# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

**VOLUME 5: NUMBER 10** 

**NOVEMBER 1995** 



Election Day, 1995, is next Tuesday, November 7, when we will be voting to fill 23 town offices. Town Hall is the place to vote from 6 A.M. until 8 P.M.

When you arrive you will be asked first for your street address, then for your name, and then to show some form of I.D. Voters needing rides to the polls should contact either of the town committee chairs, Steve Senzer of the Democrats at 672-6898 or Sue Simons of the Republicans at 672-0111. For last minute problems involving your registration or a missing absentee ballot, the best persons to contact are the two voter registrars, Republican Lisa Cruse, 672-6049, or Democrat Jayne Ridgway, 672-0279.

Thanks to the efforts of Paul Baren and others, it seems that lunch will once again be served in the Parish House. So far, according to Paul, there's a bean soup in the works plus homemade bread and dessert, probably an apple something.

And keep in mind that there will be another Cornwall election on Saturday, December 2, with a referendum on the Marvelwood-Town Hall question. That vote will also be at Town Hall but from 12 noon to 8 P.M. and all registered voters AND property owners may cast ballots. Voters who want an absentee ballot application must appear in person at the Town Office or get a pink form

at the Town Office allowing a special designee to get it for them. Check to find out when applications and ballots will be available. Town Clerk Cheryl Evans will be in her office Sunday, November 26, from 1 to 4 P.M. to issue applications and ballots. —John Miller

### How Much Elbow Room?

On October 14, a goodly crowd of Cornwallians spoke their minds about ways to meet the town's need for more space. Selectmen Gordon Ridgway, Bill Hurlburt, and Ray Augustyn, along with Board of Finance Chairman Ralph Gold, were on hand to answer questions. Architect Alec Frost presented plans for the various options.

It was clear that some townspeople were concerned that decision-making was, and would be, based too narrowly on the need for town-office space rather than for "civic space" that could also meet social, recreational, and other community needs. Town planning, it was stated, appeared to lack "vision" or an "overall concept" within which sound decisions could be made.

One option presented by Frost would simply add to the present town office building. However, most of the discussion dealt with which Marvelwood buildings would be most appropriate for town needs. Should the town buy the Dining Hall? Or should it go

for the combination of Din- ing Hall and the Calhoun Building? Either option could more than meet the town's needs for space. Purchase of the classroom/library building had already been ruled out, said Ridgway, because it had a "layout that just wouldn't work."

To the question, "Why not buy only the Calhoun Building?"—an impressive and beautiful building to some—Frost said that purchase and renovation of the steel-and-concrete structure would cost at least \$1,800,000—a cost assumed to rule it out of consideration.

It seemed clear to many that the Dining Hall had the most to offer for the fewest bucks (\$836,000 to buy and reorganize), since it was already up to code. With school bond proceeds (\$475,000) going toward the cost, taxpayers would have to come up with approximately \$361,000. Buying it and the Calhoun Building, and renovating only the first floors, would require raising more than \$560,000 in taxes.

What would either option cost us individually? BOF Chairman Gold projected an increase of at least a half mill, or about 2 1/2 percent in tax bills for four years with the Dining Hall option, longer for the combination. That would mean \$25 to \$30 more per year on a \$1,000 tax bill. The cost of the addition to the town offices—\$271,500—would

(continued on page 2)

#### SUNDAY **MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY** 3 Judy Gafney Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library 4 Ski Swap 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Note: Deadline for W. Cornwall Merchants Meet the School Board Mohawk Ski Area (p.4) December Events & Stretch & Bend 11:15 A.M.candidates 7:30 р.м. CCS Assoc. 10 A.M. Cadwell's Estate Planning talk Announcements and 12:15 p.m. UCC conference room (p.4) Calendar listings is 4 P.M. CCS (p.4)\* Used ski equipment drop-November 15. Movie Endless Winter off 2-7 p.m.; Movie Endless 7 р.м. Mohawk (р.4) Winter 7 P.M. Mohawk (p.4) 6 Art Show 11/13–12/30 Library, **Election Day** 11 VETERANS DAY 8 10 Hendon Chubb, paintings 6 A.M.-8 P.M., Town Hall CCS PTA 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib. Stretch & Bend 11:15 A.M.-UCC lecture series begins Music Workshop 6:30 P.M. Bd. of Selectmen 11:45 а.м. (р.4) 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Inland Wetlands Cornwall Child Center (p.4) 12:15 p.m. UCC Meet the Dems 7:30 P.M. 7:30 p.m. Town Hall\* Civic Space Forum, UCC Park & Rec 7:30 p.m. Town Office Cadwell's (p.4) 8-9:30 р.м. (р.4) Skating begins 7:30–8:30 P.M. Salisbury School Rink (p.4) 14 Dem. Town Comm. 7:30 p.m. Town Hall 12 15 17 18 16 13 Cornwall Region 1 Study Judy Gafney Preschooler Story Hour Town Meeting 8 P.M. CCS P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Bd. of Education 5 P.M. UCC Lecture 11:45 A.M. Repub. Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Group Forum 7:30 P.M. (pp.1-2)CCS Library Housatonic River Comm. 10 A.M. Library CCS Library (p.4) Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. Poetry Reading 8 P.M. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library Travelogue Life in Taiwan CCS Library Cadwell's Agric. Advis. Comm. 7:30 р.м. 7 p.m. CCS Library (p.4) W. Cornwall Firehouse 23 THANKSGIVING DAY 22 24 25 19 21 20 UCC lecture HVRHS Bd. of Ed. 7 p.m. Lee Tauranac talk on **Empire State Building** Kellogg School, Falls Village 11:45 а.м. (р.4) Bd. of Selectmen 4 р.м. Library (р.4) 7:30 P.M. Town Hall 26 27 28 29 30 Conservation Commission 7:30 p.m. Town Office ZBA 8 p.m. Town Office\*

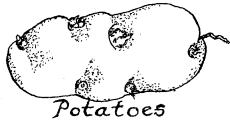
(continued from page 1) come out of the school bond proceeds, with no extra tax.

To the suggestion that we "do things by stages" and with volunteer help in order to spread the cost over time, Ridgway indicated that, along with heat and maintenance costs, major renovation would be needed from the beginning, and that most of the work (like elevators) would require professionals.

Rick Wolkowitz, responding to questions regarding the Cornwall Limited Liability Company's interests and goals, spoke of his and Ben Gray's concern for "local control" of the area, and their wish to "do what they could to help." (A statement of their views appears in the Letters section.)

The Library Board made clear its need for more room, and its wish to use all of the current Town Hall space as well as that now used for town offices. The Board would be prepared to pay for construction and renovations, and, in time, would assume all maintenance costs presently paid for by the town. At their regular meeting on October 16, the selectmen were asked to respond to the notion that they lacked "vision" or "foresight" in their planning. Gordon adjusted the spectacles on his nose and said, "That's why I wear glasses." It was apparent that all the selectmen felt that they were thoughtful planners, and that they had a "legacy of frugality" which directed their decision-making. They voted to recommend to the Board of Finance that only two building options be up for vote on December 2-namely, the proposed addition to the present town offices or the purchase of the Dining Hall. Ridgway and Hurlburt voted for the motion, Augustyn voted what he labeled a "soft no," and the motion carried.

Voting procedures will be clarified in future meetings, including the town meeting scheduled for 8 P.M. on November 18 at the school. —Ken Keskinen



### Winfield's a Winner

Winfield Wilson has been selected as the "outstanding student of the year" at Cornwall Consolidated School. The honor is given each year during National Education Week.

### Grips, Gaffers, and Best Boys

Sometime during the weekend that bisected the eight-day shooting schedule for the film "In the Gloaming" at my house last month, friends Dave and Susie Ott stopped by for a visit. Not finding me, they left the following note: "Dear Tom: Your house has been taken over by aliens from another planet. We'll track you down some other time."

Their confusion was understandable. During the prior week, a succession of intru-

sions had begun that would render my home unidentifiable. First, a crew had arrived to cover all of my floors and many of my walls with heavy white cardboard-"just in case." Nearly all of my furniture was rearranged or tucked away in upstairs rooms. Lighting fixtures came down; more cardboard went up; draperies disappeared. A hospital bed replaced my living room sofa. Next came an army of grips, gaffers, P.A.s, A.D.s, two "Best Boys" (one named Jennifer) and a "grip truck," out of which came countless miles of electrical cables, lights, and camera equipment of unimaginable value, and, finally, the director, cinematographer, producer, and the actors, all of whom graciously assured me that I had a beautiful home. Fortyeight hours before, I might have agreed.

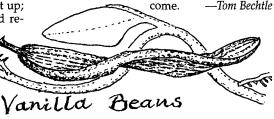
A turf war ensued, and I lost nearly every battle, but since I was taking on 30 people, this was no real surprise. In a 5,500 square-foot house, I finally laid claim to only 60 square feet in a back bedroom, dimly lit, and basically cut off from all callers. ("Sorry, the phone ringers will have to be turned off during filming.") From this haven, I heard the crackling walkie-talkie commands that accompany a film in the making: "STAND BY"; "WE'RE ROLLING"; "SOUND"; and, most ominously, "ACTION." Between the latter and the final order to "CUT!," I'd find myself frozen in fear that even the most distant hiccup might render the take useless.

My curiosity drew me onto the set only a few times, including once when I went in search of my toothbrush, through my old bedroom (now Wardrobe) toward my bathroom (now Makeup-"Sorry, Ms. K. is changing in there"), then back into my living room where most of the day's action was being shot. In an in-between-takes moment, I mostly saw director, cameraman, and actors standing around, each with his or her own half-liter, personal-size bottle of Poland Spring water, occasionally exchanging glances, focusing intently on some object that was part of the set, and, of course, sipping intermittently. I lost interest and retreated to my safe haven.

I survived all of the 6:30 and 7:00 A.M. calls, and by Wednesday night the filming was over. On Thursday morning a smaller crew returned to begin the process of putting the house back together, rearranging my furniture into its normal position, and bagging the Poland Spring empties for recycling. As everything gradually fell back into place, I took a moment to marvel at how a film made by Trinity Church, about a young man who comes home to his parents' house to die from AIDS, could have such a gentle theme while requiring such a cataclysmic process to produce. I suspect that none of the cacophony and chaos of the creative effort will be a presence in the finished film. We'll see...

I do know that as I sat at dinner at the Brookside Bistro with five or six of the last crew members on the night before they were to leave town for good, and listened to this recurring comment: "Boy, were you

lucky! Most of the locations we work at get really trashed!" I realized what a narrow escape it had been. And while maybe I was lucky, and though I'll probably never do this again, I suspect I'll be talking about those two very unlikely weeks for some time to



### Welcome

Audrey Gould Ellen to Ingrid Boyum and David Ellen

Zachary Lester Zuckerman to Alice Gottesman and Laurence Zuckerman Matthew (Matai) Matsudaira to Rachel (Migliacci) and Mappe Matsudaira

## Good-bye to a Friend

Richard A. Washburn

### Congratulations

Dianne Alessi to Matthew Schrier John F. Ashton to Blythe Bohnen Jennifer Redmond to Paul Sullivan Victoria Estern to Jonathan McCrea Jadow

### **Moist Golf**

The annual Cornwall open golf tournament sponsored by the Cornwall Golf Associates was held September 17 at the Copake Country Club. Thirty-six determined players participated in spite of an all-day drizzle that taxed their convictions that "it never rains on a golf course." Net proceeds of \$504 have been donated to the Cornwall Emergency Medical Fund. Trophies were awarded to Cheryl Evans and Margaret Cooley for women's low gross and low net, and to William Haxo and Jason Harmon for men's low gross and low net. The longest drive was made by Andrew Dakin. No hole in one was made to win a new Buick Regal offered by Stateline Chevrolet-Buick-Geo of Millerton.

--Bob Beers

### What Business Wants

Thirty-one of 99 Cornwall businesses took the time to fill out a 25-item questionnaire sent out in May by the 11-member Economic Study Group (ESG), appointed by the selectmen. That's not a bad return considering the average response to surveys.

The ESG study posed three basic questions: How are local businesses doing and what are their prospects? What are the ad-

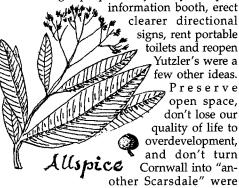
vantages and disadvantages of making a living in Cornwall?



How can we improve our business climate without adversely affecting town ambience?

If the ESG was looking for a pattern to evolve from the survey, its members could feel thwarted. The study's only discernible pattern is the lack of any pattern. For every respondent who wanted better parking there was another who didn't want to pave over any more grass. For every soul who griped about building and zoning regs, the Torrington Area Health Department, property taxes or, in one instance, too much frost, there was another who was sure, within reasonable limits, that Cornwall is the best of all possible worlds.

If, on the other hand, the ESG was looking for suggested improvements, it was not disappointed. Cornwall businesses don't lack definite ideas on both improving the status quo in some instances and maintaining it in others. A facility for the performing arts was a suggestion appearing on two returns; another urged turning Trinity into a hotel; a fourth urged people to buy locally. Set up an



some of the "don't change" views presented. Where does this initial economic study

take us? No one is sure. The Northwest Hills Partnership for Progress, the regional entity that got us into these self-examinations along with eight other towns in the region, is uncertain of its own future. Still, perhaps the survey has served a valuable purpose in focusing our attention on planning Cornwall's economic future from a solid base of information on where we are now.

A detailed condensation of survey responses put together by Joyce Hart is available for public review at the selectmen's office during business hours. Makes interesting reading.

—Scoville Soulé

### Gazagnaire on View

Hellen Stern Gazagnaire has filled the Cornwall Library with a fine selection of paintings, watercolors, and drawings. Take note of her skillful way of sketching lines into her watercolors to give emphasis to shapes and contours.

Her favorite subject is the landscape. The collection includes a series of beach scenes in watercolor. Also noteworthy is the noisy "Roaring Housatonic," an acrylic.

By contrast, Stern also displays one truly disturbing painting, "Sorrowing Women"— a canvas filled with the crowded faces of stricken women, hollow eyes fixed on some devastating calamity. Through November 11.

—Alfred Bredenberg

### Letters to the Chronicle

SOUND ADVICE

I arrived at my antique shop on a recent Sunday morning and found a State Police officer waiting. He showed me pictures of the alleged thieves who had robbed three antique shops the week before. I explained that I had alerted employees to the situation, but we had no solution as to what to do should the perpetrators return. His response was: call 911 and hang up. With call tracing now in effect, the call will be traced and the police have to respond immediately. This type of information could be a tremendous assistance to many who need help and cannot speak about it.

—Todd Aichele

#### AS WE SEE IT

At the informational meeting on October 14, we were questioned as to who was actually involved in the Cornwall Limited Liability Company. It is simply Ben Gray and me. There are no secret members or sinister motives.

Marvelwood's relocation has been a major upheaval for the Village. Many did not realize what a benign presence it was, and were surprised last fall to see how quickly a not-so-benign and controversial drug rehabilitation institution appeared on the horizon. Living in the Village, Ben and I felt that something had to be done to have local control of the property, and that, wisely or foolishly, the time had come to "put it on the line." Tom and Ann Hubbard helped make it all possible by agreeing to purchase several pieces at very generous prices. Without them, the town would not have had the possibility of acquiring either of the buildings now under consideration. We believe that the prices offered to the town equal their proportionate share of the purchase price of the Marvelwood campus. Hopefully, a reasonable profit will be realized from the sale of the remaining properties.

At the meeting questions were raised about the low appraisal done for the Board of Selectmen. The appraiser apparently feels that the Calhoun mansion and the Dining Hall are useless, and therefore practically worthless. We do not. Responding to the change, P&Z has created a new zone for these buildings which allows for their productive commercial use. Six years ago Marvelwood spent over half a million dollars renovating and improving the Dining Hall. At that time they added central air conditioning, a central fire alarm system, a super-efficient heating and hot water system, an automatic emergency generator system, handicapped-accessible toilets, and a new roof. The two already large rooms on the second floor have the potential to accommodate 200 seats if combined, and could be used for all kinds of community and governmental functions. Cornwall's own assessor has million. Yet the appraisal made for the selectmen

### Cosmic Skater

Tornadoes 101 students met the morning of September 23 for a crash course on microbursts, counter-clockwise windswirls, treefall patterns, and the fossil records of havoc wreaked on July 10, 1989. Professor Cope McClintock, paleontologist of Yale's Peabody Museum, (and self-styled "forensic

is \$140,000. A similarly low valuation was made for Calhoun, the most solidly built and beautifully detailed building in Cornwall.

People must use their own judgement as to the value of the buildings and the opportunity they present to provide space for town offices, for a community center, and to allow for the expansion of the Library in its current location.

—Rick Wolkowitz

### THE END OF THE ROAD

On May 1, 1945, I moved with my parents to the old Perkins farm on what is now called College Street in East Cornwall. On that day, along the 3.2 mile stretch from the foot of Great Hill to the Goshen town line, there were eight houses, occupied by 14 full-time residents and two weekenders. In the 50 years since that day in May, three of the eight houses have been torn down, 15 new houses have been built, and there are now over 50 full- and part-time residents.

Despite the changes and growth in this area, one thing remained the same: the narrow road that winds up and down the hills, around the curves and corners and across the fields—a road with more than its share of bumps, broken chunks of tar, and potholes. The granddaddy of all Cornwall potholes appeared early each spring as regularly as the crocuses and forsythia. One year it measured two feet deep and 20 inches across! And the car repairs—cut tires, broken springs, and prematurely worn-out shocks! Front-end alignments came more frequently than dental checkups!

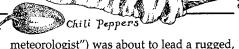
The first step to eliminate the problems took place a couple of years ago when parts of the road were rebuilt and resurfaced. And, finally, the rest of College Street was finished. We now have a smooth, wide, and beautiful road. As one who has traveled this road nearly every day these past 50 years, I want to say thank you to the town crew who worked so hard preparing it; to the Board of Selectmen who authorized it; and to the residents of Cornwall whose tax dollars made it possible.

—Emily Whitford

### HIGH SOCIETY

Pigeons in the hayloft
To the cows below seem lowly.
For they flut-flut-flut to flutter,
Then fly so very slowly.
But up upon their lofty rafter
Mid bats and batty laughter,
Whether blue or regal purple,
There they coo or sometimes burple
Of ire at silly social ratings—
Even ceasing fondest matings—
To chortle down to cow,
"Don't ever fret or dare forget:
WE are loftier than thou!"

Larry Pool



meteorologist") was about to lead a rugged, eager, group over a trail of destruction.

From the Mohawk Ski Lodge, Cope pointed to the southeast flank of Quarry Hill, the "most significant area" of the tornado's touchdown. Gazing intently through binocu
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lars held steady in the chill wind, we could not discern the fossil records (fallen trees) of this "six-year-old Pleistocene event." We had to take Cope's word for it that the tornado, a "rapidly rotating column of wind generated from a supercell storm cloud with winds of up to 350 miles an hour," had left a radial tree-fall pattern that indicated a 40-50 foot funnel-stationary for a few seconds or even a minute-that had, entirely without regard for topography, gone "where the clouds above and God wanted it to go." We could, however, see the maintenance building which had been "weakened by tornadic winds" and then "blitzed" by following winds. "It would have been," said Cope, "a religious experience to have been in that building."

Cathedral Pines was our last Cornwall stop. "Here the core of the tornado had a much larger diameter than it had had at Mohawk: about one-and-a-half miles wide. And it moved more slowly," said Cope. "It's as if the storm had been a skater who'd pirouetted at the Ski Lodge and then, when she reached Cornwall Plains, stretched out her arms and glided."

Here on the hillside great trees felled by the feckless skater lay in tangles of berry bushes and poison ivy. We clustered around Cope's specimen slice of a 300-year-old pine. "Here's a ring," he pointed, "from 1791, the year of Mozart's death, and here's 1815, the year without a summer,' when there was a killing frost every month. Trees like this one, which was spared, were prized by the English for the masts of royal ships. It will take five- to six-hundred years," continued Cope, "for complete regeneration of the pines."

The sun came out of a gray sky. Nothing on the tattered hillside of brambles and saplings was as noble as one of those ancient snapped pines, but the bold and varied pioneer plants were already moving in: black birch, cherry, witch hazel, red maple, American chest-—Ella Clark nut. It was a brave sight.

### The 1996 Chronicle Calendar

Face it: 1996 is coming, and you're going to have to deal with it. Your first step should be to get the 1996 Cornwall Chronicle Calendar, available for the first time ever. It has lots of space to note important appointments and over 100 wonderful drawings by your favorite Chronicle artists, which will lift your spirits as you move through the months of the year. A terrific Christmas gift, it's available for only \$10 at the Library and local stores or \$11.50 by mail. We'll be glad to mail calendars direct to your friends along with a card (yours or ours) announcing that it's a gift from you. Just send us your list.

YeS, I want the Chronicle to continue.  Here is my tax-deductible contribution of: \$
Name
Address
City/St/Zip
☐ Send copies of the 1996 Calendar: \$11.50 each.
☐ Mail the <i>Chronicle</i> to the out-of-town address above: \$10.

### One Grand Book Sale

The Columbus Day weekend book sale put just about \$1,000 in the pockets of the Cornwall Library to help pay operating expenses. According to Ella Clark, who headed the effort for the Friends of the Library, 24 volunteers ranging in age from mid-teens to mideighties pitched in to stack and pack the hundreds of books donated.

"This made all the difference," Ella said. —Lisa Lansing

### Events & Announcements

Skating at the Salisbury School Rink begins Monday, November 6, from 7:30 to 8:30 P.M., and will continue every Monday through February 26 (except for December 25, January 1 and February 5). Cost is \$1.00 per person. Soft hats are required and skating is at your own risk.

Meet the Democratic Candidates for town offices at Cadwell's on Sunday, November 5, at 7:30 P.M. All welcome, especially unaffiliateds and Republicans. Dessert and refreshments.

Meet More Candidates: The Cornwall PTA is sponsoring a forum for candidates for the School Board at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, November 2, in the CCS conference room. After responding to questions from the PTA, the candidates will be open to questions from the audience.

A Civic Space Forum, hosted and moderated by Scott Cady and Peter Hammond,



will be held Friday, November 10, from 8 to 9:30 P.M. at the United Church of Christ. Each of the three civic space options will be presented by an advocate, followed by questions.

Classes at UCC: "Moving Towards a Global Spiritual Community" will be the subject of a series of classes at UCC taught by Dr. Ewart Cousins, theology professor at Fordham University. Classes will discuss the book Encountering God: A Spiritual Journey from Bozeman to Banaras by Diana Eck. Copies of the book and further information are available at the church office (672-6840). Classes will be held at 11:45 on Sundays, November 5, 12, 19 and December 3.

Tauranac at the Library: On Friday, November 24, at 4 P.M., architectural critic and historian John Tauranac will discuss (with slides) his new book, The Empire State Building: The Making of a Landmark. In the words of his publisher, Tauranac's book "tells the intricate story of one of our premier icons, blending architectural history with the human and technological drama of how the skyscraper was created." Sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library.

The Cornwall Region One Study Group is holding an informational fo-

rum on "the pros and cons of our affiliation with Region One." People

interested in omatoe5 discussing our local educational system are urged to attend the meeting on November 15, at 7:30 P.M. in the CCS library. For details call Gordon Ridgway, 672-4959.

Life in Taiwan will be the topic of a travelogue by Taiwan residents Sean Griffin and Catharine Sun. Their talk, sponsored by Park & Rec, will be at 7 P.M. on Friday, November 17, at the CCS library.

Snow! It defeated Napoleon at Moscow! It conquered Paulus at Stalingrad! Don't let it get the best of you this year in Cornwall! Come to the Ski Swap at Mohawk Ski Area on Saturday, November 4, from 9 to 5. Demo equipment will also be for sale. Used equipment drop-off day is Friday, November 3, from 2 to 7 P.M..

On Friday, November 3, and Saturday, November 4, Warren Miller's film Endless Winter will be shown at 7 P.M. Admission: \$7 for adults, \$5 for students.

Proceeds from the swap and the movie go to benefit the Northwestern Connecticut Girl Scout Council. For more information call 482-4495 or 672-6437.

The Cornwall Conservation Trust's annual meeting, which was cancelled last month due to bad weather, will be held on Saturday, November 4, at 4 P.M. at CCS. Guest speaker Maggie Cooley will talk on estate planning, with particular attention to land.

A Music Workshop for adults interested in music for young children will be held at the Cornwall Child Center on Thursday, November 9, at 6:30 P.M. A \$10 fee includes the handson music session and dinner beforehand. For information call Director Pam Brehm, 672-6989.

### CORNWALL CHRONICLE

**ILLUSTRATIONS** Jane Duber

NOVEMBER EDITORS George Kittle John Miller

DECEMBER EDITORS

George Kittle Lisa Lansing DIRECTORS:

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