Auction Action

Bidders beware — items ranging from two weeks in the south of France to maple syrup from the north of Cornwall may prove irresistible to those attending the third annual Child Center Auction on Sunday, May 1, at the Mohawk Ski Lodge.

Previews and the silent auction will open at 1:30 p.m., with the live auction commencing at 3 p.m. when the tongue-twisting talents of Dave Cadwell and Bill Rashbaum will bring down the gavel on more than 150 lots. And those tongues (and, we hope, wallets) will be loosened by wine and hors d'oeuvres.

Adding to the excitement — and the Child Center's coffers — will be a "grand finale" raffle at 4:30 p.m. for a queen-size four-poster bed and canopy, valued at $2,150, from lan Ingersoll's matchless shop. Raffle tickets are $5, and are on sale at Northwest Lumber and Cadwell's Corner, or from Susie Williamson (672-9042) or any CCS board member.

Last year's auction raised about $15,000 (generously matched by an anonymous donor) toward the new Child Center building currently under construction on Cream Hill Road. Organizers hope this auction will raise the final $30,000 needed to complete the building in time for fall occupancy by 40 Cornwall kids.

Donations of goods and services will be appreciated. Please contact Teddy Bury (672-6344) if you have something to put on the block. Admission is $5 per person. Free child care is available at the Child Center if you pre-register with Sharon Sawicki (672-2975).

— Jamie Monagan

Offer Received for Rumsey

The selectmen have confirmed that early efforts to sell Rumsey Hall have resulted in one serious offer. It is from representatives of the American Kennel Club, who propose to renovate Rumsey into a canine wax museum. The building would be a permanent home for a popular AKC traveling show that features replicas of "Famous Movie Dogs: From Lassie to Beethoven" and it would also include wax sculptures of all Westminster best-of-show winners of the last 50 years.

The museum could draw as many as 1,500 visitors a week, and Gordon Ridgway said that he doubted the proposal could win the town's approval. "I think they're barking up the wrong tree," he joked, "but it would certainly cement Rumsey's listing in the National Register of Hysterical Places." He went on to emphasize that this was a serious proposal and that he welcomed input from all citizens. A hearing is set for April 1.

— Ed Ferman

Ridgway Riles Reps

In addition to dealing with budget issues, union negotiations, and the day-to-day details of potholes and battered mailboxes, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway has found himself speaking his piece in hearings before legislative committees.

Along with First Selectman Bud Trotta of Salisbury, the only other selectman from a state town at the hearing on March 11, Gordon explained his stand in opposition to House Bill 5684, which seeks to set up state, regional, and local agencies to oversee land use. The half-hour of committee questions that followed was, Gordon reports, hostile from Democratic members and generally approving from Republicans. "At least," said Ridgway, "now they know where the Northwest Corner is, and what its particular needs are." The bill is on its way to the House, where he predicts a close vote.

— Ken Keskinen

Qed Moves On

The Quality of Education and Diversity Committee (see March Chronicle) presented its report at a town hearing in February and again at one in March. A sampling of the (continued on page 2)
...laundry list of suggestions contained in the report: vigorously seek teachers from diverse cultural backgrounds; encourage peer tutoring and counseling; and add vocational and/or apprentice programs.

Attendance at the hearings was sparse but discussion was spirited. Several citizens expressed satisfaction with CCS as it is and resentment at what they saw as growing state interference. Others thought, however, that our children would be better prepared for adult life if they had more personal contact in the world outside Cornwall.

After the second hearing the Board of Education voted to accept the report as worthy of study and to send it on to the regional committee from the 17 Northwest Corner towns which will try to form a composite plan for the area.

Public Act 93-263, which set the QED process in motion, calls only for the expression of citizens' ideas on education, not necessarily for their implementation. However, it should be noted that passage of the act was, in part, prompted by a lawsuit (Sheff v. O'Neil) charging that schools in Connecticut cities offer fewer educational opportunities than schools in the suburbs and rural areas — a charge that will be difficult to refute.

Abuse Center Opens
The Susan B. Anthony Project, a nonprofit organization which serves men, women, and children whose lives have been affected by domestic violence, rape, incest, or other sexual abuse or harassment, has opened an office in West Cornwall above the PostOffice. Trained staff members will be available five days a week. Individual counseling, support groups, and workshops for incest survivors, for parents of abused children, and for employers concerned about sexual harassment are provided. Staff members are also available to talk with community groups.

Nancy Dart, a counselor/advocate for children and teenagers, can help parents talk more effectively with their children. Anne (Danny) Pring is available to meet with women who are in the process of divorce or other life transitions, or who wish to learn new work skills.

The project also provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, and court advocacy to victims of domestic violence. Anyone who wishes to meet with a counselor may call 672-3291. The Project's 24-hour crisis number is 482-7133. Collect calls are accepted. Most services are free and all are confidential.

The Susan B. Anthony Board of which Natalie Parks-Hunter of Cornwall is a member, is planning its second annual fund-raising auction at the Litchfield Inn on Saturday, April 30. To contribute goods or services, or to buy tickets, please call 672-3291 or 489-3798. — Nancy Dart

Hans Exhibits at Library
I love to see what an artist can do with black lines on white paper, and Brigitte Hans does it beautifully in her pen and ink drawings. See her "Landscape" for a good, full example. Likewise the humorous and expressive collection hung on the end of the videob small. "7 cats, 2 dogs," "Critters," and "Hedgehog." The fine linecuts, monopints, and taglogies deserve mention too, especially "Beachscape," an image of rocks, sun, sea, and sky; "Fossil," a fascinating intaglio; and "From a little bestiary," five miniature prints of animals.

This exhibition comes across as generous and warm — it will make you feel good. I know I did. — Alfred Brenenberg

Education Budget Up
Dianne Heiny introduced the Board of Education's 1994-1995 proposed budget to the Board of Finance on March 10 as an attempt to balance "fiscal responsibility with the educational needs of our students." The budget was also developed in light of both short-term and long-term needs.

While there has been little change in the per-pupil tuition we pay at HVRHS, the number of Cornwall students enrolled will increase by ten, adding $82,000 to the budget, almost 60% of the increase in the proposed budget. BOF Chair Ralph Gold noted that the combined budgets of HVRHS, the Regional Services Center, and Pupil Services make up 19% of Cornwall's total town budget. He encouraged more participation at the regional level by BOF members and others to ensure that these expenses not be higher than necessary.

Other increases reflect BOE's intention not to defer necessary short- and long-term building maintenance: $9,000 for painting the exterior trim, $1,650 for repair to the septic system, and, $3,650 for the purchase of rug cleaning equipment to reduce annual costs for contracted services. Fuel oil prices dropped for the second year in a row as a result of purchasing through the Regional Services Center.

The $11,342 increase in teachers' salaries reflects the terms of the teacher contract and some additional time in art, computer, and music classes. Expenses for Professional and Classified employees have been increased to pay for a part-time aid for the large new kindergarten class and to increase salaries below average for the Region. This adds up to a total proposed BOE budget of $1,816,125, an increase of $336,662 over 1993-1994. — Peter Hammond

Fishpersons Alert
Spring has arrived, the days are getting longer, seed catalogues have arrived, and the Cornwall Conservation Commission is raising money to support the Cornwall Youth Fishing Program.

Last summer the commission stocked the Gannett Park section of Mill Brook with 475 brook trout. The project generated 583 visits from 94 boys and girls. The program was paid for by donations and was staffed by volunteers.

This year, to help finance the project, the commission will raffle an Orvis graphite fly rod, along with reel, line, and leader. Tickets are available from Steve Hedden, Jim Bate, Sue Williamson, Scott Zuckerman, and George Brown. Please support this project and, just maybe, win a top-of-the-line rod. Drawing, April 16, 10 a.m., Mill Brook. — George Brown
The Open House signaled the readiness of its Open House on March 5. Comments under way and the first qualified candi-
bathrooms?" to "That stove is too small." What? This apartment has airy" to "What? This apartment has
its Open House in March. Comments observed in and around Dark Entry Farmhouse, a quarter mile in from Route 45,
its Open House at its March meeting. Also chosen at the meeting were secretary, and Isabelle Osborne, treasurer.
Twenty-Party Elect Officers
The Republican Town Committee elected the following officers at its March meeting: Sue Simons, chairman; Don Bardot, vice chairman; Jack Preston, treasurer; and Ray Augustyn, secretary.
John Miller was elected chair of the Democratic Town Committee at its March meeting. Also chosen at the meeting were Barbara Klaw, vice-chair, Charles Osborne, secretary, and Isabelle Osborne, treasurer.

Tyler Survey Results
When Debra Tyler decided to run as an independent candidate for selectman last fall, she sent a "community survey" to 930 registered voters (property owners registered elsewhere were not surveyed). Thirty-one percent (292) responded. Copies of the survey results are available at the Town Office and in the libraries. — The Editors

Habitat Housewarming
Cornwall's first Habitat for Humanity house has received its first inhabitants — Treasa Pattison and her two daughters, Shawna, five, and Lauren, three. Since work started on the project last spring, it has cost Habitat $50,000 for materials, plumbing, electricity, and site work, according to
AGRICULTURAL FAIR PLANS
Attention all artists, would-be artists and those who might surprise themselves! The Cornwall Agricultural Advisory Commission (CAAC) is planning ahead with plans for the Third Annual Agricultural Fair and is planting the seeds for two new exhibits.
1. Go wild with ideas for decorating a sap pail. Free pails for your artistry are available at the selectmen's office.
2. Design a logo for CAAC. Specs call for an 18-by-24-inch design, either vertical or horizontal, on material stiff enough to hang. The theme is agriculture (forestry is included), and the winning entry will be the property of CAAC. The commission's name or initials may be part of the design.
Be ready for harvest on August 1. Hope everyone joins the fun for a bountiful and spectacular display. — Cilla Mauro
HOORAY FOR LAND-TRANSFER $$
Thank you for the entertainment of your raging controversy over whether to include the dollar values when you list land transfers. It is a welcome break from the Bobbils and Tonya.
On the serious side, I encourage you to continue to do so. With due respect to Anne and John Zinsser, there is far more gossip and disunity generated when folks don't know what something sold for than when they do. I've spent a lifetime in small towns, including 20 years in West Cornwall, and folks do love to gossip about how much so-and-so must have paid to own that place. Second, though, the selling price is a matter of public record, it is not available to those of us who live in other parts of the country. As an ex-resident, I like seeing how the town has grown and changed, including how real estate values have changed. Finally, why should folks be ashamed of what they paid for a place? There will always be at least two classes of people: those that have and those that don't. Hiding the selling price in a land transfer will not change that.
The Chronicle works for me. Keep the light from under the bushel. — A. Wadsworth Hart

FARM PROTECTION
The Cornwall Planning and Zoning Commission has recently amended the zoning regulations to provide that farming which follows normal agricultural practices cannot be considered a nuisance. In several communities Paul Baren, one of the founding members of the group; the rest of the work was done by volunteer labor.
Treasa Pattison sent in her application to Habitat from Falls Village and was chosen by the Family Selection Committee as the most suitable of several applicants to purchase and occupy the 1,000-square-foot house located on two acres of Cornwall Bridge land just off Route 7. With the enthusiastic participation of daughter Shawna and about 50 other local volunteers, including project manager Jim
in the state, people who have recently moved into town asked the local zoning boards to shut down old-established farms because they didn't think the smells and noises of farming fit in with what they expected of suburban living. Now our Cornwall farms are safe. The Cornwall Association commends F&Z for its farsightedness in support of local farming.
— Will Callon, President
TWO MILK ISSUES
On March 4 Debra Tyler, Lynn Fowler, and I testified at Hartford at a hearing of the state legislature's Environment Committee against Bill 5101, which would place a moratorium on new raw-milk businesses and prohibit the sale or transfer of existing businesses such as Debra's Local Farm. Though no vote was taken, the committee sounded very supportive of raw milk, wanting clear evidence that it was a threat to human health or nutritionally inferior to pasteurized milk before recommending a change in the law. We returned to Cornwall feeling relieved. — Chris Hopkins
HERKIMER'S LIST
Only the hardiest of hikers, so far, have seen Allen Herkimer's recent creation on Bald Mountain Road in Cornwall Bridge — a list of no less than 204 local animals, birds, insects, trees, and plants, neatly typed on large sheets of blue paper, displayed on a vertical board about four-feet square, securely wrapped in heavy plastic, mounted on stout wooden posts, and crowned with a small metal roof to ward off the weather.
Herkimer is a graphic artist and Cornwall native who over the past few years has kept track of the various creatures and growing things that he and a few of his neighbors have observed in and around Dark Entry Forest. He says that the hardest-to-spot items on his list are the yellow-bellied snapping turtle, the more mushroom, and the Ichneumon Dolichomethus (a kind of fly). Materials for his construction were salvaged from discsards at McCoy Ltd., printers in Torrington, where Herkimer is employed. The display board, for example, was a pallet formerly used for transporting things, while the metal roof was composed of old printing-press plates. Now that spring is here, Herkimer's list, found at the Bald Mountain Farmhouse, a quarter mile in from Route 45, may be consulted by all who are interested in our local wildlife. — Jean F. Leich
Whiteside, Ms. Pattison put in the 400 hours of labor required of all Habitat homeowners and has been involved with almost every phase of construction.
Shawna and Lauren are extremely proud of their cheerful new domain, which in spite of its small size boasts two bedrooms and baths, a dining area, living room, and full basement. Now that the job is finished, however, their mother says she's almost sorry that it's all over because she will miss working with so many friendly, dedicated people. — John F. Leich

Letters to the Chronicle
Events & Announcements

Park & Rec Plans: The annual Easter Party, Saturday, April 2, 11 a.m., starts with Karl Saliter juggling at Town Hall. Then to the Town Green. All Cornwall children, infants to fourth grade, are invited. Please bring your own basket for egg-collecting.

Our gymnastic program (combined with Goshen Center School) will begin on April 6 and run for six weeks. Another six-week program will begin May 18, and we will announce later the dates for a summer week program will begin May 18, and we will announce later the dates for a summer program. All programs will be at the Goshen Center School with Jean Jaucquier as instructor. Call her at 824-0325 for more information.

A youth craft class will be held April 15, 3-5 p.m., in the CCS art room. Children of all ages will receive an introduction to Chinese calligraphy and stamp-making using simple materials. The cost is $3, and the instructor is William Golombisky. For reservations and information call 672-6049. Registration forms will be sent out April 4.

There will also be a one-day workshop for adults in Chinese calligraphy and Korean culture on April 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the West Cornwall Firehouse. Attendees will be introduced to the art of using brush and ink to create traditional Chinese character in the ancient fashion. Cost is $15, which includes materials. Please bring your lunch; tea will be served. The instructor is William Golombisky, professor of English at Chung-Ang University in Ansong, Korea. To reserve a place call 672-6049 by April 12.

"Fun Finishes with Paint" will be offered for adults on four Monday evenings, April 11 to May 2, 7-9 p.m. in the CCS art room, with Lisa Cruse as instructor. Students will sponge, stipple, marble, create a toile, etc. There will be hands-on experience and demonstrations of surface treatments of walls, furniture, gifts, etc., using varied media and tools. Materials are included in the $20 fee. For information or reservations call 672-6049.

Preserving the Landscape: The Cornwall Conservation Trust will present a talk by Jim Gibbons, a well-known expert on land use, on April 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the CCS gym. He will talk on Preserving Connecticut's Natural Landscape. Everyone is welcome. For anyone wishing to learn more about what land trusts can do for people and their communities, there is now a special section in the Cornwall Library featuring a video tape titled Your Family's Land: Legacy or Memory, and a short book, Preserving Family Lands.

Town Meeting: Friday, April 8, at 8:00 p.m. at CCS. Items to be approved are: an agreement to be reimbursed by the state for construction costs of the PoppleSwamp Bridge; and an act to accept remaining assets of the Cornwall Lighting District, which has been disbanded.

Jazz at Cornwall: The Backwoods Jazz Trio will present two concerts at Cornwall Hall, on Saturday, April 9, 8-10 p.m. and Sunday, April 10, 3-5 p.m. The musicians are Ram Miles, Ted Perry, and Jay Bradley. Intermission entertainment will feature guitarist/vocalist John King. As seating is limited, tickets should be purchased in advance ($10 includes dessert and coffee) from Baird's or Cadwell's Corner, or by calling 672-6486 or 672-6101. Proceeds will benefit the Refugee Resettlement Committee of the United Church of Christ, which is working through the Interfaith Refugee Ministry to locate a refugee family in Cornwall this spring. Donations of money, furniture, or a short-term rental will be most welcome. Checks may be made out to: UCC Deacons Fund (earmarked "Refugee") and sent to the United Church of Christ, P.O. Box 35, Cornwall, CT 06753.

Questions and Answers: The business committee of the Cornwall Association is circulating a questionnaire to Cornwall businesses. Replies will help in the development of two publications that will be designed to promote business activity in town; a visitor's map and a comprehensive business directory. Questionnaires will be available in early April at the Cornwall Package Store and at Cadwell's Corner.

Travelog on France: Sarinda Wilson, teacher of French at the Hottkiss School, will talk about France on Friday, April 29 at 7 p.m. at the CCS Library.

Help for High School Seniors: Cornwall students graduating from any public or private high school may apply for financial help for further education from the Cornwall Society Scholarship Fund. Applications may be obtained from the guidance office at HVRHS or from Thalia H. Scoville (672-6288). Return by May 1.

New Post: Ken Keskinen has been appointed by Governor Lowell P. Weicker to be chairman of the Northwestern Regional Housing Council and a member of the State Central Housing Committee. Ken is president of the Cornwall Housing Corporation and serves on our Planning and Zoning Commission.

"Voices" on Stage: In conjunction with its Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities, the Susan B. Anthony Project is sponsoring Voices, an original stage production honoring survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Voices will be performed at CCS on Saturday, April 23, at 8 p.m. A $2 donation is requested at the door. For more information, please call 672-3291.

April Library Talk: Come to the Library on Sunday afternoon, April 24, at 4 p.m. to hear Cornwall Hollow resident Martha Rubin talk about her book Countryside Garden and Table. The book is a month-by-month account of environmentally careful gardening and of the delights related to eating food grown organically. Refreshments will be served.

Art Show at CCS: The annual student art show will take place on Thursday, April 28, 6-8 p.m., in the school gym. There will be printing, painting, clay sculpture and other 3-D work, pottery, collage, murals, and much more. Come and enjoy.

Points for CCS: If you shop at the Big Y supermarket in Torrington and have an "express card" (easily obtained at the service desk), be sure to sign up with their Educational Express Drive to earn points for CCS (until May 1). Points earned will be used to purchase educational materials and equipment for the school.

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