchgoers disposed of that building in the year 1789 and a Congregational Church was built in the center of town.

Meanwhile, on a hot July afternoon in 1789, a Baptist church group was organized in a barn owned by Moses Barrows. Rev. Jedediah Hibbard became its first pastor and preached until 1796.

Cemetery place in memory of Miss Sally Thomas (1769-1813), a servant girl who worked for 23 years with the family of Daniel Chase, Esq., one of the first settlers in Cornish.

Like the New Testament widow with the two mites, Sally Thomas gave all she had from her wages of 50 cents a week to the cause of the American Board of Commissions for Foreign Missions.

Her gift was the first gift actually paid to the treasurer of foreign missions. The fact that she gave so much, \$345.83, when she had so little, has placed her among the immortals in the records of foreign missions.

The Congregational Meeting House was moved to the present location on Center Road in 1841, where the beautiful brick structure still stands, and both the Congregational and Baptist churches had their own ministers until 1944.

At this time, Rev. Norman Scruton came to serve the pastorates of both the Baptist and the Congregational churches, making his home in the Congregational parsonage, next to the church.

During his leadership, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Young People's Fellowship became increasingly active and with the help of his wife, interested the young people in forming a choir.

During Rev. Scruton's stay, he worked toward the eventual union of the two churches, holding winter services in the Baptist Church and summer services at the Congregational Church.

The congregations of both churches merged to become the United Church of Cornish in the year 1954 and in 1955 the Ladies Societies of both the Baptist and the Congregational churches joined into one society and renamed themselves, "The Woman's Fellowship of the United Church of Cornish."

Many fund-raising events have been organized since that time. Beginning in 1961, the women's fellowship group began serving chicken barbecues at the Cornish Fair and continued until the

popular pot roast suppers held monthly during the non-winter months have been used as fund-raisers.

During Mr. G. Alvan Barrus' ministry, which was a period from 1954-1976, the many repairs on both the Baptist and Congregational churches were becoming a problem for the parishioners. At the annual meeting in February, 1975, a discussion took place concerning their upkeep, wondering whether to repair, tear down both and build a new one or just what.

The church at Cornish Flat was offered to the Town of Cornish, on the town warrant at the 1976 town meeting. The building was accepted by the town, thus preserving it and is used as a historical building and by some town organizations as a meeting place.

The Cornish Flat building was deemed eligible for the National Registry primarily because it is one of the oldest public structures in Cornish. Another fact of importance is that Theodore Roosevelt gave an address on the green in front of the church, while passing through Cornish on an election campaign.

After serving as pastor for 22 years, Rev. G. Alvan Barrus was designated as pastor emeritus of the United Church of Cornish. He will serve in that capacity as long as he lives.

Presently under the guidance of Rev. Dale Louise Nicholas, a wider outreach into the community is happening as the church hosts its monthly public pot roast suppers, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter concerts and a special concert performed at the annual Cornish Fair in August.

The members of the church also provide baked bean and ham suppers both Friday and Saturday evenings of the Cornish Fair, where several hundred people are served nightly.

That same year the Congregational Church, with help from the Baptist, was built. It was the general place of worship with nearly 800 people making up an average congregation. Rev. Joseph Rowell was installed as the pastor in 1800, a ministry that lasted 28 years.

For a few years both the Congregationalists and the Baptists used the new meeting house, but in 1803 the Baptists built their own building on the hill opposite the Congregational meeting house on Parsonage Road.

A call was sent to Elder Ariel Kendrick in 1801 and he became the Baptist preacher for nearly 20 years. The Baptist Church was removed to Cornish Flat in 1819.

Among the Congregational Church records are letters dating from 1836 to 1895 from secretaries of the Ladies Association in aid of Foreign Missions, which shows a united effort to contribute to the cause of Foreign Missions.

There is a gravestone in Cornish

Friday, January 10, 1986

## The Windsor Chronicle

### Hugh Mason Wade

CORNISH, N.H. - Hugh Mason Wade, 72, a noted historian, died January 6 at his home in Cornish.

He had been coming to Cornish since the age of five as a summer visitor, and he settled here in 1940.

He loved to hike and ski in the surrounding countryside. He also had a deep understanding and love of literature and music and took a keen interest in the history of the Cornish colony. Among his works is "A Brief History of Cornish, 1963 to 1974".

Educated at the Choate School and Harvard, he held several degrees including an M.A., LL.D., D.SCI.SOC, and D.Litt. He was an eminent specialist in the history of French Canada and of the American Revolution.

Mr. Wade served as a foreign service reserve officer in the United States Embassy in Ottawa and as a professor of history in both Canadian and American universities.

He was president of the Canadian Historical Association and chairman of the Joint Canadian and American Committee of the American and Canadian Historical Association.

His publications include Margaret Fuller (1940), Francis Parkman (1942), and the French Canadians, 1760 to 1945.

He served the town of Cornish as hog reeve and chairman of the town's historical association.

He leaves his wife, Elisabeth (Topsy) MacDougall Wade of Cornish.

A funeral service was held Thursday at 11 a.m. in the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Windsor. The Rev. Forrest Rouelle officiated.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Mount Ascutney Hospital.

The Knight Funeral Home of Windsor was in charge of arrangements.

Obituaries Continued on Page 8



**Clara Weld, 67** July 19, 1994

**CORNISH** — Clara E. Weld, 67, of Route 12A died Monday morning (July 18, 1994) at Mt. Ascutney Nursing Home after a long illness.

Since 1946, she lived in Cornish and was a Claremont native.

Mrs. Weld was a matron at the Davis Home in Windsor for six years and retired in February 1994. Previously, she was a cook at Vermont State Prison in Windsor and farmed in her early years.

She was a longtime parishioner and officer at United Church of Cornish.

Mrs. Weld was an active community participant in Cornish for many years. She was a longtime member of Sullivan County Farm Bureau, a 4-H leader and officer, a member of Cornish Planning Board, a Cornish ballot clerk, a conservation commissioner, and an officer and past president of Cornish Old Home Days.

She was born in Claremont on March 26, 1927, the daughter of Carl B. and Bertha (Crowell) Chellis.

She attended Claremont schools and graduated in 1945 from Stevens High School of Claremont.

She married Norris S. Weld. He died in 1971.

Survivors include two sons, Fred of Cornish, and Charles of Brownsville; five grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at Stringer Funeral Home, 146 Broad St., in Claremont, with the Rev. David Thompson, pastor of Claremont First United Methodist Church, officiating.

Interment will follow in Comings Cemetery in Cornish.

Friends may call from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Stringer Funeral Home in Claremont.

The family suggests memorial donations may be made to:

Paul Whalen

# 'Everywhere He's Been, He's Left

By **SUSAN J. BOLTWELL**  
Valley News Staff Writer

CORNISH — Paul Whalen was "Dad" to his only child but "Pop" to thousands — hockey players, coaches, teaching colleagues, schoolchildren and neighbors.

**PAUL 'POP'  
WHALEN**  
1927 — 2008

Whalen, who scored the winning goal 56 years ago in the very first game of what would become Boston's signature college ice hockey contest, who coached one of

the best-known U.S. Olympic hockey players and who made his mark in New England and the Upper Valley as an elegant hockey player and indefatigable volunteer, died at age 81, on Oct. 10.

"Everywhere he's been, he's left something behind," said Harry Ladue, Windsor's recreation director, who recalled the hundreds of hours Whalen spent flooding the town's ice rink.

Each Monday, the Valley News explores the life of an Upper Valley resident whose passing was noted on the obituary page.

Valley News 27 Oct 2008

## Something Behind'

Paul 'Pop' Whalen applies a fresh coat of water at the rink along State Street in Windsor in 2005.

VALLEY NEWS FILE PHOTOGRAPH — KATE LATTANZIO

Dick Dodds, manager of Campion Rink in Hanover, remembered Whalen's infectious enthusiasm.

"That's one thing I'll never forget Pop telling me. He said he always felt like a little kid coming into the rink. It was like a kid coming down for Christmas and he managed to share that with everybody," Dodds said.

Whalen shared his love of hockey with hundreds of



# A Life: Paul 'Pop' Whalen

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

young men, from his grandson, Lebanon High School senior Paul "Trey" Whalen III, to Mike Eruzione, captain of the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" men's Olympic hockey team, which won a gold medal.

"He meant a lot to me, taught me a lot, not only on the ice, off the ice, too," said Eruzione, who works in the Boston University ice hockey program. "He was very influential in my life."

After finishing high school, Eruzione did a post-graduate year at Berwick Academy in South Berwick, Maine, and played hockey for Whalen. He said Whalen helped develop him as a player, which led to his going to Boston University, then the Olympics.

Some nights, while driving from his Cornish home to one of Trey's hockey games, Whalen would call Eruzione and the pair would talk about their sport.

Whalen's brand of hockey wasn't the "crash-thrash" style of football on ice, said his son, Paul Whalen Jr., of

Cornish.

"He didn't want to hit someone just because you can," he said.

"It wasn't flashy. It was elegant," the younger Whalen said. "It was smart hockey and his basic theory was that if you have the puck, the other team doesn't. If you control the puck, they can't score."

Eruzione knew Whalen was a big name in New England hockey circles, but lots of skaters practicing skills at Campion's lunchtime open stick workout didn't know about the old man running the training session.

Whalen scored the championship-winning goal in the first ever Beanpot Tournament in 1952, when BU beat Northeastern. Some of Dodds's friends attended a Beanpot game a few years ago and brought back a program noting the tournament's highlights — including mention of Whalen's goal.

"Nobody knew about that. He was such a humble man," said Dodds.

Whalen was also the first person inducted into the Hall of Fame at Brewster Academy, in 2001. It was at Brewster that Whalen and his late wife, Winifred, went for Whalen's

first teaching and coaching job out of BU and the Navy.

Hockey players at the Wolfeboro, N.H., school now compete at the Pop Whalen Ice Arena.

It was also at Brewster, a private boarding school, that Whalen got his nickname.

Many of Whalen's young students were away from home for the first time and took to their young teacher. They started calling him "Dad," but Whalen, who hadn't yet become a father, decided that the nickname wasn't appropriate, said his son.

He didn't want to take the place of his charges' fathers and told the students they couldn't call him Dad. So they called him Pop, and it stuck.

After Brewster and Berwick, Whalen wanted to work in public education, which is what brought the young family to the Upper Valley in the late 1970s.

Whalen took a job as principal at Windsor High School. But he only agreed to accept the post because the school was putting down a new floor in its gymnasium. He wanted students to have a decent place to play, explained his son.

"He just believed that kids should play sports," he said.

Whalen was also a thrifty New

Englander. He put the old floorboards from the Windsor gym down on the second floor of the 1820 brick schoolhouse he and his wife had moved into in Hartland.

(Full disclosure: This reporter bought the house a number of years after the Whalens had moved to Cornish, and wondered why the home's second floor was so squeaky. It wasn't until an interview with Whalen for a school story years later that the floor's provenance became clear.)

Windsor — a basketball town — was a big change for Whalen. There was no hockey team. So Pop coached football and baseball and he got busy flooding the community skating rink at the Fairgrounds and also skating at Campion.

After his tenure in Windsor, Whalen worked as athletic director at the Cornish Elementary School, wanting to keep active in youth sports. The school plans to raise money for a new set of bleachers and dedicate them to Whalen, said Cornish Principal Mary Bronga.

"He may be gone, but he will never be forgotten," she wrote in a recent school newsletter.

*Susan J. Boutwell can be reached at sboutwell@vnews.com or at (603) 727-3248.*

# Cornish beavers respond to kindness

Wayne Nelson, Ethel Nelson

By DAVID LUDLUM

CORNISH, N.H.— Ethel and Wayne Nelson report that their Dingleton Hill friends, Sandy and Cry Baby, are alive and well. The 20-month old beavers lost their parents and younger siblings last year.

The couple has been observing the family of beavers on what was their ridgetop farm here for five years.

They sold the farm three years ago, and moved down the hill to the river, but they have continued to visit their friends.

"They're kind of like part of the family," said Ethel.

Bucky, the first baby of the family the Nelsons met, was

wary of the humans at first, but after five months of patient observation by the

couple, Bucky was willing to eat an apple out of their hand.

Before long, said Ethel, the youngster would sit in their lap and eat.

She said the beavers recognized their friends. "If we went down alone they went right to us," said Ethel. But if the Nelsons visited the pond with others, the beavers would swim back and forth in front of them, eyeing the strangers apprehensively before coming out of the water and carefully approaching the group.

"The worst part of the whole deal is you get so attached to them," said Ethel.

The Nelsons thus "went through a pretty tough time" when they learned the mother of the family, and one of her three four-month-old babies, had been trapped and killed last September.

ETHEL AND WAYNE NELSON stand on an ice-covered pond on Dingleton Hill, Cornish, in front of the residence of their friends Sandy and Cry Baby.

*Easy Times Jan 20, 1980*



They suspected whoever trapped the two was concerned about the beavers damming the downstream end of a culvert running under a back road; the dam created a pond by the road's edge that could flood it.

The other two babies didn't turn up again.

Then, last November, The Nelsons agreed that the family's father had to be removed because he repeatedly gnawed down trees that fell on power lines and blacked out homes in the area.

The father, who weighed 65 to 70 pounds, was too smart to be caught in a live trap, and had to be killed.

But the parents' two offspring from the spring of 1978 still live and work in the stream, although they declined to emerge from their ice-covered pond to be photographed.

The two are keeping busy trying to dam the culvert, but Wayne Nelson stops buy regularly to clear the pipe.

After observing beavers for fifteen years, the Nelsons continue to marvel in their ingenuity.

They say the creatures predicted the present mild winter all last fall. Beavers, according to the Nelsons, usually begin gathering a store of logs and sticks to feed on through the winter in August.

Last fall, however, they didn't begin gathering the wood until November, and they never accumulated as large a store as they had in the past.

# Love bloomed for late president in Cornish

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Forty people gathered at the Meetinghouse in Cornish Flat recently to hear guest speaker Laird Klingler talk about late former president Woodrow Wilson's personal ties to Cornish.

Klingler, librarian of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton, spoke of Wilson's time at his summer "White House" at Harlakenden on Route 12A, during his lecture, "President Woodrow Wilson's Links to Cornish."

Wilson, after just being elected in 1912 as the nation's 28th president, occasionally spent weekends at the Georgian-style mansion of Winston Churchill. He had always felt that his responsibility was in Washington if he demanded congress to stay in session.

However, his wife and three daughters spent the summer of 1913 at the mansion.

"When the town of Windsor heard of the president's plan to summer in Cornish, the Vermont Journal quoted, 'it would be a great boom for the town,' meaning boost," said Klingler.

Improvements had to be made at the Old South Church, which they thought would be the logical place of worship for the family. And Cornish-Windsor covered bridge had to be cleaned "to smell less like a stable," Klingler said.

The president's family chose to attend the Congregational Church, now the United Church of Cornish.

Until recent years, some Cornish residents could remember the family's stay in the area. Klingler said.

"The president liked the minister, who at that time was Dr. Fitch, and church was all-important to him," said Klingler.

Ellen Axson Wilson wrote the president every day while she stayed in Cornish, describing



**LAIRD KLINGLER**, librarian for the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton, speaks about the late former president's links to Cornish to about 40 residents at the Meetinghouse in Cornish Flat. (Ruth Rollins photo)

the things she did. She often gave teas to the Victorian women and belonged to discussion and art groups. She entertained all the art colony families and especially liked the Parrish family, once saying, "What a handsome family."

She had pursued a career in art before falling in love with Woodrow Wilson. Upon their marriage June 24, 1885, her role turned to wife and mother. "In one of Eleanor Wilson's writings she said, 'Although mother was always busy, she took two hours a day for her painting'."

Mrs. Wilson looked forward to returning to Cornish, but she became ill and died of tuberculosis of the kidneys Aug. 6, 1914. She had given up many of her own dreams to ease President Wilson's way and Wilson was aware of the sacrifices she had made for him.

In March 1915, President Wilson met Edith Bolling Galt, a widow, and that summer he spent more time in Cornish than ever before, bringing her

with him. He courted her, and their relationship bloomed. They were married in December of that year.

Where his first wife thought only of what was best for him, his second wife proved to be a jealous, possessive woman. When Wilson had a stroke in 1919, she kept the information from his daughter and the government, violating the constitution, Klingler said.

When he died Feb. 3, 1924, she took complete control of the situation. When a Senate delegation offered help, the delegation was told its presence would not be needed. She arranged for burial at the National Cathedral.

Woodrow Wilson, a Princeton graduate, led the United States through World War I and gained lasting fame as a champion of world peace and democracy and as one of the most remarkable men in American history, Klingler said.

Wilson was also credited with being the first president to speak on the radio.

From Virginia Colby in Cornish

# First Lady Ellen Wilson Asked Maxfield Parrish to Design a Stamp in 1914

Parrish Stamp

Amongst the Maxfield Parrish papers at Dartmouth College, there is a letter from President Woodrow Wilson's daughter Eleanor asking Maxfield Parrish to please help the Wilsons to design a postage stamp. This letter is pertinent to the current consideration of issuing a postage stamp in honor of Maxfield Parrish.

The following letter was postmarked February 9, 1914, and is on the White House letterhead:

"Dear Mr. Parrish—  
"Mother has asked me to write to you for her because we need your help! But first of all, please promise to tell us if for any reason you don't feel you can give it."

"The Postmaster General wanted Mother to design a new stamp to commemorate the hundred years of peace with England and she feels quite incapable of doing it. When she told him that she simply couldn't, he begged her to suggest someone who could. Of course she wants something unusually artistic and—well, in short we wondered if you would be willing to do it.

"There isn't anything in it about 'the glory' and we know that we're asking a great deal of a very busy man—but we're trusting you to be perfectly frank in case you feel that it will be a tax upon you. The stamp can be either the oblong or the regular shape and anything you think appropriate. If you can make the design the

Burlesan will be as much pleased, naturally, as we, and, if you can't we shall all understand. I wish you all were going to be in New York for the Bird Masque—is there any chance of it? With the warmest regards to you and Mrs. Parrish from all the family and love to the children,

"Cordially yours,  
"Eleanor R. Wilson  
"February 8th, '14"

The previous summer, in 1913, Eleanor Wilson, the President's oldest daughter, had the leading part in Percy MacKaye's Sanctuary: A Bird Masque. Eleanor played the part of Ormis, the bird spirit. The play was performed at the dedication of the bird sanctuary in Meriden, New Hampshire.

First Lady Ellen Wilson was an artistic talent of note at

the time. She had studied at the galleries and art schools in New York City while she prior to her marriage to Woodrow Wilson in the 1890's, but postponed any further work of her own after their marriage and subsequent births of their three daughters.

In 1905, while Woodrow Wilson was President of Princeton University, Mrs. Wilson joined the artist's colony in Old Lyme, Connecticut, and she often summered there with her family. Her paintings gained prominence over the period 1905-1913, and she had her first one-woman show shortly before her husband's inauguration as President in March of 1913.

Sadly, First Lady Ellen Wilson suffered from Bright's Disease by 1913, and she died by August of 1914, cutting short

a promising artistic career and a widening reputation.

Her artwork was greatly appreciated for its American Impressionist style by her contemporaries who knew her work.

The above letter from her daughter Eleanor must reflect Ellen's inability to design the stamp herself due to her own poor health, as well as her fondness for the Parrishes whom they had visited in Cornish during the Bird Masque production in the summer of 1913. It also reflects the very high regard the artist Ellen Wilson felt for Maxfield Parrish's work; Parrish would have been 44 at the time of the above letter.

President Woodrow Wilson was one of the four U. S. Presidents to visit Windsor as well.

During the decades leading up to ratification, the issue of voting rights for women was a hotly contested subject in New Hampshire, both in households and in the public arena. Many women's suffrage groups were established in the state to press for equality in the voting booth. The Cornish Equal Suffrage League was one of the later groups to be organized. It was founded at a meeting in the Plainfield Town Hall in November 1911 as an auxiliary of the New Hampshire Woman Suffrage Association. By Dec. 1, 1911, it counted 68 members.

The league was notable for its association with the famous Cornish Colony. The Colony was an informal community of artists, writers and other creative people who lived (either part- or full-time) in the towns of Cornish and Plainfield in western New Hampshire. Most of these people came to New Hampshire from New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, and other major cities, where they maintained important social, business and political connections.

Not all of the Cornish Equal Suffrage League's members were Cornish "colonists," but many of the most active ones were. These included its president, Juliet Barrett Rublee. Juliet was an influential figure who espoused liberal causes throughout her life. Her husband, George Rublee, also joined the league. He was a prominent attorney and powerful political advisor who was involved in Progressive Republican politics in New Hampshire and on the national stage. Juliet was honored to be the Grand Marshal for the massive parade organized by the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage that took place on May 9, 1914, in Washington, D.C.

The Cornish organization's vice president was the writer, poet and editor, Witter Bynner. He had been active in the women's suffrage movement before the league was founded. As he wrote in his journal, he believed that "Every artifice of inequality and privilege must be broken down." Witter led the male marchers in the giant equal suffrage parade in New York City on May 6, 1911, and he later traveled around New Hampshire to speak on the suffrage cause.

The organization's treasurer was Mabel Harlakenden Churchill. She was the wife of the best-selling novelist Winston Churchill, who was a leader among the Progressive Republicans in New Hampshire. Other Cornish Colony members who were active in the league were Adeline Pond Adams, a biographer and poet; journalist Philip Littell and his wife Fanny; landscape architect Rose Standish Nichols; and the illustrator Maxfield Parrish, his wife Lydia, and his aunt, the sculptor Anne Parrish. Anne was the organization's corresponding secretary.

Another Cornish Equal Suffrage League member, Frances Duncan, participated in women's suffrage rallies in New York and London. She was the first garden editor of Ladies Home Journal magazine. The painter Barry Faulkner, a native of Keene, was also a member of the league. He was a close friend of Homer Saint-Gaudens, son of the sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, from their college days at Harvard. In 1942 Barry would paint the historical murals that adorn the Senate chambers in the New Hampshire State House. Homer, a writer on contemporary art, and his wife, the artist Carlota Dolley Saint-Gaudens, were members of the league, as was his uncle, Louis Saint-Gaudens, and wife Annetta Johnson Saint-Gaudens. Both Louis and Annetta were sculptors.

In the summers of 1913, 1914 and 1915, President Woodrow Wilson leased Winston Churchill's Cornish property, Harlakenden House, as a vacation home. In July 1913 several suffragists, no doubt associated with the Cornish Equal Suffrage League, attempted to visit his wife, Ellen. Mrs. Wilson declined to let them into the house. She wrote to her husband in Washington, "(They) were extremely disappointed, of course, saying that they did not expect me to put myself on record for them, but it would 'help them greatly for me just to receive them.' Doubtless it would, for it would be considered putting myself on record!" President Wilson would be in office in 1920 when the 19th Amendment was ratified.

Next week: The 19th Amendment — the road to ratification in New Hampshire.

Aurore Eaton is a historian and writer in Manchester. Contact her at [auroreeaton@aol.com](mailto:auroreeaton@aol.com).

# TODAY'S LIVING

## Blanche Wood is still painting at 90

*Aug 1974 Eunice Wait's Scrapbook*



Blanche Wood

**BLANCHE WOOD**, a life-long resident of Cornish, displays one of her famed hand-painted trays as she sits on one of the numerous chairs in her sitting room which she also painted. Miss Wood recently celebrated her 90th birthday and has lived just south of the Cornish - Windsor covered bridge for over 65 years.

By RUTH ROLLINS

**CORNISH** — Recently, Blanche Wood, a native of Cornish and a life-long resident of that town, celebrated her 90th birthday.

In 1908, Miss Wood moved from her family's home on Dingleton Hill to a house just below the Windsor-Cornish covered bridge on Rte. 12-A, where she has lived ever since.

At the age of 23, Miss Wood began her life's work as an artist and has maintained her home on her artist's wages since. She still does all of her own housework in her immaculate home, and she keeps one cat, Topsy, as a companion. Two of her nieces live in an apartment upstairs in her home.

"I always liked to draw pictures," Miss Wood said. "I've been painting since 1907, when I did my first picture," which was a floral piece framed and hanging in her livingroom to this day. Other landscape decorate her walls.

Miss Wood still paints almost every day, but it takes her six times as long to do a picture now that her eyesight is failing. She can no longer paint furniture.

But, in the past, Miss Wood has had a steady market for her work not only with furniture, but with painted trays, glass painting and stenciling.

"Back when I drove, I used to ship many trays and landscapes," Miss Wood said. "I used to make my own crates." *She shipped many trays, in the past, to a woman in California.*

"I don't know how the lady heard of me," she said. "The only way I have ever advertised is by painting my name, the date and 'Cornish'

on the back of the picture. She must have heard of me that way; I've done quite a lot of work for her," she added. "It's difficult to ship now, though."

Blanche Wood has painted hundreds of Hitchcock chairs and other types of chairs as well.

"It was quite a job to get a chair ready to paint," she said. "I used potash, kettles of boiling water and a large swab to remove paint. Sometimes it would come off, and sometimes not, and I'd have to start over."

Miss Wood would work on a chair until it was smooth, and then she would apply a couple of coats of primer and fill in cracks if necessary. She used to make the putty for filling cracks herself.

Miss Wood displayed several chairs in her livingroom, one of which belonged to her grandmother, adding that many people were partial to rosewood finish. To apply this finish, she would paint the chair with a coat of flat black paint, and then she would grain it with a red finish paint. She then covered the chair with a transparent coat of rose pink and several coats of varnish.

Elmer Bartlett, her cousin, and she used to do reverse painting on glass, a time-consuming art. The shading, which had to be performed first, took up much of the time.

Once, Miss Wood had done a piece of glass for a Windsor man, and he had arranged to pick it up at a local store. When he did pick up the piece, a reverse painting on a looking glass, he was approached by two women who offered him a good price for it. He refused.

these women were President Woodrow Wilson's wife and daughter, who were staying at "Hariakenden," the summer White House.

"I kind of wish he had sold it to them," Miss Wood mused.

The only formal instruction she ever had in painting was from Henry Ingalls, a Windsor decorator, who was over 80 years old at the time. She worked for a Mr. Reed, an antique dealer in Windsor, for many years. After that, she went into business for herself. She has exhibited with her cousin, whom she calls "a real artist," at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site and at the Cornish Fair.

Although she can no longer do reverse painting and furniture work, she still paints trays and takes orders for them. She has several different design samples to which she will add other details at customers' requests.

Shortly after her birthday this month, Miss Wood was honored by the Harvey Gray family at Plainfield, and a family reunion took place at her home on her birthday. She was also honored by the Cornish Garden club.

"The greatest satisfaction I've gotten out of painting was getting acquainted with a wonderful class of people," she said. "I like to think of them all as my friends."

Like a lots of talented people, Blanche Wood has never made a great deal of money because of the time involved in such intricate work. Her love of painting and her appreciation of people have combined, however, to make her life a happy and successful one.

## Ginny Wood

*Wood serves patients in many ways*

By BERTHA EMOND

WINDSOR, Vt. — The energy Virginia "Ginny" Wood expended in field hockey nearly 20 years ago is now channeled into service to others.

Recently appointed director of patient services at Mount Ascutney Hospital and Health Center, her administrative responsibilities suggest a staff of half-dozen persons, rather than one 36-year-old woman.

Wood's duties include overall coordination, staffing, supervision, program development and promotion of social services, community health, psychiatric and emergency services and a new chaplaincy program, installed at her behest.

In addition, Wood is health officer for the Town of Cornish, president of the Windsor VNA, and a former member of the Cornish Rescue Squad.

"Former" because of Matthew. "My husband is captain of the squad and we can't leave the baby alone, so he has to go," she explains, happy that two-year-old Matthew is alive at all.

"He was three months premature and was kept in intensive care for three months. He goes to bed at 8 and by that time I'm ready to turn in too," she adds. "He has helped me to relax and leave those stacks of paper at the hospital."

Wood is trying to limit her workday to seven-and-a-half hours and is usually successful, but her new duties were accepted only about a month ago.

"I agreed to take them on if I could do them in the usual amount of time." She's not sure at the moment whether this is possible.

Wood's appointive post as health officer of Cornish was at the request of the selectmen.

"They told me my job would be inspecting outhouses to see if they met specifications," she grins, "but I haven't had to do that. I inspect day care centers, foster homes, and retail sales places where food is sold."

Her mother, president of the PTA and the League of Women Voters, provided meals to the sick or if there was a death in the family.

"She was a really caring woman. She had a degree in home economics, and the meals were well-cooked."

Wood loved sports. "I took better care of myself then," she adds, referring to pounds added since then. She was a hospital volunteer in her school days and graduated from the University of Indiana School of Medicine. Her master's degree is in health administration.

The first physical therapist employed by the Windsor hospital, in 1972, she worked for a time at Mary Hitchcock in Hanover before returning to Mount Ascutney Hospital in 1979.

Wood and her first husband fell in love with Cornish 14 years ago. "It's a very special place to me. I wouldn't want to live in Plainfield or in Windsor or anywhere else."

After a divorce she married David Wood three years ago. They are restoring an old 13-room house built "at least 150 years ago," as funds become available. Mr. Wood is employed at Stacey's Hardware.

"He does 50 percent of the work at home. I couldn't do what I do if he didn't. In addition to sharing the financial responsibilities, he does at least half the cooking and laundry."

Wood's appointive post as health officer of Cornish was at the request of the selectmen.

"They told me my job would be inspecting outhouses to see if they met specifications," she grins, "but I haven't had to do that. I inspect day care centers, foster homes, and retail sales places where food is sold."

A question regarding the chaplaincy program uncovered a deeper, more spiritual dimension in her devotion to human needs.

"I went to a workshop last February at the University of Vermont on the subject of spirituality and health care. Oftentimes in a hospital the spiritual needs of patients are forgotten and somehow these needs have to be met in an organized fashion," she said.

She dealt with the idea by calling a meeting of about 25 clergymen from the area for a discussion of what they were presently doing, what their problems are and what the might suggest.

The idea is a development of her own regard for a burgeoning spirituality in herself, born, she believes, during the days Matthew struggled for existence two years ago.

"The spiritual part of my life is very important to me and I'm trying to make that a higher priority."

She is standing on the threshold of a "born-again Christian" possibility. Two of her four brothers and sisters are already in the movement.

It's still field hockey — her goals are no longer part of a game but she is still playing her heart out.

# ST. GAUDENS MODEL GIVES 'HERSELF'

By Jana Marx  
Eagle Times

Cornish Valley Spectator  
Oct 27, 2005 p. C2

Laura Woodward

**WINDSOR**— It is not surprising that 89-year-old Laura Woodward, a woman who has lived in Cornish almost her entire life, would have come into contact with artists like Annetta St. Gaudens and her son Paul St. Gaudens. Her brief stint as a model for Annetta St. Gaudens and the resulting work still raises a few eyebrows.

This summer, Woodward made a gift of herself, in a way, to the Cornish Colony Museum on Main Street. While visiting the museum with her daughter, Woodward took an interest in the display of Annetta St. Gaudens' work.

"I have an Annetta St. Gaudens," she said.

The small plaster statue of a young and nude Woodward was a memento given by an artist to her model. Woodward, the model, decided it would be best to give it to the museum.

"We talked about it. As long as I had kept the statue for this long I thought it would be better if I put it in a safe place," Woodward said. "I'm getting along in years."

Museum Director Alma Gilbert-Smith said this is one of the few donations of Cornish Colony artwork the museum has received from the actual Cornish Colony area.

"It's very exciting," Gilbert-Smith said.

Woodward is nonchalant about the statue and her role as a model for one of the St. Gaudenses. A sculptor and craftsperson, Annetta St. Gaudens (1869-1943) was the sister-in-law of the famous Augustus Saint-Gaudens, though she and her husband, Louis, spelled their names St. Gaudens.

Growing up on her family's farm in Cornish Flat



**Laura Woodward**

---

*Woodward said she posed every day for about two or three weeks for the sculpture. "I was paid a few pennies every time," she said. "I got kind of tired sitting in that one pose for an hour."*

---

during the period of the Cornish Colony, when artists, writers and politicians flocked to this part of New England, Woodward, back then Laura Fitch, was a neighbor to the St. Gaudenses. Around 1900, Annetta and her husband Louis had moved an 18th century Shaker Meeting House from Enfield to Cornish Flat and set up a studio there.

# TO CORNISH COLONY MUSEUM

When Woodward was 17, Annetta St. Gaudens asked Woodward's mother for permission to use her daughter as a model. Neither the mother nor the daughter knew St. Gaudens intended a nude relief.

"I don't remember being shocked or scared," Woodward said. "I undressed and put on this loin cloth and sat on a box to hold the right pose."

Woodward said she posed every day for about two or three weeks for the sculpture, sitting for about an hour at a stretch.

"I was paid a few pennies every time," she said. "I got kind of tired sitting in that one pose for an hour."

During those many sessions in the St. Gaudens studio, Woodward said she saw the famous family up close. Once, when Paul St. Gaudens was leaving the house to go to a party, his mother called after him.

"She said, 'Don't drink, don't smoke and don't stay out late,'" Woodward said.

Woodward said she's not sure what happened to the final product, a statue about a foot tall. St. Gaudens made the small plaster statue to give to her as a gift.

Woodward said she kept the gift, though she didn't brag about it.

"I didn't tell anyone," she said.

The gift to Woodward is doubly special because it was not something St. Gaudens did for all of her models. Woodward's younger sister, Bernice Johnson of Cornish, also posed for Annetta St. Gaudens when she was about 14 years old. Bernice got the pennies, but Woodward said she never got her own copy of the work.

Woodward, who now lives at the Historic



Don Clark photos

Homes at Runnemed in Windsor, went on to marry Joseph Woodward, a carpenter. They raised their children and have lived out their lives in Cornish, except for a few brief interruptions.

Woodward said her first extended stay outside Cornish was for four years when she moved to Georges Mills to work as a caretaker. Her husband had a brief trip too, to the South Pacific during World War II.

# Veteran civic leader retiring in Cornish

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — When living in a small community we often take a lot for granted and sometimes take advantage of our precious resources. One of those special resources in the sleepy little town of Cornish is Michael Yatsevitch.

Yatsevitch has dedicated his life to the community. His term on the Cornish School Board culminates 30 years of commitment to Cornish

students, many of them as chairman of the board.

Born in Kiev, Russia, May 25, 1913, he first came to this country when three months old. His father was sent here on a mission by the Imperial Government to study the educational system in the United States and Canada.

His agenda was left up to him as how to approach the task. The elder Yatsevitch enrolled at

(Please see CORNISH-Pg. 6)  
From Page 1

Harvard and did research in chemistry. In between classes he traveled between here and Canada to gain information on education that could be reported back to the Russian government, so that students there could benefit from what he learned.

"Illiteracy in Russia was very high, reforms in the educational system were needed," he said. "There was 80 percent illiteracy there."

During World War I his father was recalled to Russia. It was at that time that he decided he wanted his family to settle in the United States if the opportunity ever came that he could.

The family returned to our country in 1926, settling in the Cambridge, Mass., area, where Yatsevitch attended high school. Prior to this time he had not received any formal schooling.

He moved to Cornish in 1933 when his father purchased the farm where Yatsevitch still resides today. Yatsevitch enrolled at Kimball Union Academy, graduating in 1937, then attended the University of New Hampshire for a time as a student. The hurricane of 1938 cut his association with the university short. He was needed at home.

Yatsevitch was proud the first time he was able to vote, which was in 1934. "I still have a copy of the checklist," stated Yatsevitch. He never had any idea he would become so involved in town affairs at that time. "I never wanted to, I was just interested in seeing how the town functioned and who was involved."

"But when I did become involved I knew pretty well how the town functioned, I listened to people like

Fred Davis, Jesse Deming, John Tewksbury and Henry Keily," other town figures, "I listened to what they had to say and studied the attitudes they had and I learned a lot."

"My first association with the school system was very unofficial. I would be invited to the Tracy or Center Schools by teachers Vera Bailey and Eva Bernard, to judge papers. Other teachers I had contact with were Doris Williams and Marjorie Kidder."

"I observed the education in those one room schools, it was very interesting. I listened to the teachers that handled all the grades at one time, it was a learning experience.

"I was elected to the Cornish School Board in March 1957, running two terms. I decided not to file for the board in 1964, but I was elected again in 1965"—a position Yatsevitch has carried out since.

Yatsevitch has seen many changes during those 30 years. The board adopted Social Security for the staff in 1963 and helped draw up the Authorized Regional Enrollment Area Contract with Claremont in 1967.

"It was a very important step in this community, it guaranteed high school education for our students," said Yatsevitch.

An enrollment of 223 students demanded an addition to the consolidated school which was constructed in 1954. That addition was added in 1969 and provided for a library and classroom space for Grades 1-4.

"The year 1974 found voters approving a five-member board and now we have another school expansion underway which will



Michael Yatevitch

provide an assembly hall for the town and provide a gymnasium for student use. Also a new enlarged library, two classrooms, storage and a stage area."

"When I was first on the board, Cornish was a part of School Administration Union No. 5, which included Acworth, Charlestown, Goshen, Lempster, Langdon, Unity and Cornish. Presently Claremont, Unity and Cornish make up SAU No. 6, making a situation which works well," he said.

Yatsevitch has worked with 15 different board members, six superintendents, four or five commissioners of education and 11 principals.

"Duties have included the usual routine of budgets and administration including keeping track of building maintenance."

"Actually, the really interesting things I mustn't talk about, unless they are put in a novel with a disclaimer that any similarity to those living or dead is purely coincidental," said Yatsevitch.

The effort on behalf of Cornish residents has been incredible. Countless evening meetings have taken him from his home in all kinds of weather, but Michael Yatsevitch has been fascinated with how town government works and has enjoyed solving the problems as they arose.

He has not only served 30 years on the school board, but has held the position of selectman for 27 of those years. Many town improvements require much knowledge of federal, state and local laws, which are ever changing. Yatsevitch has kept up with those changes and is known in wide circles.

## Willing Hands Produce Drop

Every Wednesday 11:45- 2:30 the fire station on route 120 is the location for Willing Hands Produce drop. An average of 25-35 families come and pick up fresh produce, bread, eggs, meat and a variety of items that are donated from Willing Hands and connections through the food Pantry located in Plainfield NH. . Occasionally families with extra vegetables or eggs drop off donations which are always appreciated. It is an excellent way for families to stretch their food budget and enable them to have extra resources for essential expenses.

Over 50% of the families who come reside in Cornish, Plainfield and Meriden. No family is turned away regardless of when they reside.

Along with food the produce drop provides the opportunity for people to catch up with people, swap recipes and support people who have become friends.

The produce drop is run by dedicated volunteers who on any given week volunteer 2- 5 hours out of their day. That said the volunteers enjoy their time as much as those that visit. They too have become friends and together enjoy making a difference for many

---

**From:** Pamela V. Annis

Pam Annis

Nancy Newbold

# 'Produce Drop' moves, expansion helps more local families on budgets

By **TORY DENIS**  
*toryd@eagletimes.com*

**CORNISH** — A recent move of the volunteer-run Willing Hands Produce Drop from a smaller location to the Cornish Town Hall is helping local residents and families more easily take home nutritious meal options. The new venue, coupled with recent changes to the pick-up process, now offers a more streamlined experience and more room for visitors to browse donated items, with no pre-qualifier to take part.

"Our goal is to help people stretch their budget and eat healthy," said volunteer and program organizer Pam Annis a phone interview on Wednesday, July 11. "If someone is interested in doing that, they are welcome."

Willing Hands Produce Drop relocated six weeks ago to the Cornish Town Hall, at

488 Town House Road, where residents from Cornish, Claremont, Plainfield, Meriden and surrounding areas are welcome in a relaxing, nonjudgemental environment, according to

ing well enough. "But the numbers were growing, and parking was a problem," she said, since the volunteer fire department could receive a call at any time and would need access to the park-



Annis.

Annis said she and a group of about a dozen volunteers oversee the food donation program, which was begun in earnest last June, housed in a small, kitchen-style setup with tables and a refrigerator at the fire station on Route 120.

That setup was work-

ing area.

Annis said she received a call several weeks ago from the Cornish Selectboard, offering the use of the Town Hall for the food donation program. The board had discussed the move at its May 4 regu-

lar meeting, noting that the group would be moving to the Town Hall in mid-May, and mentioning the replacement of a refrigerator in anticipation of that move.

"I was optimistic that it was better," she said.

Since then, the move has provided much more space both in the building, and for parking.

At the new location, the group of volunteers now have a kitchen with a refrigerator, coolers, and tables. The move has provided much more space both in the building and for parking.

The Willing Hands volunteers meet quarterly to evaluate how things are going, and to discuss community feedback and suggestions. At one suggestion, they have recently implemented a new process of picking up food. Instead of first-come, first-served, which left little for those who could not arrive early, people now pick numbers randomly each week and come into the food pantry in groups of six, depending on the numbers they get, to browse without being crowded. Anyone with a cane, walker, or other assisted-mobility device can go first, Annis said.

The line tends to move through quickly and the method seems to be working, she said. On some days, when they start at 11:45 a.m., the group may see 30 people by noon — so the new system also helps those who can't always get there early to have regular chances to browse the full selection before items run low or out.

"We want as many people as possible to have choices," she said. "It makes it fair for everyone."

They typically have six tables set up, and now have the ability to

spread out more. At the new location, volunteers can now also store baskets and other supplies, eliminating the need to transport them each week.

"It's much less crowded," she said. "It's a comfortable, relaxing place to go."

Willing Hands Produce Drop is intended to supplement, as opposed to being a primary source of food. It receives donations from the food pantry in Plainfield, and most weeks, some sort of meat is available. The Willing Hands group also has gardens to grow produce, Annis said.

The group often has eggs donated by local chicken farmers and families, and last year occasionally received squash and other fresh produce. They have not yet received any garden produce this summer, because some gardeners are experiencing a delay, but hope to receive some soon, she said.

Some of the foods offered each week are limited, depending on what is in season or available. Other times, when an item is plentiful, such as fresh spinach, volunteers will be there to help bag it as visitors come through.

The Produce Drop, along with assisting anyone who needs it, is also a social venue — a place to greet and catch up, and welcoming to all, Annis said.

"People are comfortable coming. We are not judging anyone coming in. We're welcoming people," she said.

Annis said that about a third of the families who use the service live in Cornish, Meriden, or Plainfield, and that another third reside in Claremont, and the rest

come in from other communities.

Each week, recently, Willing Hands has seen about 35-45 families come in for fresh foods once a week.

Willing Hands, which Annis described as simply a volunteer group, began last June with "just a couple of us to start," and then eventually spouses started helping, and others stepped forward to assist, she said. She oversees a volunteer schedule for the



Cornish Town Hall

dozen or so volunteers, but said that other people come in from time to time just to help.

"It's a social time, and a feel-good opportunity," she said. "People enjoy helping."

In June 2018, the group helped provide food for 356 people. About half of those were senior citizens.

With the growing season underway now, Annis said the group is hopeful that anyone with an abundance of fresh produce to share may drop some off. Donations should be dropped off by 11:30 a.m. if possible.

Food is available for pick-up each Wednesday from 11:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Annis said that anyone is welcome to drop in, even if they are not seeking the service, but just wish to have a look at the new location.

For more information, drop in during open hours or call Annis at (603) 542-3781.