CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 7: NUMBER 6

IULY 1997

CCS Appreciates

Everybody was there. Well, not quite but pretty near. It was the First Annual Cornwall Consolidated School Appreciation Banquet at a school that clearly appreciates: students who work hard and go out of their way to be good citizens; teachers whose devotion to their jobs goes far beyond the hours they are paid for; and dozens of others like Freddie Bate, who has been reading regularly with second graders for 17 years. (Hey, first graders, you're in luck—Freddie plans to be back in the fall.)

It was a great event and I suppose I got the assignment because the publishers of this newspaper know that I rarely ever write anything without somehow working food into the story. In this case there really was food. Imagine cooking dinner for 300 people! Which is exactly what Russ (Hedgerows) Sawicki did: cook 75 pounds of spaghetti and then bathe it in ten gallons of tomato sauce. What a guy!

There was also a wonderful concert. Everything from Tchaikovsky and Monteverdi to Rodgers and Hammerstein. I recognized my neighbor Greg Guilman playing the alto sax. Cornwall has a "Chelsea," too, Chelsea Bardot, who played a flute piece. There was a terrific jazz band of nine doing Night Train, and some very stylish piano playing by Paige Root.

I also noticed that almost all the kids in the concert turned up later getting honors as good citizens. Think about it—music-scholarship-good citizens, there just may be a connection. Anyway, it was a great evening.

—John Miller

Cost of Conflict

The Board of Selectmen has obtained an accounting of the cost to the town of the gravelmining zoning contretemps. It totals \$22,000. Of that amount, \$12,600 was for legal services provided by Tom Byrne; \$7,600 for Tom McGowan, planning and zoning consultant; \$1,200 for engineering studies; and the remainder for printing and recording. The process seems to have been almost as costly to the town as it must have been to the parties in conflict.

—Hanna K. Grossman

Cornwall's Monumentalist

The widely acclaimed Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, dedicated in Washington, D.C., on May 2, was more than 20 years in the making. A key part of the creative work was done here in Cornwall.

Sculptor Neil Estern, who has had a house in Cornwall since 1977, was responsible for the major twice-life-sized bronze figure of FDR, and his constant companion Fala, as well as for a larger than life-sized fig-

II II Y 1997

ure of Eleanor. Says Estern, "I conceptualized, did studies, and made the maquettes at my house here." The maquettes, he explains, are the roughly 20-inch-tall models that were submitted to the Memorial Committee and the Arts Commission in Washington for approval, and were the basis for the finished sculpture. All of the character of the finished pieces can be seen in the maquettes.

One-third scale models in clay were developed from the maquettes by Estern in his studio in Brooklyn. These models were shipped to the Tallix foundry in Beacon, New York, where they were mechanically and roughly enlarged to the eight-foot, nine-inch seated FDR and the seven-foot, four-inch Eleanor. The bronze sculpture was eventually cast from these models. A number of Cornwall residents visited the foundry last summer and watched Estern refining the clay enlargement of Roosevelt in his cape. During this process Estern often commuted daily from Cornwall to Beacon.

Éstern's other major works include a statue of Fiorello LaGuardia in Greenwich Village in Manhattan, and a bust of John F. Kennedy in Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza. Closer to home, residents may remember the wreath and American eagle on the General Sedgwick monument in Cornwall Hollow. When the originals were stolen by vandals, Estern voluntarily created replacements.

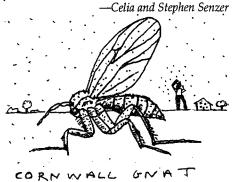
(continued on page 2)

JULI 1777						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		T Corn. Library Art Show Treasa Pattison continuing thru 7/12 (p.3) July Art Show, National Iron Bank, Cornwall Bridge Sari Goodfriend (p.3) Inland Wet. 8 p.m. Town Hall	2 Stretch Exercise Class 5:30-6:30 p.m. Town Hall Middle Readers Program 6:45 p.m. Library (p.3) Cub Scout Parents Meeting 7 p.m. UCC Day Room	3	Opening of Harriet Clark Exhibit at Historical Society (p.4)	5 July Fest 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cornwall Town Green (p.3)
6	7 Stretch Exercise Class 8:30-9:30 A.M. Town Hall Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	8 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 р.м. CCS Library	Stretch Exercise Class 5:30-6:30 p.m. Town Hall Middle Readers Program 6:45 p.m. Library (p.3)	10	11 Preschool Story Hour 10 A.M. Library (p.3) Library/Town Offices Study Committee 4 P.M. Town Hall	Country Fair 9 A.M.—2 P.M. St. Bridget's Church (p.3)
13	14 Cornwall Map Project 7/14–8/9 Library (p.4) P&Z 8 p.m. Town Hall	Deadline for August Chronicle copy Republican Caucus 7:30 p.m. CCS (p.4)	16	17 Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	Preschool Story Hour 10 A.M. Library (p.3) Library/Town Offices Study Committee 4 P.M. Town Hall*	Rummage Sale 9 A.M4 P.M. Parish House & Town Hall (p.4) Cornwall Association 4 P.M. St. Peter's Church
20	21 Stretch Exercise Class 8:30-9:30 a.m. Town Hall Rummage \$2 Bag Sale 9-noon, Parish House (p.4)	22 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall Democratic Caucus 7:30 P.M. Town Hall (p.4)	23 Stretch Exercise Class 5:30-6:30 P.M. Town Hall Middle Readers Program 6:45 P.M. Library (p.3)	24	Preschool Story Hour 10 A.M. Library (p.3)	26
27 Friends of the Library Annual Meeting & Talk by Michael Pollan 4 p.m. Library (p.4)	28 Stretch Exercise Class 8:30-9:30 A.M. Town Hall ZBA 8 P.M. Town Office *	29	30 Stretch Exercise Class 5:30-6:30 P.M. Town Hall Middle Readers Program 6:45 P.M. Library (p.3) Cornwall Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	31	16	

(continued from page 1)

A long-time Roosevelt admirer, Estern says, "The Roosevelt sculpture is something I always wanted to do, long before the Memorial was conceived."

Several Cornwall residents attended the dedication of the memorial along with the Estern family, the President and Mrs. Clinton, and a few thousand others. It was awe-inspiring to see the work of our neighbor join the Washington, Lincoln, and Jefferson memorials.



CVFD—Honors and Elections

At the annual meeting of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, Phil Hart was honored by his colleagues as Fireman of the Year. Also, State Representative Andrew Roraback presented official state citations honoring 50 years of service as volunteer firemen to Fred Bate, Jr., and Ed Whitcomb—a century of service.

At the same meeting, the CVFD re-elected David Williamson as Chief, with Rick Stone as Assistant Chief. Gary Hepprich was elected Captain for the Cornwall Bridge Firehouse and Connie Hedden was chosen as Captain for West Cornwall. Lieutenants elected were Earle Tyler for Cornwall Bridge and Adam Fischer for West Cornwall.

Rescue Squad officials elected at the meeting were Brian O'Neil as Rescue Captain and Phill West as Rescue Lieutenant. Asa Goddard and Art Lorch were elected to be new members of the Fire Department's board of directors.

-William B. Winters and David A. Grossman

At Last—The Costs

The Cornwall Association has undertaken to pay for an estimator to review the costs of various plans for the Town or the Library to move to Monroe-Bodkin or for both to remain where they are.

Gerald Ricard, the estimator who is doing the job, will not have the results until July 9, and therefore the hearing set for June 21 was postponed. The Library/Town Offices Study Committee will meet on July 11 and hopes to set a date for a new town informational meeting at that time.

Patrick Mulberry and Jane Giddens-Jones presented plans to the Study Committee at a meeting on June 6. Mulberry's plan was a phased architectural concept, rather than specific architectural plans, for the Town and Library both to remain where they are. Giddens-Jones' plan was a working architectural design for housing the Library in the

Monroe-Bodkin building. Cost estimates, however, are not being sought for either of these plans.

—Barbara Klaw

Geographic Champs

Two Cornwall high school students, junior Jacob Gingert and freshman Winfield Wilson, and sophomore Molly McDowell of Kent, were a three-person HVRHS team that won the 1997 state Geographic Olympiad.

The competition, sponsored by the Connecticut Geographic Alliance, was held on May 22 at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. While it was the seventh such competition, this was the first time that HVRHS fielded a team.

Competing against teams from 15 other schools, the HVRHS group achieved the highest total point score in four activities: geographic problem solving, orienteering, map reading, and a quiz bowl. —Hanna Grossman

Busy Weekend

Memorial Day has evolved into Memorial Day Weekend in most places, and Cornwall celebrated the weekend with a dance on Sunday, and grave-site decorations, patriotic festivities, and fund-raisers on Monday. Led by Bridge Dance chairman Dave Becker, the CVFD labored long hours to stage the sixth annual dance and town festival on Sunday, May 25. Murky weather and a small crowd dampened the proceeds for this fund-raiser but not the enthusiasm of the many local adults and children who crowded the dance area. The profit has not yet been tabulated, but it will be less than last year.

A few people still call the holiday by its original name, Decoration Day, and that spirit prevailed in North Cornwall, where 30 people decorated with flowers the graves of veterans from all wars going back to the Revolution. Charles Gold provided comments on the military service of each veteran as the tour progressed around the cemetery. He included two German Army veterans of WWII, Michael Gloeckner and Paul Lichtenburger.

In West Cornwall a small gathering observed the traditional Seaman's Memorial. Following a march to the flagpole by uniformed members of VFW Post 9856 and a prayer by the Reverend Peter Hammond, a wreath was thrown into the river, followed by a rifle salute.

A traditional Cornwall Village celebration included a parade, an address by First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, and a community service award. The marchers in military uniform, the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, the Volunteer Fire Department and the CCS band paraded to constant applause and frequent cheers from an appreciative crowd of onlookers. Ridgway spoke of the spirit of volunteerism in a small town and drew a parallel between service to our town and the much greater service and sacrifice of those who served in uniform for their country. master of ceremonies Skip Lush presented the VFW Post 9856 Community Service Award plaque to former First Selectman Richard Dakin. He joins a long list of recipients so honored, dating back to 1951 when Ed Whitcomb and Eugene Charleton were the first. After a rifle salute, taps and echo were played by Ryan Quinn, Patrick Dinneen, and Brian Lynn.

The carnival held at the United Church of Christ was well attended. This event, started in 1966 by Pat Blakey and Kitty Ridgway as a fund-raiser for the Girl Scouts, is now a joint project of the church and the Cornwall Child Center. Danielle Mailer and Sharon Sawicki from the church and Juliet Hubbard from the Child Center chaired the event. The two groups evenly split the net receipts of \$2,180. Anyone who saw Jonah Whiteside eating the chocolate cake he won in the cake walk knows all the volunteer efforts to make all this happen were worth it. Thus ended a day both hallowed and joyous. —Phil Hart

Welcome

Ross David Van Doren to Susan and Daniel Van Doren David Alexander Van Doren to Cyndi and Peter Van Doren

Good-Bye to Friends

Kathleen Agate Claude V. Hotchkiss Maurice (Pete) Fred King, Sr. Donnell J. Lockwood Lillian S. Lyman MaryAnna Parker Violet Woodman

Congratulations

Tobie Cornejo to Samuel D. Coffin Kathy Leonard to Kyle Mizak Elise Marie Meneshian to Andrew Tobian Hingson

Sarah Ives Russ to Maurice Leroy Hidalgo Oyanadel

Izabella Monika Trapani to Robert Sturges Hare

Sarah Emily Wismar to Mark Christopher Nace

Land Transfer

Thomas G. and Arleen Barrett to William I. and Elaine Miller, house and 2.3 acres on Baldwin Road for \$160,000.



We're Sorry

In last month's list of graduating high school students, the *Chronicle* inadvertently, but inexcusably, left out HVRHS's Jeremy Dadah, who will be attending Gardner Webb college in South Carolina. Congratulations and best wishes, Jeremy!

—The Editors

Kudos for Julia Scott

On June 6 State Representatives Andrew Roraback and Brian Matiello presented Julia Scott with a citation from the Connecticut General Assembly saluting her for work and leadership in community mental health.

The occasion was a board meeting of Prime Time House, an organization that serves people in the Northwest Corner who are recovering from serious mental illness. The board also recognized Scott's years of service on the board. She helped bring PTH from its infancy ten years ago to its present status as a fully certified clubhouse in a marvelous new Torrington building where it serves 320 members through its vocational, social, and recreational programs.

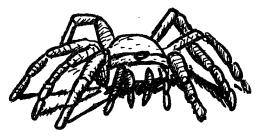
—Amy Cady

1997–98 Budget Adopted

A lightly attended town meeting on Friday, May 23, adopted the budget for the fiscal year starting July 1. After Finance Board Chair Ralph Gold proposed that the \$3,784,247 budget be adopted, moderator Peter Hammond asked for questions or comments. No one responded. The budget then passed with only one dissenting "no." The whole meeting lasted about seven minutes.

Cornwall's new budget is 4.3 percent higher than last year's. The increase was held down despite a substantial 15.4 percent jump in Board of Education costs. School Board Chair Katie Gannett said school costs leaped largely because of growing student numbers at CCS and the high school. Nearly balancing rising school costs were a hold-steady budget for all other operating expenses and a one-third cut in capital spending.

The new budget triggers a 2.8 percent rise in the mill rate to 18.25 mills. This is less than the budget rise, primarily because the town will dip into its reserves. According to finance director Lisa Lansing, the new mill rate means a tax increase of about \$70 for the town's median residential property, which is assessed at \$140,000. —David A. Grossman



Off to Germany

Next month Becky Clarke Wolfe, having completed her junior year at HVRHS, will be off to Germany, where she will spend an academic year at a German *gymnasium*, a high school that prepares students exclusively for university-level education. Becky is a recipient of a scholarship sponsored jointly by the national legislatures of the USA and Germany. She was chosen on the basis of her ability and motivation to adjust to a different culture, and her written and oral communication skills.

Letters to

TREASURE ON RIVER ROAD

In my frequent walks along River.
Road, about a mile and a half north
of West Cornwall, I pass signs
on the left designating a parcel of
land as Weantinogue Heritage
Nature Preserve, one of
Connecticut's oldest public land
trusts. Curious, I called Preserves Manager John
McNeely to find out how Weantinogue acquired
this land. He told me that its former owner, Kenneth Cherry, donated the 12 acres (known to
older residents as Russell Pratt Meadows) to
Weantinogue in 1995 in memory of my former
next-door neighbor, Dr. Warren Koehler.

Mr. Cherry met Warren under unusual circumstances. One fall day, he was duck hunting on Long Island Sound when he spotted another duck hunter clinging to the side of his capsized boat. That rescue marked the beginning of their long friendship. For years the two men hunted turkey and deer in the woods behind Warren's West Cornwall house and fished and duck hunted on the Sound until Warren died.

The property, to be also known as the Warren Koehler Nature Preserve, is a valuable addition to the sweep of contiguous land known as the

the Chronicle

"green corridor" that environmental groups are trying to establish in the Northwest Corner.

It would be wonderful if other parcels along River Road were added to the corridor, thus preserving the rich diversity of plant and animal life that exists along the Housatonic. The Cornwall Conservation Trust offers many options to anyone considering such a gift.

-Carla Bigelow

HIKERS ARE GREAT

Landowners have voiced concerns about allowing walkers to use trails through their property. For the past 31 years I have lived next to the Mattatuck Trail, a state hiking trail. My experiences with the hikers on the trail have been only positive—charming, amusing, even helpful.

I've had lost Boy Scouts and birdwatchers, girls caught in thunderstorms, tired campers, lots of thirsty people, my beans picked for me, and help fixing fences. Once, a hiker repaired my lawnmower and then proceeded to mow the lawn!

Hikers are really nice people, it seems.

-Bobbie Tyson

Becky has deep Cornwall Bridge roots. Her mother is Dody Clarke Wolfe, her grandfather is Bill Clarke, and she is the greatgranddaughter of Dr. William Clarke, who founded the Dark Entry Forest Association in 1924.

—John Leich

Events & Announcements

Tax Relief for Renters: Renters who were 65 or older by December 31, 1996, or who are receiving Social Security disability benefits, may be eligible for a state grant. Some requirements are: applicant must have resided in Connecticut for any one-year period prior to filing; income, including Social Security may not exceed \$22,400 if single or \$27,500 if married; 5 percent of qualifying income must not exceed 35 percent of total rent and utility payments.

Application forms and additional information are available at the Assessor's office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9–12 and Wednesday afternoons 1–4:30. Application must be made by September 15, 1997.

Children's Library Programs: Two story hours will be held, running from the week of July 7 through the week of August 18. The preschoolers session, on Friday mornings at 10, will include stories, activities, and snacks. A middle readers program, Wednesday evenings (except July 16) at 6:45, will be based on a traveling theme, and will include snacks from each of the countries visited. "Put feathers on the goose" is the incentive-to-read theme—one feather per book. A party with Joe Gwazdauskas and Skip Hunt will cap the programs on August 23, 1–2:30 P.M.

Art in Cornwall: The Cornwall Library is exhibiting (through July 12) the work of Treasa Pattison—vividly colored paintings, mainly of flowers, but including a study of a tree and a portrait of her daughter Lauren. Throughout July, color photographs by Sari Goodfriend—three from her continuing Architexture series and two from a new series, Night Light Reflections—may be seen at the National Iron Bank in Cornwall Bridge.

July Fest: Park and Rec. invites you to celebrate the Fourth on Saturday, July 5, on the Cornwall Village Green. Festivities open at 10 A.M. with a Patriot Bike Parade for kids and patriots of all ages, followed by games and Cornwall's first ever Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest. There will be food provided by the VFW, an ice-cream truck, and a DJ with summer tunes. Come and celebrate the Fourth on the Fifth!

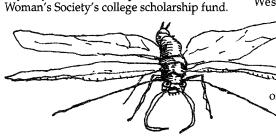
Jubilee School's June Trip to Cornwall had to be called off because of sudden and unforeseeable circumstances. We apologize to all who were inconvenienced by the change in plans, and especially to Cornwall children who were looking forward to seeing their Jubilee friends. We hope the trip can be rescheduled—possibly in the fall—so stay tuned!

St. Bridget's Country Fair will be held, rain or shine, on the grounds of St. Bridget's Church on Saturday, July 12, from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. Baked goods, home canned goods, and lunch will be available as shoppers browse among the attic treasures and a broad array of items offererd by the many vendors. To reserve a space, vendors may call either 672-6387 or 927-3365.

Cornwall's Rummage Sale, sponsored by the UCC Woman's Society, will take place in and near the UCC Parish House on Saturday, July 19.

Contributions to the sale may be made at the Parish House July 1 through 16. Please pack books in small boxes and cover items to protect them from rain. All items should be clean and in working condition. No TVs, mattresses, or large appliances can be accepted. Any questions? Call Cilla Mauro (672-6969) or Thalia Scoville (672-6288).

For the sale, please bring change and bills of small denominations. Outside tables with assorted merchandise plus furniture and clothes, in the Town Hall this year, will go on sale at 9 A.M.. Bake sale, too. Early arrivals will be given numbers to avoid a stampede when the doors of the Parish House open at 10 A.M. The VFW will serve coffee and doughnuts and lunch. Doors close at 4 P.M. The \$2 bag sale is from 9 A.M. to noon Monday, July 21. Most of the proceeds benefit the Woman's Society's college scholarship fund.



Vaccination Alert: The state is requiring proof of rabies vaccination for dogs and cats and has directed Animal Control Officer Rick Stone to begin checking July 1 for proof of vaccination. The fine for non-compliance will be \$121 per animal, payable at Bantam Court.

Summer Reading: CCS will again participate in the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. Last summer 73 Cornwall children read 813 books, 11.1 books per student. We had 39 percent student participation and are aiming to double that figure this summer. Cornwall is a community with many avid young readers, and this challenge is open to all children, preschool through high school. Simply keep track of books read during the summer and turn the list in to the Cornwall Library or CCS by early September. Questions? Call Joyce Samson, 672-6797.

Dependence Day

Here at the Chronicle, we tend to be more restrained than revolutionary, and we're not too proud to admit that we depend on you for support. So, as you celebrate July 4 and summer in Cornwall, please remember to include us in your plans (with a check). Stay cool!

Michael Pollan will talk about the planning and construction of a writing studio on his Pritchard Road place at a Friends of the Library session on Sunday, July 27, at 4 P.M. at the Library. The creation of the studio is the subject of Pollan's new book, A Place of My Own. The Library Friends will hold a brief annual meeting and election of new board members before the talk. Everybody wel-

Scholarships Awarded: The continued success of the annual Rummage Sale has helped the Woman's Society of the United Church of Christ to give \$10,500 in aid this year to Cornwall graduates, six from HVRHS and one from the Kent School, for their first year of higher education. The recipients are Sarah Calhoun, to study wildlife biology at Gettysburg College; Jonathan Daley for computer-environmental science at the University of Connecticut; Ramona Geyselaers-Baker for special education teaching at Westfield College in Massachusetts;

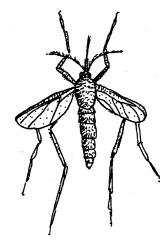
Katherine Heiny for studies at Tulane University; Christopher Kesl for physical therapy at the University of Maine at Farmington, Maine; Kara Lugar for environmental biology at the University of Montana; and Sven Roepke for engineering at Georgia Tech.

Harriet Clark Remembered: An exhibit at the Historical Society in memory of Harriet Clark will open July 4, and will also be open on July 5, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Thereafter, through August 9, it will be open on Tuesdays, 9:30 to noon, and on Saturdays 10 а.м. to 1 р.м.

Tower Meeting Tapes: A series of audio tapes from the May 10 Environmental Tower-Siting Conference has been prepared by the Berkshire-Litchfield Environmental Council. These are available at the Cornwall Library.

Cornwall's Star Scholars & Athletes: Top honors for scholarship and athletic performance have been awarded to three Cornwall students in this year's graduating class at HVRHS. At the school's 42nd annual athletic banquet Juliet Lyon was honored as scholarathlete-citizen of the year, while Kate Heiny and Chris Kesl were named female and male athletes of the year. Lyon was on the cross country, wrestling, and track teams. Heiny played soccer, pioneered the HVRHS swim team, and played doubles on the unbeaten Berkshire League champion girls' tennis team. Kesl was captain of the football, wrestling, and lacrosse teams.

USA Soccer School of Excellence: Enrollment forms for the summer soccer camp are available at the Town Office or at the CCS main office. This year's camp will be held at CCS, July 14-18. For more information call (203) 832-8575 (USA Soccer School) or 672-6373 (Martha Bruehl).



Maps, Maps, Maps: The state requires the Town of Cornwall to revise its master plan in 1997 and P&Z has been working overtime collecting opinions and advice. Now it's time to call all artists, visionaries, futurists, pacifists, and anyone else who has an image to share of what Cornwall should or shouldn't become. You are invited to draw a map of your own personal vision and bring it to the Library before 1 P.M. on July 12. All entries will be on display at the Library from July 14 through August 9. For more information call Tim Prentice, 672-6728.

Republican Caucus: All registered Republicans are encouraged to attend the party caucus on July 15 at 7:30 P.M. at CCS to nominate candidates for the November town elections. Nominations may be made from the floor at the caucus.

Democratic Caucus: All registered Democrats are encouraged to attend the party caucus on July 22 at 7:30 P.M. in the Town Hall to nominate candidates for the November town elections. Nominations may be made from the floor at the caucus.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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