Eighth-Graders Move On
Streaming sun graced the grounds of Cornwall Consolidated School on June 15, but had to compete for brightness and dazzle as 13 grads, led by class marshals Brianna Thompson and Bryce Laigle, were ushered on to high school with awards and well wishes from family and friends. The following awards were presented on graduation night: Sabrina Brashares received the Citizenship Award of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; Katelyn Kearns, the Dorothy Herman Memorial Award, Chloe Ocain, the award for outstanding academic achievement. Class speakers Jenna Vanicky and Carl Hurlburt shared spirited speeches about their experiences throughout their nine years at CCS and their optimism about what lies ahead. Carl’s speech was dedicated to Kaelan Paton, his close friend who died tragically one year ago. Phil Hart, on behalf of the Board of Education, presented the Volunteer Award to Sally Hart, recognizing her 41 years of sharing her love of reading with students.

Guest speaker Winfield Wilson, CCS class of ‘96, stressed to students that community and spirit, two attributes synonymous with a CCS education, would serve them well in the world wherever their continued education takes them.

Earlier in the day a host of recognitions, many with accompanying savings bonds, were granted. Autumn Classey received an award from the Cornwall Civic Club; the art award went to Chloe Ocain; music awards to Anna Geyslaers and Jeremy Stiewing; Benjamin Nichols and Heather Kearns won physical education awards. Autumn Classey received the Mark Van Doren Award for best writer; Sabrina Brashares, the Edna Peet Award for most improved in the area of reading, Patrick Curry, the Susan DelGrego Award for most improved in the area of writing. Thomas Hatcher received the social studies award, Benjamin Nichols the history award, and Heather Kearns the science award. Zachary Busby received an award in world language, Chloe Ocain for algebra, and Katelyn Kearns for eighth-grade math. Carl Hurlburt received the Philip C. Jones Award for best student Art @ the Dump and Heather Kearns for best art journal.

From other area schools, Sam Neubauer, graduating from Washington Montessori, was recognized by Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth for his academic achievement. Ninth-grader Lee Pryor graduated from the Indian Mountain School and was honored with the Head of School Prize.

—Jackie Soccaccio

MEMORIAL DAY 2010
An enormous holiday crowd roared as Ralph Gold announced that the shy, ever-modest Maggie Cooley was this year’s recipient of the VFW Citizenship Award. It’s always kind of a mystery who the winner is going to be but when Ralph started listing accomplishments like a law degree, retired probate judge, and president of the Cornwall Housing Corporation many knew immediately it was Mag. And then out she came under one of those wonderful summer hats with a somewhat stunned look on her face. There followed a series of Cornwall hugs and she started to leave without her document. But two or three paces later she remembered and went back to pick it up.

The Memorial Day crowd seemed even bigger than usual with large groups sitting and standing in front of Town Hall, across the road on the Green, and under various trees to find a bit of shade. There was the usual parade with the CCS symphony, the

Editor’s Note: Last month the Chronicle left out the name of Nestor Bramley as a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Nestor is an intern this summer at Crew Design in Kent and then he is going on to the Onion River Film School in Burlington, VT this fall.
Along Pierce Lane

In the past 20 years Pierce Lane has become a microcosm of Cornwall, an example of the change the town has experienced as an older generation passes on houses and land to the young.

I first knew our house as a six-year-old out making calls with my grandmother Martha Hubbard. Mary and Sedgwick Cooke, who built the house in 1940, were distant cousins. Cousin Sadie Crystal, who lived with them, was a particular friend of my grandmother’s.

Pierce Lane had been brought in from Dibble Hill Road to provide access to the Cookes’ property. The road ended then at the barway to the cornfield next door. In the late 1950s the town pushed the road through from Route 4 and by the early 1960s it had been paved.

Today the old farmlands, once part of the town’s property distribution in 1740, are building lots with 20 houses lived in for the most part by fulltime residents.

It wasn’t always like this, even 15 years ago. Doc and I once counted five houses which were lived in all year round. Seven new homes have been built at the Route 4 end of the street. There’s a lot more company now.

The two modern-design houses were built by Europeans Sabina Lietzman and Jean and Hellen Gazagnaire. All three had endured extraordinary experiences in World War II. Sabina stayed in Berlin with her mother and sister and watched Russian soldiers liberating the city.

The Gazagnaires had been students at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris when the war began; Jean entered de Gaulle’s navy and Hellen went to Dunkirk to be an au pair. Incredibly, they were reunited. After hiding deep in remote France (Hellen was Jewish) they got to New York after the war. They designed and built their house “over a million dollars.”

That much-loved house now.

Richard Bramley, who lives nearby. The Lynch family lives in weekends,” according to Richard Bramley, signed and built their house “over a million dollars.”

Incredibly they were reunited. After hiding in stiches with his hilarious account of non-combat adventures as a soldier in the Second World War. As always, a day for both patriotism and lots of fun. —John Miller

Post Auction Loaf-Off

It all started the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. We had bid on and won 20 pounds of Cream Hill (Kennedy family) veal at the Child Center auction. Our freezer was overloaded with chopped veal in addition to the other parts, so John and I decided to make meatloaf and there our paths diverged.

John is rather proud of his tried-and-true meatloaf made with beet, veal and pork. I favored a more delicate, adventurous meatloaf that wouldn’t overwhelm the nursery cook. Ivan Miller, sometimes known as “Miller the Griller,” entered the kitchen at that point and took the safe route: “I’m not getting into this.”

John’s was robust and satisfying, though a bit bland (proof: he added A-1 sauce when he ate it) and I thought mine was really delicious. (John: “Well, it’s different.”) Ivan tasted them later and predictably liked them both.

The two commonalities among all our houses is that they were built with great love for the Cornwall land they occupy. Our stone walls surround old pastures and once-tillable fields; our view is of the hills and the morning sun. —Lisa L. Simont

Two Appointments Made

Two important posts have recently been filled in the Cornwall community: Becky Hurburt as the director of the town’s Park and Recreation Commission and Sandra (Sandy) Gomez as director of the Cornwall Child Center.

The appointment of Becky was announced by Park & Rec. chairman Ron Laigle who said she will have an office in Town Hall, Mag Cooley’s old probate digs. Regular office hours will be 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Wednesdays. The Park & Rec. phone number is 672-4071 and email prcornwall@gmail.com. Becky also recently succeeded the retired Barb Gold as chairman of the Board of Education.

Sandy Gomez is a native of Lakeville but has “fond memories of extended vacations in Cornwall Bridge with both sets of grandparents.” One of those sets was Fran and Florence Gomez, who many old timers will remember from their service in the Cornwall Bridge Post Office. She comes to her new post with a degree in social work, a master’s in counseling, and a degree in early childhood education. Sandy said she is “looking forward to learning the ropes and working with the small dedicated staff and hardworking committed board.” She starts July 1 and will soon be moving to Cornwall with her husband to a house on Hollembrook Road.

—John Miller

Cornwall Trivia

In celebration of the Chronicle’s 20th anniversary, this month’s editors have crafted the following trivia quiz to test how well readers have been paying attention over the last two decades:

1. Who of the following is NOT a member of the Scoville family? 1) Madeleine Longwell 2) Martha Loutfi 3) Janet Savin 4) Roxana Robinson 5) Jim Sheffield


3. What was the name of the crow that terrorized West Cornwall? 1) Freddy 2) Princess 3) Jacob 4) Edward

4. In the late 1990s, Cornwall had a skating rink built by some hockey dudes. Where was it? 1) Mohawk Ski Area 2) Town Garage 3) Cornwall Village 4) West Cornwall Firehouse

5. Who of the following is a Gold cousin? 1) Janet Savin 2) Jacob Hurburt 3) Sarah Jenny 4) Rick Stone 5) Louise Dunn 6) Tom Wolf

6. Only one of the following did NOT run for first selectman against Gordon Ridgway. Which one? 1) Richard Griggs 2) Becky Hurburt 3) Roger Kane 4) Ray Augustyn 5) Bob Beers

7. Who of the following was never first selectman? 1) Dick Dakin 2) Spencer Monroe 3) Ralph Sandmeyer 4) Bob Beers

8. Who was a Connecticut state champion tractor driver? 1) Phil Hart 2) Garrick Dineen 3) Steven Scoville 4) Rick Stone

9. Which family has been in Cornwall the longest? 1) Scovilles 2) Hurburbs 3) Golds 4) Hart's

10. Cornwall had Connecticut’s first female first selectman in Patsy Van Doren. Cornwall had another female first with Joan LaPlaca. She was Connecticut’s first female:
Letters to the Chronicle

TEN-MIL TAX RATE
The 10-mil land program and related legislation mentioned in the May Chronicle need clarification. Designed to give owners of forestland a financial incentive to keep it forested, the program applies penalties for developing the land or leaving the program. Soaring land values mean severe penalties. Owners leaving the program pay the difference in tax that the land had not been in the program, which can be over $100,000.

In 1972 the Legislature opened a one-year window for 10 mil owners to convert their land to the new forestland program, PA-490, without penalty. Tax would be higher, but still lower than for other land.

Many 10 mil lands are now nearing the end of their first 50-year period and owners face huge tax increases. Legislators recognize the value of preserving these lands, and know that most owners, unable to pay the higher tax, would have to sell. An attempt to pass a bill similar to the 1972 one ran out of time. It’s important a bill be passed to allow 10 mil owners to convert their land into PA-490 and continue preserving it. Without such a bill, 1,458 acres of Cornwall land (14,000 in Connecticut) are at risk of development. The resulting costs to the town would mean more taxes for everyone.

—Jean D. Bouletier

TOWERS ON THE HORIZON?
As an application for a telecommunications tower in Cornwall has been presented to the Connecticut Siting Council (ct.gov/csc), I urge everyone to learn more about the ramifications of this technology on our health and the environment. Cornwall prides itself on being a “green” town with solar panels, land conservation, and organic farms, but ironically we may very soon find ourselves living with a constant dose of electromagnetic radiation 24/7. Please study up (emrpolicy.org and antennafreereunion.info research.htm, for example) and then contact the Siting Council with concerns.

Watch at the map and information at the selectman’s office for the environmental damage that would occur from runoff, habitat demoli-
tion, etc. Most importantly, come to the scheduled public meeting at the Town Hall on July 20.

—Bianca Fiore La Porta

THE CHRONICLE GOES RORSCHACHIAN
It was the Swiss psychiatrist Hermann Rorschach who pioneered the examination of a subject’s personal hang-ups by how said subject interpreted inkblots on paper. But it was editor Hendon Chubb and CCS art teacher Diane Dupuis who brought to light student minds-de-jour as determined from fifth-grade sketches in last month’s Chronicle. This writer strongly suggests that child-vulnerable adults such as school principals, teachers and parents review the revealing artwork in the June Chronicle.

The wise old owl illustration was obviously drawn by a student who did his homework, backwards and forwards, the night before and was ready for, and even desirous of a test. The chunky guy with the boxing gloves must have been from a student who was in a foul mood that morning, wanting to be left alone. Then the bird with the mouse under its claw was from a student eager to devour any tidbit of information coming his or her way. The bird with three feathers? A student not at all sure he or she was ready for flight that day and the expertly drawn full-winged bird sure he or she was.

Next, turn to the picture of an open mailbox with a gift-wrapped box awaiting. Can’t you just hear the artist of that one singing, “Every-
day’s a gift, tra-la. Everyday’s a gift?” But not so the portrait of ants slogging up a sandy hill in the hot sun. No gift there. Maybe tomorrow. And no unquestioned acceptance by the alert llama either. Curiosity? Yes, but make sure there’s no catch. Make very, very sure.

The Chronicle is happy to present these insights to its readers. Perhaps someday we will have Mr. Chubb’s mood-art to interpret.

—Scoville Soule

July Is Tax Time and thus the first half-payment of taxes is due on the grand list of October 1, 2009. If taxes are not paid on or before August 2 they become delinquent and subject to interest at a rate of one and one-half percent per month until the tax is paid. Taxes can be paid at the Town Office on Mondays from 1 to 4 p.m., on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., or by mail to Cornwall Tax Collector, P.O. Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753.

Grumbling Gryphons is offering theater, dance, drumming, and capoeira classes for children and adults in July and August. Call Leslie Elias at 672-0286 for information.
Library Events:
  **Beginning Russian Classes:** Eight-session series commencing on Thursday, July 8, at 6:30 P.M., $80 for the series. Call the Library to register at 672-6874. Matt Collins is instructing.

  **Book Readings:** Saturday, July 17, at 4 P.M.: author Michael Pertschuk of Cornwall and Santa Fe reading and signing his new book The DeMarco Factor: Transferring Public Will into Political Power.

  **Saturday, July 31, at 4 P.M.:** reading and book signing with Peter Steiner, author of Le Crime, L'Assassin and his newest spy thriller, The Terrorist. All feature the character Louis Morgan, a retired CIA operative. Steiner, a Connecticut resident, is also known for his cartoons in The New Yorker.

  **Summer Reading Program:** “Make a Splash, Read!” each Wednesday evening in July beginning on July 7 at 6:30 P.M. Register for all Wednesday events as space is limited. July 7 will be a puppet show, July 14, a sand painting workshop, July 21 will feature a mime, and July 28 will have a marine lab touch tank. On August 4 there will be water games and a potluck picnic.

  **Summer Reading Logs:** Sign up for a log to keep track of your reading. Raffle tickets with terrific prizes!

  **A Creative Writing Class** will be offered for 11- to 13-year-olds. The class is limited to 10 dedicated students, so register early. Teacher Mary Brunelli, a Williams College English major, will interview interested students to assess their writing skills and interest. A $10 per class fee will be charged. Dates to be announced once students are registered. Call the Library to arrange for the interview.

Art in Cornwall:
  **At the Library,** the large group exhibit The Cornwall Flower Show will continue through July 10. Beginning July 13 Sara Wight will be exhibiting Formations, a show containing a series of photographs of snow.

  **Ophelia’s Flowers** continues at Lady Audrey’s Gallery. Oil paintings by Liz Lambert will motivate you to rethink your garden design.

  **At the Wish House,** Jane Bevans’ show of still lifes and rural animals continues through the month.

  **National Iron Bank** will exhibit Ray Olson’s artwork for the month of July.

Summer Sports:
Everyone’s running bases, pedaling, kicking, catching, throwing—it’s exhausting to even think about it. But if you’re one who enjoys sports as a couch potato, drop that remote for a second and write the Chronicle a check. It’s exercise!

Guided Trail Walks: The Cornwall Conservation Trust is offering a series of four guided trail walks suitable for all ages. The walks in July and August will showcase four of the trails maintained by CCT and are especially friendly to the littlest of hikers. Walks begin at 10 A.M. and last for approximately 45 minutes.

  **July 10: Wells Preserve.** Hike up Bloody Mountain to spectacular views of Cornwall Village. Park on Town Street, four tenths of a mile from the intersection with Route 128.

  **July 24: Day Preserve.** A field and forest walk along an old farm road and picturesque woodland. Park at Gold’s Pines parking area next to the firehouse.

  Additional walks coming on August 7 and 21. Trail maps can be found at cornwallconservationtrust.org. Contact Kristen Bedell with questions at 672-6014.

  **Historical Society Talk:** A Talk on “The Chinese Friendship Album” by Karen Sanchez-Eppler of Amherst College will be given in conjunction with the Historical Society’s Foreign Mission School exhibition on Sunday, July 11, at 2 p.m. at 7 Pine Street. Friendship albums, notebooks in which friends contributed writings and drawings, were created by some of the students and reveal individual personalities. This 1824 album includes intricate paintings and penmanship and is unique since there are no earlier recordings of Chinese students in America. Tea and cookies will be served. Phone 672-0505 for more information.

  **Baseball Clinic:** The Torrington Twisters of the summer college league are offering baseball clinics for boys and girls from July 12 to 15 and 19 to 22 from 9 A.M. to noon at the Foote Field baseball diamond. Park and Rec. is the sponsor and the cost is $75 per week. For more information contact Twisters head coach Gregg Hunt at 203-666-5792 or by email to: twistersclinics@cs.com.

The Cornwall Village Improvement Society will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, July 31, in Town Hall at 10 A.M.

**Renters’ Relief Program:** The Assessor’s Office is accepting applications for the Elderly and Disabled Renters’ Rebate Program through September 15, 2010. Applicants must be 65 as of December 31, 2009 or disabled and receiving Social Security disability support. Income limits for 2009 are: married $39,500 and single $32,300. Income, rent, and utility statements for 2009 must be submitted with the application. For more information, or to request an application, contact the Assessor’s Office Tuesday and Thursday 1 to 4 P.M. and Wednesday 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. or call 672-2703.

**A Red Cross Blood Drive** will take place at the Cornwall Library on Thursday, July 22, from 1 to 5:45 P.M. Registration and refreshments will be in the Library meeting room. Blood donations will be taken in the air-conditioned Red Cross trailer in the parking lot. To make an appointment call 1-800-Red Cross or the Blakleys (Pat and Jerry) at 672-6516. Walk-ins are always welcome.

**Summer Sports**
  **At the Library,** Hendon Chubb and Susie Ott, Anne Baren, David Bean, Nan and John Bevans, Edward Ferman, Lucy and Jack Kling, Ginny and Bob Potter, Julie Schieffelin, and Margaret Bevans, Directors.

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