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 SCAN$ program. SCAN$ 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 problem 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 townspersons 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 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)
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 im-
portant was the 4-H Fair in Goshen on Au-
gust 9 and 10, and all four came away with
first prizes. Steven Heaney showed Cinna-
mon (you might remember her from last
year’s cow plop raffle), who was named Ayr-
shire Breed Champion. Karin Heaney
showed a Holstein heifer and took a first in
her class and a second in Novice Showman-
ship. 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 Li-
brary! 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 organiz-
ing them for 31 years, to Ellen Moon, who
will take over in January.

The subject of art displays is first men-
tioned 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 li-
brary showing art, so we got a lot of public-
ity. Now all the libraries do it. No more re-
views in The Lakeville Journal.”

Over 130 individual artists (not includ-
ing 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, Harf, Hale, Hayward, Keskinen,
Landec, 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 frustra-
tions small towns experience in dealing
with our state government.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway voiced
his dismay at burning regulations which, ac-
cording to a new Department of Environmen-
tal Protection official, no longer allow us to
burn clean wood at our dump, as we have
been permitted to do for several years. Truck-
ing this wood to an approved burn site will
cost the town an extra $12,000 a year and, ac-
cording 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 meet-
ing with Gordon and himself with DEP offi-
cials 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-blown account of her 49-day, 15-step
struggle to get approval of the town’s appli-
cation for permission to hold a cow
plop raffle at the September 20 Agri-
cultural 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-
ter to Governor Rowland complaining about the burea-
ocratic “bean-counters with
green eyeshades” who
have caused such an ab-
surd waste of everyone’s time over cow
plop.

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 no-
table 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 draw-
ings and books she illustrated at the Corn-
wall 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, includ-
ing a number that illustrate Cream Hill, a book
about Cornwall written by the artist’s hus-
band, 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 Sat-
day, 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 pre-
save old-fashioned varieties of flowers,
fruits, and vegetables, some people are inter-
ested in doing the same for animals—pres-
serving genetic variety and breeds no longer
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 Phil 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 Nault

DUNN REMEMBERS
The Cornwall Post Office has been my home-away-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 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

SEPTEMBER 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 “September.” 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 October?

—Stephan Chodorov

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 collected 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 compet-
ing 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.

—Celia 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, 1/4 mile north of Route 45, turn into driveway just opposite Whitcomb Hill Road, and follow it way back.
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 fee 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 Wogan 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 moderate-income 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 672-4459.

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 Hedgegrow. 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 secretary.

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 October.

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 team. 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, 672-4959.