

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume 1, No. 6

July/August 1991

## THE MORSES: A FAMILY BUSINESS BUILDING MEMORIES

Harry Morse, Sr. said that his father, Sidney B. Morse, had his eye on the land on top of the hill in East Montpelier even when he was farming the ancestral farm in Calais, because the East Montpelier land looked like it had lots fewer ledges in it. This was a time when farmers were switching from horse drawn plows to tractors, and the fertile, rock free land would be much easier for the tractors. So in 1943, Sidney and Mildred Morse moved from their 7th generation farm in Calais to the County Road. A few years later, Harry and Dot and their family followed.

Harry met Dot, who grew up in southern Vermont, when she came to Maple Corner to teach grades 5-8. She taught for three years before their children were born. Their four children are Elliot, who with his son Brian now runs the V.W. garage on the County Road; Sherwood, who has worked for the State Police and is now retired (but still works in electronics); Susan (Shattuck) who is a secretary at Washington County Mental Health; and Burr (Harry, Jr.), who manages the Morse Farm.

The family operated the dairy farm up until the 1960's.

Sidney had already begun to diversify by maple sugaring as well as selling some produce. Occasionally he would take a load of cauliflower to sell at what is now the Quincy Market in Boston, and he took other

vegetables to stores and restaurants in Burlington.

In 1965, with his father's blessing, Harry sold the dairy cows. He kept beef cattle for a few years, but decided it was a losing battle when so often the evidence was eaten before it was paid for. He hired Bud Schaefer to build the first little stand, now the front of the current building, and began raising all kinds of vegetables and fruits just a stone's throw away. The produce was marketed there and at their small portable stand on the Barre-Montpelier Road. The only other farmers' market then was Hutchinson's on Route 2.

During these early days of market gardening, Dot's teaching helped supplement the income. She hadn't taught for 19 years while the children were growing up, but then began substituting in Middlesex, which stretched into a 6-month stint when the regular teacher died. When the superintendent asked her to take over the one-room Morse School just two miles up the road, she couldn't refuse. She taught there and then moved with her classes to the elementary school built in 1966. She taught 20 years before finally retiring and all the while continued to help Harry and Burr at the Sugar Shack.

The Morses see a large part of their growth as being luck. One day a tourist bus showed up at their place. They aren't sure how the bus found them, but it was the first of a trek of buses that has been one of their mainstays, especially during the foliage season. Currently as many as 300 buses come during a season. Harry will get on the bus as it pulls in and with a twinkle in his eye say, "We used to milk cows, and now we milk people."

One of the funniest experiences happened with an elderly lady who tried sugar on snow for the first time and didn't like it. She pulled the taffy-like syrup from her mouth and threw it out the window, only to find that her false teeth had stuck to it and were now somewhere over the bank. Fortunately, the teeth were found and restored to their proper place.



Burr, Dot and Harry Morse

Bus tourists generally come from the west coast into the New York or Boston area, then travel north. With their purchases, they become part of the 20,000 names on the Morses' mail order catalog list. Through direct experience and word of mouth -- never buying lists, since this doesn't suit the family business style -- they have developed the successful mail order portion of their business.

The store has expanded to include an assortment of local crafts and produce, as well as their own corn, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Harry Sr. still goes over to Malletts Bay and Isle La Motte to visit friends and purchase apples and other produce for the store. They have always maintained a diversity of items for sale. Many times, in wanting to help local growers or craftspeople, they have bought things that have not sold, a lesson to be more business-minded.

Burr is said to be the business mind of the family. He has added unusual touches to the store using wheels, sled runners, burls for tables, and display shelves that give the store its special flavor. He also put the mailing list on computer. He says he has come full circle with the store...at first not interested in it, begrudgingly helping out, then realizing after marrying that the store could provide a livelihood for his family and that he needed to take it more seriously. Harry and Dot are obviously very pleased with Burr's involvement and give him credit for much of its recent rapid growth. Burr, however, states that Harry has provided the enthusiastic support to balance his more conservative views.

The store displays tools and materials from the family's farm history. Sugar buckets and spigots from past years show the changes in equipment. One of the side rooms has a huge granite water trough in it. Harry had heard that the stone was over the hill under some grass, got permission and dug it up. He, Burr and another helper struggled with rollers to move the rock into the store where it now has displays on it. Its recovery brought back poignant memories to Harry's father when he heard of it.

The Morse Farm's seasonal displays, rooms full of family farm history, and produce and crafts from people living in the area create a special place for new memories to grow.

*Carolyn Shapiro*

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## HOW TO GREEN-UP A SIGNPOST

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East Montpelier is unique in Washington County for having green signposts all around town helping folks find their way. We like to think of this *Signpost* as helping people find their way around town business too. You say you wish you were more active in town affairs? Consider that we report on over 100 Zoning, Planning Commission and Selectmen's meetings a year.

If you paid someone just 25¢ to go to each of those meetings and report the highlights to you, or used 25¢ worth of gas or babysitter to go to the meeting, you'd spend \$25 per year and spend a lot of time at meetings! We certainly encourage everyone to attend the meetings, but if you find our reviews an acceptable substitute, we'd appreciate your support. We'd like to keep this *Signpost*

## FROM THE TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

Have you wondered how the *Signpost* all comes together? Here's the way it works.

The week after you receive your fresh copy, we seven volunteers meet to size it up and start on the next issue. We discuss what's going on in town, decide what business and individual to profile, what events to feature, and what illustrations we need. We suggest possible writers. Janice then takes over, phoning authors, nudging reporters, and preparing extracts of minutes from town bodies. Sylvia provides the town statistics. Janet creates imaginative drawings to highlight the stories. By month's end, Janice rounds up all of the copy and begins typing it into Fred's computer. A week or so later, the final text is entered, and the text is put on a floppy disk and given to Cherie for editing and formatting.

By now the *Signpost* begins to look like a real newspaper. The Editorial Committee meets to proofread, add, subtract, and rearrange the contents to look as tidy and readable as possible. Now Cherie can do the final layout to go to the printer. Larry Brown prints, folds, labels, and delivers the issue to the Post Office in one week, and then we must allow several days for delivery. We want you to receive your *Signpost* by the first of the month. The magic moment for us is when we each get our first look at the finished paper!

Behind the scenes Fred keeps the mailing list current, changing a surprising number of addresses for each issue, so he can deliver up-to-date labels when the Browns are ready for them. Anne keeps the books, receives your contributions, handles subscriptions for out of towners, and pays the bills. Your publisher has a less precise role which might be described as keeping this venture on the track (scheduling meetings, keeping records, delivering *Signposts*, making cookies, etc.).

And that's how it happens.

*Jean Cate, Publisher*

as green as the ones on the roads, but we need your green paint. We've operated primarily on solicited and unsolicited contributions, some of them generous, but our can of green paint dries up with this issue.

If 60% of East Montpelier's 840 households each contributed \$10, we could print another year's worth of issues. Larger donations would be well appreciated. We know a lot of you like having a newspaper in town, but if we don't have enough funds to print the next issue, we simply won't.

If you want the *Signpost* to continue, why not write out a check for \$10 or more *right now!* Or call Anne Sherman (223-2693) and pledge an amount to be contributed later. See you next issue...we hope!



# THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

*Weston Cate, Allan Couch, Austin Cleaves*

**April 9, 1991**

\* Discussed how to reach highway crew by phone or radio. An answering service will be purchased.

\* Reviewed and paid bills for the month totaling \$13,093.

\* Appointed Tim Carver and Margaret Richey to serve on the Planning Commission until Town Meeting 1992.

\* Selectman Cate spoke to EMES principal re: crowding of gym during Town Meeting. Possibility of moving voting booths to nearby classroom and box lunches might free up space.

\* Approved road permit for Booth Brothers.

\* Approved beverage license for Creamery Country Store.

\* Voted to set speed limit to 40 m.p.h. on Town Hill Road as per recommendation of the State.

**April 24, 1991**

\* Reappointed Tim Carver as town's representative to Central Vt. Regional Planning Commission for one year. Stuart Friedman was appointed alternate.

\* Robert Van Zandt will replace Chris Reed as Town Fire Warden.

\* Approved liquor license for Blueberry Hill Entertainment Center.

\* Wes Cate will represent Selectmen on 4-Corner School Assoc. Board.

\* Selectmen will meet with people interested in vacancy on Planning Commission on 5/8. Appointment will follow.

\* Correspondence sent to two property owners re: accumulation of trash on land.

**May 8, 1991**

\* Discussed wage and hours for summer VSAC student. Approved 300 hours of work this summer.

\* Appointed Edward Blackwell to serve on Planning Commission until Town Meeting 1992.

\* Bills totalling \$20,898 were paid.

\* Review of ten Administrative Assistant applications begun.

## PLANNING COMMISSION

*Chair: Johanna DeMartino*

**March 21, 1991**

\* Hugh and Dennis Hawkins met with commission to discuss possibility of further subdivision of their property. Some confusion over whether town subdivision regulations apply to lots > 10 acres. John Riley will explore this question with Town Attorney.

\* Discussion of issues around location of a solid waste facility in town. Disagreement about role of Planning Commission particularly in relation to other governing bodies. Voted not to participate in Selectmen's proposal to be part of advisory committee on solid waste.

\* Voted to have a referendum on the question of whether the Town should approve siting agreement for a solid waste facility.

\* Tim Carver briefed the group on the implication of reclassification of rivers as proposed by Agency of Natural Resources. Tim feels reclassification should be opposed as it would put more development pressure on town.

**April 4, 1991**

\* Proposed Hawkins property subdivision would need to go through Town subdivision process.

\* Given letter for review on designation of scenic roads. Selectmen will request Planning Commission thoughts on this matter.

\* Approved sign application for Bruce Chapell.

\* Heard Zoning Administrator's update.

**April 11, 1991**

\* Reviewed wetlands/waterways section of Town Plan.

\* Agreed to hold a joint meeting with Board of Adjustment to review Casavant subdivision proposal.

\* Recommended reappointment of Tim Carver as town representative to Regional Planning Commission and

Stuart Friedman as alternate.

**April 18, 1991**

\* Met with Warren and Mary Noyes to discuss erection of pole shed for lumber storage and gas pumps at the Creamery Store. On site review scheduled.

\* Discussed letter re: scenic roads. Should be discussed in terms of Town Plan. Will invite Martin Miller and Jean Vissering to attend Planning meeting to discuss this further.

**April 29, 1991**

\* Discussed Casavant subdivision located off Route 14.

\* Plans to relocate Veterans Memorial discussed. Will need waiver from BOA if setback not adequate.

**May 2, 1991**

\* Approved sign permit for Michael Whipple for business on Route 14.

\* Advised of public hearing on Noyes application.

\* Worked on Town Plan section on trails.

\* Held public hearing to review preliminary plat application for 2-lot subdivision submitted by Thelma Welsh - approved.

## BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

*Chair: Earle Ellingwood*

**March 28, 1991**

\* Joint meeting of BOA and Planning Commission.

\* Discussed Bragg Farm proposed new sales room/sugar house. Two boards working together on such proposals would eliminate a lot of redundancy for applicant.

\* C.V. Landfill: Heard review of where District is at from Austin Cleaves. Lengthy discussion followed.

**April 8, 1991**

\* Approved application of Charles Richardson and Virginia Callen to construct addition to their home on Guyette Road.

\* Approved application of Mark and Pamela Tucker to replace garage with a 24' x 28' structure.

\* Heard from Barre Granite Assoc. re: sludge dumping and current status of permit. Application for extension of permit will be given to BOA.

\* C.V. Landfill: Request for BOA members to sit on advisory committee. Town attorney advised that they can go to meetings or become more informed on issues but should not sit on any committee because of the quasi-judicial role of BOA.

April 29, 1991

\* Joint meeting of BOA and planning commission to discuss Casavant subdivision. Voted to have the developer file with the BOA the homeowners agreement that shows appropriate setback requirements are met. Final approval was tabled until all fees are paid.

DENNIS R. HAWKINS 223-3994		HUGH M. HAWKINS 229-0114
Driveway and Lawn Construction Mowing, Bush Hogging Snow Plowing Sanding		229-4166 WHOLESALE - RETAIL

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

To our wonderful contributors who've made this issue possible:

- Joanne H. Bair
- Royal & Jane Bartrum
- Marion Codling
- Jeffrey & Linda Cueto
- Stuart & Ellen Friedman
- Seth Gardner
- Jeffrey & Charlotte Green
- Paul Erlbaum & Rachael Grossman
- Bernard & Marcia Guilmette
- Robert & Nancy Henning
- Richard & Esther Hill
- Robert Klein & Jean Vissering
- George & Minnie Lane
- Jonathan Lash
- Marian Lord
- Kenneth & Nancy Mason
- Anna Molloy
- Harry & Dot Morse
- Augustine & Alberta Pacini
- Susan Page
- Karen Saudek
- E. May Slayton
- Doris Washburn
- Ronald & Geneva Woodward

**EAST MONTPELIER  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD**

Janice Aldrich, Phil Cookson, Rich Davidian,  
Tony Klein, Burr Morse

April 4, 1991

\* Laura Johnson reported an unexpected expense for the septic system. Two or three more ports will need to be installed costing between \$700 and \$1000.

\* Opportunity to buy a used scoreboard from Twinfield School. The school store will donate \$125 and the popcorn fund will donate \$75.

\* Voted to allow Kidwatch to use the school in the summer.

\* Lyman Amsden reported that state aid may go down because of decreased student population and increased grand list.

May 2, 1991

\* Discussed request for waiver for child to enter kindergarten who was born after September 1 deadline. Lengthy debate followed and decided to deny request and abide by current policy.

\* Discussed use of recycled paper and decided not to use it. [Editorial question: Why not?]



**FOUR CORNERS  
SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION**

At the Annual Meeting on May 15, the Association voted to change the by-laws and elected new directors and officers. The new officers are Don Donnelly, President; Paul Cate, Vice President; Marion Codling, Clerk/Treasurer. Other directors are Ginny Burley; Weston Cate Jr.; Peter Hill; Anna Molloy; Harry Morse Jr.; and Clifton Wright. If you are interested in filling one of the two vacancies in the board, call Marion or Don.

A meeting was held on June 5 to define work to be done and activities to be held during the summer and fall. The first priority for the building is to drill a well, then to install plumbing. Grants or donations will have to be obtained first.

**EAST MONTPELIER  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Forest Davis was recognized as the EMFD Firefighter of the Year by Jon Winston. Jon cited Forest's eagerness to learn, enthusiasm, and dedication to the fire department in presenting this award.

The EMFD has responded to two serious forest fires in the past month. Before any outside burning can be done, a permit MUST be obtained from the town Forest Fire Warden. Contact Bob VanZandt at 454-7101 to obtain a permit.

Election results:

Michael Garand, Chief  
Jon Winston, President  
Rick Geisler, Vice President

Board of Directors:

Bill George, Karl Huoppi, Earl Smith and Bob VanZandt.

The following were appointed:

Rick Geisler, 1st Assistant Chief  
Elliot Morse, 2nd Assistant Chief  
Bill George & Jon Winston,

Captains,  
Bob VanZandt and Karl Huoppi,  
Lieutenants.

Bill George, Adminis. Secretary  
Brian Lusignan, Treasurer  
Forest Davis, Recording Secretary.

**BICENTENNIAL  
COMMITTEE**

East Montpelier will be well represented in the Bicentennial Parade to be held Saturday, July 13, in Montpelier. After all, the two towns were all one when Vermont became a state in 1791, so we will march together with pride. The committee is preparing a float to represent an old fashioned singing school, since East Montpelier was well known for its musical talents. The costumed singers will harmonize with music of the period under the direction of Andy Christiansen.

Have you seen the latest in bicentennial styles? A handsome green T-shirt with a fife and drum corps design has been fashioned especially for East Montpelier and is available from Gladys Dunkling, or any other member of the Bicentennial committee or at the town office. Get yours and be in style.

## CHURCH CHIMES

### OLD BRICK CHURCH

The OBC Strawberry Festival will be held on Thursday, June 27, starting at 5:30 p.m. No reservations needed. Come and enjoy delicious strawberries with either cake and ice cream or biscuits and whipped cream.

### OLD MEETING HOUSE

The OMH steeple repair project has begun and is expected to take about 7 weeks. Jay Southgate of Plainfield is the contractor for the project. He was selected because of his demonstrated craftsmanship and understanding of preservation and restoration. The OMH has been awarded some grant money to assist in this project from the Division for Historic Preservation and from the Third Century Fund. Fund raising for the remainder of the project is underway. Members and friends of the OMH may send contributions payable to "The OMH Steeple Fund", c/o Janice Waterman, RR#1, Box 4330 Montpelier, VT 05602.

The OMH Sunday School children and friends and parents put on two gala performances of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" with the direction of Pat Pritchett.

During July and August, joint services are held at 10:00 a.m. Worship services are at the Old Brick Church in July and at the Old Meeting House in August. There are no Sunday School classes in the summer. Everyone is welcome at either church.

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### NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for next issue is August 1. Please get your copy to Janice Waterman, RR 1, Box 4330, Montpelier, 05602, 223-5826.

## EXPLORING AROUND TOWN



## MARK RALLY WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 7 & 8

Do you know: Where the highest point in East Montpelier is? Or the coolest swimming holes in the Winooski? Where the herons nest? Where wild orchids and pitcher plants grow? Which brook in town is the longest? Where the best sunrise and sunset views may be seen? That there is at least one legal trail and several class 4 roads besides the dirt roads we all know and love? Have you ever been to the Town Forest?

This summer you will have a chance to learn some answers through a series of exploring walks planned by the Trails Group of the Community Activities Committee. Please join us.

**Sunday, August 4:** Short walk to Winooski River swimming hole. Meet at 1:30 at the Town Office.

**Sunday, August 18:** Longer walk to wetlands/beaver dam area. Meet at 10:30 at Charles Johnson's house on Sanders Circle which is off the Horn of the Moon Road. Bring a lunch. Questions? Call Nona Estrin, 223-7745.

The trails group wants to learn what activities other townsfolk enjoy and opinions about preserving existing trails or developing new trails, bike paths, horse trails, and easy trails for the less able. A questionnaire was included in the school newsletter and is available at the Town Office, or call Nona Estrin, Madeleine Mongan, or Carolyn Shapiro.

### WAR MEMORIAL

*Jim Goodall, Roger Chapell, Conrad Ormsbee and Gladys Dunkling Committee*

The East Montpelier War Memorial Committee wants to identify veterans who were from East Montpelier and served in the Vietnam era between 12/22/61 and 5/7/75; the Korean Conflict between 6/25/50 and 1/31/55 (not already on the honor roll); and in the Persian Gulf war after 8/2/90.

Information should include name and dates served and be mailed as soon as possible to the Memorial Committee, Town Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651 as it will be difficult to make changes to the memorial once it is finished.

Plans are well underway to make Rally Weekend the best celebration yet as bicentennial events combine with exploring our town's special attractions.

First launched in 1989, when Hurricane Hugo nearly wiped us out, last year we enjoyed perfect weather and larger crowds. Although we can't plan the weather, we are planning super activities!

What's new? A parade for one thing. It may be a small thing -- so is our town -- but you shouldn't miss it: 11 a.m. at the Elementary School. There will be food for sale all day. The Four Corners Schoolhouse will host an Art Show and a display of old toys. Memory Hour will give a chance to listen in on stories about "the way it was."

Repeat events include the bus tour which will visit the original district schoolhouses (or their sites). The softball games are back, and "old games" especially planned by Glenn Gannon for kids from 1 to 100. There will be hikes, including the late afternoon favorite "Carroll Badger hike" to see the spectacular view from his old farm. The Brick Church will put on the baked bean and red flannel hash supper. A big hit last year will be repeated with Saturday night's Variety Show, where the town's talents are paraded onstage. An added feature will be an auction of local talents and products to benefit *The Signpost*. Sunday is truly Bicentennial Day, with an old-time church service at the Old Meeting House and a box lunch and musicale.

**We need your participation!** To be in the parade with decorated bicycles, farm machines, old cars, strolling in costume: Charles Codling, 229-9622, Clayton Copping, 454-7802, or Rose Riley, 223-5772. For a table at the craft/hobby show: Sylvia Tosi, 223-3240 or Jennifer Boyer, 223-8926. An act for the variety show: Phyllis Duso, 223-5557 or Anne Sherman, 223-2693. Donate items or services to the auction: Jean Vissering, 223-3262. Most of all, if you want to help out before or on the weekend, we could sure use you (223-2951).



☉ Congratulations to graduating 6th grade students: Erin Beardsworth, Colin Blackwell, Kyle Brownell, Barbara Carver, Gina Cook, Jesse Crossman, Jeremy Davis, Jason Deforge, Karen Doane, Chris Dodge, Nora Duane, Todd Duff, Brendon Eaton, Thomas Edson, Aren Emigh, Joel Fielder, Nick Floersch, Jeff Guilmette, Susan Hambro, Joshua Harrington, Samantha Hawkins, Ramon Hudson, Alyssa Johnson, Jessica Kaiser, Tiki Kelley, Gary Lapoint, Brooke MacDonald, David Martin, Christina Mascitti, Shelagh McGinley, Drew McNaughton, Jeff Merritt, Stephanie Nist, Kelly Palmer, Matt Pelkey, Brian Pickel, Amy Raymond, Justin Redmond, Louis Sanborn, Matthew Sheppard, Josh Smilovitz, Selina Smith, Kevin Stone, Alex Teschmacher, Amy Watker, Susan Witham, Stephany Yahn.

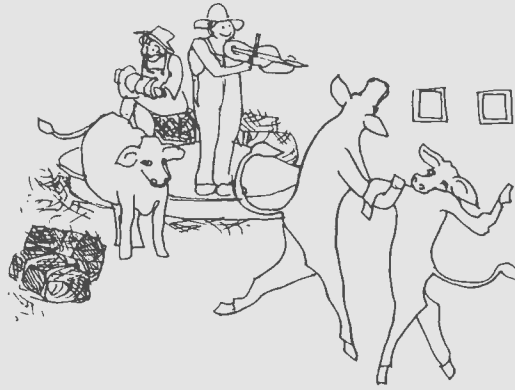
♥ Grandparents and special friends enjoyed spending a day at EMES on May 13. A delicious lunch, art show, classroom activities and the spring concert were enjoyed by all.

☉ Library News - The EMES Library will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for four weeks starting July 9, 1991 and ending August 1, 1991 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. each day. Each Tuesday at 10:30 there will be a children's story hour.

■ Results of the U-32 Bond Vote for addition of Junior High Space on May 29, 1991 were 598 in favor, 769 opposed. A total of 1,368 people voted, 371 from East Montpelier.

☉ Congratulations to the following graduates of U-32 from East Montpelier! Monte Casavant, Jeffrey Durgin, Sayde Eastman, Shannon Fielder, Danielle Gosselin, Darci Graves, Michelle Hall, Alexis Hull, Robert Jablonski, Justin Lane, Katherine Langer, Jennifer McNaughton, Phil Mears, Beth Palmer, Daniel Perry, Alex Rob, Lori Senter, Nan Shattuck, Scott Sibley, Christy Staudt, Katina Touchette, Angela Woodbeck.

♦ Austin Cleaves says he is not a candidate for elective office this year.



✿ A record number of moose have been sighted in Vermont this year. Unfortunately, many have been sited on the highways, though none have yet been cited. (Several smited, some frightened, others unrequited.)

✿ Cheers to the persons who got Carroll Badger's waterwheel spinning on Center Road.

♥ George and Minnie Lane recently returned home from visiting their daughter Cynthia and family in South Dakota.

✿ On April 27, 1991, two rose colored flowering crabapple trees were donated and planted by the Central Vermont Rotary on the front lawn of the Town Office Municipal building. Brian Forrest, President, David Coburn, Ted Nelson and Wally Farnum helped plant the trees.

✿ Gladys Dunkling planted geraniums at the town honor roll presently located on the Brick Church lawn.

♦ Ellen Hill periodically changes the pictures in the display case at the Town Clerk's Office. Presently there are views of East Montpelier showing how it was 50 to 100 years ago.

✿ Anyone interested in being a volunteer representative for East Montpelier to the Central Vermont Transportation Association, Inc. (CVTA), please call Town Clerk at 223-3313. It involves meeting with other Board members and discussing community ideas for transportation services to and from our community.

✿ If anyone is interested in serving on the Wrightsville Beach District Board, please send letter to Town Clerk indicating interest in the position.

**MILESTONES**  
(Received by the Town Clerk by May 31)

**BIRTHS**

- ♥ Ami Virginia Curtis born 3/5/91 to Richard Curtis, Jr. and Debra Curtis.
- ♥ Kyle Robert Edmunds born 3/13/91 to Mark H. Edmunds and Samantha Jean Sanborn.
- ♥ Benton Kidder Green born 4/4/91 to Jeffrey and Charlotte Green.
- ♥ Shalyn Elizabeth Rogers born 4/14/91 to Cheryl Ann Rogers and Christopher Allen Colombe.

**MARRIAGES**

- ♥ Shawn Manwaring to Rebecca A. Covey on 4/5/91.

**PASSINGS**

- Ethel M. Hale passed away on 5/7/91. She lived on Horn of the Moon Road before going to Berlin Convalescent Center.
- Clair Allen Phillips II passed away in May. Husband of Doris Phillips and brother to Albert Steven Phillips.

**LAND TRANSFERS**

- One acre for access onto new Towne Hill Road project from Jan and Glenda Otto to John and Grace Mekkelson.
- 20 acres and dwelling on Center Road from David R. and Gail M. Power to Kevin M. and Sherrie L. Wall.
- 73 acres and dwelling on Gidney Road from Richard J. Gidney to William J., Ennis J., and Mittie C. Gidney and Roberta Morse.



Norman C. Rice  
President  
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**DUNROVEN ASSOCIATES**

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## HAMILTON COE THROCKMORTON: NATURALLY LEADING THE FLOCK

His grandfather and great-uncle were ministers. Two of his uncles are ministers, and his mother and father are ministers. Yet, even with the "gobs of ministers" in his family, Hamilton Coe Throckmorton wondered if he'd ever be a pastor. The family traditions and accomplishments left Hamilton with a question that he now recognizes as "How am I ever going to live up to that?" He didn't want to become a minister just for "genetic reasons."

Hamilton was born in Bangor, Maine, in 1955 on what he's told was a clear cold night. His dad, who has danced professionally on Broadway and played piano at Juilliard, is an editor, a scholar, and a preacher at Bangor Theological Seminary. Hamilton's mother is General Secretary of the Division of Education and Publication for the United Church of Christ.

Hamilton spent one of his high school years in England while his father was on sabbatical. Following that year, he went to Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts, where he had "great teachers and read all the classics." However, in comparison to high school, Williams College was where he truly felt at home.

After graduating from Williams in 1977, Hamilton made a conscious decision to take several years off from education or a career. He moved to Boston and worked at a stereo store, a seafood restaurant, and a home for mentally retarded criminals. In 1980 he decided to enter Yale Divinity School. Here, he "never felt more a part of a community. The students were involved together, all doing the same thing, preparing for the same life." With everyone reading and discussing theology, Hamilton felt a commitment and passion for the ministry.

After two years, though, Hamilton left Yale and took a job delivering donuts for a Maine bakery from midnight to 8 am. This was the "best thing that could have happened...with lots of quiet and time alone to piece together" what he was doing. Then he got a job for four months as a caretaker on Clark's Island, off the coast of Plymouth, Massachusetts. In this isolation he found his own inner resources. He now sees that he had to reach a low point before there could be any movement toward a future and figuring out who he was called to be.

Hamilton decided to resume studying for the ministry at Bangor Seminary, where his father taught, and confront the

uncertainty about following the family footsteps. At one point finding it impossible to write a 20-page paper for his father's class, he finally told his father, who encouraged, "I know before you write the paper that it'll be great." He felt the "even-keeledness" and constancy of his mother's support throughout the struggle and ultimate discovery that being a minister was what he wanted to do and could be.

Hamilton and Mary Senechal, a nurse who lived in Portland, dated during Hamilton's graduate studies. In July 1987 they married. At the same time, Hamilton accepted the call to be pastor to the Old Brick Church and the Old Meeting House. Graduation from school, marriage, and a change of location all happened very quickly. They looked forward to the changes, but they "didn't count on the sense of loss, or real pain" of leaving families behind.



Mary, Taylor, Alexander and Hamilton

Hamilton and Mary have settled into their home in North Montpelier with their sons, Alexander, 3, and Taylor, 1. They have also been welcomed into the community. Hamilton recalls such highlights as Linda Cueto setting off fireworks at his ordination, and the baby shower given for Mary at the Meeting House. He is aware of a "slower paced world than Portland. East Montpelier is a concerned place, where people care about the land and have an investment and involvement in the future."

The vibrancy, joyfulness and sense of commitment that Hamilton first heard over the phone when he spoke to Search Committee Chairperson Becky Reed, and the spirit he felt in the interview, have all made the move to

Vermont a good one. Hamilton feels that there's a "rightness" for him, "a fit" about his ministry in East Montpelier. He "loves preaching and preparing for preaching. It's a long prayer-- all the struggle, the listening, the patience. The most difficult part is to try to find words for the ephemeral... to perceive in the big and little things where God is and what God is asking. You're never sure; you don't have clear-cut answers."

The traditions of his family have helped bring him to the ministry, and Hamilton feels "blessed to be in the church" in East Montpelier. He feels comfortable, stimulated, and supported by the community here, and plans to be here for awhile.

Barbara Dall

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Back copies of the *Signpost* are available from Jean Cate.

## COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectmen	2nd & 4th Wednesday	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission	1st, 3rd, 4th Thursday	7:30	"
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30	"
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	7:00	"
Agland and Open Space	1st Tuesday	7:30	"
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
U-32 School Board	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:30	U-32
Elementary School Board	1st Thursday	7:30	Elementary School
Town Clerk's Office Hours	Monday-Thursday: 9-5, Friday: 9-12		Town Office
Zoning Administrator	Tuesday & Thursday	1:00-2:30,	Town Office

Meeting times are subject to change

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Thursday, June 27, 5:30	Strawberry Festival	Old Brick Church
Sundays, July, 10:00	Church Services	Old Brick Church
Saturday, July 13	Bicentennial Parade	Montpelier
Sundays, August, 10:00	Church Services	Old Meeting House
Thursday, August 1, 7:00	Rally Day Planning Meeting	Town Office
Sunday, August 4, 1:30	Explore Town Swimming Hole	Town Office
Sunday, August 18, 10:30	Explore Wetlands/Beaver Pond	Charles Johnson's House, Sanders Circle (off Horn of Moon Road)

## SIGNPOST STAFF

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