

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 4: NUMBER 9

OCTOBER 1994



Rumsey Hall as a town hall may be a dead issue, but the need for town office space is not. Thus we have a modest \$100,000 proposal by the Board of Selectmen that involves renovation and possible expansion of the existing offices. One architect has already been interviewed, with more interviews in the works.

"Cramped" is the key word in describing what we have now, and high on the list of needs are vault and office storage space, additional work space for small offices, and easier access to offices. For example, to get to see Maggie Cooley on business involving probate, Planning & Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals, or Inland Wetlands, a visitor has to pass through Town Clerk Cheryl Evans's office. And once you're into Maggie's domain there's too much domain and not enough room. At the other end of the complex are five town offices so tiny they can barely accommodate a medium-sized visitor.

So basically we're talking here about a project to refurbish existing office space and possibly to add on a couple of new offices. The first selectman says that whether he stays where he is or moves across the road to the refurbished offices has not been decided.

— John Miller

Teeing Off for Child Center

The Cornwall Open Golf Tournament was held on Sunday, September 11, at the Copake Country Club. Sixty-three players took a total of 6,313 strokes to complete 1,134 holes. Seventy-nine lost balls and 234 "Oh No!"s were reported. Winners were: low gross, men — Stephen Belter, 80; low gross, women — Nancy Karnolt, 91; low net men —S. Daley, 71; low net, women — Sandy Sandmeyer, 74.

The sponsoring Cornwall Golf Associates—Ray Augustyn, Robert Beers, Douglas Carlson, and Richard Dakin — announced that the event's net proceeds of \$879.89 will be given to the Cornwall Child Center. — Robert Beers.

High Over Cornwall

Earl Brecher's Piper Archer takes off from the field in Great Barrington, soars to 2,500 feet, and heads south above Route 7 at 120 knots. It's mid-September, late afternoon, and the eastern flanks of Mount Everett and Tom's Hill are in shadow. Farther west loom the Taconics; east and south rise the gentler Litchfield Hills—on all sides a rolling ocean of green. Though the sky is clear, a light industrial haze ("from across the Hudson,"

the pilot says) pearls the western horizon

Leaving the B & D water tower off our left wing, we catch the shimmering ribbon of the Housatonic River, the cleared fields around the high school, and then, suddenly ("Look! River Road!") Cornwall. Coming upon this small, known landscape in the vast panorama is like spotting a lover's face in a crowd: remarkable and familiar, it takes the breath away.

Music Mountain, Hough Mountain, and Tarradiddle press against the curves of the river, now slashed by the flamboyant red of the covered bridge at West Cornwall. A sprinkling of town roofs sweeps under us as we hum south over Mine Mountain. The flung white span of Cornwall Bridge, arching over trees and banks, seems, unlike the covered bridge, unrelated to river or terrain.

Earl tells me that air is as sensitive to the earth's contours as water is to a river bottom, so pilots do not, for safety's sake, travel at low altitudes. But Cornwall seems very close to us as we float east over Coltsfoot Mountain to Cornwall Plain, the only flat stretch for miles, it seems, and a veritable metropolis with its roads, houses, church spires, hulking Rumsey Hall, Marvelwood, and Polly Calhoun's house by the toppled hillside of Cathedral Pines.

(continued on page 2)

SUNDAY MONDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY Don't forget to set your clocks back when Daylight Saving Time ends åt 2 am on October 30. U.S. Rep. Nancy Johnson will be on hand to meet voters at Cornwall Bridge Days, 10-11am on Sat., Oct. 8. Other Repub. candidates will be stopping by during the day. 3 6 Park & Rec. 7pm W. Cornwall Merchants Poetry Reading 8pm Prud'hommes, Travelogue, Anne Chamberlain Inland Wetlands Town Office Assoc. 10am Cadwell's 7:30pm Town Hall* 182 Town Street on Romania, 7pm CCS Library (p.4) 414 Rep. Town Comm. Bd. of Selectmen 7:30pm Mohawk 8pm Town Hall Ski Lodge 13 15 11 Elderly Health 12 14 **9** Richard O'Connorl 1 () COLUMBUS DAY Screening 10am-4pm CCS (p.4) Hous. R. Comm. 7:30pm Cornwall Lib. art on "Families Under David Colbert Stress" 11:30am exhibit. David Colbert slide show 8pm UCC (p.4) CCS Lib. and Ellen Moon, Cornubia Hall (p.4) sculpture & paintings P&Z 7:30pm Town Hall John King on Druids 5pm Corn. Lib. (p.4) Dem. Town Comm.7:30pm W C Firehouse CCS PTO 7pm 17 19 20 $\overline{21}$ 22 16 18 Nancy Dart on "Child Abuse" HVRHS Bd. of Ed. 7pm HVRHS Library Corn. Housing Corp. 4:30pm UCC Day Rm Special regist. for new voters 9am-5pm 11:30am UCC (p.4) Bd. of Ed. 5pm Town Hall (p.4) Cornwall Players: CCS Library 23 Lisa Yoli HIV/ AIDS Awareness Bd. of Selectmen Bd. of Finance 7:30pm 'Scenes & Songs 8pm Town Hall CCS Library 8pm Cornubia Hall 11:30am UCC (p.4) 25 26 28 **29** 27 Corn. Assoc. 4pm ZBA 8pm Special registration for new voters Will Calhoun Town Office* Poetry Reading, works Annual Town Everest Hill Rd Meeting 8pm CCS about domestic 9am-8pm Town Hall (p.4) 30 DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS Anne Chamberlain HALLOWEEN violence, 7pm Susan B. Anthony LAST DAY TO REGISTER Office, W. Cornwall on Romania FOR NOV. 8 ELECTION 11:30am UCC (p.4)

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Heading northeast now, we leave the village behind us, and pass Cemetery Hill, the long red chicken house at the Hopfs, Mohawk Ski Area. Suddenly, from its clearing on a distanteastern hillside, Ivan Lendl's mansion shouts up at us like a Gulliver in Lilliput. It's a shock, too, because, except in the three villages, we've seen virtually no houses on our flight, camouflaged as they are (for the moment) by woods.

Forest-locked fields of Scoville corn (hidden from the ground, like other secret meadows) bloom bright green below, Cream Hill Lake gleams black, and swamp maples in the North Cornwall beaver ponds are turning mauve. Low rays of the sun gild the spire of the North Cornwall Church behind us, and the land opens up briefly on Cream Hill, quilted with corn and pasture. As quickly it closes in again. When Earl points, "There's Hunt and Becky's," I strain to see, and catch only a hint of their road, a patch of roof, and then the woods take over again, the constant hills.

The plane purrs north. The sun's gone down.

— Ella Clark



Chron. Prez Honored

The Cornwall Association has given an award for outstanding contributions to the community to the *Chronicle*'s founder and president, Tom Bevans. A certificate with a watercolor by Marc Simont and calligraphy by Nancy Bevans cites Tom's "imagination, persistence, and inspiring leadership" in the creation of a publication that has helped "to knit our community together." The Cornwall Association has previously given only one such award, which went to Rose Algrant in recognition of her founding of the Friends of Rose Algrant Art Show.

— Spencer Klaw

Politics '94: Primary Day

Just like the rest of Connecticut, Cornwall voters gave substantial margins in the September primaries to the winners, Republican John Rowland and Democrat Bill Curry. Here's a look at what happened in the gubernatorial races:

Dems: Curry, thought to be the underdog, won statewide by a 55-45 margin over John Larson. He carried most of the cities and in the small towns it was a runaway. In Cornwall, where only 29 percent of 298 Dems voted, Curry won 77-11. Same in Warren (38-6), Goshen (71-25), Salisbury (121-28), and Canaan (31-6). For what it's worth, the Democratic Town Comm. endorsed Curry a week before the primary.

Repubs: 104 of Cornwall's 290 registered GOPers voted (that's 36 percent) and they gave Rowland a 71-33 margin over

challenger Pauline Kezer. This was slightly better than his statewide 68-32 percentage spread. Rowland's margins in some nearby towns were: Warren (58-28), Goshen (187-77), Salisbury (212-44), and Canaan (52-16).

Summation: We get a final choice on this and other races on Election Day (Tuesday, November 8) with the ACP's Lt. Gov. Eunice Groark added to the gubernatorial mix.

— John Miller

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When Winter Approaches . . .

Wecaught photographer/naturalist Art Gingert on the wing, between a photography trek to Africa and England, and another to Yellowstone National Park. He had just enough time to talk about what's happening right here as we move into fall.

— Ella Clark

"It's a real privilege to live in the Housatonic River Valley in Cornwall, which is a major northeastern migration corridor offering an amazing pageant of bird life. Bald eagles and ospreys have been going south along here since the last week in August, and will continue through early October. Local Canada geese, prompted by shorter days and their migratory urges, are making reconnaissance flights, but as October continues you'll see the classic high v-formations of northern Canada geese heading south to New Jersey or the Chesapeake Bay area. There may be snow geese among these flocks; if you hear what sounds like terriers yapping, run outside, look up, and you may see them: they're a little smaller than the Canada, white with black wingtips. Diving ducks (ring-necks, scaup, mergansers) and wood ducks, mallards, and blacks travel along the corridor too.

"Warblers are heading south, and some birds have already disappeared: the rose-breasted grosbeaks are in Belize, the tree swallows and bobolinks are in Argen-

"If you have a feeder, put feed out by mid-October and watch for migrating purple finches and evening grosbeaks (mid to late October). Our summer blue jays will leave, but fresh northern recruits will arrive. Look out, too, for the red-breasted nuthatch with its little nasal call; rare individuals will stay for the winter, but most, like the other migrants, will continue to pour down the Housatonic River Valley.

"You won't see hawks on the river, but on the peaks of the Taconic Mountains. Accipiters such as the sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and goshawk, as well as the kestrel and the peregrine falcon, travel on cold-front days from now through Thanksgiving. Hawk watching at such times is exhilarating. Every three to four days when blustery northwest winds hit the mountain range at a right angle, you might see 300-400 hawks in a day, coasting south on the pillow of air the winds have created.

"A special bird to be on the lookout for is the saw-whet owl, smallest of the north-

eastern owls, migrating now through Thanksgiving. On our owl prowls we hear them whistling, a series of short middle-C notes. Only a few winter over; Sabina Leitzman once had a saw-whet at her feeder in the snow.

"Rattlesnakes started to hibernate by mid-September, woodchucks and jumping mice are asleep by October, and bears will be feeding like crazy before becoming dormant. Though the red bats migrate south, our little browns probably stick around. Frogs hibernate, but listen for the sound of spring peepers going into hibernation. You may, while walking through the woods, hear them peeping singly from the forest floor."

Cornwallians in Cairo

Given its size and number of inhabitants, Cornwall surely had the most representatives of any place on earth at the recent Cairo Conference on Population and Development. Those who attended the nineday meeting were Dr. Herman Sanhueza, who heads the Western Hemisphere division of the International Planned Parenthood Federation; Jill Sheffield of Family Care International; Janine Selendy of Horizon Communications; and myself for Planned Parenthood of New York City. All felt the meeting was both a success and a watershed in the dialogue on population and sustainable development issues. One participant said, "The world will never again be the same." —Hector Prud'homme



Welcome

Gabriela Talitha Dzenutis to Maria and Ralph Dzenutis

Elizabeth Avery Ridgway to Jayne and Gordon Ridgway

Jade Stephen Martel & Justin Thomas Martel to Rachel Reeve and Frank Martel, Jr.

Good-bye to Friends

Gisela Lichtenberger Rebecca Gold Williams

Land Transfers

Pawling Savings Bank to Katherine Skiff Kane and Walter R. Kane, house and 3.99 acres on Kent and Dark Entry Roads, \$140,000.

Agnes E. O'Donnell to John J. O'Donnell et al., house and approx. 1 acre, Cogswell Road, \$115,000.

Coltsfoot Farm Limited Partnership to Jeffrey and Gail Jacobson, building and 2.7 acres on Valley Road, \$160,000.

Josephine Chaus to David Margolis, houses and 140 acres on Chaus Hill Road, \$3,000,000.

John La Porta to Neils and Laura Rosenbeck, house and .25 acres on River Road, \$112,000.

We'll Miss You, Jeanne

Jeanne Litwin, West Cornwall's well-loved postmistress for the last four years, has been promoted. She will be running the Salisbury post office, which has four times West Cornwall's postal revenue.

Before postmistressing, which she has done for the past ten years, Jeanne worked with retarded people, loving the work but hating the bureaucracy. She's still "not a top rules and regulations" person, she says, preferring to be flexible in order to get things done to help people.

Betty Malesky, the current officer-incharge, was formerly in South Britain, where her post office burned down last winter (they saved the mail). David Carey takes over as letter carrier from Don Polk on October 1.

— Phyllis Nauts

Sorry About That

In its brief report last month on changes in the Board of Trustees of the Cornwall Library, the Chronicle managed to commit two errors and an ambiguity. For the record, this is what actually took place at the board's July 28 meeting: Kay Fenn retired as president and Audrey Ferman was elected to a two-year term as her successor; John Calhoun, Madeline Lape, and John Miller were reelected to the board for three-year terms; Calhoun was elected vice president (succeeding Ferman), Lape was reelected treasurer, and Theresa Carlson was elected secretary, succeeding Bethia Currie, (all will serve two-year terms in these offices); Ginny Potter was reappointed librarian.

Kay Fenn remains on the board, as do Bethia Currie, Montgomery Hare, and Phyllis Nauts, all serving unexpired terms.

And while we're in this confessional mood, let it be noted that in the fall lineup of the Taconic Learning Center, John Leich will be teaching beginning conversational Spanish — not French as we erroneously reported. — The Editors



Child Center Update

To those of you who have been watching the construction of the Cornwall Child Center building on Cream Hill Road, things may appear to be moving slowly. But if you consider that the volunteer labor force only works on Mondays, and then only if it isn't raining or a holiday, it doesn't seem so slow. In fact, the current building has been erected in less than four weeks of actual working time. This includes the basic frame and sheathing, roof, plumbing, stairs, decks, doors, and windows.

While there have been many volunteers over the course of the project, September seems to have been Hedden month: Brad installed all the electrical wiring and



Letters to the Chronicle



MOUNTAIN LION COUPLE

In a discussion of wild animal sightings in and around Cornwall, I mentioned a large, black bear that was holding up traffic on the road to Milton a few weeks ago. This then led to a comparison of "best sightings". Here's mine:

About a year ago Bob and I had turned off Route 4 onto Pierce Lane and were just short of the right turn near the Hubby house. Suddenly, an incredibly beautiful mountain lion darted across the road about ten yards ahead of us. As we gasped in unison, a smaller female followed and they disappeared into the woods.

— Joan McGuire

HOW IT PLAYS IN PITTSBURGH

My coffee table in Pittsburgh, a long nine hours' driving time from northwestern Connecticut, contains a stack of New Yorkers, Newsweeks, some English-teacher magazines, and the Cornwall Chronicle. Needless to say, the only one of those publications I always read cover to cover is the Chronicle. It helps me feel connected to the town in which I spent all of my summers as a child, in which my parents and other relatives live, and in which my sisters and I and our families still gather as frequently as we can.

A large part of the Chronicle's appeal to me is that it keeps me in touch with what my old friends, their parents, and their children (and, maybe soon, grandchildren!) are doing. One reason I keep coming back to Cornwall is for its continuity; it is the only place in which I often meet and talk to three generations of a family on one occasion.

Another of the Chronicle's appeals is the new information and understanding I am

gaining about Cornwall history and current events. Over the past few years, I have read about Henry Obookiah's exhumation, about the return of the mountain lion, and about the woolly adelgids destroying hemlocks. I eagerly awaited Marc Simont's swimsuit issue. I have followed the controversies surrounding affordable housing in Cornwall and the fate of Rumsey Hall. I even believed, for a few minutes, the April Fool's proposal to house a movie-dog wax museum there!

The Chronicle has also shown me how Cornwall has changed since my childhood days here. Although I am certainly nostalgic about past Water Sports Days at the lake, heifers from Cream Hill Farm invading my grandmother's flower beds, and the reading of comics at Yutzler's, I do not remember fondly the year-round/summer-people split obvious even to a child. The Cornwall I see through the Chronicle seems to work through the problems it has in order to maintain a vital and unified community. It is a community I fantasize about returning to some day.

Thank you, Chronicle.

— Joanna Klaw Schultz

I'LL MISS YOU, CORNWALL

To all the customers of the West Cornwall Post Office whom I have served over the last four years, I wish to say thanks and goodbye. Recently I was promoted and am already working at my new assignment [in Salisbury]. You have all been very friendly, kind, considerate, and loyal, which I have always appreciated. You have taught me a lot, and I leave with many cherished memories. Cornwall is a unique and special community which I will miss. My wishes to you are for all the best in the future.

— Jeanne Litwin

Steve cut and milled the siding. By October 1 the siding should be on and the well drilled. The insulation and dry-wall are also ready to go on. This leaves the kitchen and appliances, painting, interior trim, and flooring still to be done.

In spite of the strange working schedule, general contractors Jim Terrall and George Charlton feel that everything will be ready in time for the CCC's planned moving date of Thanksgiving weekend.

CCC is actively soliciting donations to help finish paying for the building. Also, anyone who'd like to make an interest-free loan (which could be repaid after the annual auction in May) may contact Ginny Potter at 672-6191. — Doc Simont

Dr. Pool Shows His Colors

Dr. Larry Pool's watercolors, now on exhibit at the Cornwall Library, show a fine sense of color and motion, a feel for the outdoors, and Dr. Pool's love of the water. "Outward Bound" gives us a well-executed broadside view of a schooner. In "Aqua doodle" the frame is crowded with sailboats trying to make their way out of an aquatic traffic jam. My favorite of the show,

though, is an odd man out: "Village House, West Cornwall," a large, sweeping painting of a yellow Victorian that many of us will recognize.

— Alfred Bredenberg

Hosting Turkmenistanis

Families in Cornwall, as well as in Sharon and Goshen, are being invited to serve as hosts to Special Olympics coaches and athletes from the former Soviet republic of Turkmenistan next summer. Theninth Special Olympics Summer Games, the largest sports event in the world in 1995, will bring 6,700 mentally retarded athletes to Connecticut in July. An informal *Chronicle* poll reveals that very few of our citizens even have a clear idea of where Turkmenistan, often called Turkmenia, can be found on a map. Hopefully by next summer this will have changed.

To kick things off, on September 12 Joseph Reis, local Host Town Chair, presented First Selectman Ridgway with the flag of Turkmenia.

Turkmenia will be very much on the agenda at CCS in the coming year, according to principal Bill Oros, and a festival in (continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

Cornwall in early June, with food tastings, costumes, and maybe even a visit from the Turkmenistani ambassador.

If you'd like to host an athlete, call Gordon at the first selectman's office, 672-4959.

— Hendon Chubb

Events & Announcements

From the Registrars: Attention all voters and applicants for voter status!

Tuesday, October 4, 9 a.m.: work session to complete Preliminary Registry List (Town Hall); Tuesday, October 11, 9 a.m.: work session to revise and correct Preliminary Registry List (Town Hall).

Saturday, October 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Tuesday, October 25, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.: special registration sessions for qualified applicants wishing to vote in November 8 election (Town Hall).

PLEASE NOTE: October 25 is cut-off day, which means that an applicant qualified to register on or before October 25 may not register to vote in the general Election on November 8 after October 25.

Chamberlain's Romanian Summer: On two occasions this month, Anne Chamberlain will report on the month she spent in a remote and primitive Romanian village, where she shared a tent with nine other volunteers at a Quaker-sponsored work camp. Working with an American missionary couple who had taken in four abandoned and disabled teenage girls from a nearby orphanage, the volunteers repaired their hosts' house and barn, built a playground, and tutored the young orphans. Anne will speak and show slides at the CCS library at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 7, and again at the United Church of Christ at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 30. Everybody welcome at both events.



Spring Forward, Fall Back: Remember when you set your clock forward last spring? It's time to reverse that procedure, and the calendar will tell you when to do it.

Remember the last time you sent a tax deductible contribution to the *Chronicle*? If not, please stop at your checkbook on your way to your clocks. We need your help to keep the *Chronicle* going through all the seasons of the year.

Yes, I want the Chronicle to continue. Here's my tax-deductible contribution of	
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CITY/ST/ZIP	year agaye.
\$10 will get the Ch	ronicle mailed out of town.

Chronicle Changes: Because of Tom Bevans's illness, some changes have been made in the Chronicle's board of directors. Spencer Klaw has been elected to the board, and will fill the offices of publisher and vice president. Tom, who came home from the hospital on September 15, continues to serve as president.



Terrall to Board of Ed: At its September meeting, Cornwall's Board of Education appointed Jim Terrall to fill the vacancy left by board member Nancy Calhoun, a Democrat, who resigned in July. His appointment was recommended unanimously by the Democratic Town Committee.

Heating Help: Winter heating fuel assistance is available for low-income households. For information or an appointment to apply for help, please call Jill Gibbons at 672-2603 or 672-0033.

\$\$\$ For Fuel Bank: As winter's chill approaches, remember the Northwest Corner Fuel Bank, which relies on your generosity to help others. With no administrative costs, the NWCFB uses 100 percent of its funds to assist people who cannot afford heating fuel. Send donations to: P.O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069.

Discussions at the UCC: Everyone is welcome, as always, at adult classes at the United Church of Christ on Sunday mornings at 11:30 (come early for coffee). Classes on October 9, 16, and 23 will explore critical issues being faced by children and youth in Litchfield County. On October 9, Richard O'Connor, executive director of the Housatonic Center for Mental Health, will speak on "Families Under Stress"; on October 16, Nancy Dart, child advocate with the Susan B. Anthony Project, will talk about "Child Abuse: A Reality in Our Towns"; en October 23, Lisa Yoli, HIV educator with the Northwestern Connecticut AIDS Project, will speak on "HIV/AIDS Awareness: Litchfield County."

All sessions will include time for questions and discussion. For more information, call the church office, 672-6840, or Peg Keskinen, 672-6486.

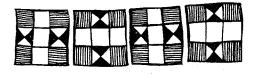
Health Screening for Elders will be available to Cornwall residents age 60 and over on Tuesday, October 11, from 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. at the Cornwall Consolidated School. Screening will include hearing, vision, glaucoma, blood, blood-pressure, urine, and stool tests, as well as electrocardiograms and Pap/pelvic/breast (or prostate) examinations. Suggested donation is \$20 (\$25 with Pap test). For an appointment call Jill Gibbons, 672-2603 or 672-0033.

Torrington Area Health District representatives will also be on hand, offering influenza and pneumonia vaccines. These are recommended for everyone over 60, for municipal employees and health-care workers, for anyone over nine years old who has a chronic illness that lowers the body's resistance to infections, and for anyone caring for such a person. There is a nominal fee for the vaccinations, which will be offered from 10 am to 12 noon. No appointment necessary for anyone wanting vaccinations only.

Prentice in Hong Kong, Colbert in China: David Colbert's slide show on Saturday, October 15, at 8 p.m. at Cornubia Hall documents his trip with Tim Prentice to the Peak in Hong Kong to install a kinetic sculpture, and his subsequent travels to southwest Yunnan Province in China.

Druids at the Library: At the Cornwall Library on Sunday, October 9, at 5 p.m., John King will discuss his new book, *The Celtic Druids' Year*, in which he describes the pattern of religious festivals of the ancient tribal Celts in Britain and Gaul. King, who heads the mathematics department at Marvelwood, will show slides of the Other Cornwall where he has spent much of his life. His talk is sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library. Admission free — everybody welcome.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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