CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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SEPTEMBER 1997

200 Enrolled at CCS

The Cornwall Consolidated School will begin the 1997–98 school year on September 2 with 200 children, up 11 from the close of last year.

But that's not a record, as similar or higher numbers were reached in the 1960s. Enrollment dropped to a low of 80 students in 1984, but since then has climbed pretty steadily to the current level.

The staff has three new teachers. Joanne Pastre will teach second grade, Marnie Sheldon will teach fourth grade, and Shelly Hill will handle combined computer/math responsibilities.

There will be both morning and afternoon kindergarten sessions.

Says principal Bill Oros, "This will be the year of technology," as emphasis is placed on development of computer-based skills. Classroom space has been rearranged and computers have been relocated for more efficient operation. New, more powerful computer equipment will enable many students to work at the same time on individual projects on and off the Internet.

Principal Oros is also examining CCS's possible participation in the SCANS program. SCANS is shorthand for the Secretary's (of Labor) Commission on Acquiring Needed Skills. Such skills include working together, resolving conflict in groups, ability to use technology, and prob-

lem solving. The program involves children and their parents, teachers, and local businesses. Current plans are for an investigatory committee to be formed in September to prepare a report to the Board of Education early next year.

—Stephen Senzer

Library Latest

Up until August 8, it seemed that no one wanted to move to Monroe-Bodkin, since both the selectmen and the Library trustees thought the other would be better off moving, and each had voted to stay put. The selectmen voted on July 22, and on July 24 the Library trustees voted 6-3 to stay. Audience discussion by over 20 townspeople in attendance led to a straw vote, which was unanimous in favor of the Library moving, primarily because of a comparative cost analysis made by an independent estimator. This indicated that the Library moving to Monroe-Bodkin and the Town staying was approximately a third of the cost of the Town moving and the Library staying.

When the Library/Town Offices Space Study Committee met on August 8, the agenda called for discussing plans for an informational mailing and a public hearing in September on the two plans favored by the two groups, offering the Town an opportunity to express its preference.

So it was a surprise for those in attendance at the meeting to hear Audrey Ferman, President of the Cornwall Library Trustees, announce that she could not sign off on the information to be distributed to the Town because there were items that needed to be negotiated. She said, "I am willing to ask the Library trustees if they would agree to enter into negotiations with the Town over the terms of the trust and a move by the Library to Monroe-Bodkin. I will also support these negotiations and will do all that I can to bring about a speedy and fair agreement." Items to be negotiated include the compensation offered by the Town to the Library for moving, for future maintenance of the Library, and for the tennis courts that are part of the Monroe-Bodkin parcel.

Moving quickly, the Library trustees met on August 11 and agreed to find a lawyer and begin negotiations. Both boards have pledged to move as quickly as is reasonably possible. An informational hearing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., September 27, at CCS, after negotiations between the two parties. Interested viewers can walk through the two buildings between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. that day. The good news, however, is that one plan, backed by both groups, is now likely to be agreed to and presented instead of two.

The next Study Committee meeting will (continued on page 2)

SEPTEMBER 1997.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	September Art Show, National Iron Bank, Cornwall Bridge Nick Jacobs (p.4) Erica Prud'homme Show at Cornwall Library through 10/11	Bd. of Selectmen TTT 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Inland Wet. 8 p.m. Town Hall Park & Rec. 8 p.m. Town Office	3 Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Lutheran Church Cub Scout Parents Meeting 7 P.M. UCC Day Room Stretch Exercise Class, Library*	Hearing on Rte. 128 Railroad Crossing 7 P.M. Town Hall (p.4)	5	6 Cornwall Cup Softball Games Starting at 10 A.M. CCS Field (p.4)
7 Celebration of Community 4–7 p.m. Cornwall Bridge (p.3)	8 P&Z 8 P.M. Town Hall	9 Democratic Town Committee 7:30 P.M., Town Hall Republican Town Committee 7:30 P.M. CCS Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Lutheran Church CCS PTA, 7 P.M. CCS Library Stretch Exercise Class, Library*	Annual Meeting Cornwall Child Center, 7:15 p.m. Cornwall Child Center (p.4)	Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Bd. of Assessment Appeals 5:30-7:30 p.M. Town Office (p.4)	13
14 Cornwall Golf Associates Open Tournament, 8 A.M. Copake Country Club (p.4)	15 Deadline for October Chronicle copy Region One Board of Education 7 P.M. HVRHS Library	16 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall	17 Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Lutheran Church Stretch Exercise Class, Library*	18 Cornwall Bd. of Ed. 5 p.m. CCS Library Cornwall Library Assn. Annual Meeting 7:30 p.m. Town Hall (p.4) Bd. of Finance 7:30 p.m. CCS Library (p.4)	19 Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library	20 St. Peter's Lutheran Church Tag Sale 9 A.M.—3 P.M. (p.4) Cornwall Agricultural Fair 1—4 P.M. Town Green (see insert) Cornwall Assn. 4 P.M. Town Hall
21 Friends of the Cornwall Library Art Party, 5 p.m. Cornwall Library (p.2)	22 ZBA 8 P.M. Town Office	23	Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Lutheran Church Stretch Exercise Class, Library* Cornwall Fire Department 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	25	26 Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library	27 Monroe-Bodkin/ Library Walk-Through 9 a.m1 p.m. (p.1) Library/Town Offices Public Information Hearing, 7:30 p.m. CCS (p.1)
28	29	30				

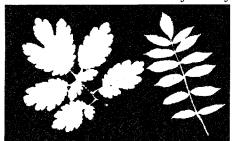
(continued from page 1) be held when progress has been made that the public needs to know about, and work can begin on the informational packet and hearing. Stay tuned!

—Anne Baren

Cornwall Cows Clean Up

Four Cornwall teenagers have been working very hard this summer training and preparing their cows for local fairs. The most important was the 4-H Fair in Goshen on August 9 and 10, and all four came away with first prizes. Steven Heaney showed Cinnamon (you might remember her from last year's cow plop raffle), who was named Ayrshire Breed Champion. Karin Heaney showed a Holstein heifer and took a first in her class and a second in Novice Showmanship. Katie Segalla showed three heifers: Swiss Miss, a Brown Swiss, took a first, Jimmy Cow (a Holstein) a second, and Norma (also a Holstein) a fifth. Jesse Segalla's Holstein, Sunny, took a first and was named Senior Reserve Champion, and her Jersey, Dazee, took a third. Jesse also was fourth in her showmanship class.

—Wendy Kennedy



32 Years of Library Art

Come to an Art Party at the Cornwall Library! At 5 P.M. on Sunday, September 21, the Friends of the Library will celebrate 32 years of art exhibits, and the passing of the torch from Hildreth Daniel, who has been organizing them for 31 years, to Ellen Moon, who will take over in January.

The subject of art displays is first mentioned in the records of the Library in January of 1965, when Amy Landeck, Library trustee, offered to provide peg boards for same.

The first exhibit, that February, included illustrations by Marc Simont, Ruth Gannett, and Armin Landeck, and was visited by, among others, Myrtle Yutzler, Lois Kugeman, Ruth Wilford, Lois Abrams, Amy and Ed Whitcomb, Kitty, Gordon, and Avery Ridgway, Blanche and Alma Campbell, Walter Becker, Lewis Gannett, Marion Blake, and Dorothy Hermann. The Lakeville Journal announced the occasion: "Space is limited but it is the hope of the trustees to make these events truly representative of the many fine artists in the area." Hildreth, however, who became librarian in 1963, and took over the exhibits in 1966, says, "We had much more space in the beginning. There were fewer books. I had to pick up baskets of them in Hartford every month." The bookshelves were lower, so art could be shown on top of them, and the opening of the Children's Room in 1963 had added wall space. "Back

then," she recalls, "we were the only local library showing art, so we got a lot of publicity. Now all the libraries do it. No more reviews in *The Lakeville Journal*."

Over 130 individual artists (not including student groups) have shown their work since 1965, virtually all of them from Cornwall. "It seemed as if every other person in Cornwall was ready to exhibit," says Hildreth. Talent runs in Cornwall; it also runs in families: Bevans, Calhoun, Colbert, Denenberg, Gross, Gazagnaire, Hanf, Hare, Hayward, Keskinen, Landeck, Lathrop, Meier, Moon, Prentice, and Walker all have multiple listings. "Many of those who exhibited are no longer in the area or no longer on earth," says Hildreth.

Hildreth is delighted with her successor. Ellen is pleased as well: "I've always wanted to do more for the Library, and this is right up my alley." Judging by the continuing tradition and popularity of her elegant exhibits, it was right up Hildreth's alley, too. —Ella Clark

Town vs. State: Cow Plop, Etc.

At a well attended meeting on August 4, State Representative Andrew Roraback met with our selectmen to wrestle with the frustrations small towns experience in dealing with our state government.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway voiced his dismay at burning regulations which, according to a new Department of Environmental Protection official, no longer allow us to burn clean wood at our dump, as we have been permitted to do for several years. Trucking this wood to an approved burn site will cost the town an extra \$12,000 a year and, according to Gordon, cause more pollution from the trucking than our present method.

Roraback, noting that bad laws often start out as good ones, offered to arrange a meeting for Gordon and himself with DEP officials to discuss this problem.

Gordon announced that Pat Williams, the Board of Selectmen's secretary, was retiring and that this was her last meeting. Pat took the occasion to regale the audience with a blow-by-blow account of her 49-day, 15-step struggle to get approval of the town's application for permission to hold a cow plop raffle at the September 20 Agricultural Fair. The application form, she pointed out, was identical to the one that has been promptly approved for the last three years. As her last official act, she has written a severe let-Governor ter to Rowland complaining about the bureaucratic .

have caused such an absurd waste of everyone's time over cow plop.

"bean-counters with

green eyeshades" who

Channel 3 News picked up the story and interviewed Pat the next day for a segment on the six o'clock news about the case of Little Cornwall vs. the State of Connecticut.

—Barbara Klaw

The Talents of Ruth Gannett

Ruth Stiles Gannett (1896–1979) was a notable Cornwall gardener and artist whose work included prints and drawings as well as objects made from tin cans, bottle corks, and folded newspaper. A show of her drawings and books she illustrated at the Cornwall Historical Society will remain on view through September 20.

Most of the drawings are in lithographic crayon, a technique involving a special stone that makes it possible to run multiple copies of a work. Many of Gannett's book illustrations were drawn on stone, though in published form they were printed by photo offset. Gannett drew many Cornwall scenes, including a number that illustrate *Cream Hill*, a book about Cornwall written by the artist's husband, Lewis Gannett. She also illustrated children's books, a number of which she wrote.

The exhibit will be open on Labor Day (September 1) and on September 2, 9, and 16 (Tuesdays) from 9:30 to noon, and on Saturday, September 20, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.

—Charles Osborne

Welcome

Madison Lynn to Gale and Peter Caruso Samuel Dodd to Becky and Bill Hurlburt

Good-bye to Friends

Naneen B. Bunnell Klaus W. Edler Mark W. Washburn

Congratulations

Lisa Lansing to Marc Dalton Simont

Land Transfers

United Investors Partnership to Kevin R. and Nancy J. Whitney, 5.7 acres on Cornwall Hollow Road for \$45,000.

Marvin A. and Ruth Mass to Arthur Scott Kegelman and Debreh J. Gilbert, Lots 9 and 10 on Whitcomb Hill Road for \$155,000.

Eric and Caren Nelson to Cornwall Housing Corp., house and land on Wright Hill Road for \$133,000.

Marjorie N. Gutterman to Hugh S. Barnett and Francisco Alves, house and 5.7 acres at 186 Great Hollow Road for \$234,000.

Harold Gurnee to Keith M. and Susan M. Gallo Lobert, house and 1 acre on Bolton Hill Road for \$243,269.

Gunther C. Hepprich and Ursula Dinneen to Calhoun Cemetery Assn., Inc., 1 acre of land on Route 7 for \$17,000.

Rare Breeds at Stony Batter

In addition to those who are trying to preserve old-fashioned varieties of flowers, fruits, and vegetables, some people are interested in doing the same for animals—preserving genetic variety and breeds no longer commercially viable but esthetically and historically satisfying. John Horn is one of these preservationists.

Near the top of Whitcomb Hill Road in Cornwall Bridge, Stony Batter Farm has come back to life as a farm. Once a large dairy farm owned by the Harris family, it had not been worked for many years before John bought it in 1994, and the barn and other outbuildings had suffered from neglect and vandalism. Now, thanks to John and farm manager Scott Belter, the farm is in tip-top condition and home to several rare breeds of animals and fowl. Many of the animals can be seen at this year's Agricultural Fair on September 20.

John always wanted a farm of his own. Asked why, he says because he enjoys animals. And what wonderful animals he has! There are shaggy horned Scottish Highland cattle; sleek, dark brown and black *Oberhasli* goats (formerly called Swiss Alpine); sheep—small white, brown, and black Shetlands and larger curly white Cotswolds; and red Tamworth pigs. Tough breeds, most of them don't need lush pastures but munch their way over rough ground and clear the woods, need little shelter, and reward their owner with visual delight as well as meat, milk, and cheese.

The chicken coop is home to Marran chickens, handsome birds that produce the darkest of brown eggs, and Saddleback Pomeranian geese with distinctive gray heads and necks. The farm residents also include a couple of Jersey cows for milk, two rare miniature Sicilian donkeys, and a pony, as well as three frisky Jack Russell terriers and a majestic Birman cat.

In a town where farming is a long and honored tradition, it is very satisfying to have Stony Batter once again a productive farm. Children from the Child Center and elsewhere have enjoyed visits to Stony Batter, and John and Scott enjoy sharing with others their love and knowledge of their unusual animals and fowl.

—Anne Baren



Really So Simple?

Admirers of the artwork in this issue of the *Chronicle* might be interested in knowing how these computer images were made by artist Mark Wilson.

"It's really very simple," says Mark. "I placed leaves and ferns in a transparent carrier and put them through my fax machine, sending an image file to my computer. Then, using software, I rearranged the individual elements into the patterns you see."

—Stephen Senzer

CCS's Oral Historians

During the past school year the fourth graders of Cornwall Consolidated School col-

Letters to the Chronicle

TO THE RESCUE

You don't like to rush to your mother's house to find a Rescue Truck flashing, a dozen people huddled around, and your 89-year-old mother lying on a stretcher. If it happens, though, hope that it happens in Cornwall. The Cornwall Rescue Squad, in our case Phill West, John Squires, Art McNamara, and Earle Tyler, were absolutely wonderful: warm, comforting, funny, and totally professional. And my mother, who had a slight concussion, is home and doing much better.

-Phyllis Nauts

DUNN REMEMBERS

The Cornwall Post Office has been my homeaway-from-home for over ten years, and it was with mixed emotions that I left it to retire on August 1.

The adults, children, and animals who visited were very special to me. Most of them I knew before becoming postmaster on July 4, 1987. Many more moved into town after that date and they, too, became very special.

My first "special" dog was Crocker, who belonged to George Kittle. Every morning at 7:15. Crocker would scratch on the front door to enter and receive his treat for the day. He is gone now but will never be forgotten.

I will miss all of you but will never forget the fond memories of each of you. Thank you for being part of my life.

—Liane Dunn

SEMTEMBER SONG

To those of us who depend on the Chronicle not just for animal sightings but also for guidance on basics, like what month it is, it came as a rude surprise to find on the August masthead that the next issue would appear in "Semtember." This completely skews my schedule. For the time being we can scrape along on

Thirty days hath September Insofar as I remember. All the rest have twenty-four, Some slightly less, some slightly more...

which is okay...but what happens come
Octomer? —Stephan Chodorov

lected oral histories from some of our town's older citizens. Several of them talked about the floods that did so much damage in the 1930s and 1950s.

Some of the stories were quite personal. Charlotte Frost told Katharine Corwin: "When I was in the first grade, I had my appendix out. It was around Easter time, so my classmates sent me cards and hard-boiled Easter eggs. While all the other classmates sent me colored eggs, the man I would marry sent me a black Easter egg. The egg was black because he dipped it in all the colors." And Margo Pierzga shared a sad story with Chris Plass: "When I was a child I loved making mud pies. I remember one time I went up to the chicken house to get some eggs for my mud pie recipe. There were no chickens there. I walked into my house and my mom and dad said they had killed them! I asked why they had done that. They replied that they had not been laying eggs and so they thought they were no use anymore! What was really happening was that I had been taking all the eggs for my mud pies and they didn't realize I was taking any at all. Even after 50 years I still feel badly about this and feel sorry for the poor chickens."

The class has deposited copies of the histories with the Cornwall Library and the Cornwall Historical Society. —Hendon Chubb

Good Season for Swim Team

Jessica Gelerter and Jennifer Heiny coached the Cornwall Swim Team to second place in the Housatonic Valley Swim League Championships on August 7, which Lakeville won. During the six-week season, Cornwall won four of its six meets, losing only to Lakeville, which had more than 100 swimmers competing against Cornwall's 35.

The team also enjoyed two for-fun meets with the team from Woodridge Lake in Goshen.

At the end-of-season picnic on August 8 the team members voted Weston Cadwell and Amanda Hunter the Most Valuable Team Members. The Most Improved Swimmers were Pippa White and Jimmy Burns.

—Çelia Senzer

Successful Rose Algrant Show

Fifty-two artists, including ten first-timers, exhibited at the 38th annual Friends of Rose Algrant Art Show held August 15–17 at the Mohawk Ski Lodge. Sales at the exhibit totaled almost \$10,000, and after expenses are deducted from commissions, the balance will be contributed to Extras for Kids.

According to exhibit arrangers, the show is unique in its acceptance of so many artists whose only qualification is that they be Cornwall residents or members of the originating group, who were all truly friends of Rose Algrant. This results in a most interesting exhibit with a great range of styles, media, and sophistication. —Stephen Senzer

Events & Announcements

A Celebration of Community: On Sunday, September 7, from 4 to 7 P.M. the Cornwall Bridge Association and the Cornwall Association are sponsoring a town-wide swing party for young and old, featuring Joe Marchetti and the New Vintage Big Band playing dance music of the '30s and '40s. The fun includes food, drink, and jitterbug lessons. Directions: on Route 7,6/10 mile south of Route 45, turn into driveway just opposite Whitcomb Hill Road, and follow it way back.

Cornwall Golf: The Cornwall Golf Associates will hold the fourth annual Cornwall Open Golf Tournament on Sunday, September 14, at the Copake Country Club. Single players and women will be most welcome. Shotgun start is at 8 A.M. and the awarding of prizes and luncheon will be at 2 P.M. at the Mohawk Ski Lodge. An entrance fee of \$50 covers all expenses. Net proceeds go to the Cornwall Emergency Medical Fund. A nonplayer fee for the lunch will be \$12. Call Ray Augustyn (672-0295) or Dick Dakin (672-6015) before September 8 for reservation

forms.

The Cornwall Child Center will hold its annual meeting at the Center on Thursday, September 11, at 7:15 P.M., to elect officers and new board members. Anyone who contributed \$1 or more to the Center during the previous year is eligible to vote.

Railroad Crossing Safety: There will be a Department of Transportation hearing on the safety of West Cornwall's Route 128 railroad crossing on Thursday, September 4, at 7 P.M. in the Town Hall.

The Board of Finance is inviting people with thoughts on how to increase our town's revenues or reduce its costs to come and share them at the Board's September 18 meeting, 7:30 P.M. at the CCS Library. This will be a brainstorming session, so don't hesitate to come and talk even if you think your ideas might be unpopular or seem wild to some people.

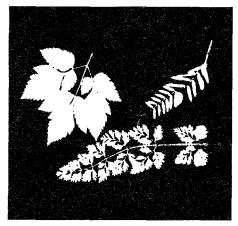
Friends of Library Book Sale is set for October 12 and 13, and your books are needed. So attack those shelves and bring your rejects, your old gift books, and the books you can allow to go live somewhere else to the Library. Please call Ginny Potter at 672-6874 for more information.

To Out-of-Town Subscribers

If you receive the Chronicle at an address outside of Cornwall, please remember that we ask for a donation of \$10 a year to cover the cost of postage and preparing labels. We don't send renewal notices, and so we count on you to keep your subscription reasonably up to date. We recently added a postal bar code to labels in hopes of improving delivery time, and we'd be interested in hearing from you to find if it has had any effect.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet at the Town Office on Friday, September 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M. to hear appeals on assessments of vehicles. An appointment isn't necessary. If you aren't free that evening, you can fill out two forms that you can get from the Assessor's Office or the Town Clerk and then send a relative or friend as your agent. Call Phyllis Wojan at 672-6141 if you need more information.

St. Peter's Annual Tag and Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, September 20, from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. at the church. The renowned bakers of St. Peter's Lutheran Church will be selling their not-to-be-missed pastries, cakes, and pies. Only early birds will get to enjoy the sweet divinity of Ursula Dinneen's jelly doughnuts: they sell out fast. If you want to contribute furniture, linens, plants, or whatever (but no clothes, please), call Amy or Scott Cady at 672-0143 by September 19.



The Cornwall Library Association will hold its annual meeting at the Town Hall on Thursday, September 18, at 7:30 P.M., to elect new trustees. Any resident of Cornwall who contributed to the support of the Library in the previous year is eligible to vote.

Kugeman Village, Cornwall's moderateincome family housing on Kent Road, soon will have an empty two-bedroom apartment. There is a short waiting list for one-bedroom apartments. For an application and more information, call Anne Baren at 672-4439.

Good-bye and Hello: Pat Williams, who has been secretary to the Board of Selectmen for the last three years, is moving to Arizona. The board and fellow workers thanked her at a farewell party at Hedgerows. She was given a Cornwall Child Center Afghan and a jug of maple syrup in the shape of the town offices. Joyce Hart is the board's new secre-

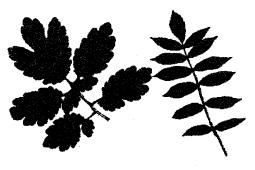
Volunteers Are Urged to Enlist in the Cornwall Consolidated School Volunteer Program. If you have a few hours a week to help another bumper crop of kids with their reading, writing, arithmetic, or the less alliterative disciplines of music, science, computers, art, publishing, and even indoor recess, please call Jamie Monagan at 672-4815. Matches will be made for all grades and a volunteer training session scheduled for Oc-

The Cornwall Cup Softball Games will be held Saturday, September 6, at the CCS field. At 10 A.M. Cornwall Bridge will play the Village. At 1 P.M. the winner of this game will play West Cornwall, last year's champions. Lunch will be sold, with profits going to the Little League teams. The cup is sponsored by the Cornwall Drug and Alcohol Prevention Council. Bring your lawn chair and cheer for your favorite team.

Art in Cornwall: At the Library, Erica Prud'homme's show of watercolors continues until October 11. Nick Jacobs will be showing photographs at the National Iron Bank in Cornwall Bridge through September.

From the Selectmen: As of September 1, the fees for taking bulky waste and lumber to the dump will increase to \$40 a pickup load, and the limit will be two loads per month.

There is a new building-use policy for the Town Hall and the West Cornwall Firehouse: to reserve time in either for meetings, etc., check in with the Selectman's Office, 672-



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

ILLUSTRATIONS Mark Wilson

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YeS, I want the Chronicle to continue. Here is my tax-deductible contribution of: \$ _ ☐ Mail the *Chronicle* to the out-of-town address above: \$10.

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