“Tut’s Tomb” Unsealed
A Cornwall mystery was resolved late in March when the locked vault on the second floor of the Library building was entered for the first time in 30 years, thanks to a young man from Diebold, the firm that had installed the safe doors back in 1908, who drilled out the lock and opened the door.

Inside was found a space about five by ten feet lined with shelves laden with books, rolled-up maps, and posters, “the overflow from the safe downstairs in the Library,” said Cornwall Historian Michael Gannett. Two additional safes inside the vault hold archival treasures from the years before the Historical Society was founded in 1964, some of them placed there by the town selectmen, who from 1908 to 1943 occupied an office (now barred to the public by the Fire Marshall) above the front hall of the present Library building.

In a recent inventory, Gannett found about 15 volumes from the 1850s and ’60s dealing with military history and tactics. John Sedgwick’s name is written inside their covers, leading Gannett to believe that the books came from the general’s house in Cornwall.

Other finds: two plot plans for the Cornwall cemetery; many works of local and state history dating back as far as the 1820s; a fragment of scarlet damask from the curtains of the now-dismantled Cornwall Center Church at the foot of Town Street; and a chalkboard recording Cornwall’s Liberty Bond drives during World War I. There was also a collection of scrapbooks containing items about the flora and fauna, geology, and history of Cornwall, written and illustrated by Cornwall sixth-graders who must have been the last to attend the three local schools that were consolidated in 1940.

The most recent find has been an envelope containing the 1907 contract and specifications for the Library building. Architects: Ludlow & Valentine of New York. Total cost: $20,130.

So who locked the door and when? Kay Fenn, former Town Clerk, believes the door was locked by accident in 1968, even though “it was understood that no one should touch the old lock.” But someone apparently spun the dial.

The owners of all this treasure, the Town, the Library, and the Historical Society, will decide what happens next.

—Lisa Lansing Simont

Good Rummaging
On July 18 a record number of people turned out for the Woman’s Society annual Rummage Sale. Many arrived before 8 A.M.; by 9 the first 200 tickets had been distributed to the lucky ones who would be allowed into the Parish House at 10 A.M.

People really did come from all over. A totally unscientific sampling by your correspondent showed that before 9 o’clock 15 cars with New York state licenses had arrived, accompanied by five from Massachusetts and one each from New Jersey, New Hampshire, North Carolina, the District of Columbia, and Ontario. Subsequent inquiry showed that two customers had come from Florida, and two from Oregon. Lots of people came from nearby, from Litchfield, Salisbury, and Sharon. Most were repeaters, attracted by the long-established reputation of the Cornwall Rummage Sale as a source of quality serendipity. A characteristic comment was: “I found what I was looking for, and a lot of other things besides.” People working at the sale felt that this year it was noticeably better organized and offered a higher quality of goods. Books were booming, as were men’s and women’s clothes, which were consolidated in the Monroe-Bodkin building at the former Marvelwood school. Most important of all, the event grossed approximately $11,300.

—John Leich

The Little Foxes
In recent years, red foxes have been such a common sight to Doug and Kathy Weier, who live at 16 Cogswell Road, that they de-

(continued on page 2)

**AUGUST 1998**

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1. **Cornwall Library Art Show, Montgomery Hare Through 8/29 (p.4)**
2. **Hedgerows August Art Show, Nancy Bevans Opening 5–7 P.M. (p.4) Soccer Every Sunday 6–8 P.M. at HRVHS**
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* Check at Town Office
What's Next for the Library?

While everyone knows that the June 27 referendum approved the Town-Library agreement by a margin of 280 to 107, perhaps we do not all realize that only 40 percent of the eligible voters turned out, and that of these 387 who did vote, 56 were not full-time Cornwall residents, but people who own property here, and therefore were qualified to vote in the referendum by virtue of being on the Grand List (of taxpayers).

The Library Building Committee decided on July 2 to engage Kenneth MacLean, a Bostonian with deep roots in Cornwall, as architect for the new library. On July 13, the Committee met with MacLean to begin preparation of an application for a state grant to finance a portion of the library's construction.

Grantsmanship involves many problems. The Library not only has to decide on its present needs for space, but must also be able to forecast what will be needed in the next millennium, with the rapid advance of electronic information technology, involving new yet-to-be-invented equipment and the space it will require.

The application for state funds must be submitted by September 1. Between now and then there is much work to be done.

At a Library Board meeting on July 16, Michael Pollan was elected to the Board to fill the place left vacant by the resignation of Terry Carlson; he will serve until the annual meeting in September.

Everyone is invited to meet Ken MacLean at a reception on August 23, at 4 p.m. in the Library.

—John Leich

Land Transfers

Heidi Scott to Ira B. Shapiro, house and 5 acres on South Road for $225,000.

Richard B. Dakin to Mark S. and Tracy D. Gray, house and land on Rattlesnake Road for $160,000.

David N. and Ellen L. Doubleday to Sam S. Fontana, house and 6.5 acres on Dark Entry Road for $275,000.

Mary Ellen Geisser to James A. and Linda B. Stewart, house and 3.1 acres at 19 Town Street for $275,000.

John P. Dunne to Billie Jean Washburn, house and 1 acre at 349 Kent Road for $119,500.

David S. Mills to Eugene A. and Valene T. Cornelius, Lot #4 and Parcel 1, on Whitchcomb Hill and Kent Roads for $163,000.

George M. Wright to Carol Ann Kilbey, house and 19.3 acres at 19 Whitchcomb Way for $375,000.

Summer Nights with Park & Rec.

This summer for the first time, two events sponsored by Park & Rec. were held at the Cream Hill Lake Association. June 19 was a beautiful summer evening for a family picnic on the beach with free hot dogs for everyone. Children of all ages swam and played by the
Letters to the Chronicle

BY CHOO-CHOO FROM NEW YORK

The letter from Spencer Klaw about a train trip from New York to Cornwall in the good old days reminded me of my first visit here. The year was 1933 when I was an intern. The occasion was an all-day trip from Grand Central Station to West Cornwall for a fallfboat cruise down the Housatonic, modeled after the ski train excursions of that time.

Our trusty iron horse chugged past the West Cornwall station to stop at the first open meadow, where we all got out. Each pair of passengers carried a kayak. One pair held the flexible rubberized hull of our kayak-like “fold boat” while the other pair contained rods that we fitted together like sections of a fishing rod to form the frame of the craft. One end of the frame was thrust into the bow of the rubbery hull, and the other end into the stern.

Launching our craft and happily grasping the come-apart paddles, we shoved off into the placid waters of the river with full expectation of an easy drift downstream. But in seconds we were caught up in an ever-swifter current that, to our horror, bore us into what seemed a maelstrom. We were thrust into the bow of the rubbery hull, and we fitted together like sections of a fishing rod to escape despite frantic efforts. Well, we made it, with only one of the flimsy faltboots wrapped around the rocks below. Reaching calmer waters, we stepped for a picnic. Later, the train picked us up near Kent and we were back in Grand Central.

These craft were aptly named. They’d fold all faltboots, we stopped for a picnic. Later, the train picked us up near Kent and we were back in Grand Central. The year reminded me of my first visit here. The year was 1933 when I was an intern. The occasion was an all-day trip from Grand Central Station to West Cornwall for a fallfboat cruise down the Housatonic, modeled after the ski train excursions of that time.

One late afternoon in the summer of 1953, when John and I and our first-born were riding on the 4:32 train from Grand Central to points north, I observed with alarm that her bottle of milk was too cool, or so I imagined, for one so young. The passing conductor, observing my distress, gently took the offending bottle and almost immediately returned with it (from where? The steam engine?). “Should be about right now,” he said, testing a drop of milk on his wrist. And so it was.

I don’t recall the rest of that journey, but we must have debarked at Wingdale, where we left our car, summertimes, in a garage owned by Jim Aiken, the stationmaster. What I do remember, though, after all these years, is that kindly middle-aged train conductor testing a drop of milk on his wrist. Can you imagine such a thing happening now?

—Jean F. Leitch

CONDUCTED TOUR

I very much enjoyed Spencer Klaw’s “Penins from Heaven” in the July Chronicle. It brought to mind the days (so long ago) when I took two girls, five and seven years old, down to the station in Cornwall Bridge and entrusted them to a kindly, genial conductor who’d “keep an eye on them,” and hand them over to their grandmother who would wait for them in Grand Central Station. It was such an adventure for the children to go to New York City ALONE!

—Marie Trager

WHERE ARE THE GNATS?

I feel really funny wearing this big hat. My friends are embarrassed when they arrive with big white gobs of bug lotion on their ears and I keep forgetting that this summer we can use the lawn furniture. Furthermore, I have lost my excuse for not weeding the garden and I’m gaining weight on the extra raspberries I can pick to eat with ice cream in the evenings.

I am not attuned to this and am wondering if I have to make permanent changes in my lifestyle.

—Katharine Freygang Flagg

THE GYMNASIUM IS NEXT

Congratulations to the Library Board and the selectmen on the success of the June referendum. Now that it is behind us, I hope to see the collective energy of us all directed to the gymnasium project in the coming months. Cornwall is a community that responds well to a challenge, be it the clean-up from a natural disaster, organizing to build a community facility like the Child Center, or lending a hand to a community member in need. A new gymnasium will benefit everyone. Let’s get behind the selectmen and the other involved boards and move this much needed facility forward with all possible speed.

—Brian Kavanagh

THE GERMAN VETERANS

Another “moving aspect” of the Memorial Day service at the North Cornwall Cemetery was Charlie Gold recognizing the two German soldiers who are buried there. Although my husband, Nikolaus, was too young to be in the German army (his brother was in WWII and his father in WWI), he was moved that they were included. You might be interested to know that my father (with the French Ambulance Corps) and Nikolaus’ father (with the German cavalry) were both in the army and served in many miles of each other. They met in 1962 for the first time in Claremont, California!

—Susan (Bourne) Brinkkam

RE-IMAGINING CORNWALL

I’m sure the new library means different things to different people. As a parent, for instance, I have no trouble imagining the countless hours our two-year-old will enjoy in the children’s wing, not to mention at the playground (on top of hope) spreading out behind it. To me, that’s the best thing about the town’s collective decision last June 27: it allows for possibility. Suddenly, the empty field between the old library and the Gracy house holds such promise. Pine Street, of course, will always retain its tranquility, but meantime the Friends of the Library are even talking of a film series. Who knows what’s next? I’m only grateful to live in a place that is willing to re-imagine itself once in a while.

—Sandy Neubauer

THANK YOU, SKIP!

Just a little addendum to the nice article in the July Chronicle on the Memorial Day activities: Skip Lush, Commander of the Cornwall VFW, was presented with a well-deserved Community Service Award in recognition of his many years as coordinator of the exercises.

—Pat and Jerry Blakey

Events & Announcements

Family Jam and BBQ: Friday, August 21, at the Town Beach, 5 to 8 P.M. Bring your potluck dish and musical talent to share. Hot coals provided. Questions? Call Jane Prentice, 672-6101.

Agricultural Fair Update: September 19 is the fair date at the Cornwall Green, starting at 1 P.M., with the usual animal tent, produce judging, craft displays, demonstrations, hay rides, and cowchip bingo. Organizations represented will include the Boy Scouts, Cornwall Child Center, and the CCS eighth grade. Rural and farm paintings and pictures will be judged in the library, so bring your favorites and try for a ribbon. Are there any out there who like to cook? A men’s bake-off will be featured and judged this year. Please come one and all. Questions about the fair? Call Peter Ripley, 672-6716.

water while adults danced to the music of the Caribbean Beach Bums.

An early evening thunderstorm on July 17 did not dampen the spirits of the large crowd—children and adults—who came to dance to the music of Phunk. There was barbecuing, swimming, and jazzy rock and roll dancing until 11:30 P.M. What’s next? A jazz concert on Saturday, August 15, again at CHLA.

—Skip Kosciusko
Hymn Sing at the North Cornwall Meetinghouse on Sunday evening, August 16. Come at 6:30 p.m. and picnic (bring your own) on the lawn. Candlelight hymn sing begins at 7:30 p.m.

Need a Ride? If you don’t have a car or your car is in for repairs or you just don’t want to drive, Rural Transit will provide door-to-door service from Cornwall and Goshen, for a modest fee. Elderly may ride free or make a small donation. On Fridays, with prior day reservation, you can get to Torrington for shopping. Call Geer Adult Day Center, 824-7067. On Tuesdays and Thursdays you can go anywhere in the state for medical or other purposes. Call NW CT Transit District, 489-2535, for first-come-first-served reservations.

The Friends of Rose Algrant will present their 39th annual exhibition of Cornwall artists at the Mohawk Mountain Ski Lodge. The three-day show will be open on Friday, August 7, from 5 to 8 p.m. and will continue on Saturday and Sunday, August 8 and 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Nearly 70 artists, all Cornwall residents, will show their work. Paintings, photography, sculpture, pottery, and weaving will be shown inside the lodge and on the deck. This year the mystery sculptor of the beautifully crafted star, which appeared at the Cornwall Bridge Green two years ago has been invited to exhibit some of his work.

After expenses, all commissions from sales will go to the Northwest Corner Youth Service Corporation.

Jazz at CHLA: On Saturday, August 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. the third of Cornwall’s Summer Concert Series, sponsored by Park & Rec. will feature the McEachern/Pavone Jazz Quintet.

Peter McEachern has toured and recorded with blues legend Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown, Thomas Chapin, and Lamont Young. Mario Pavone’s CD Song for Sextet was chosen by The New York Times as one of the top ten jazz CDs of 1995. George Shearing, a highly regarded composer and saxophonist. Pianist Peggy Stern has worked and recorded with many jazz greats, including Lee Konitz and Bud Shank. She has been a featured guest on Marian McPartland’s NPR Piano Jazz, and Matt Wilson, one of the hottest drummers in New York City, was honored this year by the Village Voice as the best up-and-coming jazz talent. Admission is $5. Children are free. Call Skip Hunt, 672-3171, for information.

Paint the Town Saturday, August 29. Artists of all ages are invited to paint any time, anywhere, in town and bring work to Cadwell’s between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. for display at the auction to be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Twenty percent of sales will benefit Cornwall Extras for Kids. For information, call Barbara Stone at 672-6256.

Diabetes Self-Care and Management: Anne Hummel, nurse and Certified Diabetes Educator, will offer a free 12-hour course on diabetes for Cornwall’s Committee on Aging. Held at the Town Hall, the lectures will be on Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon, August 18 to September 22. The six-session course is designed to teach people with diabetics, their family members, and the professionals who care for them how to prevent the complications associated with this disease.

Current techniques and methods used in treating diabetes will be presented and discussed, and will include oral and insulin regimens, meal planning, exercise programs, and other critical components of self-care. To register for this course, call Anne Hummel at 672-2325.

Historical Society Doings: Michael Gannett will give a slide presentation on older Cornwall houses at 7:30 p.m., Friday, August 14, at the Town Hall. The Society will also present John Demos, Yale Professor of American History, who will talk about Cornwall’s Foreign Mission School at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, August 21, at the Town Hall. Professor Demos is currently writing The Heathen School: A Story of Hope and Betrayal from the Annals of Early Cornwall.

Selectmen to Review Mohawk Plan: The selectmen’s meeting on Tuesday, August 18, at 9 a.m., at the Town Hall will be devoted to a review of Mohawk Mountain’s five-year management plan. The plan calls for the expansion, improvement, and modernization of the Mountain’s facilities. The public may ask questions or express concerns and opinions on the plan. Meanwhile, copies of Mohawk’s five-year plan are available at the Selectmen’s Office.

Art in Cornwall: In August, at the National Iron Bank, the Cornwall Historical Society will exhibit old photographs of Cornwall and some of the people who made the town what it is today. With an opening from 5 to 7 p.m. on August 2, Nancy Bevans will show paintings at Hedgerows during August. At the Cornwall Library, the exhibit of poems written and illustrated by the late Montgomery Hare will continue to August 29.

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**CORNWALL RESIDENT**

YES, I want the Chronicle to continue.
Here is my tax-deductible contribution of: $ __________

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City/State/Zip ____________________________

Mail the Chronicle to the out-of-town address above: $10.