Help Wanted

Well, you've heard about the year 2000 problem which might cause all our computer systems to crash; now hear about a year 2000 opportunity. It's the Decennial Census—preparations for which are now beginning in our area.

The Census Office in Torrington is looking for part-time workers to perform what is known as address listing. This involves visiting homes in Litchfield County to verify their existence and to locate them on census book maps, and to determine how they receive their mail.

Any United States citizen 18 years or older is eligible for employment, at $11.25 an hour plus 31 cents per mile for travel (car required). A general skills test will be administered in Torrington, and those qualified and selected will train in September to begin work in early October for 20 to 40 hours per week for a maximum nine-week period. The Census Office anticipates hiring about 100 people for this phase of the census, which will be followed by additional phases.

Anyone interested in this timely way of earning Christmas money should call 482-0604 to arrange for a testing appointment. Go for it!

—Stephen Senzer

CCS Enrollment Tops 200

School opened on Monday, August 31, with 206 students, up from 196 at this time last year. A new bus company, Laidlaw, will provide one additional bus to the route, bringing the total to seven. Practically everything else remains the same. Third and fifth grades will be split. There will be morning and afternoon kindergartens with five students in the T-group. There are no new faculty members, so all the teachers will be familiar faces.

Parents' Nights will be on September 15 for primary grades, and September 16 for the upper grades.

—Celia Senzer

Paramedics On Call

Cornwall's volunteer ambulance squad will now be able to summon paramedics in critical situations. At times the presence of technicans specially trained to deal with dangerous medical emergencies can make a life-or-death difference as the ambulance speeds its way to the emergency room. Under an agreement signed with North Dutchess Paramedics, the squad will be able to call for paramedics when it needs their help. In some situations the paramedics will be dispatched directly by the 911 emergency service so that they will be available to the squad without delay if needed.

While North Dutchess Paramedics will bill for its services, most calls will be paid for by Medicare or a health plan. It must be emphasized, however, that paramedic services will be on a "treat now, think about money later" basis. They will never be withheld because someone has no insurance or lacks the resources to pay.

—Brian O'Neil, Ambulance Captain

Danger in the Town Hall

For a while it seemed as if the Town Hall was going to the dogs. Earlier in the summer a visitor noticed a little black puppy under Town Clerk Cheryl Evans' desk. "What's that?" he asked.

"Danger!" replied Cheryl.

"He doesn't seem very dangerous to me."

"He isn't dangerous at all. Danger's the name my twelve-year-old son gave him."

"Well, I think it's a great idea to have a dog in the Town Hall," the visitor said as the puppy started trying to climb up his leg.

"A dog?" exclaimed Cheryl. "It's not just one dog. There's also Joyce Hart's Pippin and Maggie Cooley's Davy. We loved Maggie's old dog Jake, so when we heard about the pups we each thought it would be a fine idea to take one."

It seems that it all began some time in February when one of the village Labradors, Shadow Hatcher, went on an unsupervised date with a Border Collie named Ruffy Hare.

(continued on page 2)

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* Check at Town Office
Although we missed reporting it in our May “Welcome” section, since the beginning of April there have been eight new Lab/Border Collie puppies in town.

Alas, you can no longer see three puppies at Town Hall. Pippin stays home at the Harts’ and the other two have such different personalities that Cheryl and Maggie don’t bring them to the office on the same day. But still, if you’re lucky, you might come across Davy under Maggie’s desk or Danger enjoying the cool of the town vault.

—Phyllis Nouis

Most $$$ Ever

On August 7, 8, and 9 the Friends of Rose Algrant presented their 40th annual art show at Mohawk Ski Lodge. Forty-eight artists exhibited hundreds of works including sculptures of steel, bronze, wood, aluminum, electronic circuits, wool felt, and rug underpadding, oil paintings, watercolors, pastels, collages, assemblages, photographs, etchings, prints, illustrations, handmade paper, appliqués, quilted works, crocheted objects, maps, a pair of painted drawers, an Inpendous umbrella for the courts.

School were ready for use by the middle of May, thanks to Park and Rec. In return, the tennis courts as available for public use at all times (except in July on Tuesday and Thursday from 8 A.M. to noon when lessons were given). The Cornwall Community Tennis Association purchased two benches and an umbrella for the courts. Contributions to the C.C.T.A., Box 134, would be appreciated.

Tennis, Everyone?
The clay courts at the old Marlwood School were ready for use by the middle of May, thanks to Park and Rec. In return, the courts are available for public use at all times (except in July on Tuesday and Thursday from 8 A.M. to noon when lessons were given). The Cornwall Community Tennis Association purchased two benches and an umbrella for the courts. Contributions to the C.C.T.A., Box 134, would be appreciated.

Toddy and Elyse Piker taught approximately 50 students, ranging in age from 5 to 50, and arranged a match between Washington, CT and our kids. Although Washington’s kids spend all day in tennis day camp, our players held their own, and even—in the case of Evan Bardot and Dan Simons—with some matches. Next year we hope to expand our inter-town tennis.

—Todd Piker

Cubs Restore Rest Areas

Have you seen how much better the rest areas along Furnace Brook on Route 4 and up past the Sedgwick Monument on Route 43 are looking these days? Thank Cornwall’s Cub Scout Pack 15.

Back in February, State Representative Andrew Rorabauch approached Jim Levy, the Pack Committee Chairman, and Pack Leader K. C. Baird to ask if the Cubs could take on some of the rest areas along the state highways in town. The tables were in bad shape and needed repair, and garbage was strewn all about. Also people were using the cement fireplaces as trash bins, and the Department of Transportation would be happy to crunch them up if the Cubs would haul away the broken pieces.

They could and would. For about a week in early July Cubs Padraic Murphy-Saunders, Brett Wald, Jason Stevens, Garrick Dinneen, Daniel Simons, and Ron Goldstein, Jr., with help from some of their parents, got the project started. They removed all the trash and took the remains of the fireplaces to the State Highway Garage. The DOT had put in new concrete bases for the tables. The Cubs installed wooden tops.

This part of the job is done, but the Cubs are not stopping there. Assistant Pack Leader John Squire's has volunteered to keep the areas mowed and each of the Pack’s dens is taking on an ongoing responsibility for one of the rest areas. Baird says that visitors should haul away their trash, “leaving nothing but footprints,” but human nature being what it is, the Cubs will probably have plenty to do.

—Hendon Chubb

Kudos for the Swim Team

The Cornwall Swim Team started off with a bang this year, winning its first two meets at home against Sharon and Canaan, and going on to place second in the regional championship in Lakeville. Li Ming Dolan and Garrick Dinneen won the “Most Improved” award, Elyse Piker and Byron Clohessy won the “Coaches” awards, and the “Most Valuable Swimmer” awards went to Dan Hammond and Amanda Hunter, as voted by their teammates.

Most notable for their effort were the eight-years-and-under group. However, the whole team deserves awards for having demonstrated great improvement over just a one month season, and a special word of thanks goes to the parents for their endless driving, hard work, and support, and to the team’s coaches, Kate Capeclaret and Sandy Twaddell.

—Jane Prentice

Big Tree Stats

Some time back we asked people to keep an eye out for big trees. Herewith the four biggest: Dave Colbert spotted the big daddy, an ash on Tim and Marie Prentice’s place, that came in at a huge 18’ 10” in circumference (measured four feet up, like all the others). Lynn and Jamie F waver visited a white pine on Mine Mountain that’s 15’ 11” around; Ernie Kenniston wrote in about an oak at the bottom of Bunker Hill that measures 15’; and Jim Prentice knows a maple 12’ 4” around on his mother’s place—planted by Dody? If any more giants come into view, let us know.

—Phyllis Nouis

Good-bye to Friends

Dorothea S. Bouteiller
Gary Hepprich
Adam Volinski
George M. Wright

Congratulations

Leslie Robbins to Nicholas Marks
DeForest Benjamin, Jr. to Melissa Jack

Land Transfers

James C. Crimmins to William F. Andrews, house and 15.5 acres at 25 Town Street South, for $1,000,000.

Ethan Crimmins et al. to William F. Andrews, 27 acres on Town Street South and Route 4 for $300,000.

Susan S. and Dwight D. Hatcher II to Cornwall Library Association, 0.44 acres on Pine Street for $20,000.

Montgomery Masonic Temple Assoc., Inc. to Karl Salifer, house and 0.2 acres at 149 Popples Swamp Road for $77,000.

Carla M. Whiteside to Ella L. Clark, 3 acres on Town Street for $45,000.

Adam and Charlotte Sonnenblick Van Doren to Charles H. Melcher and Jessica Brackman, house and 3.8 acres at 52 Hauftboy Hill Road for $850,000.

John M. and Magna F. Corcoran, house and 2.2 acres at 9 Frederick Drive for $58,906.33.

Jean B. Bryant to Cornwall Library Association, 1.71 acres on Pine Street for $68,000.

Coltsfoot Farm Ltd. Partnership to Jean B. Bryant, TR. of Jean C. Bacon Trust, Lot 19, 18.8 acres on Valley Road for $95,000.

Library’s Strategic Plan

At their meeting on August 13, the Cornwall Library Association Trustees adopted their first strategic plan. The plan is an 18-page document that lays out goals and strategies for the next five years.

There are two main sections in the document. One describes the planning environment and includes sections on Cornwall’s population and economy, the present and potential users of the Library, and Library fi-
A second section presents the Library's mission statement and sets three principal goals: to create a new Library building; to improve Library resources and programs; and to strengthen the Library as an organization. Each goal contains objectives and specific activities to be carried out.

Copies of the strategic plan are available at the Library.

---David Grossman

4-H Dog Lovers

The 4-H Fair on August 1 and 2 at the Goshen Fairgrounds was the culmination of a year's work for Cornwall's newly formed 4-Paws—a 4-H Dog Club. The proud club members took first prize in nearly every event they entered. Seven-year-old Silvia LaPorta said it was the best weekend of her life.

During the first year, the club's members heard speakers describe raising puppies for the blind, learned about dogs that are being trained for search and rescue, visited a veterinarian's office, and learned some obedience training techniques.

The club begins its second year this fall. It will meet twice monthly and plans a fundraiser for the Little Guild of Honour. A second section presents the programs; and to strengthen the Library as an organization. Each goal contains objectives and specific activities to be carried out.

---Bianca LaPorta

Early and Under Budget

Those of us living in the north part of Cornwall were delighted to find that the Cogswell Road Bridge was finished earlier than expected, opening to traffic on August 20. And everyone will be pleased with the fact that it came in under budget! "They don't build bridges like that any more," said Cornwall's Project Supervisor Roger Kane. "They used a lot more material 62 years ago when the bridge was built." Now it is paying off. The concrete was thicker than anticipated and therefore the repairs were shallower. It will be good for the next 30 years, added Kane.

---Celia Sentzer

Events & Announcements

Come Play Ball: There is still time to sign up for the Cornwall Drug & Alcohol Prevention Council's Cornwall Cup softball games to be held at 10 A.M. and 1 P.M. on Saturday, September 12. Call your team captains. They are Bill Dinneen (672-6740) for Cornwall Bridge, Dave Cadwell (672-3283) for West Cornwall, and Jerry Blakey (672-6516) for Cornwall Village. Players must be in sixth grade or older. The games are intergenerational and family-style.

PHANTASTIC, PARK AND REC!

This is a fan letter to the folks at Park & Rec. who planned such a fantastic summer concert season. In June you gave us a party at the lake with the Caribbean Beach Bums (complete with dramatic thunderstorm); in July we did some lively boogying to the Fabulous music of the Advanced Phunk (misnamed "Punk" in the June Chronicle—ahem!); and in August, we heard great jazz from the McEachern/Pavone Jazz Quintet. You folks really know how to give a good party. Thank you!

---Marie Prentice

Letters to the Chronicle

CONFUSION

I am seriously confused. The entire library thing has muddled whatever sense I had about trying to understand why I live here. The following are my observations.

First, the vote we just finished with was, to my understanding, a decision about whether we do or do not build another library building. The bills posted around town led me to believe it was a done deal. Alas, I have discovered today that the vote was to determine that something had to be done, not what the something was. What is yet to be determined.

So now I can get down to business. We are proposing building a 6,000 square foot library with room for Internet sites, children's area, and reading room. The total cost has been estimated at $1,200,000. A major chunk of this—$250,000—will come from prior bonding, to which we still have access.

Here is my dilemma. There now exists a building that was designed as a library. Its square footage is 6,000 square feet. It fits all the code requirements. It is wonderfully situated and has land for parking. It has two tennis courts on the property. It could be made into a first-rate library for about $300,000.

The building could have been purchased for $325,000 when the negotiations were happening, according to Rick Wolfkowitz and Ben Gray, the owners. In fact, the entire campus could still be purchased for less than the cost of the new library, Dining hall, library, Calhoun mansion, and two small buildings for less than the cost of the new library. There are so many positives that can be accomplished on that property. An entity can be established to manage the property for the town. We would then have a venue for fund raising, the arts, housing for the elderly, office space for professionals, tennis courts, a theater, and a wonderful town civic center that would, I'm sure, take on many more local needs. It would be a beautiful town compound.

And—the existing bonding can be used toward purchase of the buildings. I believe it was a mistake to lose Marcelwood to begin with. Let's not lose the campus also. Call people, talk about it, go look at the buildings. Think about the possibilities. We have many talented people in town who can help with the planning. It should be a community effort that pulls people together.

---Todd Aichele

THE GNAI'TIEST TOWN IN CT?

I had the pleasure in July of attending my first political convention—as the lone delegate from Cornwall to the state Democratic Convention. As the chairman of our delegation (with one vote) I was required to verbally announce my vote for the contests for secretary of the state and treasurer. As the other chairpersons announced their delegation's vote, many of them preceded the name of their town with an epithet such as "The Park City" for Bridgeport, or "Home of the Mother of the Future Governor of CT." Not having an authorized epithet I hesitated saying anything on my own, like "Home of Baird's General Store" or "The Last Town in CT to Get Cable TV."

Cornwall has many distinctions and I would like to suggest that people submit their ideas to the Chronicle. Perhaps at a future town meeting we could discuss this important matter and vote on one or more distinct Cornwall features that could be used by the Democratic and Republican delegations to the next convention or at other appropriate times when Cornwall's name is mentioned.

---Paul Baren

100-MILE-AN-HOUR TRAINS

Spencer Klaw's letter to the Chronicle about train trips from New York on Friday evenings was very funny and brought back happy memories. On some Friday nights there was a parlor car at the head of the train to Pittsfield. It was a long hot hike on the platform at Grand Central to board it. At West Cornwall, the parlor car landed up in the middle of Route 128 and the porter put a yellow step stool right on the road so we could elbow.

Another West Cornwall railroad memory was the bag of mail hung high above the tracks for the mail car (when there was one) to snap up. The mail for West Cornwall would be dropped off at the station and Joe Beeman would transport it up to the post office in his cart with two big wheels.

At one time the President of the New York, New Haven and Hartford, with a lot of fanfare, announced plans at the West Cornwall station for 100-mile-an-hour trains, putting New York City within easy commuting distance. Somehow, that never came to pass.

---Ann Peterson
Ken Keskinen will read his narrative poem, *Iron and Roses*, on Sunday, September 13 at 4:30 P.M., at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Cornwall Library in the Town Hall. Ken is known for his poetic and witty chronicles of Cornwall and its inhabitants but the setting for this poem is his native Minnesota where his Finnish ancestors settled. The poem has been beautifully printed and bound (hand-stitched by the author) and copies will be available at the reading. The public is invited—no admission charge.

TLC for the Mind: The Taconic Learning Center, in its tenth year, again offers courses to residents of the Northwest Corner. Over the years Cornwall teachers and guest lecturers have included John and Jean Leich, Ken Keskinen, Spencer Klaw, John Miller, Larry Pool, Phyllis Wojan, and John Zinsser.

Fall courses begin on September 14 and end in early December. Courses meet one week for two hours at Noble Horizons or the Salisbury Library. Cornwallians will be teaching the following courses: *Keeping a Journal*, Ken Keskinen and Doris Stoeker; *Beginning German*, John Leich; *The Making of the Modern Theater*, Jean Leich.

A small yearly registration fee allows students to take as many courses as they wish. For more information, please call 435-2922 or write the TLC at Box 1752, Lakeville, CT 06039.

Live Theater is coming to Cornwall on Sunday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the United Church of Christ, Sunflower, a play written and performed by Broadway and TV actress Elizabeth Perry of New York and Cornwall, is based on the life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who called for the first women's rights convention 150 years ago. Perry portrays over 20 characters, including Emerson, Thoreau, Frederick Douglass, and Sojourner Truth. Admission is $10 and may be reserved by calling the church office weekdays 9 A.M.-1 P.M. at 672-6840. Proceeds will benefit church programs and buildings.

Cornwall's Ad Hoc Senior Committee is sponsoring two trips for seniors. One is a trip on September 29 to Oktoberfest '98 in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, with entertainment and a traditional German meal for $56. The other, on Sunday, October 4, is an exploration of the Hudson River Valley, including a guided tour of the West Point Military Academy, a champagne brunch, and a Hudson River cruise, all for $57. Interested seniors should contact Jill Gibbons at 672-2603.

Art In Cornwall: At the National Iron Bank Danielle Mailer will be exhibiting paintings, collages, and prints beginning September 1. From September 1 to October 3, Skip Hunt will be showing photographs at the Cornwall Library. At the Hedgerows Upstairs Gallery there will be an exhibit of the works of the late Johnathan Scoville. The opening will be on September 6 from 5 to 7 P.M. The show will run until October 4.

The Cornwall Library Association Trustees' annual meeting will be held on September 17, at 4:30 P.M. in the Town Hall. Year-end reports will be presented and new trustees will be elected. Everyone is welcome and members of the Library Association (those who have contributed to the association during the past year) may vote. The Building Committee has been meeting, and probably will continue to meet, weekly on Mondays and the trustees have been meeting regularly on Thursdays. For up-to-date information, call Jim Terrall (672-2407) or Audrey Ferman (672-6376).

Car Talk: The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet on Friday, September 11, at the Town Office from 5:30 to 8 P.M. to hear appeals about motor vehicle assessments. No appointment is necessary, but bring any relevant documentation.

The Friends of the Library Book Sale will be held on Columbus Day Weekend, October 10 and 11. The Friends will need all the books, videos, tapes, LPs, CDs, jigsaw puzzles, and children's puzzles that you can part with to make this sale a huge financial success for the Library. Please bring your donations to the Library during its expanded hours by Wednesday, October 7.

Calendar Reminder: If you are planning a town function, fund-raiser, party, whatever, and wonder whether another event might be planned for the same date and time, call Lisa Lansing Simont at 672-2707. She has a Cornwall calendar of up-coming events on her computer. Similarly, if you would like to register your future event, give her a call. It's a good way to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Play Group: Come all preschoolers with a parent, nanny, or favorite grown-up for playtime, activity, and snack. Every Wednesday from 10 to 11:30 A.M. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Cornwall Village. Questions? Call Jane Prentice, 672-6101.

News from the Assessor: Property owners whose property is used by farmers may be eligible for a reduction in assessment. Anyone currently receiving this classification need not reapply unless either the acreage or the farmer changes.

Residents who are veterans of military service in time of war may be eligible for an exemption of $2,000 on their property.

Persons receiving total disability benefits from Social Security are entitled to a $1,000 exemption on their property.

Call the Assessor's Office (672-2703) on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 9 A.M. and noon or on Wednesdays between 1 and 4:30 P.M. to find out about deadlines, how to apply, or to get more information.

The Gymnasium Committee has prepared a survey for the Board of Education to review at its September 17th meeting before it is mailed to the community. The purpose of the survey is to inform the public of the shortcomings of the present facility and to ask for ideas about how this situation should be addressed. Anyone interested in this project is encouraged to attend.

Sweet Tooth? St. Peter's Lutheran Church is holding its annual "elegant" bake sale on September 19, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., during the Agricultural Fair. Start dreaming of the patisseries of Austria, Germany, France, and Scandinavia.

Contributions from Cornwall bakers are also welcome. Please call Amy Cady, 672-0143, by September 8. Recipes will be collected and published in *Lead me into Temptation*...