

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 8: NUMBER 5

IUNE 1998



The June 13 Town Meeting concerning the Town Hall/Library question will be adjourned to a referendum to be held Saturday, June 27, from noon to 8 P.M.

Voting machines will be used, and absentee ballots will be available starting June 18. The Town Clerk's Office will be open especially for issuing applications and ballots on Sunday, June 21, from noon to 3 P.M. for those voters unable to get to the office during regular business hours.

Please keep in mind that the process for obtaining an absentee ballot for a referendum is different from the process at a regular election. There is no mailing of applications or ballots by the town clerk. You must apply in person or appoint a designee. The designee—a member of your family, your doctor or nurse, or a registrar of voters—can mail applications and ballots. Jayne Ridgway and Lisa Cruse are the Democratic and Republican registrars respectively, if you need a designee.

There is always some confusion about who may vote at a referendum, so let me spell it out. (1) "Any person who is an elector in the town." This means that your name appears as a voter on the registration list kept current by the registrars. Persons wishing to register to vote may do so up to the Thursday before the referendum. (2) "Any citizen age 18 or more who, jointly or severally, is liable to the town

for taxes assessed against him/her on an assessment of not less than \$1,000 on the Grand List of 1997." This one needs some explanation. First, non-elector property owners (autos or real estate) must, before they can vote, show proof of citizenship, or have it on file with the town clerk from previous referenda; a birth certificate, passport, or naturalization papers will do. Second, only the person listed on the Grand List as owner may vote. There are always a few unhappy non-elector spouses who want to vote, but can't because their names do not appear on the Grand List. Also, a company cannot vote. Third, if you purchased property in town after October 11, 1997, your name is not on the Grand List of 1997. You will not be able to vote unless you become an elector.

If you have questions, please call Cheryl Evans or Vera Dinneen at 672-2709 Monday—Thursday 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. —Cheryl Evans

Chronicle Quiz

While working on the Cornwall Library's application for a state building grant, I had to respond to the following question: Is the proposed site listed on the National Register of Historic Places? I called Paul Boudreau, executive director of the Northwest Corner Council of Governments, to get the answer. He looked in his copy of the Register and told

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me that six Cornwall locations are listed. How many can you name? Hint: the Town Hall is not one of them.

—David A. Grossman (Answers elsewhere in this issue)

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Life After High School

On June 23, ten HVRHS Cornwallians will don their caps and gowns. Adam Augustyn plans to study graphic arts at UConn Storrs. Audrey Augustyn will take a year off to travel. Matthew Budge will also be at UConn Storrs. Jacob Gingert will attend Emory University in Atlanta. Chandra Casteel heads off to SUNY Cobbleskill with plans to study landscape design. Melissa Dolan is enrolled in the Vet Tech program at SUNY in Delhi, New York. Peter Ripley will attend community college in Rutland, Vermont.

Eric Rosenbeck will stay in the area and continue to play music. Becky Wolfe will travel in 1998–99 and attend SUNY Cobbleskill in the fall of 1999. Lea Zimany heads north to the University of Vermont in Burlington to focus on environmental science.

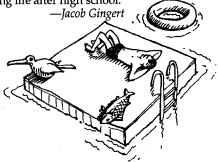
In addition, five Cornwallians are graduating from area private schools. Corey Lazar, a Hotchkiss graduate, will attend Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Davina Piker, also Hotchkiss '98, will study at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. Janna Kenniston, a Kent graduate, heads southwest to the University of Arizona in Tucson.

(continued on page 2)

IUNL 1996						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Art Show, Ken Keskinen Nat. Iron Bank, through June (p.4) Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	Park & Rec. 8 p.m. Town Office Inland Wetlands 8 p.m. Town Hall *	Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Stretch Exercise Class 5-6 P.M. Town Hall Cub Scout Parents Meeting 7 P.M. UCC Day Room CGS Spring Concert 7:30 P.M. CCS (p.3) Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	4	There will be NO Preschooler Story Hour during the month of June. Library/Town Hall Information Meeting 7:30 P.M. CCS (p.4)	6
Soccer at HVRHS Every Sunday through Labor Day. (p.4)	8 CCS Art Exhibit Opening and Musical Recital 6:30 p.m. CCS (p.3) P&Z 8 p.m. Town Hall	Ornwall Child Center Annual Mtg. 7:15 p.m. CCC. (p.4) Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Republican Town Comm. 7:30 p.m. CCS Conference Rm. Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 p.m. CCS Lib.	10 Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's West Cornwall Library Assn. Annual Mtg., 2 P.M. Hughes Memorial Library (p.4) Stretch Exercise Class 5-6 P.M. Town Hall CCS PTA 7 P.M. CCS Lib.	11 Cornwall Housing Corp. 4:30 p.m. Kugeman Village Bd. of Ed. 5 p.m. CCS Lib.	12	Library/Town Office Town Meeting 7:30 P.M. CCS Gym (p.4)
Talk: Women's Health 4 P.M. Hughes Lib. (p.3)	15 July Chronicle Copy Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Library	Bd. of Selectmen 9 a.m. Town Hall	17 Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Stretch Exercise Class 5-6 P.M. Town Hall Jubilee/Cornwall Children Presentation 7 P.M. UCC (p.3) Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	CCS Graduation 7 P.M. CCS (p.3) Agric. Advis. Comm. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	19 Park & Rec. Concert at Cream Hill Lake Assn. 5–8 p.m. (p.4)	20 Hammond Beach Opens (p.4) Cornwall Assoc. 4 p.m. Town Hall
21 FATHER'S DAY	Cornwall Lib. Art Show, Works by CCS Students through 7/25 (p.4) Seniors Group 4 P.M. Town Hall (p.2) ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall *	Last Day of School at CCS HVRHS Graduation 6 P.M.	24 Stretch Exercise Class 5–6 P.M. Town Hall Fire Dept. 8 P.M. West Cornwall Firehouse	25	26	27 Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day at HVRHS (p.4) Hughes Lib. Flea Market & Book Sale 10 A.M.—4 P.M. (p.4) Library/Town Office Referendum Noon to 8 P.M. Town Hall (p.4)
28	29	30	Rummage collection starts July 1 for July 18 Rummage Sale, UCC Parish House. Questions? Call Thalia Scoville, 672-6288, or Priscilla Mauro, 672-6969.	625 22 mg	Attention Gardeners and Other Exhibitors: Ag. Fair coming September 19.	

(continued from page 1)

Katherine Waterston, a Loomis-Chaffee graduate, and Kate Sandmeyer, graduating from Rumsey Hall, will both continue their studies at New York University. Summer plans are varied, but all are eagerly anticipating life after high school.



Onward and Upward at CCS

Nineteen CCS eighth-graders will march up the aisle to receive their diplomas on June 18 at 7 P.M. While most graduates will go on to HVRHS, some are still undecided, so we will simply list the names of the graduating class:

Theodore S. H. Austin, Christopher Austin Barrett, Shannon M. Davis, Corey A. Fontana, Grace Carey Gilroy, Anna Christine Gray, Tyler Flint Grimes, Karin Hope Heaney, Nicholas Robertson Hunter, Meghan Louise Kochman, David Nickeson, Elyse Rose Piker, Devon Leigh Root, Zachary Wade Rudes, Donna Lee Sager, Jessica Ashley Segalla, Robert F. Sterzl, Dustin Marron Tuthill, and BB Vanam. Congratulations all!

—The Editors

The Spirit of Cornwall

How long did it take? Mel cocks an eye and says, "Gave up counting hours after 400—probably take 600 by the time fabric cover is finished. Started building the airplane four years ago." Melvin Degreenia isn't building an airplane in his son's basement on Pierce Lane—he has already built it, not from a kit but from scratch.

The airplane is a replica of a 1930s vintage Pietenpol Aircamper, originally powered by a Ford Model A engine, but in Mel's version the prop will spin via Kawasaki. And what Mel has built is just beautiful to look at, too! Constructed from carefully selected local pine and fir, and 1/16" plywood, the Aircamper—still without its fabric cover—looks like a finely crafted piece of furniture. Mel reports that the next step is to disassemble the plane and take it to Pittsfield, where the local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association has undertaken to help Mel cover his aircraft.

"When do you expect to be airborne for the first time?" I asked. "Hopefully by the end of this summer," Mel replies. "But first I will have to get some pilot time in a Piper Cub-type plane." A Cub is the closest there is to Mel's airplane, and Mel, who now has about 40 hours of pilot time in more substantial airplanes, wants some practice before strapping himself into the single-seat aircraft for its first flight from some area airfield.

—Earl Brecher

The Glory Days of Recess

(Reprinted with permission from The CCS Chronicle, Jr. published annually by the CCS Sixth Grade)

My dad often tells me stories of recess when he was a kid, how they would run out to the field and play many different games. He said the games were basically the same then as they are now except he and his friends were allowed to play contact games. They could tackle and knock the other kids over. He told me about a game he used to play where a kid would throw a football backwards over his head towards a group of other kids. Whoever caught the ball would try to run across the field before they were tackled by the other group of kids. If the kid with the ball made it across the field before being tackled he would be safe and turn and throw the ball over his head to someone else. This would go on all recess, and they never got into trouble.

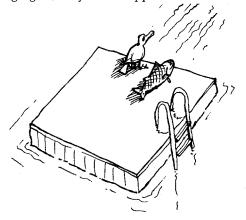
Not anymore, though. Now it seems that if a kid even bumps into another kid he or she gets in trouble. Kids are no longer allowed to use physical contact. Kids aren't even allowed to throw snow balls anymore. Kids also get less recess time. Kids are no longer allowed to play outside before school starts. The upper-grade students get one 20-minute recess. The lower grades get 20 more minutes of recess than the upper grades but 40 minutes is still not a lot.

We're still kids. We need to play. I think the people in charge should lighten up a little. The school has become too afraid of what could happen if a kid gets hurt on the school grounds. If those in charge of making the rules are afraid of getting sued, we could have an agreement. Some parents would be happy to sign an agreement saying they would not sue, if it meant a little more fun for their kids. It's time to let kids roughhouse and have some fun, like the good old days.

—Cale Williamson

Un-Trashing Our Town

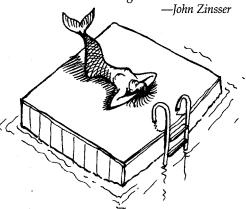
Some 20 Cornwallians—twice as many as last year—turned out on May 16 for the second annual Spring Cleanup. Organized by Deirdre Fischer and her cohorts, it was an enjoyable and volunteer-friendly event. Fruit, snacks, and homemade blueberry muffins greeted volunteers outside the convenience store at the Four Corners. After logging in, they were supplied with work



gloves, plastic garbage bags, and slips of paper suggesting an area to clean (you could also clean where you wanted).

At the end of the cleanup a small mountain of garbage bags had accumulated and some interesting items found. A couch was found in the river near Trinity Camp, and someone found a muffler with a squirrel living in it. Someone else found a diaper (fully loaded). I was surprised to find a number of lollypop sticks. Hard to think of Cornwall tots winging lollypops out of car windows.

A wonderful event which helps the town and should continue to grow.



Welcome

William Garrison to Scott and Amy Bishop Camassar Nicholas Winsser to Ann Petracek and Johan Winsser

Good-bye to a Friend

Beatrice Flexner

Land Transfers

Frances B. Wood to Carol S. Nelson and Harry dePolo, .102 acres at Dibble Hill and Sharon-Goshen Turnpike for \$5,000.

Margaret Jodry to Phillip R. West, 3.12 acres on Cream Hill Road for \$25,000.

Patrick J. and Rita G. Quinn to Joseph A. Gwazdauskas and Ruthellen Griffin, house and land on Railroad Street for \$118,000.

Events & Announcements

Here, Spot! Here, Lassie! June is registration month for Cornwall's canine population. A current rabies certificate must be presented when applying for a license. So visit your vet now, or check out the list of low-cost vaccination clinics held in nearby towns this month. It's posted in the Town Clerk's office. Licenses are \$6 for spayed or neutered dogs; otherwise it's \$16. There's a fine for late registration, and fines for non-registration or expired rabies certificates can total \$190!

A Seniors Group, formerly the Committee on Aging (they're working on a new name), invites all interested to join their group. The group is currently focusing on three areas: programs for seniors, guest speakers, and trips to points of interest. This month's meeting will be held on June 22 at 4 P.M. in the Town Hall.

Letters to the Chronicle



"VOTE YES," SELECTMEN SAY

Readers of the Cornwall Chronicle will know that the Board of Selectmen has been in negotiations with the Cornwall Library Association for two years concerning the future use of the space that the two organizations now share in the Town Hall/Library building. We have reached an agreement which—if approved by the people of Cornwall at the June 27 referendum—will have three parts: First, we will compensate the Library for the space it now occupies with a cash payment of \$250,000, which will have to be matched with an equal or greater amount of private donations to the Library project.

Second, we will ask voters to approve \$100,000 to be used to prepare the Library/Town Hall building for use as a public space and town offices. This means that the stage and the public meeting room now used by the Library for book stacks will be restored to its former use and that the room the Library now occupies will be reconditioned to become shared office space for the first selectman and the town treasurer. In addition, walls will be knocked out in the current town office to better accommodate town workers in that building and the parking lot will be repaved.

Third, if the voters approve, the town will contribute \$17,000 per year for 15 years towards operating expenses of a new library. This amount roughly equals the average now paid to public libraries in Connecticut by towns of Cornwall's size.

There is a need for these projects. Some current offices are only 60 square feet and are overflowing. Both buildings, frequently used by the community, need paint, refurbishing, and code compliance work done. The cost of the proposed renovations are a fraction of the previous plans for the town offices.

There is a need for a new library. Town support, by a positive referendum vote, will enable the Library to bring to fruition plans for a new and vastly improved facility for the benefit of the whole community.

We believe this proposal will help solve two ancient town problems as practically as possible.

We urge townspeople to participate in the upcoming Town Meeting process.

—The Board of Selectmen Gordon Ridgway, Earl Brecher, Jack Preston

UPDATE ON THE AUCTION

More than 300 people braved the damp day to support the Cornwall Child Center's Seventh Annual Auction, which raised \$19,300 to bridge the gap between tuition and expenses. Thanks to all of you who made it happen, and to Carol Lugar of Mohawk Mountain Ski Area who once again donated use of that fine lodge. Special thanks also to Sarah Paul, who is stepping down after three years as president of the Child Center. The indefatigable Sarah has given everything she's got—and that's a lot. Cornwall's loss is truly California's gain.

—Jamie Monagan

IS CORNWALL ANTI-BUSINESS?

A letter in the April edition of the Chronicle suggests that people are still searching for answers for the empty storefronts and parking spaces in the town, and singles out the "antibusiness attitude" of the Planning and Zoning Commission as a possible reason.

Consumers in Cornwall have many alternatives in the Northwest Corner for the purchase of almost all of their needs. The merchants in Cornwall who have competed successfully either offer a relatively inexpensive and necessary item more conveniently than others at a competitive price (a good example is Northwest Lumber's hardware store), or they offer a more expensive or perhaps luxury item at a higher quality than anyone else (for instance, Ingersoll's Shaker furniture). The merchants who have closed, or find their parking lots empty, are not competing successfully on these terms.

Consumers are making the choice of who succeeds, not P&Z. Our zoning regulations are comparable to those of nearby towns, and do not put Cornwall merchants at a disadvantage. P&Z has made aggressive use of variances to promote business.

I would patronize a good bakery in town to save trips to Kent. A fast-food restaurant would do well in Cornwall by delivering a quick hot meal priced under \$5. (Objectionable building styles and signs need not be a part of it.)

—Ron Hummel

"VOTE YES," SAYS A FRIEND

The Cornwall Library in the lovely stone building has been enjoyed by generations of



Cornwall residents. But the books have outgrown the building, and the Library trustees, backed by the Friends of the Cornwall Library, have chosen to move out and construct a new building right down the road.

This new space will serve all of us. The books will still be there, as well as the books on tape, the videos, and the artwork, but the Library will now become a community resource with plenty of room to sit and read, computer stations to explore the world, and an expanded area for children and young people. The Library will be open more often and be able to offer the services Cornwall needs.

We are being asked to consider at a Town Meeting an agreement which the selectmen and the Library trustees have signed to finance this move. Some money will come from the town's unused bond funds, but most of it will come from fund-raising and special events we can all enjoy over the next three years.

I've been a member of the Friends of the Cornwall Library board for four years and this opportunity to create a new library building and help it become a special place for everyone in Cornwall has been most exciting. I urge you to support the Library's move.

-Susan Gingert

HOUSE FACTS WANTED

I have started restoring the abandoned house at the intersection of Routes 128 and 43 (North Corners). It was build by Dr. Joseph North in 1914 on the site of an earlier North home destroyed by fire on Christmas Eve 1886 (with the loss of one life). Dr. North and his daughter Dr. Carrie North Stevens both conducted their medical practices there until the mid-twenties. Subsequently the house was purchased by Albert McKitis, who operated the filling station now known as Berkshire Country Store.

I would be grateful to hear from anyone who has photos or knowledge of this house in better days. I can be reached at 78 Popple Swamp Road, Cornwall Bridge, 06754 or by phone at 672-6437.

—Matthew Collins

CCS Events: A spring concert will be given on Wednesday, June 3, at 7:30 p.m. The annual Art Exhibit will be on display June 8–12. Following the opening, at 6:30 p.m., June 8, there will be a musical recital. Also, the PTA is planning special events for June 9, 10, and 11. Call Susan Gallo, 672-0610, for details. Graduation ceremonies will take place on Thursday, June 18, at 7 p.m.—outside; weather permitting. The speaker will be Jim Terrall. Please come and say congratulations and good luck to our eighth graders. Recep-

tion following the ceremonies at Mohawk Ski Area.

Women's Naturopathic Health: From Fertility to Menopause is the subject of a talk to be given June 14 at 4 P.M. at the Hughes Memorial Library by Monique Allen, a practicing herbalist who now lives at Yelping Hill.

Jubilee School to Visit Cornwall: About 50 students, teachers, and parents from Philadelphia's Jubilee School will arrive on Monday, June 15. Sponsored by the United

Church of Christ, the annual visit will include Jeremy Brecher's *Amistad* film, a trip to the Freedom Trail in Farmington, two nights at Camp Mohawk, farm and garden tours, and lots of swimming. Cornwallians wishing to offer bed and breakfast to Jubileers on Monday and Tuesday nights (June 15 and 16) may call Peg Keskinen (672-6486) or Carla Whiteside (672-6018). Jubilee and Cornwall children will present a program on Wednesday, June 17, at 7 P.M. at the church. All invited.

Hammond Beach on Cream Hill Lake will open on Saturday, June 20, for the summer season. Hours are 11 A.M. to 7 P.M. daily. Season passes, available at the Selectmen's Office or the beach, are \$20 per family or \$10 for an individual. Sign-up times for swim lessons and swim team are June 25 and 26, 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. at the beach or at Cream Hill Lake Association. For more information call Jane Prentice (672-6101) re Hammond Beach or Anne Kosciusko (672-3169) re CHLA.

Save These Dates! There will be two important meetings and a referendum on the Library/Town Hall proposal this month: an informational meeting on June 5 at 7:30 р.м. at CCS; a Town Meeting on June 13 at 7:30 P.M. at CCS; and a referendum on June 27 from noon until 8 P.M. at the Town Hall. Please read carefully the article on page one entitled "Be Sure You Can Vote!" And vote!

Tennis in Cornwall: Once again Park & Rec., in conjunction with the Cornwall Limited Liability Corp., is refurbishing the two clay courts that used to belong to Marvelwood for use by the residents of Cornwall and their guests. There are a few posted reminders to observe. Please, please wear smooth-soled sneakers and always sweep after playing (including lines). Those feeling ambitious are encouraged to roll the courts. For information about lessons or July tennis clinics please contact Todd Piker at 672-6545 or tpiker@msn.com.

Soccer! Play recreational soccer every weekend this summer. Games will be played on Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 at the High School from May 24, through Labor Day weekend. Questions: Art Gingert (672-0077) or Greg Marsan (927-4459). If there is enough interest, we'll schedule games on Thursday evenings. Players of both sexes, 13 and over (no upper limit!). Please bring a soccer ball if you can and plenty of water and/or sodas.



Who is doing what? The Chronicle knows and will tell, but only if it has the funds to do so. Please send a check today.

Children's Library Activities: Two programs will be held, running from the week of July 6 through the week of August 17, based on the theme "What do you like to do?" Preschoolers and their parents will meet at the Library on Friday mornings at 10 for stories, activities, and snacks. Young readers up to about age eight will have their time Wednesday evenings at 6:45, with occasional cameo appearances by townspeople who will demonstrate their interest in gardening, painting, eating, and other favorite things. As a reading incentive, kids can "Read a Book, Find a Treasure," and uncover an old "wall" in the Library, brick by brick.

Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day will be June 27, at the High School. This is your chance to get rid of those nasty things in your basement. If you're not sure what is and what isn't hazardous, ask Joyce Hart, at 672-4959. Also, you have to register with her and get a ticket in order to drop off your "hazmats." And if you combine your glop with your neighbor's you'll save the town some money, as we're charged by the ticket.

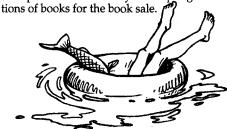
A Summer Camp Program for children ages three through kindergarten is being offered by the Cornwall Child Center. There will be three theme-based sessions, running from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M., Mondays through Fridays. Week One, Exploring the Farm, will take place from July 13 to 17; Week Two, Water Week, from July 20 to 24; and Week Three, Native American Camp Week, from July 27 to 31. The cost is \$110 per child per week. Registrations and fees must be received by June 15. Enrollment is limited to 12 children per session, so don't delay! For more information contact Laura or Pam at the Center, 672-6989.

The annual general meeting of the Cornwall Child Center will take place on Tuesday, June 9 at 7:15 P.M. at the Center. The slate of officers and new board members will be presented. Anyone who has contributed \$1 or more is invited to attend.

Summer Concert Series: Park & Rec. is sponsoring three concerts this simmer. The first, on Friday, June 19, is a picnic party featuring the Caribbean Beach Bums, at the Cream Hill Lake Association, from 5 to 8 P.M. Adults \$5,

Then on Friday, July 17, there will be a dance, also at CHLA, with music by Ram Miles & Advanced Punk. From 8 to 11:30 P.M. Adults: \$5 (\$6 at the door). And on Saturday, August 15, Peter McEachern and the Mario Pavone Ensemble Jazz will give a concert at Cornubia Hall from 7 to 9 P.M. Adults \$5 (\$6 at the door). For reservations and further information call Skip Hunt at 672-3171.

Hughes News: The West Cornwall Library Association will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, June 10, at 2 р.м. at the Hughes Memorial Library. Plans are under way for the annual Flea Market and Book Sale on June 27 from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Spaces are available for \$15 apiece and the library is accepting dona-



Art in Cornwall: Junktures and Sculptures by Ken Keskinen will be on view at the National Iron Bank during the month of June. At the Cornwall Library, Peter Barrett's show will continue until June 20. Then, beginning June 22, there will be an exhibit of works by CCS students. This show will run until July 25.

Food Drive A Success! The National Rural Letter Carrier Food Drive, which took place on May 9, amassed 350 pounds of food and supplies-404 items in all-for the benefit of OWL's Kitchen. Contributors left their items in their mailboxes or brought them to the West Cornwall Post Office.

World War I Posters: The exhibit now at the Cornwall Historical Society, Cornwall Plains, of posters issued by the U.S. government and various agencies, will continue through June 27. The posters promote enlistment, recruitment, books for military personnel, Liberty Loans, food production and distribution, Red Cross, and refugee relief. Open Tuesdays 9 A.M.-noon, Saturdays 10 A.M.-1 P.M.

Answers to the National Register quiz: The Cornwall Bridge Railroad Station; the Cream Hill Agricultural School (the classroom and dormitory buildings were recently moved to state land in Kent adjacent to the Sloane-Stanley Museum); Red Mountain Shelter, a Federal Work Relief Program structure located off Route 4, adjacent to the former path of the Appalachian Trail; Rumsey Hall; General Sedgwick's house on Hautboy Hill Road; and the West Cornwall Covered Bridge.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

ILLUSTRATIONS Michael Gellatly

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