CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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First-Grade Time Capsule

It's a big year for time capsules, what with the millennium, and Bonnie Burdick's first grade class at CCS is getting in on the act. In December she invited me to come in and tell about the time capsule I recently helped prepare for The New York Times, currently on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Some of the first graders have been to see it, and all had strong opinions about what was missing from its contents, namely themselves or at least some potentially clonable part of themselves. So Jeffrey Hammond offered to contribute an eyelash, Isaac Pollan one of his baby teeth (provided the tooth fairy will cooperate) and Oliver Fox some, um, nasal discharge, to put it rather more daintily than he did. Everyone approved of having themselves cloned a thousand years hence in order to see what the future was like.

The first graders also decided to make a shorter-term time capsule, and have begun filling a lockable strong box (bought at Staples) that they plan to open at their graduation seven years from now. The students learned that buried time capsules have a way of getting lost, so theirs will pass time in a special disaster-proof file cabinet in the principal's office. Each child will contribute a self-portrait, a letter to their 14-year-old selves, and one memento of their choosing.

Here's a sampling of items going in the box: Genevieve Terrall, "a special pen I love"; Myles Clohessy and Danny Marino, "my favorite Beanie Baby"; Jamie Morehouse and Owen Monagan, "a pair of my first-grade shoes"; Apryl Classey, "a polka-dot plastic frog"; Isaac Pollan, "Slim, my dead skink"; Hilary Rogers, "my tap shoes"; Allison Lacko, "a teddy bear I sleep with." The rest of the class elected to put in snapshots of their families and/or pets. Watch this space in June of 2007 for a report on the capsule-opening ceremony. —Michael Pollan

Court Cuts Library-Town Link

Judge Alexandra DePentima of the Superior Court in Litchfield has released the Town of Cornwall and the Cornwall Library from the trust which had linked them since 1908 in the stone Library Building. Applying the "equitable doctrine of approximation," the judgment handed down February 23 allows the Library to move to a new site to become a better library for the town, "approximating" the terms of the original trust. The Town, in turn, is released from its obligation to maintain the Library's premises.

In a referendum June 27, 1998, the town voted to pay the Library \$250,000 to surrender its current space and to provide annual support of \$17,000 for 15 years.

Judge DePentima heard the "prayers for relief" from the trust on January 31. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway and David Grossman, vice-president of the Library board of trustees, testified. The case was argued by Perley Grimes, Town attorney. The state attorney general was represented by an associate who later filed a brief in support of the town and the library.

The judgment, final on March 15, removes the only legal barrier to the Library's plans to move and the Town's plans to renovate the stone building for office space.

The Library is currently reviewing construction plans for the new building and expects to seek bids by late April.—Anne Zinsser

Where Marvelwood Was

What, many Cornwallians want to know, is going on at the former Marvelwood School campus, or what is left of it? Monroe-Bodkin has disappeared, and work is in progress to turn the great brick Calhoun mansion into a one-family dwelling. A couple of rooms will be converted to porches, which, with other changes, will reduce the 10,000 square foot interior to about 8,500 square feet. The part of the building which faced Monroe-Bodkin has been reduced in size, rebuilt, and reroofed, and a porch will be built on the side toward the barn. The barn itself will also be
(continued on page 2)

THURSDAY SUNDAY MONDAY **FRIDAY SATURDAY** 1 CCS Student Art Show Continues through 4/22 at Cornwall Library (p.3) Nat'l Iron Bank Arttist of the Month, Gary Barron (p.3) 5 Kindergarten Registration CCS (p.3) Gymnastics Classes Pre-k to 6th Grade, 10-11 A.M. & 4 3 2 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 6 Kindergarten BEGINS Kindergarten 11 A.M.-Noon, Goshen School, Play Group 10-11:30 A.M. Every Wed. St. Peter's Ch. Registration CCS (p.3) Farm Forest Open Space Registration CCS (p.3) for 6 Saturdays (p.4) Bd. of Selectmen Park & Rec. Stretch Exercise Group 5:30 p.m. CCS Library Website Meeting 10:30 A.M. Tai Chi Chuan Every Wed. 7-8, 8-9 CCS (p.4) School Building Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse **Every Sunday** Town Hall (p.2) 7:30 P.M. CCS 10 A.M. Town Hall Inland Wetlands Concert by Northwest Passage, Pack 15 Leaders Meeting 7:15 P.M. UCC Parish House 8 p.m. Town Hall 4:30 р.м. Cornubia Hall 9 10 11 12 14 15 Deadline: May Cornwall Housing Corp. Chronicle Copy Preschool-K Story **Blood Pressure Screening** Fish Printing on Fabric PTA 7 P.M. CCS 4:15 р.м. Kugeman Village Hour 10 A.M. Library 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House 1-4 P.M. CCS Housatonic River Comm. Opening Day of Fishing Opening of Danielle Mailer Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. P&Z 8 P.M. Town Hall: 7:30 P.M. CCS Library Season Show at Wish House (p.3) CCS Library Towers Hearing (p.3) 16 18 (<u>w</u>) 19 20 21 22 Earth Day Art Show PASSOVER GOOD FRIDAY PALM SUNDAY at Dump during Dump Spring Vacation Begins Bd. of Selectmen Hours (p.4) Friends of Cornwall Library 9 а.м. Town Hall Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. Easter Egg Hunt, 4 P.M. UCC Day Room School Building Comm. CCS Library Preschool-4th Grade 7:30 p.m. ČCS 10:30 а.м.-Noon CCS (p.4) 28 Preschool-K Story Hour 10 A.M. Library 29 Spring Bird Walk 27 23 24 School Reopens 25 26 EASTER 7 A.M. (p.4) TV Turnoff Week Begins Green Party Game Night 7–9 р.м. W. Cornwall Firehouse (р.2) Regional Housing Fair 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Region One Bd. of Ed. Sal Condolucci Works on 10 а.м.-2 р.м. Night Crawler Hunt 7:30 P.M. 7 P.M. HVRHS Library Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. Paper, Opens at Cornwall Kent Town Hall (p.4) 30 Child Center Auction UCC Parish House (p.4) 8 р.м. W. C. Firehouse Library (p.3) 1:30 P.M. Mohawk Folk Songs by Patons Bd. of Fin. Public Hearing ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall 7 р.м. UCC (р.4) 2001 Budget 7:30 р.м. CCS Ski Lodge (p.4)

(continued from page 1)

come a one-family house. Its outside shell has been completed, but the interior improvement and rearrangement is yet to come. These changes are in keeping with the guiding principle of owners Tom and Anne Hubbard and Rick Wolkowitz to maintain the single-family house pattern in Cornwall Village. —John Zinsser

Web Siters to Meet

The Cornwall Web Group came out of last November's Community Profile Forum which recommended that Cornwall have its own website where local news, events, and other items could be posted. An informal group has met three times and made several policy decisions. Among them is that the website be established and maintained by an independent voluntary organization. Toward that end, a set of by-laws will be presented for discussion and adoption at a public meeting at 10:30 A.M., Saturday, April 8, at the Town Hall. Election of directors and officers may follow.

The proposed bylaws and a message board for comments have been placed on the Internet. They can be accessed at: www. kentdesign1.com/cornwall/by_laws.html.

-Stephen Senzer

Meet the Green Party

No, the Green Party has no links with Ireland, nor with gardeners who pride themselves on their green thumbs. It is a political party now active in 52 countries and in all 50

states. It began in Europe in the 1970s as an environmental, antinuclear, social justice movement made up of ordinary citizens who felt (and continue to feel) that

politicians and corporations together do not necessarily reflect the needs and wishes of the people or their communities.

The Green Party in Connecticut grew out of Ralph Nader's presidential campaign in 1996. Nader is again seeking the Green Party nomination for president this year. Locally, Audrey Cole of Sharon has been endorsed by the Northwest Chapter to challenge Nancy Johnson in the Sixth Congressional District.

The Cornwall group, with four registered Green Party members, is part of the Northwest Chapter, one of six in the state. The chapter meets twice monthly, with one of its meetings occurring on the fourth Wednesday at 7:30 P.M. in the Cornwall Town Hall. The chapter has nearly 150 active members, with a mailing list that has grown from eight people in 1996 to more than a thousand today.

In addition to ongoing concerns for the environment, poverty, health care, and education, the regional chapter supports efforts to make General Electric fully responsible for the cleanup of pollution of the Housatonic River caused by its Pittsfield plant.

Those wishing more information about the Green Party are asked to call Judy Herkimer, the membership coordinator of the Northwest Chapter, at 672-6867. -Ken Keskinen

Cornwall Primary '00

Whether Republican or Democratic, Cornwallians have a recent history of liking independents, mavericks, outsiders, and underdogs. Some notable examples: Jesse Jackson won a presidential primary in Cornwall. Former Republican Senator Lowell Weicker was popular with both local Dems and Repubs when he ran as an independent for governor a few years back.

Now we come to the most recent election, a primary held early last month. The machine candidates, Bush and Gore, were run-

ning against guys the machines wanted no part of, McCain and Bradley. Statewide, McCain edged Bush by a mere three percent. But in Cornwall, our Republicans went almost two to one for McCain (92 to 49). As for the

Democrats, even though Bill Bradley lost the Connecticut primary by 13 percent, he carried Cornwall 72 to 66. It's kind of fun once in a while to show the machines our independence. —John Miller

Mohawk—Then and Now

Looking down while riding up Lift 1 at Mohawk, you can see an old wire-spoked tire rim, bolted to the top of a 15-foot telephone pole. It used to carry the rope for the rope tows. And, near the top of the mountain, under the lift on almost the only trail with no snow guns, you can often see grass and a few rocks coming up where skiers have worn through the thin snow. The wheel rim and the grass and rocks are Mohawk as it was when I was growing up: hanging onto armwrenching ropes while the palms of your hands burned, and taking new Christmas skis in to be fixed because the rocks had ripped steel edges off, and then waiting for them while the day melted away.

Now, at night, riding the lift in the dark air, with the snow guns snowing in the trail lights, and the moon up, being at Mohawk is just peaceful. For me, riding the lift at night is peacefulness in such bodily contrast to the concentration of downhill skiing. Even the trail groomers seem peaceful, in spite of their headlights. They leave soft, corduroy patterns of snow behind them on which people love to ski and snowboard. Between the snow making and the groomers, bad skiing is rare, and good skiing is rarely more than half a day away.

The snow guns make hills of snow, not just to bank snow for the future, but also to create terrain parks so snowboarders can jump endlessly. Terrain parks are also called trauma parks, particularly by people like me who are in large part jealous because we can't jump. I can tamp down my jealousy by reminding myself that new sports are invented yearly, and that the kids who are jumping are free from the physiological demands of lace-up boots and cable bindings. The old boots and bindings required more skill and persistence than most stunts, and weren't even that useful in controlling the skis. The new parabolic skis almost turn themselves.

The typical skier has about 14 pieces of equipment-gloves, helmets, jackets, sweaters, snow pants, boots, poles, skis, bun warmers, goggles, etc.—to bring along and get into. The best mood in the lodge is on Thursdays during SkiWee when the Cornwall parents and teachers are done with the stress test of getting their kids and others' kids into all that equipment and out onto the slopes. Then the lodge is a Cornwall parents' coffee hour. The mood of the lodge is indicated by the way skiers, looking for a place to sit, routinely move

aside hundreds of dollars of each other's clothing without arousing concern.

UNCOVERED

SKI AREA

BRIDGE

While skiing is different these days, the joy is still there. Recently, on a busy day, I was talking to a lift manager. I don't

remember his exact words, but they were something like this: "It's good to be part of a place where so many people are having such a good time." -Pat Hare

Welcome

Matthew Stephen Catalano to Emily Ferman and Robert Catalano, Jr.

Good-bye to Friends

Evelyn K. Bennett Hellen Gazagnaire

Land Transfers

S. Scott Zuckerman and Joanne Taylor to Eileen G. Lehrer, Lot 8, 17.22 acres, on Whitcomb Hill Road for \$77,500.

Irene M. Hurlburt to William G. Berry and Robert T. McDonough, house and land at 141 College Street for \$220,000.

Ethel B. Jamgotchian to Barton T. and Deborah C. Jones, 24.5 acres and house at 12 Popple Swamp Road for \$675,000.

TV Turnoff Week

From April 24 through 30, Cornwall, along with thousands of other communities, will be participating in National TV-Turnoff Week, co-founded by Cornwall resident Henry Labalme. Since its inception in 1995, it is estimated that 18 million Americans have taken a break from their TV habit.

TV-Free America, which organizes TV-Turnoff Week, was founded to promote richer, healthier, and more connected lives. Studies have shown that our children have shorter attention spans, poorer reading and eating habits, get less exercise, and have more health problems as a result of watching TV. Children at CCS and CCC will be receiving special packets with pledge cards, valuable coupons, and lists of alternative activities. Packets will also be available at the Cornwall Library.

TV-Turnoff Week will include a Community Game Night on Friday, April 28, from 7 to 9 P.M. at the West Cornwall Firehouse. For more information, call 672-6101.

-- Jane Prentice

Rule Book for Towers

Although Cornwall has not yet received any formal applications for cell-phone tower installations, several tower companies have made inquiries at the Town Office. Meanwhile, our neighbors, Goshen and Sharon, already have applications pending.

According to federal regulations, the installation of cell-phone transmission towers cannot be banned by local communities. But local planning and zoning boards can indeed

enact siting requirements.

In view of the inexorable spread of the towers, Cornwall's P&Z has developed revised regulations for them. The revisions are based in part on regional and nearby town models.

A public hearing on the proposed regulations is scheduled for 8 P.M. on April 10 at the Town Hall.

A limited number of copies of the proposed regulations will be available at the Cornwall Library after April 1. Interested persons are invited to examine them and to attend the hearing.

—Stephen Senzer

Events & Announcements

Free Eye Exams: Are you over 35? African-American? Diabetic? Have you had an eye injury or eye surgery? If any one of these describes you, you have a higher than average chance of developing eye disease, and should take advantage of a free adult eye health screening conducted by Prevent Blindness Connecticut.

A screening will be held at the Cornwall Town Hall on Wednesday, May 3, from 1 to 2:45 p.m. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 672-2603. The free program is open to everyone and is co-sponsored by Prevent Blindness Connecticut and the Town of Cornwall. Local eye doctors will volunteer to perform tests for glaucoma, cataract, and retinal disease, and answer questions about eye problems. Prevent Blindness Connecticut staff and trained volunteers will conduct tests for distance and near vision.

A Democratic Town Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 14, at the Town Hall to elect officers for

the coming year. Re-elected were: Stephen Senzer, chair; Ann Shillinger, vice-chair; Hanna Grossman, secretary; and Isabelle Osborne, treasurer. Other members of the Town Committee are: Paul Baren, Carla Bigelow, Earl Brecher, Anne Chamberlain, Alec Frost, Nancy Frost, David Grossman, Becky Hurlburt, Barbara Klaw, Spencer Klaw, Neal Kosciusko, Elizabeth Lansing, Jean Leich, John Miller, Alexander Neubauer, Charles Osborne, Ann Peterson,

ECCS



Letters to the Chronicle

EAGLES ON THE RIVER

Although wintering bald eagles have been a presence on the Housatonic River for at least the past ten years, this year a larger number (six at one sighting) have lingered longer, giving many of us an opportunity to see these majestic birds close up. Early morning joggers on River Road and the steady stream of West Cornwallians heading south on Route 7 to Baird's for the paper have become used to seeing at least one eagle daily. Along River Road north of West Cornwall, Don Heiny observed a mature eagle sitting on the ice, feeding on a fish before it was dispossessed of its prize by six aggressive crows.

On New Year's Day, Bill Gold and his family watched as an eagle swooped low over the water, grabbed a trout in its talons, then flew to a nearby limb to eat its meal. No "catch and release" rules here! Just north of Cornwall Bridge, a mature eagle was often seen perched like a sentry on a limb overlooking the river. The snowy white plumage on its head told us that this bird was at least five years old. Occasionally, several immatures sat nearby. These huge juveniles, often even larger than the matures, are mottled brown and white during their second to fourth years.

Attracted by open water and a good food supply of fish, the eagles were with us this winter because the lakes and rivers further north had frozen over. When breeding season began in March, they slowly headed toward their nesting territories in northern New England and eastern Canada.

It's safe to say that these impressive birds have become part of Cornwall's winter landscape. So begin scanning the river for eagles in early December and when you see the first one, share your good fortune with the rest of us. —Carla Bigelow

OLD PHOTOS, PLEASE

The Cornwall Historical Society has on file a collection of old and new pictures of the town,

donated to the Society or copied from photos loaned by their owners. Please look in your attic for any old town photos, and, if found, donate them to or share them with the Society.

This is how a collection in a historical society grows—you can't go out and buy such things, they have to be found or donated. If you should find any treasures, please contact me, 672-6492, or Maureen Prentice, 672-0135, and we will be happy to pick them up.

—Jim Gold

B-AND-B FOR JUBILEE

The UCC Jubilee Partnership, an exchange-ofvisits program between Cornwall and the Jubilee School in inner-city Philadelphia, was started seven years ago to build strong ties of friendship between our two very different communities.

The UCC Jubilee Committee would like to invite more Cornwallians to get involved by becoming hosts (bed & breakfast only) for Jubilee students and adults for two nights while they are in Cornwall, June 5 to June 9.

For more information, please call Tracy Gray (672-6015) or Pat Blakey (672-6516), coordinators of overnight arrangements and seasoned Jubilee hosts themselves, during April.

-Peg Keskinen and Danielle Mailer

WAGE WAR ON ZEBRA MUSSELS

It has come to my attention that since zebra mussels were discovered in Twin Lakes in Salisbury last September, there is concern they might spread to Cream Hill Lake. That would be disastrous because they are an aggressive species that dominates an aquatic ecological system; not only are they devastating to native fresh water mussels (food for many fish and mammals), but their feces fertilize algae blooms that deplete oxygen in the water. Female zebra mussels lay 40,000 eggs per spawning!

Strategies are being formed to control them. Meanwhile, shouldn't the Board of Selectmen require (by ordinance?) that every boat coming to our lake from another body of water be washed down with a light clorox/water bath? Apparently that would protect us.

—Anne Zinsser

Marie Prentice, Gordon Ridgway, Julia Scott, Celia Senzer, Lisa Lansing Simont, Bee Simont, Phyllis Wojan.

Art in Cornwall: The CCS student show at the Cornwall Library will continue through April 22, followed by an exhibition of works on paper by Sal Condolucci, beginning April 24. At the Wish House, on April 14 from 5 to 7 P.M., there will be an opening of a show of collages and prints by Danielle Mailer. We apologize for neglecting to mention that Howard Stone exhibited his beautiful watercolors at the National Iron Bank in March. Gary Barron will be artist of the month at the bank in April.

CCS Kindergarten Registration for the 2000–2001 school year will be held on April 4, 5, and 6. Any child turning five on or before December 31, 2000, is eligible. Parents

should call the school office at 672-6617 to schedule time for their child to visit the kindergarten room and meet Mrs. Wadhams, the kindergarten teacher. Parents must (continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

bring their child's official immunization record and birth certificate with them.

Ninth Annual Benefit Auction of the Cornwall Child Center will take place at Mohawk Ski Lodge on Sunday, April 30. Come bid on 200 items including goods and services from area businesses, artwork, theater tickets, restaurant meals, museum tours, use of vacation homes in Ireland and Provence. The silent auction begins at 1:30 P.M. and the live auction at 3 р.м. under the gavel of our sensational auctioneer Dave Cadwell. Admission is \$5 which includes scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and beverages. For more information call 672-6880 or 672-4226.



A Spring Bird Walk on Saturday morning, April 29, will be led by Art Gingert, birder and photographer/naturalist. We will meet at 7 A.M. in the Cornwall Hollow area and will be birding and hiking until 9:30 A.M. Bring binoculars and wear waterproof hiking boots. Beginning birders are welcome. For further details and to reserve a place, call Carla Bigelow at 672-0283.

Arts Scholarship: The Susan Fillman Memorial Scholarship for the Arts has been announced by The Arts Fund for Region One. The fund was created in 1992 to raise private funds to enhance arts opportunities for the students of Region One. The deadline for program funding is May 1. Scholarship applications are available at the local public schools in Region One or by contacting Pamela Wilson, Chair, Scholarship Committee, 824-5123, ext. 152. All students living in Region One are eligible to apply for this scholarship, if they wish to pursue arts-related activities during the upcoming summer.

Fool's Gold

The Chronicle is rich beyond the wildest dream of avarice. Anyway, that's our April Fool story. Truthfully, as always, we need money. Please write us a check before the IRS takes your last penny.

Northwest Corner Housing Fair: Want to have a home of your own and looking for advice? Come to the Housing Fair on Saturday, April 29, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the Kent Town Hall. Workshops on choosing and financing a house will be presented, and there will be exhibitors with handouts on real estate, modular housing, banking, and state and federal financing. Sponsored by the towns of the Northwestern Connecticut Regional Housing Council. Questions? Call the Council office at 868-7341 or Ken Keskinen at 672-6486.

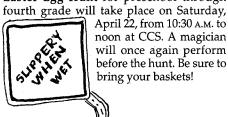
Earth Day in Cornwall will be celebrated with a show, Art at the Dump, featuring works created by local artists from recycled items. These pieces should be dropped off at the transfer station on Thursday, April 20, from 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. They will be installed and ready for viewing during regular hours on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22. Artists and aspiring artists are encouraged to participate. Questions? Call Gail Jacobson at 672-6639.

"Choices" for Spring at CCS: Fish Printing on Fabric with Jill Gibbons. Gyotaku is the ancient Japanese art of printing fish designs on fabric. We will use non-toxic permanent fabric paints on cotton and silk. If possible, bring your own fish. Sunday, April 9, from 1 to 4 P.M. \$35 includes materials. To register, call 672-0033.

Tai Chi Chuan with Leslie Elias. This ancient Chinese martial art heals and strengthens mind, body, and spirit. Skill level: adults only, beginner and experienced. Wednesdays, starting April 5. Classes 7 to 8 P.M. for beginners, 8 to 9 P.M. for experienced. Fee: \$5 per class (first class is free, sliding scale available). To register, call 672-0286.

Scholarship Application Forms for the Woman's Society Education Fund Scholarships are available to any Cornwall senior graduating from public or private high school. Forms may be picked up at HVRHS Guidance Office or from Thalia Scoville, 672-6288. Deadline for return is May 1.

Easter Egg Hunt for preschool through



Gymnastics Classes for children pre-k to sixth grade will meet for six consecutive Saturday mornings, beginning on April 8. Classes will be held at the Goshen Elementary School from 10 to 11 A.M. and 11 A.M. to noon. Fee: \$27. To register, call Sharon Sawicki, 672-2975.

Night-Crawler Hunt: Friday evening, April 28, at 7:30 р.м. at the UCC Parish House, Cub Scouts of Pack 15 will conduct a night crawler hunt to feed birds in the rehabilitation program at the Sharon Audubon Center. Bring flashlights, a can to hold the worms, and fast hands. Also bring a friend. Refreshments served to anyone with a full can of worms.

Scholarships: Cablevision, which services Cornwall and other towns in Litchfield County, is again offering \$1,000 scholarships to two graduating high school seniors in the area they service. Application forms are available at HVRHS or at Cablevision's website: www.powertolearn.com.

REPUBLICAN

In addition, the Cablevision Advisory Council is offering a scholarship of \$250 to one A Curwit high school senior in each of the towns that Cablevision covers. The Council would like each student to

WE KEUNES CILIE be geared toward a college major in communications but will leave the final choice to their schools.

Folk Music at UCC: Sandy and Caroline Paton of Folk Legacy Records will present a program entitled Expressing Social Concerns through Folk Songs, Saturday, April 29, at 7 Р.М. The program is free and all are welcome.

Mame Is Coming: A performance of the musical Mame by the Goshen Players on May 11 at Goshen's Old Town Hall at 8 р.м. will benefit the Jubilee School's trip to Cornwall in June (see Letters). Call Peg Keskinen (672-6486) after April 10 for tickets (\$10, reserved seats).

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

ILLUSTRATIONS Tim Prentice

APRIL EDITORS

Carla Bigelow John and Anne Zinsser

MAY EDITORS

Bee Simont

John and Anne Zinsser

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above; a \$10 contribution will be appreciated.

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