

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume 4, No. 2

November/December 1993

CLAUDIA BRISTOW: A Southerner Well-Transplanted

When Janice Waterman, News Editor for the *Signpost*, called me to ask if I would do a story about Claudia Bristow, she said I'd have a month to write it. Now a month seems like a long time, so I said yes. But this time of year I spend a lot of time on a tractor chopping corn and watching the Canadian geese leaving us right now for the Southland. I say "lucky birds." In fact I heard the other day that hummingbirds catch a ride on the geese's backs on the way down. Good idea! I wonder if that's true?

Thinking of the South, though, brought Claudia to mind. She has lived in East Montpelier since 1970, when she and her husband, Charles, and three sons moved here from New Orleans. They have lived in a log home in the Horn of the Moon area ever since their arrival. Both Claudia and Charles are attorneys by profession, and both are well known for the positions they have held in public life.



Claudia Bristow

Well-liked, Claudia has a very pleasant demeanor and will greet you sometimes with a "How-ya-all" with a slight drawl which is a dead give away that she comes from the South. Claudia's father was a doctor and practiced most of his career in New Orleans. She was married and bore her three sons while

living there. She is a 1962 graduate from Tulane University in Louisiana, majoring in political science, and then graduating from Vermont Law School in 1978. She used her interest in politics serving as an aide to then Representative James Jeffords

The other day I took a moment to go to town and see if I could visit with Claudia. My main interest was to find a copy of the news article that announced her appointment as Assistant Secretary of State and to ask her what she likes about Vermont and why she didn't live in the South. After all, the birds like it down there. You can see, I'm not a lover of cold weather.

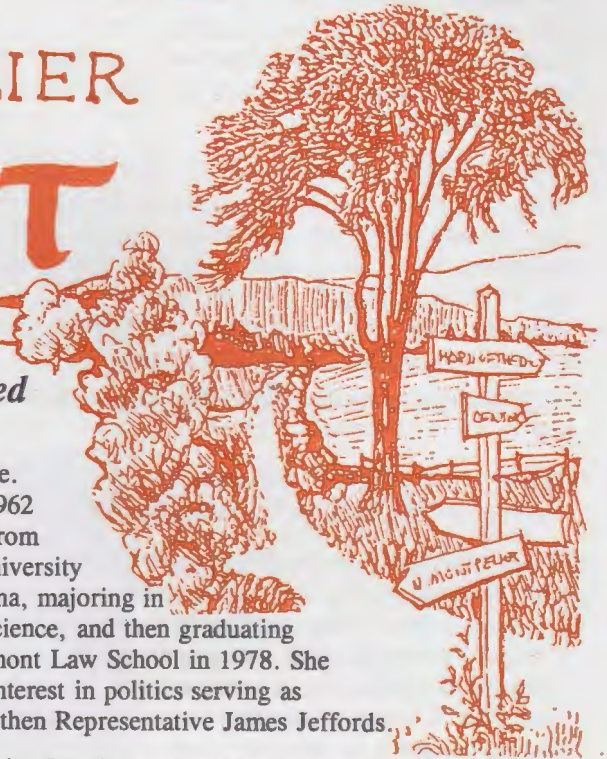
A stop at the State of Vermont Library and in twenty minutes I had a copy of the article in my hand. Amazing! The computer, microfiche, copier and presto, here's the article.

Now on to Redstone, the Secretary of State's headquarters. Redstone is an enormous stately-looking building. Very large trees encircle the parking lot. For a moment I thought what an appropriate setting for Claudia. I was still thinking South. As I approached the house I could imagine that the trees were of the live oak variety with light green Spanish moss hanging from them. Maybe I'll be greeted by a maid or butler and the interior will be decorated in light pinks and blues, furnished with elegant Elizabethan style furniture. I entered. Bang! I'm in Vermont. A casually dressed woman greeted at a very plain desk. "Could I please speak with Claudia Bristow?" I asked.

"Claudia is working at her home today."

"Could I call her at her home?"

"Please take a seat." I was seated in a steel folding chair in front of the receptionist's desk. In the space of five minutes she must have taken five calls, and I thought, this place is



busier than the Governor's office. "Please go upstairs and turn left." I was greeted by Don Hooper, Secretary of State. I remember Don ever since he was a goat farmer in Brookfield. We chatted for a moment. "You know, Claudia receives so many calls here, she has to go home in order to write." Don handed me her number. "Feel free to use her office to call."

Claudia's office, too, was minimal: a desk, a chair, law books. There was a modernish painting that caught my eye. Done in reds and greens of a peasant woman harvesting vegetables, it looked Czechoslovakian. Claudia spent six months teaching English there just recently. "Hi, Claudia. I'm calling to collect some information concerning the *Signpost* article. Guess where I'm calling from? Your office."

"Really! Write a few opinions while you're sitting there, will you?"

"Gosh, I wish I could." I thought, this could only happen in Vermont: me sitting at the Assistant Secretary of State's desk.

Claudia and I were on the Planning Commission for several years. She still serves. She was and still is the legal mind of the Commission, giving countless hours of free time to make sure that the written law is interpreted correctly. The Commission labored for three years and more writing our new Town Plan. Claudia reviewed every word to make sure it said what we wanted it to. She had plenty of training at such work, serving twelve years on the Vermont Legislative Council. She, by virtue of that position, has written many of the laws that govern us today.

Claudia has served as East Montpelier's counsel for two years or more so her knowledge of town government is well-founded. She also served two terms on the U-32 board, three years as its chair.

When Don Hooper appointed Claudia, he had this to say about her: "She's one of the best attorneys I know. She understands the Legislature and works very effectively. Assiduously non-partisan, I've never met a person who is less persuaded by partisan politics of any stripe."

While visiting with Claudia on the phone, she had a lot to say about her Czech experience. She says of herself, "I wanted a change, and I saw my time in Czechoslovakia as an opportunity. I didn't know Czech so I used a lot of body motion in my teaching. But I realized that we take our freedom so for granted. I lived and taught English to people who were prisoners in their own country. They were so friendly and kind. I made some good friends while I was there."

"So what do you like about Vermont?"

"People are friendly here; the beauty of the area, its ruralness. And as a woman, I've been given far more opportunities in Vermont than I would ever hope to have been given in New Orleans."

I reflected on what Claudia said late that afternoon as I was moving across a field, the tractor humming, the chopper

eating the corn like a hungry monster, the late afternoon sun casting long fall shadows, beautiful Spruce Mountain on my right. A full grown deer just emerged from the woods and was browsing the tips of the newly growing alfalfa. A flock of geese was flying over, going south. I mused, yes, I guess Vermont is a beautiful place to be, and with people like Claudia Bristow working at her craft, it just makes it all the nicer. But I still wonder if hummingbirds catch a ride south on the geese's back.

John S. Hall

John lives on Putnam Road and is one of the partners of Fairmont Farm.



TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

It's easy to get excited about our town in this most beautiful of seasons, when the sunlit reds and golds burst out of the green woodlands. Have you watched an ordinary fence or power pole entwined with woodbine turn in just one day to crimson? Every year seems to me to be a better show than the last one.

By the time you read this, the leaves will be on the ground. Winds will be chillier and darkness will come too soon every day. I'm afraid that November is my least favorite month of the year, and it takes some mental gymnastics to lift it from depressing to positive. I've learned how to do this by a combination of looking backward and looking forward. First I tackle an intensive job which I've anticipated for months - putting together family photo albums, for instance, or writing about my childhood memories. To balance this memory trip, November brings the hard work of butchering, and then there are family things ahead like the Thanksgiving feast and Christmas.

Memories are an important part of weathering the short cold days of our lives. Happy memories make us glow, and they carry us over to sunnier times. We can put happy occasions in the bank like money, drawing them out as we need them. That's rather the way I store the treasures of wonderful days like September's Rally Day. It was truly an occasion when friends and neighbors pitched in to have fun together. From it I now hold a mental image of kids pedalling their bikes up the road, their legs pumping like pistons. And of proud gardeners and bakers delivering their products to the school auditorium to be judged. Most of all, my memory bank is filled with the enthusiasm of townsfolk working together to make this day special for us all. East Montpelier is an unusually nice place to live!

Jean Cate

MANY THANKS TO OUR KIND CONTRIBUTORS

Allan & Nancy Couch
Marguerite Ferris
Richard & Esther Hill
Robert & Judith Nist
Elizabeth Pulsifer
Sam & Barbara Starr
Robert Klein & Jean Vissering
Paul & Alison White

PLEASE KEEP HELPING

The Rally Day auction netted \$1089 for the publication of the *Signpost*, and we greatly appreciate the support that donors and buyers gave. That sounds like a lot, but each issue costs about \$500 to print and mail. We certainly hope that sometime during the coming winter you will feel like contributing towards the next issues, if you haven't already. By the time sugaring season rolls around, the bottom of our bucket could be pretty bare.

TRAILIN' ALONG

The Trails Committee started its work putting up signs on East Montpelier's trails. The sign is square plastic with a fox paw print and was designed by Janet MacLeod. The Dodge Road Trail is the first to be marked to be followed by a new trail on Chapell and Bair lands. There's lots of trail cutting and organizational work to do. If you could help, call Nona Estrin (223-7745), Madeline Mongan (223-2579) or Carolyn Shapiro (229-5676).

Another new trail... Glenn Gannon and the children in grades 1 to 6 worked on clearing and marking a one-mile hiking/walking trail at the school. The idea for a trail came from the Wellness group at school -- a group of teachers and staff who try to incorporate wellness ideas into the school curriculum. The trail begins at the front of the school, goes out through the soccer field and recreation field, into the woods for 1/4 mile and then back to the school. It is marked in increments of 1/20 of a mile. The children cleared brush, staked out the trail and marked it. Townspeople are welcome to use this new trail.

RALLY DAY 1993

This was a day to celebrate! Never mind that the first cold winds of autumn chose this day as well.

This was the fourth year of Rally Day, a day to celebrate East Montpelier, its people and its special places. Well over fifty people worked to make all the parts of the day come together, and a great many more participated in the events. Did you see it on WCAX TV? We were completely surprised by the coverage which featured the kids' bike parade, the square dancing, and an interview with Anne Sherman explaining how Rally Day came about.

A new feature this year was the Town Fair, put together by Bruce Chapell, Barbara Fitch and Jean Ormsbee. It was certainly a success with many children and adults bringing in their best flower arrangements, baked goods or vegetables. Grand prize winners in each category were:

Baked goods: Adult, Kathie Doner
Child, Aaron Burley

Vegetables: Adult, Alice Walbridge
Child, Suzanne Waterman

Flowers: Adult, Jean Cate
Child, Hannah Hamilton

Biggest in Show: Ashton Troia for his
12 foot high sunflower.

*From promenades to serenades, Rally Day
had a bit of spice for everyone!*

Once the judging was over many contestants allowed their products to be auctioned. Under David Connor's direction, these outstanding East Montpelier products brought in an additional \$86 to benefit the *Signpost* (pays half the postage for one issue). We thank the generous East Montpelier businesses that donated gift certificates to the grand prize winners:

Bragg Farm
Danforth's Sugar House
Dudley's Store
Legare's Farm Market
Morse Farm
Video Box Office

There will surely be another Town Fair at next year's Rally Day, so plan to enter your prize products.

Other popular new events included the hoop shoot, the bike parade which had kids of all ages pedalling the route around the Four Corners Schoolhouse on every kind of bike and trike, and some pretty fancy square dancing to Bob Bragg's calling and the music of Bob Gallison and Andy Christiansen. What fun! All this, and the usual hikes and meals which have become Rally Day traditions.

If you missed the day this year, put 1994 on your calendar. Rally Day is always the weekend after Labor Day weekend, and next year will be the fifth celebration.





THE SELECTBOARD

Weston Cate, Allan Couch, Edie Miller

July 21, 1993

- Reappointed Sue Chickering and Brian Lusignan to the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee for a three-year term.
- Voted to change the policy on the voter checklist. Will allow for sale of computer diskette copies as well as written copies at the same fee of 5¢ per name.
- Received preliminary notice of Agency of Transportation grant award for replacement of undersized culvert under Center Road between Templeton and Sibley Roads. Overall cost of project is estimated at \$40,000 of which the State will pay \$36,000.

August 25, 1993

- Bank note approved for new dump truck.
- Discussion on special information meeting about need for new front-end loader. Warning and checklist for vote have been posted.
- Discussion about alleged junk yard/zoning violation at property on Quaker Road. Selectboard will monitor.
- Approved order for another truckload of calcium chloride.

September 8, 1993

- Mike Garand gave his monthly Road Foreman's report. The Road Department was asked by the Fire Department to haul some gravel and grade the parking area at the Washington Electric garage in East Montpelier Village. The Fire Department has arranged to park one of its trucks in the garage.
- The Listers met with the Selectboard to discuss concerns about plans for the upcoming reappraisal of the Town.
- Approved Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission proposal that East Montpelier and Montpelier join in an application for a planning grant to survey commercial and office properties. This action is supported by the Planning Commission.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Chair: Johanna DeMartino

August 5, 1993

- Voted to accept preliminary plat for a 4-lot subdivision on North Street and Gould Hill Road as proposed by Dave Sparrow.
- Accepted proposed site plan for Legare Farm Market on Route 2, site of former Trout Lily Gardens.
- Denied permit for an oversized sign requested by Mr. Legare.
- Heard proposal of Todd Hill and Paul Tetreault for developing a 5.8 acre parcel of land on Bliss and Towne Hill Roads. Part of this land (2.4 acres) is in East Montpelier, the rest is in Montpelier. An opinion was requested from the town attorney.

August 19, 1993

- Town attorney determined that Tetreault's land on Bliss Road should be considered a pre-existing small lot, permitting development in accordance with requirements of the Zone.
- Annual inspection of Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park was completed by Roger Chapell, and it was found to be in satisfactory condition.

September 2, 1993

- Voted to accept the proposed site plan for an auto body shop at the corner of Route 14 and Fair Road as proposed by Michael and Karen Winchester.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Chair: Jeff Cueto

August 9, 1993

- Approved variance for Tom Brazier application to construct an addition to an existing milkhouse. It will have a 34' setback and Zone D requires 75'.

September 13, 1993

- Approved variance for Richard Pender application to build a garage to replace deteriorating carport. Existing carport is 42' from right of way.
- Approved landscape plan from Larry Brown for printing business on Route 14. This was a condition of the previously granted permit.

**EAST MONTPELIER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

*Jan Aldrich, Jim Hiner,
Tony Klein, Burr Morse, Sue Stephen*

September 2, 1993

- Approved user fee for gym of \$1.00 per person. An after-school sports fee of \$3.00 per sport would be charged for students in grades 3-6. The user fee would be used to replace sports equipment and for additional custodial time.
- Agreed to ratify the final language of the teachers' contract for 93-94.
- Approved 3% salary increase for principal.
- Heard report from Fran Weinbaum on Action Planning Committee. Plan to have neighborhood meetings.



*Looking over
the new
acquisition*

Other Elementary School News

- The school received two anonymous gifts of money totalling \$900. This, in addition to the money in the piano fund, allowed Pam Somers to buy a new Yamaha piano for the school. It will be around for years to come for the children and the community to enjoy.
- Would you like to help in the library for a few hours? Joan Sabens desperately needs people to be in the library so it can stay open when she is not in the room. This is a wonderful opportunity to work in the school for a few hours. Call the school office at 223-7936 if you are interested.
- The Family Room is up and running at EMES. This is open to children from birth to five years and their parents/caregivers Monday through Friday mornings. The room will be staffed by Washington Central Early Education Program on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Tuesdays and Fridays, families are encouraged to come and use the room. Call a friend and meet at the school... or come on your own.
- Ongoing bottle drive at M&M Redemption in Montpelier to benefit LEAP (Learning Enrichment Activity Program). Ask them to put your return money in the EMES account.

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION

President: Don Donnelly

Our crafts display with the town's talented artists was enjoyed by over eighty people on Rally Day. Thanks go to Irene Clark, Diana Fielder, Anne Ormsbee, Carole Cassavant, Linda Royce, Sally Allen, and Ruth Frost. Face-painting has become an annual Rally Day affair. From birthday cakes to gruesome characters, nothing seemed to faze the several ladies who painted.

The Board of Directors is overjoyed to announce that the schoolhouse has a new roof! We no longer worry that the work being done inside the schoolhouse will be ruined by a leaky roof. Our sincere thanks to the major donors, especially for the \$1,000 donation.

Come to our Halloween Party on Sunday, October 31, from 3:00 to 4:00. There will be a charge of \$0.25 per person. Spook House, games and refreshments.

CHURCH CHIMES Old Brick Church Old Meeting House

The fall finds the worship services being admirably handled by the combined efforts of Susan Cooke Kittredge and Deborah Bremer LaPorte while Reverend Throckmorton is on sabbatical. The infusion of fresh insights by the two seminary students makes each Sunday a new experience.

Services are at 9:30 at the Old Meeting House and at 11:00 at the Old Brick Church. Sunday School classes are held simultaneously.

A series of discussions on different ways of healing were held in September and October along with an international forum on Peru.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CARMEN SANDIEGO?

For those of you who may not know, this a program on ETV where kids learn about world geography in a fun, exciting way. For those of you who would rather not turn on the TV, you can read the Travel Log in the *Signpost*. Lots of East Montpelier people have been traveling this year, and we'd like to share some of these travel tidbits with you. We hope folks will share their travel stories and slides sometime this winter.

Nona Estrin and Charles Johnson traveled to Baffin Island in the Northwest Territory of Canada in July and August. This island is half in the Arctic Circle just east of the Magnetic North Pole. They were co-leaders of a tour sponsored by Country Walkers. They camped the entire trip and were out on pack ice with the Eskimos. They plan to return next summer.

Anne Sherman went to Dallas, Texas, in August to the VFW National Convention where her daughter Heidi was assistant soloist. On her way home, she met Nona Estrin in mid-air. Nona was returning from California -- small world!

Paul and Sandal Cate and sons Austin and Logan went to Finland for two weeks in June. They stayed just outside Helsinki with a family who had lived in Burlington for 1½ years. (The man is a forester and knew Paul.) The family has two children who are the same ages as the Cate boys. They were in the southernmost part of Finland where the terrain was flat but had characteristics of northern New England.

Doug and Renee Kievet-Kylar and six-year old Brent went to Costa Rica in early September. They were looking to visit a Central American country with a strong tradition of democracy and a beautiful landscape. Costa Rica met those criteria, and they had a great trip meeting many wonderful people.

Bob Klein and Jean Vissering and their children Nathan and Suzannah went to Europe from January to June. They visited Switzerland, Spain, France, Italy, and Holland (where they stayed with Jean's relatives.)

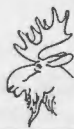
A group of East Montpelier children went to Mexico this summer with Pam Somers, their music teacher.

Carlie Claghorn and Ron Koss and their children Gabe and Aaron are spending a year in Hawaii where Ron is working.

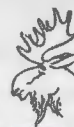
If you have traveled, give me a call and I'll be sure to include your travel news in the next Travel Log.

Janice Waterman
223-5826





MOOSE LIPS



☆ Hazel (Jones) Green, resident of Kennel Road, and long-time owner of the C & P Store in East Montpelier Village, is now residing at the Village Haven Community Care in East Barre.

☆ If you are a female Navy veteran, or have a relative or friend who is, there is a WAVES national organization in this area of Vermont. Marion Codling would be happy to hear from you at 223-2058 or RD 1, Box 149, East Montpelier.

☆ One of our own townspeople, Bob Smilovitz, has recently published his book entitled There Is Still Time. Bob is the principal of Lincoln Elementary School in Barre, and not surprisingly, the book is full of his experiences and his vision for schools of tomorrow. He would be happy to talk with anyone about the book and his ideas.

☆ The good news is that the Fire Dept. Auxiliary sold out their cookbooks! Is there going to be another printing?

☆ Rich Czaplinski's beehives were molested by a bear this fall. Maybe it's the same one that's been seen along the County Road and up on the west ridge in Calais.

☆ If you enjoy history, don't forget to put the History Night on your calendar and come to the Four Corners Schoolhouse on November 9. The subject will be the well-known itinerant painter James Gilman and the paintings he did of various places in town.

☆ And last but not least, if you have a yen to work on this newsletter, can visualize layout and do paste-up, and have the capability of working in a good graphic word-processing program with a laserjet printer, Cherie would love to be replaced. She's been using Word-Perfect 5.1 to do the page layouts and prints with a HP4. We'd like to keep the type quality at least the same if not better, so if you've got the capability and it strikes your fancy, give her a call at 229-4858. (You also need a knack for coming up with those catchy titles.)

MILESTONES

(Received by the Town Clerk by October 1)

BIRTHS

- ♥ Jordan Richard Jewett, son of Sylvia Marie & Jon V. Jewett, born July 9, 1993.
- ♥ Allison Curtis Campbell, daughter of Kimberley Ann Campbell and Jean Francois Normand, born August 3, 1993.

MARRIAGES

- ♥ None recorded!

PASSINGS

- Mary L. Ross died July 25, 1993, wife of Ralph Ross.
- Leon William Lawson died July 8, 1993, lived at Wayne Fair's.
- Mary Millette Holt died September 22, 1993, wife of Larry Holt.

LAND TRANSFERS

(Received between July 15 and October 1)

Trout Lily Gardens, Inc. to Chester J. and Judith V. Cookson; 8.5 acres on Route 2.

Trout Lily Gardens, Inc. to Merrill D. Legare; 3.07 acres and buildings on Route 2.

Jon B. Dunkling & Pamela W. Somers to Paul & Corylenn Flanders; 2.1 acres and dwelling on Route 14 in North Montpelier Village.

Robert LaClair to North Country Federal Credit Union; 1.12 acres on Route 14 south of East Montpelier Village.

Arsene LaPerle to Lucille & Maurice LaPerle; 1 acre on Route 2.

K.R. Baird, Inc. to E.E. Packard, Inc.; 12.4 acres and 9.3 acres in two lots on Route 2.

First Vermont Bank and Trust Co. to Patrick M. Malone; 6.46 acres on Route 14 (formerly Race & Custom property).

John & Kathleen Burger to James & Marcella Stone; 20 acres and dwelling on Putnam Road.

Melissa Conti to Sandy Conti; 2 acres and mobile home on Route 14.

Jan & Glenda Otto to Craig & Susan Mugford; 10.1 acres on Towne Hill Road.

Hilda J. Barney to Linda Ann Darrow; 4 acres and dwelling on Route 14.

James & Sharon Bernard to James & Catherine Suskin; 14 acres and dwelling on Upper North Street.

Roger & Genevieve Chapell to Vermont Land Trust, Inc., et al.; development rights on 148 acres on Center and Templeton Roads.

Roy & Joanne Bair to Vermont Land Trust, Inc., et al.; development rights on 345 acres on Adamant and Sibley Roads.

Weldon & Joan Morin to Michael & Karen Winchester; 1.75 acres and dwelling on Route 14 and Fair Road.

Harry J. Welch to Mrs. Harry J. Welch Revocable Living Trust; 2.63 acres on Route 2.

Elizabeth, Paul, & Mary Ann Parker to Richard Anthony Pender; 2.7 acres and dwelling on Upper North Street.

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



GREY SQUIRREL

"IT AIN'T NO DOUBLEWIDE" : HUNTINGTON HOMES

We've all seen those modular homes moving down Route 14 or Route 2. But I wonder how many of us realize just what they are or where they come from? If they are on the road in East Montpelier, they are probably from Huntington Homes.

Huntington Homes moved to East Montpelier in 1988, building a 98,000 square foot manufacturing plant off Route 14. They are a producer of modular homes, which as we will see, should not be confused with double wide trailers. Huntington Homes are system-built modular homes with more in common with a traditional "stick built" home than with a mobile home. Huntington Homes have all the structural components of any site-built home. They are built with 2x6 walls with plywood skins, 2x10 floor joists, low-E windows, solid pine panel doors, clear pine moldings, and no-stain carpets. All Huntington Homes products are inspected by an independent third party inspector. All their homes must meet a variety of building codes, plumbing codes, and electrical codes, so they can be shipped throughout New England.

According to Dwayne Webster of Huntington Homes, the inspections their buildings go through would "make a milkhouse inspection look mild." They are checked for everything from the correct moisture content in the wood to the number of nails in each sheet of plywood and sheetrock.

Huntington Homes currently employs 40 people. This is due to the slow economy and low housing starts in the Northeast. The company normally employs 100 people and has a peak capacity of 140 employees. Their core employees come from throughout Washington County with about 15% being from East Montpelier. According to company spokesman Webster, one of the advantages to Huntington Homes of locating in this area is the local labor pool. "This area has an exceptional labor pool. We can always find good people when we need them. This is a real benefit to doing business in this area."

Huntington Homes likes to promote employees from within the company rather than going outside the area for management level people. Typically, someone who starts out as a framer can advance to being a foreman or a drafts person working his or her way up to engineer. Thus the company has little turnover among its employees.

The East Montpelier plant is Huntington Homes' only manufacturing location. They have a sales office in Hadley, Mass., with dealer networks spread throughout New England and eastern New York. This year Huntington Homes will build 115 new homes in its East Montpelier plant, a small number compared to an average of 235 homes per year and a capacity for 500 homes per year.

The manufacturing facility itself is a wonder. Spacious and well lit, it is completely enclosed and climate controlled. The building process starts at the back where pre-cut pieces of lumber are assembled to form the floor of the house modules. The entire deck is put together on rails which slide on a series of rollers which run the entire length of the factory. Once the first component is completed, it is pushed by a small tractor to the next station. At the second station all the walls are built on pre-marked framing tables where they are also sheetrocked. The wall sections are placed on the floor deck by an overhead crane. The next step in this process is the assembly of the roof system. Again, once made, the roof is set in place by crane and the entire module is moved down the line. As each unit works its way through the factory, it is systematically wired, plumbed, insulated, roofed, taped, trimmed, sided, painted, and carpeted, all the while being pushed down the line.



Carpenters working on a house-to-be inside the plant

At the front end of the plant pneumatic jacks lift the completed unit off its assembly rails and onto a waiting delivery trailer, ready to be sent to its new owner. During normal production, it takes only 11 days for Huntington Homes to complete a house. At peak production they can build a house in an incredible 5½ days.

How do they do that? Out in the field it can take months to build the same size house as Huntington Homes does in 11 days. First off, their workers operate under ideal conditions. They are inside, warm and dry year round. Because they are inside, they also have dry materials to work with, eliminating many of the problems caused by lumber getting wet, swelling and warping. Secondly, all the employees are specialists doing their appointed tasks. When you perform the same operation over and over again, you get very good at that particular task. You also get fast at that task. Another benefit to the modular system is that all

the materials are right there in the plant. Due to the volume of materials, Huntington Homes can be very choosy about the materials they buy.

Most of Huntington Homes' work is custom building. The client can come in with an idea, and Huntington Homes will produce it. They also have a line of standard designs that many people can modify to suit their own individual needs. The company also produces commercial structures and apartment buildings which account for about four percent of their production. While this company concentrates on higher end custom homes, they can build anything from a FHA ranch house to an \$800,000 mansion. The variety is amazing to see as each house rolls down the highway.

Gene Troia

Gene lives on Vincent Flats Road and is a building contractor.

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	2nd & 4th Wednesday	7:15	Town Office
Planning Commission	1st & 3rd Thursday	7:30	"
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30	"
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2nd Thursday	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	6:30	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
Four Corners Schoolhouse Ass'n.	3rd Wednesday	7:30	Four Corners Schoolhouse

Meeting times are subject to change

EVENTS CALENDAR

October 31, Sunday, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Halloween Party	Four Corners Schoolhouse
November 4-6, 7:30	"Foul Play"	U-32
November 9, Tuesday, 7:30	History Night	Four Corners Schoolhouse
November 9, Tuesday, 7:30	P.T.O.	Elementary School
November 24, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.	Thanksgiving Eve Service	Old Meeting House
December 3, Friday, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Holiday Fair	Elementary School
December 9, Thursday, 7:30	New England Preparatory Recital	U-32
December 16, Thursday, 7:30	Junior High Holiday Concert	U-32
December 17, Friday, 7:30	Senior High Holiday Concert	U-32
December 19, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.	Christmas Pageant	Old Meeting House
December 19, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.	Candlelight Service	Old Meeting House
December 24, Friday, 7:30 p.m.	Candlelight Service	Old Brick Church

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

*Published six times a year; mailed without charge to all residents of East Montpelier.
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