Spencer Klaw
Spencer Klaw, the man who guided the Cornwall Chronicle for many years, died on June 3 at the age of 84. It’s not every town that gets a retired editor of the Columbia Journalism Review to lead a bunch of amateurs in publishing a town newspaper. Spencer liked his news accurate, clear, concise, fair, and free of the kind of sugary prose he always dismissed as “gush.” So there’ll be no gush for Spencer Klaw in this space. Just the hard facts: This was a gracious and uniquely talented man, and Cornwall has lost a great gift.

Finally, summer road improvements this year will occur in the northeast corner of the town, including Town Street, Lake Road, and Hurlburt Place. Paving will be done in July; “liquid asphalt” will be laid in August.

—Barbara Gold

The Age of Enforcement
Remember that large area of bare earth on the hill at Furnace Brook Farm? The one that hit you in the eye coming down Route 4 from Sharon? Well, it’s not so easy to see now that the leaves are out, but it has not been forgotten. Apart from the unsightliness, every time it rains soil is washed down onto neighboring property, into wetlands, and eventually into Furnace Brook.

The Cease and Desist Order issued last October is being enforced. Under the supervision of Karl Nilsen, Cornwall’s Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer, specific plans have been made both to immediately stop the runoff into Furnace Brook and to establish vegetation on the site so that the solution is permanent.

Engineers have been retained by Furnace Brook Farm and by the Town of Cornwall. They have agreed upon a project consisting of some 15 tasks with a dollar cost assigned to each. The Town of Cornwall now holds a bond for many years,

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Finances, Fields, and More:
Town Hall News
This year’s Town Budget Meeting did not set a record for brevity or low attendance. Still, one citizen arrived just a few minutes after the posted time on May 21 only to discover that the 27 in attendance had already unanimously approved the budget. The $5.2 million for fiscal year 2005 includes a 7.7 percent increase for the town budget and a 2.6 percent increase for the total education budget. After the meeting, the Board of Finance met to set the mill rate at 21 mills, an increase of 0.5. This means property taxes will increase from $20.50 to $21.00 per $1000 of assessed value.

At the same meeting, the selectmen received approval to proceed with the Foote Field expansion project, which will result in a new Little League baseball field (also for use by the CCS girls’ softball team and the community), a walking track, and expanded parking. The total cost of the work—up to $250,000, which covers purchase of the property—will be covered by a STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway says work should start this summer. The final preparatory step will be a land swap for an easement to walk across the privately owned driveway separating the new parking lot from the current playing field. All plans are, finally, subject to approval at a Town Meeting to be scheduled later this summer.

Another field in the making is the expansion of the athletic field at Cornwall Consolidated School to accommodate both a Babe Ruth-size baseball field and a soccer field. An application for another STEAP grant is in the works for this development; land purchased prior to the CCS building project will enable the expansion. Funds from the same STEAP grant will be used to purchase CL&P property which adjoins the Hughes Memorial Library (the site of the Mallinson Shear Shop for town history buffs) and to improve the library building.

JULY 2004

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*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957
† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued on page 2)
A Glorious Graduation

The last graduation to be held under the tent took place on Tuesday, June 15, with 25 eighth graders receiving diplomas from Cornwall Consolidated School. Student speakers Sarah Brown and Sarah Freedman reflected with thanks on their years at CCS. Guest speaker and CCS graduate Annie Kosciusko addressed the changes wrought by technology advances and the challenges presented by the adolescent brain.

While most of the awards had been presented at a school assembly in the morning, three were saved for the evening ceremony: Hannah Colbert received the Dottie Hermann Award and Stephanie Kearns received the Citizenship Award and the Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Two adults, Janet Gold and Wynne Kavanagh, were recognized by the Board of Education for their volunteer work in the school.

Stephanie Kearns presented the eighth-grade gift of swings to the school. At the conclusion, after the recessional, mortar boards flew into the night air in farewell. —Barbara Gold

Preparedness

On May 11 Cornwall invited its neighboring “mutual aid” towns, along with several assisting agencies, to participate in a Tabletop Exercise for emergency response. The four-hour practice drill, held at the West Cornwall Firehouse, was conducted by Warren Hall of Emergency Management.

The scenario, presented as a surprise to the participants, was a freight train derailment and fire in West Cornwall, with a cloud of pollution spreading over the village and windborne as far as CCS and Trinity Conference Center. Each participant was asked how he/she would respond and carry out his/her responsibilities.

Participants included Selectmen Gordon Ridgway and Ken Keskinen, CVFD Fire and Rescue officers, Highway Foreman Don Reid, Social Services Administrator Jill Gibbons, Animal Control Officer Rick Stone, and CCS Principal Dr. Kathleen Fitzgibbon. Also, among those presenting papers were the Department of Environmental Protection in Hartford, Sharon Hospital, American Red Cross in Waterbury, The Housatonic Railroad, the Office of Emergency Management Area 5 in Litchfield, Connecticut State Police, Trinity Glen, and fire and medical personnel from several of our mutual-aid towns.

Those attending felt it was a valuable evening and expressed interest in a more advanced field exercise. —Huntington Williams

Welcome

Reilly Kathleen Hedden to Erin and Bradford Hedden
Sylvie Celeste Labalme to Jeanne McMullin and Henry Labalme
Linda Grace Petersen to Lesley and Chip Petersen

Good-Bye to Friends

Franklin G. Kesl, Sr.
Spencer Klaw
John T. Welles

Land Transfers

Daniel Algrant to Joseph Algrant, 3.5 acres and buildings at 163 Cream Hill Road for $150,000.
Frank and Elizabeth Ferrari to Kathleen Campana, 4 acres and buildings at 368 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike for $320,000.
Rowan and Webb Dorlick to Dermot and Darilin Woods, 1.488 acres and buildings at 368 Kent Road for $257,000.
Sergei Bouteneff, Jr., to Suzanne Stait and Joseph DeRocco, house and 2.33 acres at 197 Town Street for $300,001.
Brian Billings to William and Susan Lynn, Lots 4 and 5 on Day Road for $180,000.

“Cornwall Report” from Geer

As of this writing, there are five Cornwalls in residence at Geer Village, the retirement center in Canaan. Jack Forster, Jean and John Leich, Alice Read, and Helen Tennant have moved north. Jack especially likes the dining room’s policy of encouraging the residents to vary their dinner partners, and appreciates the respect for the residents’ privacy. Alice notes that the staff members “are so friendly. They actually appear happy to see you….” The Leichs commend Geer’s hospitality toward members of the community at large and consider the new YMCA wing a major contribution in that direction. Other Cornwall natives now living in the Geer complex are Harriet Forster and Lydia Wolf; Larry Pool was a vivid presence for the past year.

The Village’s three levels of care are under one roof, so that all facilities, including the attached YMCA wing with its pool and exercise equipment, are accessible even in the depths of winter without setting foot outdoors. Apartments for independent living have one or two bedrooms, one to one-and-one-half baths, and a full kitchen. The apartments are on the small side, but some are large enough to hold a surprising quantity of household furnishings and two full-size adults.

All this comes at a price, of course, but the rent covers utilities, household help, a competent nursing staff on call for emergencies, free transportation to local doctors and the hospital, and membership in the YMCA. There is a growing library on the premises, and books can be requested from nearby
Letters to the Chronicle

GREETINGS FROM THE DUMP
Thanks to Kate Wolfe, Helen Vanam, Brian O’Neil, Don Bachman, and Joanne Wojtusia for their donations of annuals, perennials, and vegetables this spring and in years past. Some day, with continuous public support (more top-soil, please!) we hope to be featured in “Better Dumps and Gardens.” Also, kudos to our new librarians Lin LaPorta and Helen Vanam.

A Day to Remember
Bente Busby

A natural enemy should be sought in Asia; such Scale have no enemies; they will kill the hemlock. A Japanese ladybird beetle introduced by my friend Dr. Mark McClure is proving to be of value. But two species of hemlock scale are widespread in Connecticut; on September 4, 2002, the air above Furnace Brook, under the hemlocks, was “dusty” with them. Scale have no enemies; they will kill the hemlock. A natural enemy should be sought in Asia; such a project has been funded recently.

The adelgid is killed during cold winters, like this last. Further, a Japanese ladybird beetle introduced by my friend Dr. Mark McClure is proving to be of value. But two species of hemlock scale are widespread in Connecticut; on September 4, 2002, the air above Furnace Brook, under the hemlocks, was “dusty” with them. Scale have no enemies; they will kill the hemlock. A natural enemy should be sought in Asia; such a project has been funded recently.

Equally important, excessive browsing by deer is destroying young forest trees. In 100 years, these species will be gone for lack of replacement. This past winter, I protected young pine with plastic sleeves and bags and “Deer Solution.” All 400 survived intact but unprotected young hemlock (300–400) were almost completely eaten.

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Regrowth in my clearing was dominated by multiflora rose and black birch, reducing all other tree species, including oak. In snowy winters, pine and hemlock were of course selectively browsed by deer.

Eugene A. Cornelius

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**New Library Hours** will go into effect the week of July 5. The Library will be open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.; Saturdays 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.; and Wednesdays 1 to 8 P.M. It will be closed Sundays and Mondays. Beginning in September, Wednesday hours will be 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

**Art In Cornwall:** At the Cornwall Library, Curtis Hanson’s show, *In the Hollow,* landscapes in oil, will continue through July 10. Beginning July 12, Aron Dwyer will be exhibiting his paintings. In early July, David Colbert will install his sculpture *Meeting Place of an Obscure Order* outside the Library, where it will remain on view throughout the summer.

At the Cornwall Arts Collection, the show featuring photographs by Becky Hurliburt, pastels by Sybil M. Perry, and sculpture by David Colbert will run through July 10. On July 17, from 5 to 7 P.M., there will be an opening of a show featuring works by Cynthia Kirk, Rudi Wolff, and Harvey Offenhartz.

At the Wish House, there will be an opening on July 10, from 5 to 7 P.M., of a show of paintings by Shaun MacDavid.

At the new Outsiders’ Gallery in Cornwall Bridge, there will be an opening on July 24, from 4 to 7 P.M., of a show of paintings and drawings by three artists—Lauren Zarembo, Jack Lardis, and Mickey Doolittle—and of political sculpture by Sean Marquis.

At the National Iron Bank, Karl Saliter will be the July artist of the month.

**The Rummage Sale,** run annually by the Woman’s Society, will take place on Saturday, July 17, at Mohawk Ski Area, the UCC Parish House, and the Town Hall. Reduced prices the following two days. See insert for details.

**Grumbling Gryphons** is adding a program for children ages three to five to its Theater Arts Camp (see June Chronicle). Dates are July 7 and 14, 9 to 9:45 A.M. Call Leslie Elias at 672-0286.

**Cruise to the Caribbean:** Desmond V. Nicholson will present *A Sailor’s Saga,* a slide presentation of his experiences cruising the Caribbean 50 years ago, on Saturday, July 17, at 5 P.M. at the Cornwall Library. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library.

**Rose Algrant Show:** Invitations will soon be going out to artists who might want to exhibit at the Rose Algrant Art Show. If any Cornwall artist wishes to exhibit and doesn’t receive an invitation letter by July 6, he/she should contact Bee Simont at 672-6144. The show will run from August 6 to 8 at Mohawk Ski Area.

**Hot and Cold**

The average temperature for July is 74°, which sounds pleasant but brings to mind the line that according to such statistics, we should be comfortable with one foot in an oven and the other in a bucket of ice. The average donation to the Chronicle is $37, but we are always delighted to get your check, whether it’s on the cold or hot side of that number.

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**THE CHRONICLE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT**

We hope you enjoy this on-line edition of the Cornwall Chronicle. Remember that all our revenues come from readers like you, and we need your help to continue producing this electronic edition along with the print edition. If your contribution is $10 or more, we’d be glad to mail the print edition to any out-of-town address. Please mail your tax deductible gifts to: Cornwall Chronicle Inc. 143 Cream Hill Rd., West Cornwall, CT 06796. Comments, letters and news may be e-mailed to the publishers at: elfhill@aol.com

**$500 Prize in Website Contest:** The Association of Businesses in Cornwall (ABC) is celebrating www.cornwallbusinesses.org, its new website, by conducting a contest open to any student connected to Cornwall. In addition to listing the more than 195 businesses in town, the ABC wants to add a video clip or other creative element that will give viewers “a feeling for and a sense of being in Cornwall.” Entries (25 MB maximum in WMV or Quicktime format) should be submitted by August 27 to ABC, Box 214, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754. The winner will be announced at ABC’s September 13 meeting and the winning entry will be posted on the website.