



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 4: NUMBER 1 FEBRUARY 1994



Will the Lights Go Out?

In June lights will go out all over town. Well, in West Cornwall, and maybe in Cornwall Plain. The lighting district which covers the West Cornwall commercial district has been disbanded. This in itself is not surprising; it was one of the last such districts left in the state and had become a bureaucratic nightmare. It was difficult to get the taxpayers to pay for the lighting, and meetings called for the benefit of lighting-district residents were ill attended. Finally, at a meeting where there was actually a quorum, the lighting district voted to disband itself. This means that there is no one to pay the light bill.

It seems that Cornwall Plain, one of the two remaining lighting districts in the state, may disband, too. Only three or four people attend meetings and the secretary does not want to do the job anymore.

What will happen when there are no lighting districts to pay for the lights? One thing is sure, and that is that CL&P will not just give its electricity away. So the lights will go out.

Do we need street lights in Cornwall? Although these areas are not exactly densely populated, people do walk in them after dark and, in addition to convenience,

there is the issue of safety. The Cornwall Library and the churches in Cornwall Plain are used for public meetings; Marvelwood students walk from dorm buildings to classrooms. Cornwall Bridge and West Cornwall are zoned as commercial districts and the stores and restaurants are open well after dark.

If the lights are to be maintained, someone is going to have to pay for them. Approximate annual costs for street lights are \$800 in Cornwall Bridge for nine lights, \$1500 in Cornwall Plain for 12 lights, and \$2100 in West Cornwall for 17 lights — a total of \$4400. In Salisbury, Sharon, and Falls Village the cost of street lights is covered by the towns in their general budgets. In North Canaan and Lime Rock, lights are paid for by the Fire Districts. Goshen's street lighting is paid for from a special fund.

Cornwall does not have either Fire Districts or a special fund. In Cornwall Bridge the commercial property owners voluntarily pay the lighting costs. Similar voluntary contributions from the merchants, or commercial property owners, in West Cornwall are a possibility. But the West Cornwall Merchants Association is not willing to assume the responsibility for

lighting in West Cornwall. And there are no merchants in Cornwall Plain.

This problem needs a solution, or the Cornwalls — except for Cornwall Bridge — will definitely cross over to the dark side. — Celia Senzer

Cornwall Parties Caucus


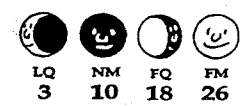
The Democratic caucus held on January 11 elected 27 members to the Town Democratic Committee. One spot was held open to be filled at a later date.

Those elected were: Tom Bevans, Earl Brecher, Nicholas Bruehl, G. Scott Cady, Douglas Carlson, Anne Chamberlain, Hendon Chubb, Margaret Cooley, Deirdre Fischer, Chris Hopkins, Honora Horan, Ken Keskinen, Barbara Klaw, Spencer Klaw, Elizabeth Lansing, Lisa Lansing, John Miller, Brian O'Neil, Charles Osborne, Isabelle Osborne, Ann Peterson, Marie Prentice, Celia Senzer, Stephen Senzer, Ray Shove, Jim Terrall, and Lori Welles.

The committee voted to contribute \$200 each to the forthcoming campaigns of Democrats Mary Ann O'Sullivan and Dan Dwyer. Ms. O'Sullivan currently represents Cornwall in the state assembly and Mr. Dwyer expects to run (again) for the

FEBRUARY 1994

(continued on page 2)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Fill Out Those Forms: Kugeman Village application forms have been mailed to would-be occupants. Cornwall applicants are reminded that it is important to complete their forms promptly. Questions? Call 1-239-2539.</p>		<p>1 Agric. Adv. Comm. 7:30pm CCS Inland Wetlands 7:30pm Town Hall* Park & Rec. 7:30pm Town Office</p>	<p>2 W. Cornwall Merchants Assn. 10am Cadwell's</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Travelog (England) Julia Scott 7:00pm CCS Lib.</p>	<p>5 Board of Tax Review 9:30am-12:30pm Town Office</p>
<p>6 "Cornwall in Concert" 3:00pm UCC* (p.4)</p>	<p>7 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30pm Town Hall Skating Mondays 8-9pm Salisbury School Rink</p>	<p>8 Bd. of Tax Rev. 6-8:30pm Town Off. Dem. Town Comm. 7:30pm Town Hall Hous. River Comm. 7:30pm CCS Lib.</p>	<p>9 Board of Tax Review 12:30-4:00pm Town Hall CCS PTO 7:00pm CCS Lib.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY Poetry Reading 8pm Cadwell's</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14 VALENTINE'S DAY Corn. Lib. Art Show Verne Henschall photographs P&Z 7:30pm Town Hall (p.4)</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Board of Tax Review 12:30-4:00pm Town Hall</p>	<p>17 Bd. of Ed. 5:45pm CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30pm CCS Library</p>	<p>18 Jump for Heart 11:30am-2:30pm CCS gym (p.4)</p>	<p>19 Advisory Comm. on Ed. Quality & Diversity 9:00am CCS Lib. (p.3)*</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21 PRESIDENTS' DAY</p>	<p>22 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY Bd. of Selectmen 7:30pm Town Hall HVRHS Bd. of Ed. 7pm HS Lib.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Town Meeting on Ed. Quality & Diversity 8:00pm CCS Gym (p.3)*</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28 ZBA 7:30pm Town Hall*</p>					

*Check time and place at Town Office. † United Church of Christ

(continued from page 1)

state senate in November. Both politicians, who have enjoyed strong support in Cornwall, spoke briefly on upcoming state issues that affect our town, and answered questions.

The Republicans also caucused on January 11 and elected a new Town Committee. The 17 people elected were: Ray Augustyn, Donald Bardot, Paul Baren, Robert Beers, Phil Bishop, Denton Butler, Lisa Cruse, Richard Dakin, Vera Dinneen, Klaus Edler, David Harmon, Donald Hedden, William Hurlburt, Ruth Ohman, Maureen Prentice, Jack Preston, and Sue Simons. Stepping down were this year's chairman, Jack Forster, and veteran Barbara Dakin.

New members will take office and committee officers will be elected at the next Republican Town Committee meeting, on March 9.

Treasurer Bob Beers stated that financially the committee could once again send two student interns to Washington D.C. in the spring. (Students are selected by merit and interest, not by parental politics.)

A Connecticut Party, the third major party in Cornwall, did not have to endure a caucus, since the party consists of only five members. However, these five have indicated their willingness to petition for a primary in the unlikely event that a competition might develop among them for any elective town office.

For reasons not clear to anyone, the indication of willingness to petition also makes it legally possible to form a Cornwall branch of ACP, which would be the equivalent of the other two parties' Town Committees.

— Stephen Senzer, Scoville Soulé, John Leich

Boards Get Together

A special meeting of the Boards of Finance, Selectmen, and Education was held on January 11.

Board of Finance Chairman Ralph Gold introduced the meeting as an opportunity for all the boards to understand how the Board of Finance approaches the budget process. Because of the restrictions in revenues, particularly the decline in state grants, Gold urged a hard look at every budget line in each board's budget.

There is a need to involve the public in the budget process early-on so questions can be asked and answered before the town meeting at which the budget will be voted on. All the board meetings will be publicized and everyone is encouraged to attend. (See letter from Ridgway, Gold & Heiny, page 3.)

— Celia Senzer

Selectmen Work to Cut Costs

With the budget season approaching, the selectmen have been exploring ways to cut costs. The highway department will be spending less on truck repairs and heating its building as a result of last year's purchase of a new truck and a new furnace. In a major initiative, the selectmen are putting out the town's property and casualty insurance program for bids this year. Unfortunately there are always unexpected expenses. Currently the town is facing the need to do major restoration on a stretch of River Road that is threatening to erode into the Housatonic.

The restoration of the Sedgwick Memorial will soon be finished (below) and the selectmen have voted to have a rededication, probably on July 4. — *Hendon Chubb*

Sedgwick Monument Update

Observant passersby may have noticed that the howitzer and cannonballs at the Sedgwick monument have been refurbished and also that the flag pole has been reset and painted. In the meantime Cornwall's noted sculptor, Neil Estern, has completed models for replacing the original bronze spread eagle and wreaths that were stolen from the howitzer's base; these have now gone to the foundry for casting. The new bronzes, and the repaired bronze medallion portrait of Sedgwick which the vandals bent but did not succeed in removing, will be mounted in the spring after the stonework has been cleaned.

The monument is Cornwall's only Civil War memorial. It was the product of a Cornwall committee formed to honor the town's distinguished son and hero; but its \$2400 cost was met almost entirely by a public-spirited Norfolk couple, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Stoeckel, close friends of Mrs. Emily Welch, General Sedgwick's younger sister. The monument was designed by George Keeler, an eminent Hartford architect. The bronzes were the work of James J. Hawley, a gifted sculptor who died too young to have achieved lasting prominence. The War Department donated the howitzer, and also the cannonballs, which the town sold for \$34 as a patriotic gesture during a World War II scrap drive (the replacements are concrete). The monument was dedicated at a large public gathering on Memorial Day 1900, addressed by the Governor and other notables. Among the small children who attended the ceremony that day were Harriet Clark and Bessie Blake. We look forward to the pleasure of their attendance again, at next summer's rededication.

— *Michael Gannett*

Welcome

Camilla Marie Dahl Busby to Bente and Peter Busby

Goodbye to Friends

Martha W. Hepprich
Nancy Charlton
Maxwell D. Washburn
Thomas J. Kearns Sr.

Congratulations

Stephen N. Doubleday to Sharon Cripps
David Anders Boyum to Alexes Hazen

Land Transfers

Kenneth A. Cherry to Weantinoge Heritage, Inc., 14 acres of land on River Road for no consideration.

William N. Vitalis et al. to Richard Bramley, two parcels of land and building at 14 Kent Road for \$225,000.

Coltsfoot Farm Limited Partnership to Barry Talesnick and Gaynor Cote, Lot 9, Essex Hill Road, 5.195 acres for \$135,500.

Stony Batter Farm, L.P., to John Fraser Horn, 100 acres and house on Whitcomb Hill road for \$1,300,000.

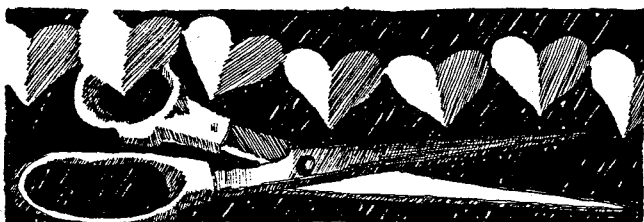


Child Center Progress

People driving past the West Cornwall Firehouse or the Consolidated School will have noticed that the new home for the Cornwall Child Center is under way. Site clearing was quickly accomplished by Mike Root. John A. Frost Inc. prepared the site further, excavating for the cellar and hauling 1563 cubic yards of fill for the driveway and parking area. Mike Sheldon constructed the foundation in cold and snowy weather.

When the conditions are more clement, work will continue. George Charleton and Jim Terrall are volunteer general contractors for the project. They are also subcontractors with a consortium of Cornwall carpenters who will close in the structure, which was designed especially for the Center by Connie Gordon of Responsive Designs.

P.S. The children thank the Santa who



donated a bundle of toys on December 23.

P.P.S. The annual auction, previously held in March, will take place this year on May 1. — *Ginny Potter*

Educational Quality and Diversity

As required by Public Act No. 93-263 the Board of Education has named an advisory committee charged with creating a plan for educational quality and diversity for submission to the Region 1 School District by April 1.

Meetings of the advisory committee were tentatively scheduled for January 29 and February 19. A town meeting will be held on February 25 at 8:00 p.m. in the CCS gym at which the committee will report on its activities, and solicit input from the community. After a wrap-up meeting on March 5, the committee will submit its findings to the Board of Education on March 17, and on March 18 there will be a public hearing at which the final plan will be presented to the town. — *Celia Senzer*

Back to School for CFD

On January 9 about 30 members of the Cornwall Fire Department and the Rescue Squad attended a Hazardous Materials Awareness training session held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the West Cornwall Firehouse.

The training session covered the Department of Transportation system for placarding, or identifying, hazardous material being moved by road, as well as how to deal with such materials.

According to First Selectman and CFD member Gordon Ridgway, "Leaking propane tanks are typical of hazards which have been encountered in the past. Road accidents involving commercial trucks are another concern, especially when it's not known what the trucks may be carrying."

A follow-up session was scheduled for January 19 to train personnel in dealing with exposure to blood-borne pathogens in accident situations. These include HIV and hepatitis-B. — *Stephen Senzer*

Manhattan Metamorphosis

The handful of us who braved the elements on January 14 to hear Marc Simont talk about Spain in the CCS library enjoyed a delightful event. Marc illustrated his lecture with sketches of brawny Basque boulder-lifters, bare-breasted Barcelona bathing beauties, and sweltering Scandinavians on the Sitges beach. But his most extraordinary sketches transferred the ancient traditions of the Spanish bullfight to the streets of New York, where the murderous "torotaxi" encounters and is eventually slain by its would-be victim, an enraged pedestrian, the "matataxi."

This was the third of a series of travelogs organized by Alice Cadwell. On February 4, Julia Scott will talk about England, the land of her birth. — *John Leich*



Letters to the Chronicle

TO CORNWALL'S "SECRET SANTA"

Through your generosity the true spirit of Christmas was felt. Thank You.

— *The Augusta family*

CORNWALL TOWN CREW: THANKS

I know I'm not the only person in town who has noticed what a fabulous job the Cornwall crew has done this winter. And this is on top of all the excellent road repair work that was accomplished over the summer. I have yet to encounter an icy patch on a town road and I drive a lot ... 27,000 miles in '93. How about printing the roster of the crew so we can all know their names?

— *John Miller*

Editors' Note: The crew consists of Steve Clarke, John Mallahan, Jim Vanicky, Rick Vanicky, and Don Reid, foreman. We thank you.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Concerns of small towns are often not heard in the Connecticut legislature. Area first selectmen have been working with our representatives to change that. Issues of interest to Cornwall residents include funding for rural emergency dispatch (911) centers. Despite being mandated, state funding of these programs is scheduled to be eliminated.

Another concern is state regulation of land use; Bill #5941 would greatly reduce local control of land use decisions. Too many of the town's tax dollars go toward paying for mandated, wasteful state regulations.

I have been to Hartford to testify on these issues. There are many state elections this year and I urge everyone to find out how candidates stand on these and other local concerns.

— *Gordon Ridgway*

CUT THE GOSSIP

We find the Chronicle's inclusion of real estate transaction cost figures unpleasant. There is something divisive about them, and they seem out of place in the Chronicle which does such a good job of bringing us all together.

Bridgework

The bridge over Furnace Brook on Popple Swamp Road is in need of repair, and a meeting to discuss the problem was to be held at the Masonic Lodge on January 24, just after this issue of the *Chronicle* went to press. One hopes that work on this bridge will not take as long as the repair of the big bridge over the Housatonic. In that case, what was originally thought to be a question of a few months has turned into a two-year project.

According to the Department of Transportation's Peter Curcio, work on the big bridge began in June 1992 with what

These figures are available elsewhere, and we feel that they should STAY elsewhere and not bring an invasive, gossip-column tone to this wonderful community newspaper.

We join Maggie Cooley et al. (see January letters column) in asking the board of directors of the *Chronicle* to reverse itself and exclude these troublesome figures, or explain in the paper why they feel them to be necessary.

— *Anne and John Zinsser*

HAVE CARS, WILL DRIVE

I want to remind folks in Cornwall that if you don't drive and you need a lift, there is a fine group of volunteer drivers here organized by FISH who are ready and willing to lend a hand and car to take you to the doctor or wherever you need to go. No charge. Just give me a call at 672-6261.

— *Marie Prentice, Coordinator for FISH*

GANGING UP ON THE BUDGET

The Boards of Education, Finance, and Selectmen have begun to assemble this year's town budget.

Several factors have increased the difficulty of the task. Cornwall's tax base has not grown significantly in the last several years. Non-tax revenues (interest, accumulated savings, and state aid) continue to be low or declining. The burden of town spending is falling more directly on local taxpayers.

At the same time, the town's diverse responsibilities have continued to grow. There will be more students attending the high school next year. The town must fulfill the requirements of an increasing amount of state and federal public safety codes and standards. The boards are approaching this difficult situation with a positive attitude. Inter-board cooperation continues to increase. We are carefully gathering financial and program information. The town has improved management of its operations to reduce the need for spending. Initiatives like buying fuel oil for CCS in bulk and reducing the use of highway salt have enabled us to do more with less money. Very dedicated private fund-raising efforts are providing residents with a new playground, ambulance, and child-care facility without the spending of tax dollars.

Finally, the boards encourage townspeople to become involved in this process. We value your opinions.

— *Gordon Ridgway, Ralph Gold, Diane Heiny*

was thought to be simply a resurfacing job, but when the old surface was removed a lot of damage to the substructure was revealed. This has meant extensive repairs to the arches, a difficult task, since the broken bits cannot just be let fall onto St. Bridget's churchyard and River Road South below.

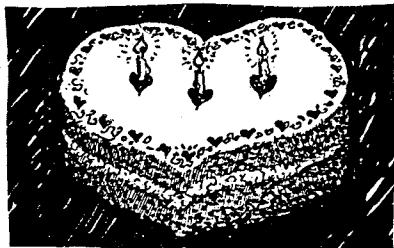
Concrete for the arches and new parapets must be cast on the spot, which means that at this season of the year the concrete mix must be kept hot so that it will not freeze while setting. Mr. Curcio says the whole job is scheduled to be finished by July 1994. We shall see. — *John Leich*

Winter Break for P & Z

For the first time in at least a dozen years, the Planning and Zoning Commission canceled its monthly meeting because of a lack of business. The autumn building boom is taking a winter rest.

Scheduled for the February 14 meeting is a public hearing on proposed regulations expanding, by special permit, opportunities for home businesses and occupations in all zones. This small-scale type of commercial development was recommended in the Town Plan in 1987, and there continues to be a need for citizens to find local employment or work at home. It is hoped that people interested in the new regulations will come to the hearing.

— Ginny Potter



Now We Are Three, Going On ...

This issue marks the beginning of the fourth year of the *Chronicle*, which now has the distinction of being Cornwall's longest-running newspaper, having out-lived the *Cornwall Star* (printed in 1880 and 1881) by a full year.

The volunteers who get out this eleemosynary (i.e., not-for-profit) publication include, so far, this lineup: eight directors, 38 editors, 16 illustrators, and 91 writers and reporters. The volunteers also handle the layout, copy- and proof-reading, production, financial supervision, and distribution details. One hundred and seventeen people (along with Brother Bear, Sister Moon, and a cat named Pretty Boy Floyd) have sent letters. In addition to the news, calendar, and announcements, the *Chronicle* has also included inserts about the library, housing options, the agricultural fair, town officials, political candidates, and what to do about rabid animals.

Last month we mailed 1227 copies — 940 to every address in Cornwall and 287 to addresses in 25 states and the Virgin Islands, Canada, England, France, and Germany.

We've had 755 monetary contributions from 444 different contributors. We volunteers hope this support will continue for many more happy birthdays.

— Ken Keskinen

A \$10 (tax deductible) contribution will get the *Chronicle* mailed to an out-of-town address.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE, INC.
143 Cream Hill Road, West Cornwall, CT 06796

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/ST/ZIP _____

And please enter me in the sweepstakes.

The Visions of Arthur Getz

I flick on the lights in the library and awaken the faces Arthur Getz has created — a jumble of visions, sketches, swatches, and studies. His mind reels from caricature to solemnity, from frenzy to stillness, from craziness almost to sanity. I gaze, disquieted, at "Orange Pekoe Tea Party," crowded and crazed. Then I turn away and am calmed by the painting of a figure sweeping snow from the steps of a house. I stroll over to the pieces taped to the bookshelves, and my stomach tightens at surreal scatterings of shape and gesture, expression and pose. I find solace once more in "Mentor Perplexed," a portrait of a woman, head cocked over in thoughtful repose. Finally I turn out the lights. The faces go back to sleep. My own dreams won't seem so strange tonight.

— Alfred Bredenberg

What Happened to the Tea Room?

The article in last month's *Chronicle* about West Cornwall's new restaurants went to press before the planned opening date for Sarah's Tea Room. Unfortunately, there were delays over the holidays, and the opening date was not met. Our apologies to those who went seeking a cup of tea, or more, and weren't able to find even a sign.

The opening has been delayed due to bad weather, but the Tea Room hopes to be serving tea soon.

— Stephen Senzer

Events & Announcements

CCS News: Information concerning the Bradford Scholarship Fund is available for students attending the University of Connecticut. Anyone interested in this information should call the school office at 672-6617.

Students in grades 5-8 will be celebrating National Heart Month with a *Jump for Heart* on Feb. 18, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the CCS gymnasium. Students will be looking for people to sponsor their team for the three-hour jump. The money raised will go to the American Heart Association for research and educational programs. Mrs. Jo Loi (physical education teacher) is looking for merchants who are willing to donate prizes.

We are looking for a pair of waxable cross country skis for our CCS ski program. Size 160 or 170 composition skis are preferred. If anyone has a pair they would like to donate to CCS please contact the school office at 672-6617. In addition, if anyone has cross country non-waxable skis, boots, and poles they no longer can use,

donations to the school ski program would be greatly appreciated!

Wanted, Volunteers: The Susan B. Anthony Project, which provides sexual assault crisis services and services to displaced homemakers and single parents, is looking for sensitive, caring individuals to give the gift of time. Training will be provided. For more information call 824-4622 or 489-3798.

Mediator Hangs Out Shingle: Hendon Chubb has opened a practice in divorce mediation. Mediation offers divorcing couples an alternative to dealing with each other through lawyers. A psychologist and family therapist, Hendon trained in divorce mediation and conflict resolution at the Northern California Mediation Center and has been coached in Connecticut law by Cornwall attorney Maureen Donahue. "I truly believe in mediation," says Hendon. "It costs less, it's quicker, and people are speaking to each other after it's over."

From Madrigals to Gershwin: Don't miss "Cornwall in Concert" on Sunday, Feb. 6, at 3:00 p.m. at the United Church of Christ. The program will consist of our own Coltsfoot Chorus singing madrigals, folk songs, gospel, Brahms, etc., and Anne Chamberlain and John Miller performing the show music of such favorites as Gershwin, Porter, and Rogers and Hart. The concert will benefit the Jubilee School, the UCC's partner school (in inner-city Philadelphia), which is directed by Karen Whiteside Falcon. Concert proceeds will fund a five-day June visit to Cornwall by 40 students and teachers from the Jubilee School. Because seating is limited, tickets (\$10 each, \$5 for children under 12) should be purchased in advance. Call 672-6486 or 672-6840 for ticket information.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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