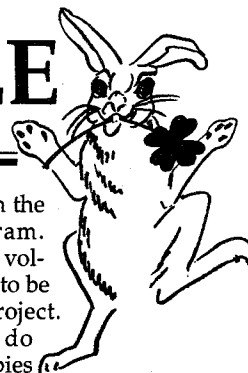




# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 7 : NUMBER 2 MARCH 1997



## Record Week For Firefighters

Fire Chief David Williamson says that the last week in January may have been the busiest in the history of the CVFD. Five alarms kept our crew on the go. These ranged from the relatively inconsequential—someone burning brush without a permit on Popple Swamp Road—to a flame-gutted house burglarized for a half million dollars worth of property before the fire started.

On Monday the 27<sup>th</sup>, fire broke out in an ancient pickup truck its owner was driving on a North Cornwall farm. The CVFD, though on hand in great numbers, was unable to prevent a total loss. (From a reporter's point of view, the best angle on this story is that the owner was First Selectman Gordon Ridgway.) More serious, but with little lasting damage, was a chimney fire in the Kathleen Duke house on Route 4 later in the week.

Two other fires virtually destroyed private homes. On January 28, a house on Guinea Road in Sharon, just across the Housatonic from Cornwall Bridge, yielded to the flames. The Cornwall crew was on the scene first, but was delayed by a long icy driveway before attacking the fire and then giving control to the arriving Sharon captain. Just three days later, minutes before

midnight on January 30, an automatic alarm came from the house of Robert L. Harris on Whitcomb Hill Road in Cornwall Bridge. Harris, who owns a gun shop on Route 7 (that sign- and window-less building across from Whitcomb Hill Road), was away at a Las Vegas gun show at the time. Even with the help of nine other towns, the CVFD had no way to save the two-story house.

A week later, on February 7, police announced that suspected arson at the Harris property may have shielded a robbery, which had to have taken place between 2 P.M. on January 29 and 11:25 P.M. on January 30. Harris had kept about 170 old handguns in the house. The thieves knew just what they were doing. They took only the most valuable pieces from the collection, so that \$500,000 worth of weapons could be carried off with ease.

In all probability, the robber or robbers now have an assortment of old and valuable firearms that they are trying to sell. Anyone with information, which will be kept confidential, is asked to call Trooper James Lynch at the Western District Major Crimes Squad in Litchfield at (860) 567-3138. —Bob Potter

## More Kids—More Volunteers

We don't need Bill Clinton to tell us about volunteerism. Our town is continuing its his-

tory of helping out with the CCS volunteer program. Teachers, students and volunteers are finding this to be a highly rewarding project. The jobs volunteers do range from making copies to putting up bulletin boards and listening to first graders as they struggle to read their first books. Some volunteers have found it is not even necessary to leave their homes: they're making "books on tape" for students' use.

Elise Meneshin, who is new to town, dove right in by helping the first grade two days a week. One task was to help children as they learned about coins and prices in the "store" made up of empty grocery boxes. She said, "One of the girls was jumping up and down. She was so excited about the prospect of 'shopping.'" Marie Gold says she thinks the program is a good idea and it is fun to work with the kids. Back in Sweden where she is a teacher, the parents don't have the opportunity to work in the classroom.

On the other side of the teacher's desk, first grade teacher Bonnie Burdick enthusiastically states that having a volunteer every day has helped her large class immensely. Florence Budge claims she and her fourth grade would be lost without volunteers. Cur-

(continued on page 2)

## MARCH 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			All Wednesdays: Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Lutheran Church Stretch Exercise-Alice Cadwell 5:30-6:30 P.M. Town Hall Computer & Internet Introduction 6-8 P.M. Library			1
2 Salt & Pepper Gospel Singers Concert 5 P.M. UCC (p.4)	3 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	4 Park & Rec. 7:30 P.M. Town Office Inland Wetlands* 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	5 W. Cornwall Merchants Assoc. 10 A.M. Hedgerows Cub Scout Parent Meeting 7 P.M. UCC Day Room	6 Circus Club 4-5 P.M. UCC (p.4)	7 Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Park & Rec. Game Night 7-9 P.M. W. Cornwall Firehouse (p.4)	8
9	10 Art Show, Nancy Bevans 3/10-4/12 Library P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	11 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Republican Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Girl Scout Food Drive CCS (p.4)	12 CCS PTA 7 P.M. CCS Library	13 Circus Club 4-5 P.M. UCC (p.4) Bd. of Ed. Presents Budget to Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	14 Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Internet Tutorials 10-noon Library Town Meeting 7:30 CCS (p.4)	15 Deadline for April Chronicle copy Poetry Slam 4:30 P.M. Library (p.4)
16	17 St. PATRICK'S DAY Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Library	18 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall	19	20 Circus Club 4-5 P.M. UCC (p.4) Bd. of Education 5 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	21 Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Coffee House for High-Schoolers 7:30-10 P.M. UCC (p.4) Bat Program 7 P.M. Town Hall (p.4)	22 Cornwall Association 4 P.M. Town Hall
23 PALM SUNDAY	24 ZBA* 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	25	26 Cornwall Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	27 Circus Club 4-5 P.M. UCC (p.4)	28 GOOD FRIDAY Internet Tutorials 10-noon Library	29 Park & Rec. Easter Egg Hunt 11 A.M. CCS (p.4)
30 EASTER SUNDAY	31 					

\*Check time and place at Town Hall.

(continued from page 1)

rently they are helping to get stories written down from oral histories of Cornwall collected by the students from their senior citizen interviews.

One interesting spin-off from the volunteer program is The Bridge Kids' Press, a writing center located in the computer room. Volunteers will assist students in the process of bringing their stories from draft copy to bound book to share with others.

Bill Clinton can go build bridges to the 21<sup>st</sup> century in other towns. In Cornwall, we've already got our bridge covered.

—Tricia Collins



### School Enrollment Increase Looms

According to the State Department of Education, enrollment at CCS will peak at about 225 students sometime between the years 2000 and 2003. Current enrollment is 189, an increase of 31 since last September.

The predicted increase over the next few years is derived from a calculation based on the number of births and housing units built in any given year. The number of new housing units built in 1993 leapt to 26 with the construction of Kugeman Village, after a number of years during which very few houses were built. According to the Department of Education report, the bulge will begin with an increase of six new pupils in second grade in 2000-01, followed by an annually increasing number of pupils in the higher grades until we reach an increase of nine in sixth grade by the year 2003. According to current projections, by that year a maximum of 225 students will have been reached. Thereafter enrollment will start to drop gradually.

The first four years of the next millennium will make the greatest demands on the school. According to CCS Principal Bill Oros there is sufficient space for the additional pupils, since the school was built to accommodate 225 pupils. However, more teaching staff will have to be hired, and this will mean continuing budget increases during the coming three or four years.

We cannot say that we have not been warned!

—John Leich

### What Next, Juliet?

Cornwall's Juliet Lyon, the newly crowned Berkshire League 105-pound wrestling champ, lives in a world of enthusiastic friends and one designated enemy. Among her friends are the schoolmates who selected her captain of two teams (wrestling and cross

country) and president of the Student Council. The enemy—that unlucky guy at the opposite corner of the mat.

Juliet sees nothing unusual about a girl competing in this basically male sport. She counts at least 20 other varsity and junior varsity female wrestlers in Connecticut, including Cornwall's Becky Wolfe. But the Berkshire League, a strong Class S wrestling power, has never had a female title holder before.

During the season Juliet wrestled at 112 pounds and compiled a record of eight wins and five losses. At tournament time she determined to "get serious." She pared down to the next weight class of 105 pounds and got three pins in three matches.

Now, it's on to the State tournament in Norwich. Juliet will have to go back up to 112 for this one. "I can't wait," she said, and to prove her point she has arranged to come back from a church youth conference in Puerto Rico a day early to be in time for her first match.

What's next in Juliet's other life? Another tournament, of course—this one a musical one, when she and the other members of the HVRHS Jazz Band travel to California later this year to match riffs (Juliet plays trumpet) with a bunch of jumpin' high school cats from across the nation. Then, after graduation, by virtue of winning one of the grants given by the Salisbury Rotary, Juliet is off to Ecuador for a year of study as an exchange student.

—Scoville D. Soulé

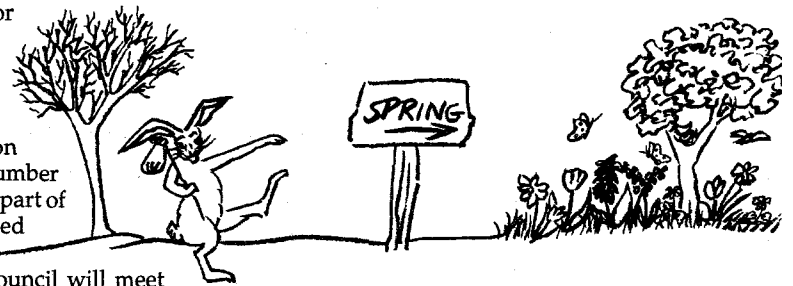
### CHC Creates Advisory Council

To help plan for and meet on-going housing needs in Cornwall, the Housing Corporation has invited a number of citizens to be part of its newly formed Advisory Council. The council will meet

at least once a year with the board to discuss policies and procedures. Council members may also serve on working subcommittees at other times.

Members of the new council include Nick Bruehl, Anne Baren, Bob Beers, Cynthia Bianchi, Scott Cady, Mary Cahill, Richard Donohoe, Peter Ebersol, Joseph Evans, Anne Hubbard, Ron Laigle, Jr., Norma Lake, Pat Mulberry, Hector Prud'homme, Alice Read, Gordon Ridgway, Andrew Roraback, Ralph Sandmeyer, Jim Terrall, Lydia Wolf, and John Zinsser.

The Housing Corporation continues its search for more parcels to add to its "parcel program," and is considering the purchase of



several that might accommodate at least two homes each.

Kugeman Village is fully occupied. Cornwall folk who are considering a move to Kugeman (either now or later) are encouraged to get their names on the waiting list. At the moment, one-bedroom units have the shortest list; two- and three-bedroom units are in most demand. Call Anne Baren at 672-4439 if you plan such future moves.

—Ken Keskinen

### P&Z Planning Info

For those of us who are interested in following the discussions on the 1997 Town Plan there is an unusual opportunity in the form of a loose-leaf binder available in the Town Clerk's Office. Therein P&Z Clerk Maggie Cooley has assembled all documents, statements, records of meeting, and reports on the January Saturday-morning input sessions concerning the Town Plan. If anyone is interested in having a thorough knowledge of all the issues involved (gravel pits, industrial zones, economic development, conservation, etc.), he/she can find a wealth of information in this collection.

—John Leich

### Welcome

Emma Marie Fischer  
to Deirdre and Adam Fischer

Hannah Lynn Laigle to Debbie Lynn Laigle

### Good-bye to Friends

Barbara Baird

Walter H. Kilham

Frederick C. Yutzler

### Land Transfers

Cynthia D. Hasler to John F. Green, house and lot at 112 Town Street for \$340,000.

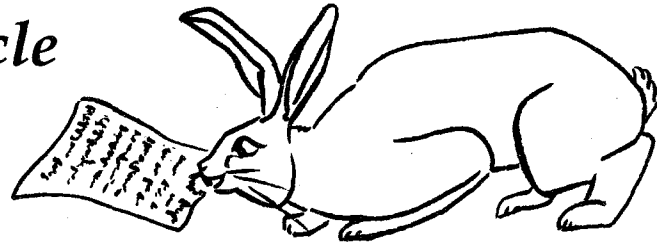
### The Many Faces of David Bean

If you want to know what David Bean looks like, here's your opportunity. Bean's self-portraits, now on exhibition at the Cornwall Library, include a variety of media—pen and ink, acrylic, watercolor, charcoal, pencil—as well as a variety of styles.

Where we don't see much variety is in the artist's facial expression. Let us say the range is from pensive to serious to wary to firm to smoldering to threatening. Ah, except for *Artist Selling Himself*, where he sports a maniacal grin.

Take special note of the series of highly-skilled watercolors on the ends of the three main library shelves. —Alfred Bredenberg

# Letters to the Chronicle



## BIG SHOES NOW EMPTY

This spring Maggie Cooley is retiring as the town's land use clerk and Evelyn Gelerter as beach director. I thank both of them for years of service, helping to make Cornwall a special place.

Maggie has kept Planning and Zoning, Inland Wetlands, and Zoning Board of Appeals on track while our citizens vigorously debated issues including affordable housing, sawmills, and gravel mining. Not an easy job. Her thoughtfulness and wit will be missed.

Evelyn has directed the town beach for over 15 years. She was active in the transition from Laurel Lodge to Hammond Beach. Keeping townspeople afloat is a big responsibility.

If you are interested in applying to fill these big shoes, please contact the Selectmen's Office at 672-4959.

—Gordon Ridgway

only one, since the least expensive option is not always the wisest and might be more expensive in the long run. Our goal is to provide the best facility and materials we feel we can reasonably afford. We do not take lightly the responsibility for the efficient operation of the Library for the community and for planning for the Library's future.

We ask that you keep an open mind until full, factual information and responsible cost figures are available on all the options and recommendations are made. We welcome input from our neighbors.

— The Trustees of the Cornwall Library Association: Audrey Ferman, president, John Calhoun, vice president, Richard Blake, Theresa Carlson, Kay Fenn, Montgomery Hare, Madeline Lape, John Miller, Phyllis Nauts

A couple of things weren't quite correct, however—the numbers coming to the Soup Kitchen now range from 80 to 100 but NOT 180.

Also, out-of-towners are discouraged at the kitchen so I don't think Cornwallites would be a good idea there. However, I don't think Cornwall folk have been going anyway.

This is all just to get the record straight.

—Lydia Wolf

## LIBRARY TRUSTEES SPEAK

We feel that it is time to speak directly to you about the plans to solve the space crunch at the Library and how they are linked to the town. We have been relatively quiet about these issues as we felt it was our job to bring the problem before the town and then gather the information necessary to make a decision. Some progress has been made in gathering information at special selectmen's meetings.

We are now forming a new committee consisting of representatives from the Board of Selectmen, the Library Trustees, and the community at large.

In October, a majority of the trustees voted to remain in the Library Building if feasible. Before that preference was voiced we had started the long process of looking at possibilities with architects. The preference was based not simply on tradition or a reluctance to change the John E. Calhoun trust, but also on the conviction, supported by our architect, that the design, open spaces, and high ceilings of the Library Building were far better suited to library use than town office use. And that the already divided classroom space in the Monroe/Bodkin building would be more suitable for town offices than for a library. However, no option has been ruled out at this time.

Letters supporting a move to Monroe/Bodkin argue that it is the easiest and least expensive, but the figures being tossed about are speculation and so far there are no professionally derived cost comparisons. Also, the amount to be paid to whichever party moves from the Library Building has not been agreed on or even negotiated, so again the figures are pure speculation.

The Library has always operated in a conservative and fiscally prudent manner and we will not jump into a project that seems unattainable. Cost will be a very important factor but not the

## BUCKY UPDATE

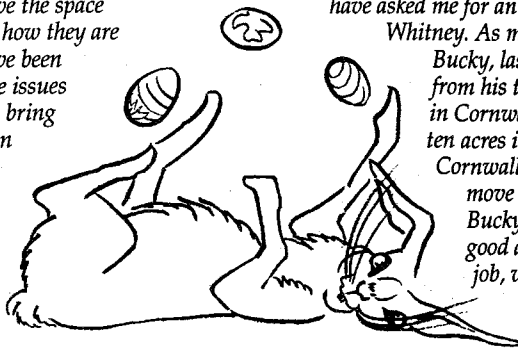
During the last few months several people have asked me for an update on Bucky Whitney. As most will remember, Bucky, last April, moved from his trailer on Lake Road in Cornwall to a trailer on ten acres in Denmark, Maine.

Cornwall helped to make this move possible, and Bucky, initially, made a good adjustment, had a job, was making friends and all was well.

However, over the summer, in

the course of some routine dental work, it was discovered that Bucky had cancer. This was treated with radiation but shortly after Thanksgiving it was decided that he would need surgery as well. This was done in mid-January with chemotherapy to follow. Buck's address is P.O. Box 846, Denmark, ME 04022.

—Earl Brecher



## THANKS AGAIN

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers of the Cornwall Fire Department as well as the ambulance squad. On January 21, a chimney fire started in our home. Within minutes of our emergency call volunteers started arriving and had the fire rapidly under control. Thank God none of us was injured, and other than the chimney damage, the rest of the house was spared. The mess from the fire was essentially minimal, thanks to the consideration and thoughtfulness of these fine people. We once again thank you all.

—John and Terry Elliott

## WE STAND CORRECTED!

I'm so glad John Leich included the Tarrington Soup Kitchen in his write-up of food resources for the needy. Hopefully this will give donations a boost.

## A NOTE OF THANKS

Last December I was diagnosed with cancer—quite a shock when you're 33 and raising a young family. But we're taking every day as it comes. I would like to thank all our friends and neighbors in Cornwall, some of whom I have never even met, for contributing to the Gas Fund established for us at the Berkshire Country Store. We so much appreciate every card, call, good thought, and prayer sent our way and truly feel blessed to have so many wonderful people around us. Thank you.

—Paul (and Irene) Fossati

## BRICKS OF MEMORY

The brusque, character-less exterior of Marvelwood's Miller Dorm was certainly an affront to all of the traditional New England structures that surrounded it. Few will dispute that its departure from the Cornwall landscape has been an improvement, and that some of the architectural integrity of the town has thus been reinstated. However, as a former Marvelwood instructor and Dean of Students, I do take exception to Mr. Moore's "Ode" in the January Chronicle. It seems insensitive to the idea that the building provided a sense of place to the many students and faculty that were housed there over the years. There were many episodes of learning within its walls in which students grew somewhat better of character and moral strength in a close community of their peers and the faculty who oversaw them. Of course, within its walls there were also many episodes in which students tested the fabric of the rules not infrequently! Nevertheless, it did have a history and energy all of its own, most of it positive, and to me, memorable.

I, for one, do not miss the building in a physical sense. Its monumental mass imposed itself, unwelcomed, on the town. However, I do miss it as a place—a place where many thrived, and staggered, in their education.

I have a good many bricks from Miller Dorm in my barn—rescued from the dust. I give them to former Marvelwood students who come by to visit me and to see what has become of their school. I give them a brick and with it a memory and a sense of place.

—Hugh Cheney

## Events & Announcements

**Town Meeting:** At 7:30 P.M. on March 14 at CCS, to act on a proposal to increase the buffer around the landfill by purchasing 3.8 acres from Amanda Chase at \$3,300 per acre. A second proposal will transfer funds into the P&Z budget for the town plan consultant.

**Salt & Pepper Gospel Singers Concert:** A limited number of tickets will be available at the door for the March 2 concert by this interracial group at 5 P.M. at the United Church of Christ. Donation for tickets: \$12 for adults, \$5 for children under 12. Come early if you haven't pre-paid. A reception in the Parish House will follow the concert. Information: call Peg Keskinen (672-6486) or the church office (672-6840). The event will benefit the June trip to Cornwall by the Jubilee School of Philadelphia.

**New for Young People:** A "Coffee House" for Cornwall high-schoolers opened in February in the Parish House of the United Church of Christ. Sponsored by the church, the coffee house offers music, refreshments, games, and chaperones. It will be open on the third Friday of each month during the school year, 7:30-10 P.M. Call Peg Keskinen at 672-6486 or the church office (672-6840) for more information.

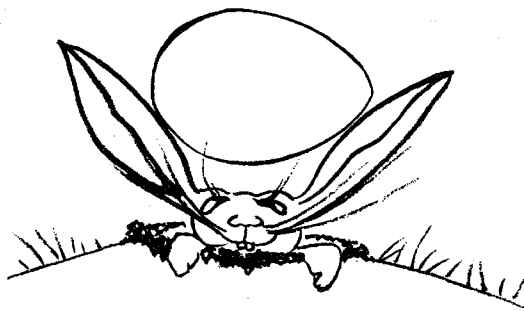
**The Cornwall Girl Scouts** will sponsor their third annual food drive on Tuesday, March 11 for OWL's Kitchen (which currently is serving 90 families in our area). The collection of non-perishable items will take place at CCS.

**Clear that Driveway!** Fire Chief David Williamson reminds all homeowners that the plowing and/or sanding of driveways is not only a convenience but also a necessity if fire breaks out. One house at the end of a long icy driveway was recently destroyed by fire. Take heed.

**Art Show:** Pictures by Michael Moschen will be featured at the National Iron Bank in Cornwall Bridge during the month of March.

## Lean and Mean

Our treasurer, Moneybags, gave his annual report at a recent meeting (which was when we noticed that all our expenses began with "p": printing, postage, paper, perquisites). The man insisted that we cancel the directors' golf outing to Bermuda this year, and he will henceforth be known as Chain-Saw Bob. We hope you will join us in our sacrifice by sending in a donation if you haven't done so recently.



**Cornwall's Second Poetry Slam:** Saturday, March 15, at 4:30 P.M. at the Cornwall Library. Everyone is invited to this celebration of poetry and performance (no charge). Using the format of regular poetry slams (minus the competition), participants will present *original* work of no more than three minutes duration and may use whatever means of expression they want to get their work across. Creative performance is encouraged—anything goes. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library. Writers of all ages invited. Call Phyllis Nauts (672-6608) if you wish to participate.

**The Park & Rec. Easter Egg Hunt** for *pre-school through fourth grade* will be held on Saturday, March 29, at 11 A.M. at CCS. This year children will be treated to a magic show by Jerry Hornak before the egg hunt. Don't forget to bring your baskets!

**The Woman's Society Scholarship Forms** are available to any Cornwall senior graduating from public or private high school. Forms may be picked up at the HVRHS guidance office or from Thalia Scoville at 672-6288. Deadline for return is May 1.

**Park & Rec.'s Game Night** has attracted a monthly following and will be held at the West Cornwall Firehouse on Friday, March 7, 7-9 P.M. Players of all ages are invited to bring their favorite board games or use those provided. For further information call Deirdre Fischer, 672-2255, or Diane Coe, 672-6546.

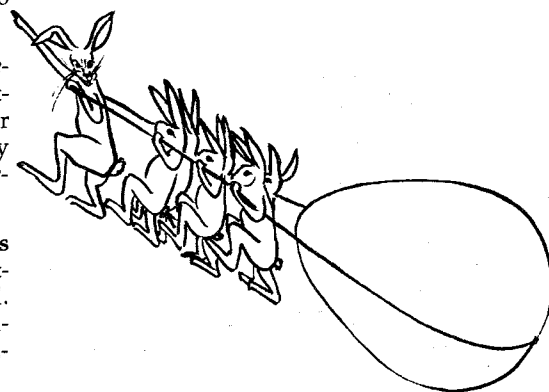


**Cornwall's Old Walking Trails** have been losing out in recent years due to storms, development, and neglect. These old trails are a wonderful resource for the town and should be preserved. If there is anyone interested in helping with re-discovery, clearing and maintenance, or just walking on the trails, please contact Bobbie Tyson at 672-6762.

**And Now Know Bats:** Cornwall's Cub Scouts will sponsor an informative slide program by wildlife biologist Jenny Dixon at the Town Hall on March 21 at 7 P.M. Ms. Dixon will tell the natural history of bats in Connecticut and throughout the world, and she expects to bring a live bat for demonstration. Further, the Cub Scouts will have their handmade bathouses for sale.

**Auction Items Wanted:** Donations are being solicited for the Cornwall Child Center's annual benefit auction, to be held on Sunday, April 27. Anyone with goods and/or services to give should contact Jamie Monagan at 672-4815. Any donations for the auction are tax-deductible.

**Circus Club:** Come juggle, spin, balance, whirl, twirl, razzle, and dazzle with Roger the Jester. Six Thursdays from 4-5 P.M. at the UCC Parish House beginning March 6. Call Lois Beardsley at 672-3385 if you need more information.



**The Red Cross Needs You:** Whether you live in Cornwall or Timbuktu, in time of need the Red Cross is there to help. Pick up any newspaper any day to prove this. You can be part of this vital network. Join your Cornwall Red Cross today! Call Sue Simons at 672-0111 for more information.

## CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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