

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume 6, No. 6

July/August, 1996

## HOME SCHOOLING WITH MARION BARCLAY

Quiz Time for the reader:

1. *Would you welcome having the town's elementary school built across from your house?*

**Answer:** NO—I mean—well you know I like kids and all, but across from my house? That's asking a lot, isn't it?

2. *Would you sell your own land to make the above possible? Say, seventeen acres. Oh, and provide two acres of road frontage on your side of the road for the school's leach field. How about selling the whole package to the town for \$3000?*

**Answer:** NO—I hate to be so negative but this is asking a bit much, isn't it? How much do you expect me to sacrifice anyway?

3. *Would you open your home to twenty-one East Montpelier children who need a place to attend school?*

**Answer:** You've got to be kidding!

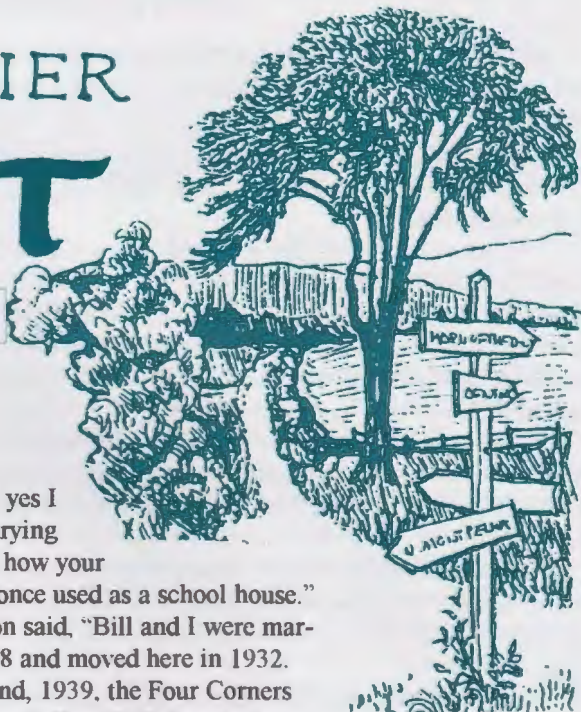
Marion Barclay lives in the well-kept house directly across from the East Montpelier Elementary School. On a beautiful day this spring, I visited her, wanting to hear her story.

The sun was shining through the east kitchen window, bouncing off the glossy maple floors. The clear finished hardwood door casings picked up different tones in the bright light of the cross gambrel colonial revival house, a design popular in the early 1900's. Orlando Clark, whose surname is familiar in the area construction trades, built the house in 1914.

Marion motioned for me to come in.

"How are you, Marion?" My eyes searched the rooms.

"Fine. You seem very interested in this house."



"Well, yes I am. I was trying to imagine how your home was once used as a school house."

Marion said, "Bill and I were married in 1928 and moved here in 1932. February 2nd, 1939, the Four Corners School burned. Carroll Badger was on the school board at the time and we agreed with him to hold school here. There were twenty-one children."

"Twenty-one..., really, how could they all fit?" I was thinking of desks.

"They sat at two tables with room under the table to store their books. One table was in this room and one in the dining room. The teacher's desk was right where you are sitting, backed up to the front window. Bill hung three blackboards on the walls." Marion pointed to where they were placed. "We had a shelf over the kitchen sink. I bought twenty-one ceramic cups, wrote all their names on tape, so each one could have their own. That was my way to stop the spread of colds."

"What was life like, sharing your house with a school?"

"It was no problem, they minded their business and we minded ours. We lived in the other side of the house,

Bill and I and our children George and Shirley. George was in the fourth grade so he attended public school in his own house.

The school kids were well mannered. You know, they never left a mar or a mark. They attended school here while the new one was being built but the town paid us rent: a dollar a day."

Marion passed the whole event off like having school in

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

their house was no big deal. "Times were different then." (The 1939 Town Report included the finished cost of the rebuilt school at \$2,724.)

Marion was born in Barre in 1909, attended school there and graduated from Goddard Seminary, which was on the site where the Barre Auditorium is now located. After moving to East Montpelier, Bill and Marion actively farmed. They kept up to twenty cows, some laying hens, pigs, ducks and rabbits, and kept a big garden.

"We grew sweet corn and peas and Bill would peddle them, along with eggs, in the evening. He worked for Green Mountain Power and retired after 42 years as maintenance foreman. When Shirley was in second grade she was asked what her father did for work. 'He's a forceman.' 'What does a forceman do?' 'Oh, he forces people to work.'"

Marion recalled that there were some hard days and nights on the farm when Bill had to stay on a job and couldn't come home after work. "I was left with the chores, but George was a big help."

Marion still found time for outside activities. She was especially interested in Homemaking Clubs and was president of her own club and later of the Washington County Homemakers Council.

Bill and Marion owned a pickup camper and liked to travel. "We put just under 80,000 miles on the truck. We saw all of the 48 states and their capitals. We also liked to visit hydro dams and power stations, as well as schools, especially one-room schools."

When the town needed a place to build the consolidated elementary school in the 1970's, Bill and Marion offered the 17 acres across from their house. And, the Barclays provided the land north of their barn for the leach field. What a generous offer.

"What do you think of having a school right across from your house?"

"Doesn't bother me one bit. I wouldn't even know it was there unless I look out the window. You see the lettering on the school? When Bill died, folks gave money, and I put some of my own with it and had the name put on the school. There's a plaque by the lettering in memory of Bill."

Marion reflected, "Bill always liked kids." She passed me a paper that included a statement of Bill's feelings about schools, presented to the East Montpelier P.T.O. at the time the lettering was installed. I think the statement echoed Marion's feelings as well.... "The East Montpelier Elementary School was a great source of enjoyment to William Barclay in his retirement years. It was with great pride that he saw the School constructed on land that had once been his to plant and harvest."

*John Hall is a farmer, author and gentleman, and is part-owner of Fairmont Farm, Inc.*



## TOP OF THE SIGNPOST:

My meandering in this issue is about problem solving. Every fifth grader knows about problem solving. It is a regular classroom exercise which sharpens math skills and develops powers of reasoning. Problem solving is often fun, occasionally vexing, but usually provides the solver with one or more solutions and a fine sense of accomplishment.

I want to talk about a broader kind of problem solving. The problem is one that communities and neighbors face from time to time as we govern ourselves in our towns and our schools. We've simply grown too big! The children of our five neighboring towns are on the verge of overflowing the school which our towns built twenty-five years ago. Like good parents and citizens, we squarely face the overcrowding, appoint a committee, suggest building plans, ask for a district vote, hire an architect, hire a contractor, build an addition, and finally fill it with our children. This course of action has been repeated in countless schools across Vermont. It solves the problem. It costs lots of money.

Today's children are learning, though, that there is not necessarily one right solution to a problem. And so it is with school crowding. We might buy mobile classrooms, move classes to other sites, or exchange with nearby school systems. Our U-32 Junior-Senior High School Directors were considering exactly these options to resolve the congestion which faces us this September, when a fresh new solution bubbled up from the people of the five towns. We would build our own addition. Why not? When our towns were young, most schools were built this way. Townspeople gave the materials and the labor to keep the costs manageable. Couldn't we do as much?

And so it is to be. The five towns have already done the unimaginable: they have planned a modern two-room addition—not the simple one-room schoolhouse of yesterday—and have enlisted hundreds of volunteers to fell trees, plane boards, pour concrete, donate materials, hammer nails, make lunches. They also needed to convince the school directors that it would work. A project of this scope has probably not been attempted in any of our five towns in anyone's memory.

Happily this mad dream is becoming a reality. The trees are felled and some have already been sawed into lumber which will be dried in a student-built kiln. Ground has been broken for the foundation. Who can say how much actual construction will be under way by the time you read this, but you can go see for yourselves.

And by the way, it took a lot of leadership to realize this plan. We are most grateful to Carolyn and Andy Shapiro for spearheading our new school addition. So as you check out each week's progress on the site, take time to call the Shapiros, thank them for their efforts, and find out how you can help with this "barn-raising". Every one of us is richer for this old-fashioned, grassroots way of solving our problem.

Jean Cate



# THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



## SELECTBOARD

Frank Pratt, (Ch.), Tom Brazier, Edie Miller  
**March 26, 1996**

- Approved request of Robin Gannon of EMES for use of data by Cartographics for school's GIS mapping program.
- Approved note from Chittenden Bank for \$175,000. at 4.1% interest for annual tax anticipation borrowing.
- Approved overweight vehicle permit for A.G. Anderson Co. per Town's standard policy.
- Endorsed E-911 Committee's recommendation to use 1/100th of a mile as address numbering standard, to name Tousignant development road Stoney Corners, Cookson development road Tay-Con Drive, and to change name of Albisetti Road to Butterfield Road. Selectboard prefers to continue to use State highway numbers as road names (i.e. U.S. Route 2, VT Route 14) rather than assigning local names to these roads.
- Tom Brazier gave update on regional ambulance service.

**April 10, 1996**

- Mike Garand presented a written road report. Selectboard approved using 1983 dump truck for summer spreading of calcium chloride. To be sold at State auction in the fall.
- Mike will try to rent backhoe for June from Southworth-Milton. Town will submit application for grant from Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District to clean up trash along the Wrightsville Dam road and for fire collections by road crew.
- Sandy Woodbeck discussed intersection of Horn of the Moon Road and Sanders Circle as turn-around for school buses. Possible to widen intersection.
- Sandy Woodbeck discussed status of Cross Vermont Trail project. Town would prefer the State to hold the easement until pending bill in legislature is passed to extend liability protection to landowners and possibly towns.
- Bill Bryant reported on status of E-911 Committee's work on locatable addressing. Post Office is willing to help in assigning names instead of fire lane numbers.
- Richard Hall and Austin Cleaves discussed next steps to be taken regarding the Community Development grant.
- Tom Brazier reported talking with Montpelier City Manager Bill Fraser regarding ambulance service proposal for July 1.
- A Town agricultural tax stabilization agreement was reviewed and signed for Charles Stone, Jr., and Ann Guerlain.
- Approved Town's annual financial plan for highways for submission to Agency of Transportation.
- Overweight vehicle permit signed for Walmar Trans. per Town's standard conditions.

**April 24, 1996**

- Expect further proposal from Montpelier regarding ambulance service.
  - Voted to try out used copier from Copiers, Etc. If satisfactory would buy for \$3,800, with \$2,400 down, balance to be paid after January 1, 1997.
  - Recently formed Tax Installment Committee members met with Selectboard to discuss issues to be explored.
  - Tom Brazier reported on Fire Department's investigation of possibility of installing dry fire hydrant in Village on site of old Town Hall.
  - Frank Pratt recently attended Regional Planning Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. Will meet with East Montpelier Planning Commission to discuss issues of concern.
  - Approved excess weight vehicle permit for Dubois Construction of Montpelier per Town's standard conditions.
  - Approved Washington Electric Coop power line for new house being built by Paul White on Towne Hill Road subject to review of pole location by Mike Garand.
  - Appointed Tom Brazier representative to Four Corners Schoolhouse Association.
  - Responded to question of Anne Sherman regarding replacement of driveway culverts. Town will install if property owner pays for new culvert.
- May 13, 1996**
- Met at the Town Garage to review summer road project sites.
  - Edie Miller expressed concern over changes in the Current Use program passed by the Legislature, to take effect April 1, 1996. The 1995 payment to East Montpelier by the State was \$68,872.
- May 15, 1996**
- Town Sewage Officer Richard Czaplinski reviewed the status of several sewage matters.
  - Approved resolution to appoint Central

Vermont Regional Planning Commission as grant administrator for the Community Development Grant. Frank Pratt will have overall responsibility for grant activities, Laurie Emery and Bill Bryant will sign grant requisitions, Northfield Savings Bank will be depository for grant funds, and Sylvia Tosi and Susan Sinclair are designated persons to sign checks.

- Letter to City of Montpelier regarding ambulance services was reviewed and signed.
- Accepted bid of Grout Farms for \$2,000 for roadside mowing, starting early July.
- Town farm tax stabilization contract with Henry and Theresa Parker was renewed.

## PLANNING COMMISSION

Stephen Rauh, Chair

**April 4, 1996**

- Reviewed proposed amendments to the Zoning Regulations.

**April 18, 1996**

- Chris Walsh of Regional Planning Commission discussed regional role and recommended proposed amendments to East Montpelier Zoning Regulations. Saw no glaring discrepancies or deviations from state regulations.
- Approved changes to LaPrade Subdivision. Permit to include a shortened road ending in a cul-de-sac, with access to lots 2, 3, and 5 by individual 60-foot rights-of-way, and to lot 4 via Davis Road. Selectboard must authorize use of Davis Road for access to lot 4.

**May 2, 1996**

- Reviewed complaints received by Zoning Administrator.
- Approved request by Cheryl Potter and Norm Rice to change lot lines in five lot subdivision. All lots would still be over ten acres.

**May 15, 1996**

- Vermont League of Cities and Towns is sponsoring a Municipal Zoning and Subdivi-

(Continued on page 4)





# THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



(Continued from page 3)

sion Basics workshop on June 13 at Suzanna's Restaurant.

- Frank Pratt, selectboard member and representative to the Transportation Advisory Committee, led discussion of proposals to change the Route 2 and Route 14 intersection, the proposed Route 2 bypass, and other traffic issues.
- Reviewed proposed amendments to the Zoning Regulations.

## CEMETERY COMMISSION

*George Fitch, Chair*

- The Commission met **March 13, 1996** to carry out necessary business and to discuss finding a new sexton.
- At the meeting held **April 4** Weston Cate reported on the workshop for cemeterians at the conference for town officers and showed samples of some of the forms used by various cemeteries.
- Present at the **May 6** meeting was the newly hired Sexton, Kevin Wilkinson. The principal purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the Sexton with information about the town's cemeteries and the procedures being followed for cemetery care, relations with lot buyers, funeral directors, and families of the deceased, and the condition of the equipment owned by the Commission.
- Weston Cate will draw up a rule specifying that only residents of East Montpelier or natives thereof would henceforth be sold burial lots in the town cemeteries.
- Members reviewed various copies of available maps of the cemeteries.

## BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

*Jeff Cueto, Chair*

### April 22, 1996

- New member Tim Meehan was introduced, replacing Mark Milazzo who resigned after five years of appreciated service.
- Heard application of Warren and Mary Noyes to construct a storage shed at the East Montpelier Home Center. After discussion voted to accept the application with the same conditions as the previous building. Storage is to be for lumber only, construction is to be on concrete piers, and structure is not to be enclosed without future approval by Board.

### May 13, 1996

- Met to hear application of Arthur Rice for addition of a garage and breezeway on his home in Pines Development. Hearing was recessed until May 20.

### May 20, 1996

- Hearing was reconvened. After discussion of setbacks and possible alternatives, application was denied.

## EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Jan Aldrich (Chair), Loring Starr, Susan Stephen, Nancy Thomas, Paul White*

### April 4, 1996

- Agreed to sign third party licensing agreement with Cartographic Associates to allow Robin Gannon to purchase computerized disk for \$25, to be paid by the GIS grant.
- Several teachers presented their school programs: Glenn Gannon—physical education; Gladys Cote—her first grade program; and Nancy Bisson—art.
- Approved a one-year trial for Jamie O'Hare's kindergarten proposal. Students would attend one full day and three half day sessions each week for bussing savings of \$80 per week or \$2,800 for the school year.
- Approved proposal to equalize the specialists' positions. The guidance counselor and nurse are at minimum time for PSA. The librarian is equalized with art, music and physical education positions due to not hiring a library aide. (Changes are in response to the decrease of two teacher positions in 1995-1996, and will make art, music, and physical education available to students on an equal basis.)
- Accepted resignation of Darlene Grundy. Reassigned Kathy Christy to the grade 2-3 position.
- Decided not to have consultant help with Hot Lunch Program.
- Scheduled December Board meeting for second Thursday.

### May 2, 1996

- Several teachers presented their programs: Steve Moran—his 5-6 grade; Barbara Pelkey—her 1-2 grade; Pam Somers—music; Ellen Knoedler—library; and Darryl Bloom—guidance.
- Presentation by Jamie Biggam, a U-32 student, of proposal for two week summer

camp at East Montpelier School for four to seven year old children. He and Sara O'Hare will be counselors. Board approved location. Jamie will arrange liability coverage and custodial services.

- Approved request of Robin Gannon to show a video on gun safety to fourth and fifth grade students.
- Heard requests of five families regarding teacher hiring process, student placements and multi-age classrooms.
- Agreed to have one board member, two teachers, two parents and the principal serve on hiring committee for the 5-6 teacher position and the part-time reading teacher.
- Approved hiring Dave Angolano as auditor for three year contract at a cost of \$1200.
- Signed new note with Chittenden Bank for the computer loan.
- Laura Johnson reported there will be no Grandparents' Day at the school this year. A staff and parent committee is looking into smaller, class-by-class celebrations as a possible option, to relieve overcrowding for lunch and parking.

## U-32 BOARD

*Peter Bluhm (Chair); Ginny Burley and Tony Klein, East Montpelier members*

### March 26, 1996

- Peter Bluhm outlined committee appointments. Each board member is chair of at least one committee.
- Students and coaches asked that girls' lacrosse be recognized as co-curricular sport.
- Authorized expenditure of \$53,392 for proposed building project.
- Moved to accept resignation of John Coolidge effective June 30, 1997.
- Moved to accept resignation of Dan Moegelin, effective June 30, 1997.
- Approved spring coaches' contracts.

### April 23, 1996

- Presented a plaque of appreciation to Sue Rich for her service on the school board.
- Accepted agreement to move special education staff from Washington Central employment to U-32.
- An East Montpelier family is hosting an exchange student from Azerbaijan. \* Board approved student's attendance at U-32.

### May 14, 1996

- Ginny Burley reported that community building project received zoning board approval. Planning to break ground in two weeks.
- Approved alternative program staffing as presented.
- Approved hiring Sandy Chaloux as driver education teacher at .8 FTE to fill in for Bruce

(Continued on page 5)





## ENHANCED 911 IS COMING

Enhanced 9-1-1 emergency calling service is coming to Vermont. E-911 technology will enable dispatchers to know the location of the caller as soon as a 9-1-1 call is received, as well as information about the fire, ambulance and police services covering the area of the call. The new system should be ready by July 1997.



As part of this new system, all properties must be assigned a "locatable" address. RFD addressing is becoming a part of history. The Select-board has created a local E-911 Committee to work on this project, with assistance from the Central Vermont Regional Plan-

ning Commission and the State E-911 Board.

MicroData, Inc. of St. Johnsbury has been hired by the State to travel East Montpelier roads and locate properties using computer mapping and global positioning system satellite technology. This information will eventually be used to assign an address number to each property based upon its distance along the road.

Town road names are being reviewed for confusing/conflicting names within our town and with neighboring communities. Private roads and driveways serving two or more residences will also be named. Citizen input will be welcomed in the road naming process. Preference will be given to name suggestions of historical significance.

**Questions about E-911?** Call Fire Chief Jonathan Winston or Town Administrative Assistant Bill Bryant at 223-3313.

➤ Saturday, July 27, from 9 to 3 there will be a book sale at the Four Corners Schoolhouse for the benefit of the Schoolhouse. East Montpelier folks who have books they would like to contribute are asked to call Ruth Frost at 223-6892 or Weston Cate at 223-2951.

### EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DEPT.

*Chief Jon Winston, President Michael Bliss*

➤ The Department held its annual meeting on May 7, 1996 at the Templeton Road Station. The evening started with fireground officers catering a barbecue meal for the firefighters and EMTs. Officers elected: Jon Winston, chief, Michael Bliss, president-two years, and Deborah Schick, vice-president-one year. Directors for two years: Ty Rolland and Greg Pelchuck; directors for one-year terms: Karl Huoppi and Earl Smith. Robin Copping was elected chaplain.

➤ The highlight of the evening was the announcement that Lawrence "Larry" Brown was selected as firefighter of the year. A plaque was presented to Larry by Chief Jon Winston.

*(Continued from page 4)*

Satterlee while he is on leave.

➤ Dan Moegelin outlined plans to recognize top achieving students at graduation.

### RECREATION BOARD

*Pat Fitzsimmons and Rachel Senechal, Co-Chairs*

➤ May 4 was a successful Work Day at the Recreation Field. About forty people labored for several hours in damp, wet weather. Four sets of bleachers were built and are much appreciated by the families watching their sons and daughters play T-ball, softball and baseball. The generous volunteering of neighbors and profits from the sale of the lip balm helped make the bleachers a reality. Thank you to all who helped! The Sports Sale, also held on May 4th, had a small turnout, but several bikes, mitts and cleats were "recycled".

➤ The Swimming Program introduced a spring session with thirty-eight kids registered for lessons. The exciting news is that many of these children are first time participants in the swim program. Registration for the summer session has occurred.

➤ We sent our first annual summer camp listing home with each elementary school student. We are pleased with our first effort and hope to improve with subsequent issues. Anyone wishing a copy of this listing may call Rachel Senechal at 223-0539.

### FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE

*Ginny Burley and Ruth Frost, Co-Chairs*

➤ Members of the Board and townspeople express deep thanks to Ginny Burley for her active involvement on the Board since 1989.

She didn't hesitate in taking responsibility for work to be done. Thanks and appreciation, Ginny!

➤ Recent events: Caning demonstration by Irene Clark, Garden Planning and Design by Jean Vissering, Basketry by Carole Casavant, and a Bird and Flower Walk by Paul Cate. The Town Cemetery Commission and the Rally Day Committee have met at the schoolhouse.

➤ New board members are Weston Cate, Jr. and Tom Brazier, who represents the Select-board on our board. We have two vacancies. Please call Ruth Frost, 223-6892 or Weston Cate, Jr., 223-2951 if you would consider being a member.

➤ We are still looking for lilies for planting. Call Ruth Frost if you have some to donate.

➤ See the next issue of the *Signpost* for a listing of the fall workshops.

### CHURCH BELLS

Church Services:

**Old Brick Church:** Summer hours.

**Old Meeting House:** Worship and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

**OLD BRICK CHURCH NEWS:** The church is welcoming their new minister, Marcheta Townsend, who starts her service with the community on Sunday, June 30. The Sunday School children delivered wildflowers and home-made treats to several in our community on May 1st, May Day. There will be no Sunday School during the summer.

**OLD MEETING HOUSE NEWS:** The church community is continuing the search for an interim pastor.



# MILESTONES

## DEATHS

● Dino Bagalio; son of Paul A. Sr. and Joan B. Bagalio - March 15, 1996.

## BIRTHS

- ♥ Claire Janice Kaiden; daughter of Susan Andrew & Thomas Faulds Kaiden - January 29, 1996.
- ♥ Brandon Michael Houle; son of Anne Diane & Roger Paul Houle - March 7, 1996.
- ♥ Megan Amber Machno; daughter of Tina Marie & Michael Francis Machno - April 3, 1996.
- ♥ David Daniel Vilbrin; son of Irene May & Timothy John Vilbrin - April 11, 1996.
- ♥ Asha Dey Marie Colombe; daughter of Marie L. Edson & Christopher Allen Colombe - April 28, 1996.

## MARRIAGES

♥ Wilfred P. Allard and Charlene C. Gauthier - May 25, 1996.

## PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- ☞ Edward A. & Linda S. Flowers to Carol L. Rose - 4.8 acres on Brazier Rd.
- ☞ Theresa Mary Laperle to Charlene Laclair & Steven Laperle - mobile home and 2.1 acres on Vt. 14.
- ☞ Marcel Laperle to Charlene Laclair - dwelling and 1.25 acres on Vt. 14.
- ☞ James H. Hanna, Jr. & Lois C. Hanna to James H. Hanna, Jr. - dwelling and 1.5 acres on County Rd.
- ☞ Chester J. & Judith V. Cookson to Michael L. & Jill W. Tanner - dwelling and 1.5 acres on US 2.
- ☞ Paul R. Kilburn, Sr. & Constance M. Kilburn to Frank E. & Tanya J. Campbell - dwelling and 0.98 acres on Quaker Hill Rd.

## SNOWBIRD ALERT

### Reminder to snowbirds:

Please, please let us know your yearly schedule, and where to send your *Signposts* in the winter!

Thank you!

- ☞ Richard G. & Carole A. Casavant to Steven & Janet Noyes - 1.01 acres off Pauls Square.
- ☞ Paul & Bernadetta Tetreault to James L. & Patricia M. O'Mahoney - 1.7 acres off Towne Hill Rd.
- ☞ K. R. Baird, Inc. to Ellery E. Packard, III & Jennifer D. Packard - 42.8 acres on US 2.
- ☞ William E. Fish to William E. & Alice L. Fish - dwelling and 1.5 acres on County Rd.
- ☞ Francis J. Manning to Hester H. Manning - quit claim on dwelling and 6.5 acres on Wrightsville Dam Rd.
- ☞ Robert J. Graeme to Mary G. Metakos - 10.13 acres on Dillon Rd.
- ☞ A. John Holden, Jr. & Polly B. Holden to Sarah H. Thompson - dwelling and 23.7 acres on Templeton Rd.
- ☞ A. John Holden, Jr. & Polly B. Holden to Elizabeth H. Carter - 14.9 acres on Templeton Rd.
- ☞ A. John Holden, Jr. & Polly B. Holden to Martha J. Holden - camp and 19.9 acres on Templeton Rd.
- ☞ A. John Holden, Jr. & Polly B. Holden to John C. Holden & Janet MacLeod - 27.8 acres on Templeton Rd.

# MOOSELIPS



➤ Heartfelt thanks to **Kevin Wood** for layout design and graphics work for the *Signpost* this past year. Kevin is leaving the *Signpost* staff, but will still be available for consulting for his computer expertise.

➤ And Thank You to **Roger Sherman**, who donates the postage due for any returned copies of the *Signpost*!

➤ **Nona Estrin** was one of six Vermont women honored at St. Michael's College at a dinner April 23 for enriching their communities. Estrin helped organize the East Montpelier Conservation Fund, has been active in aiding the Vermont Land Trust's efforts to preserve the Sparrow Farm, and has worked to establish the East Montpelier Trail System.

➤ The **East Montpelier Fire Department Auxiliary** will help with the annual picnic for current and former firefighters and EMTs and their families July 4. If you don't have a copy of their cookbook there are some at the Riverbend Store for sale.

➤ Our plea in the May *Signpost* resulted in \$355 in donations! Thank you!

## WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR AND FIELD DAYS

Plans are underway for the 1996 Washington County Fair and Field Days, to be held August 3 and 4 at Parker Field, U.S. Route 2 in East Montpelier.

Begun many years ago by the Washington County Farm Bureau, Field Days has evolved into a public event featuring not only agricultural activities but also area businesses, crafts, educational displays, and entertainment. 4-H events are planned, as well as ox and horse pulls, food concessions, crafts, and the quilt show.

New this year: admission at the gate will include free, unlimited admission to the midway rides, this year provided by Green Mountain Amusements.

Anne Ormsbee (223-5372) is in charge of the Quilt Contest and Exhibition. Any East Montpelier resident who is in the process of creating a quilt or wall hanging or has completed one after August 1, 1994, is encouraged to exhibit his or her quilt.



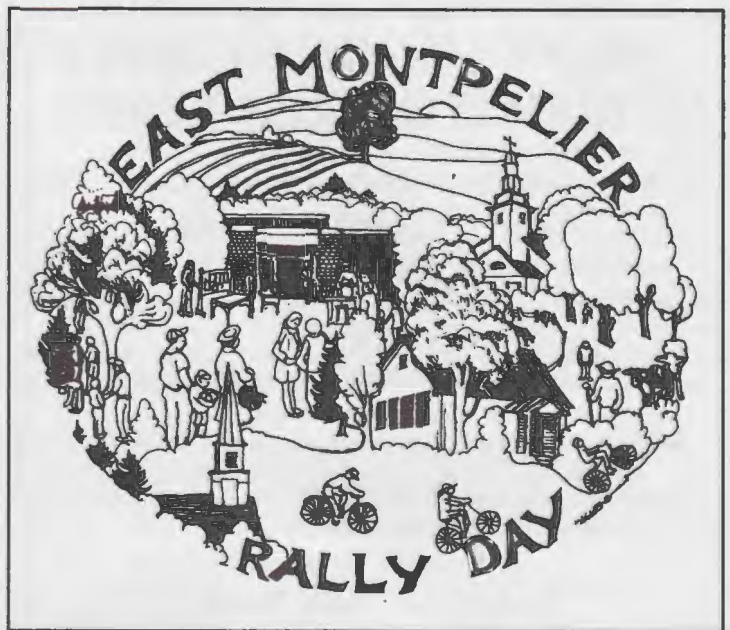
**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR SIXTH GRADERS  
MOVING ON TO U-32:**

Kyle Adams  
Hayley Bagwell  
Alan Baker  
Ethan Beardsworth  
Heidi Bigelow  
Kristen Bigelow  
Keith Blake  
Hannah Burley  
Nathan Butterfield  
Seth Chapell  
Michael Crossman  
Samuel Dworkin  
Hannah Edwards  
Jamaica Goodrich  
Ian Goyette  
Lisa Graham  
Casandra-Lyn Hudson  
Jordan Kane  
Andrea Kelley  
Timothy Klein  
Lilian Kline

Harmony Liff  
Brian Lusignan  
Anna Martin  
Michael McCarthy  
Kenneth McCracken  
Joseph Moody  
Brandy Nolan  
Emily North  
Aleisa Nutbrown  
Natasha Ohadi  
Jonathon Palmer  
Alexander Pollock  
Raymond Resnick  
Crystal Riportella-Crose  
Jesse Rufenacht  
Hanna Satterlee  
Megan Somers  
Alan Tanner  
Emily Trono  
Dana West



\*Anyone who can find Azerbaijan on a map gets a free copy of the *Signpost*!



**RUN AWAY WITH THE CIRCUS--  
FOR A DAY:  
RALLY DAY 1996**

How long does it take for an event to become a tradition? Two years? Eight years? Well, Rally Day was a first-ever event eight years ago, and is fast on its way to becoming a town tradition. What makes it special? Perhaps these are some of the reasons:

\* Rally Day is planned to be a fun day for East Montpelier and its citizens. It is not advertised outside our town, and no attempt is made to bring in crowds.

\* Rally Day is not a money-maker. Most everything is free, and we only hope to cover costs.

\* Rally Day focuses on the special talents and places which are unique to East Montpelier. Each year we try to include some places and events in the program which will help us know our town and our townspeople better. And believe me, there is a lot of talent here!

\* Volunteers in East Montpelier are wonderful. Each year after Rally Day is over, we list all the workers who helped before, during and after the day. Each year we are amazed at the list.

So, here is a sneak preview of Rally Day 1996. The first planning meeting has only just been held, but the plans include these activities, many of them repeats of past years' popular events: Hikes, the Town Fair in the EMES Gym, the Rural Race, Memory Hour, lots of good food, and the Variety Show in the evening. Bike Tours, started last year, will be featured. The Four Corners Schoolhouse and the Fire Department always present something special. And of course, the *Signpost* Auction will offer lots of bargains all day long. Plus lots more.

The newest event of this Rally Day will be our first ever East Montpelier Circus. The call is out for the exhibitionists in town—the clowns, the jugglers, the acrobats, and the oom-pah band players. Also for enthusiastic people to help put it all together. Talent of either variety should be reported to Jean Cate (223-2951) or Rachel Senechal (223-0539). Items or time to donate to the *Signpost* Auction? Call Loring Starr, 229-0007. Let's rally for the best Rally Day yet!

**Rally Day is September 7—  
Put It on the Calendar!!**

## MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS:

Maurice and Sue Cerutti  
 Ronald and Geneva Woodward  
 Natalie Beal  
 Susan Mahoney  
 Eleanor Barber  
 Robert and Nancy Henning  
 Henry Murray  
 Philip and Donna Leno  
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 Ginger Hopkins  
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 Allan and Nancy Couch  
 Donald and Elizabeth Atkins  
 Stanley and Joyce Christiansen  
 David and Darlene Grundy  
 Mabel Wright  
 Marion Codling

## EAST MONTPELIER TRAILS NEWS

*Sandy Woodbeck, Chair*

East  
Montpelier  
Trail



➤ **Grants:** We are now managing two grants: Sparrow Farm, and working with landowners along the railroad bed extension of the Cross-Vermont Trail.

➤ **Sparrow Farm Trail News:** Trail construction is starting July 20! **We need volunteers**—this is exciting

work, with a bridge to show for your efforts! Call Chris Hammer at 454-1882 to get schedule.

➤ Thanks to the Housing and Conservation Trust Fund Board: the WHOLE staff gave us a half day of work on the Sparrow Farm Trail on June 4th!

➤ **The June 1st Dedication** of the new one-mile section of the Cross-Vermont Trail was a great success. Over 125 people walked, strollered and biked in the heat, and shared the speeches, food, and good cheer. Many thanks to everyone who donated prizes, raised tents, and made it possible: the Drawing Board, the Culinary Institute, Merrell Boots, Bragg Farm, Onion River Sports, Centerstate Bicycles, Winooski Hydroelectric Company, and host Green Mountain Power.

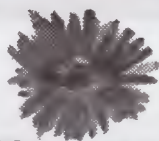
➤ The next issue of the *Signpost* will be a special trails issue. We hope to include maps, trails history, and features on landowners who have shared their land with our trails. Anything special you want to see in this issue? Call Loring Starr, 229-0007.

➤ Trail brochures will be available soon!



HEARTSENER is an afterschool program with games, fine arts, building projects and nature adventures.

HEARTSENER is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30-5:30 pm. The fee is \$25 per week, and \$10 per session. All art materials and a nutritious snack are included. For information please call Heidemarie Heiss Holmes at 802-223-1227.



HEARTSENER

*(Continued from page 9)*

In addition to providing emergency response, the Montagues' system has a daily check-in feature. When you press a red button on your transceiver your check-in is noted by the computer. By 10:30 am the computer prints a list of all clients who failed to check-in, and they in turn receive a call from Polly to see if they are ok. Forgetfulness is the usual reason for failure to check-in, Polly says. "I can tell a lot about their health status by the daily check-in. If they used to check in every day at 8 am and all of a sudden they do it at all hours of the day or they miss days, it means something's wrong, and I let the Council on Aging know (or whoever made the referral). But they usually know by then anyway."

"I figure this saves the state (Medicare) about \$2,000 per month per person because if they didn't have this [service] many of them would be in a nursing home." It angers Earl Montague that the state and town are stingy when it comes to helping seniors live dignified lives in their homes. "They're be-

ing taxed right out of their homes... it's sick the way this state treats elderly people." He becomes emotional when describing situations he's seen some of his clients in: barely able to afford to eat because of medical expenses and property taxes.

Not only an advocate for seniors, Mr. Montague goes to bat for land owners, too. With experience in real estate law from the University of Arizona, and experience in the title insurance business, Montague tries to keep government honest on the local level and as an active member of Vermont's Republican Party. "I defend the Constitution." He shares a few anecdotes and I start to see how he got his reputation. It's a reputation he wears proudly and a role he enjoys. Earl Montague has strong emotions, he can back them up, and he's not afraid to stand up to opposition, even if it makes life more difficult for him. "If you live your life basically honest no one can bother you."

*Sue Rigger, who recently played Nancy in Oliver!, lives on Murray Road with her husband and two young children.*



# GREEN MOUNTAIN MONITORING: EARL AND POLLY MONTAGUE

Add a white beard and he might pass for Santa Claus. He has salt and pepper hair, twinkling blue eyes, and a frequent smile. The slight space between his two front teeth lends an aura of youth to his 68 years. When he cares about something, he's passionate. He hasn't had a vacation in thirty years, but he seems to take pleasure in everything he does. Today he'll mow the lawn and that will be his leisure. While he is known by some in town as a "trouble-maker" and a "radical", I had the pleasure of meeting another side of Earl Montague.

The office of Green Mountain Monitoring is in the old barn on Putnam Road, next to the modest brown ranch house. We sit on opposite sides of a long table, one of three, arranged in a "U", with Mr. Montague inside the "U" in his swivel chair. Two of the tables hold computers; our table holds a carefully laid out sampling of some tools of the trade. Not one for small talk, Earl Montague gets right to the point. "Here's basically what we do here," indicating the black boxes, written materials, pendants and wristbands, and computers. What they do here I learn bit by bit as Mr. Montague patiently answers my questions. But for him this business is more about people than about electronic monitoring, and it's obvious he'd rather talk about what matters to him.

Green Mountain Monitoring is a medical alert system started by Earl sixteen years ago in response to a request by Ginger Thompson, a senior advocate at the Central Vermont Council on Aging. "She knew I was already doing monitoring for pollution controls, and security monitoring for banks and schools." (His son, Arthur, now runs his original business, Signal Security.) "Many of their clients could not afford the service offered by the competition so they asked me to do it." The competition costs \$350 per year, or \$35 per month. Earl's non-profit rate is \$150 per year, or \$20 per month, and "it will never go up." The Montagues have about 1,000 - 2,000 clients, not all of them seniors, using their medical alert units, and Earl installs three or four more per week, all over Vermont. He builds the transceivers himself out of metal because they receive signals better than the plastic units that are available.

With the transceiver connected to the telephone line, plus a small, lightweight pendant around the neck, or a wrist band, a senior can live alone at home and still be connected to emergency services. This system is an important tool used to keep a

senior living independently. It provides a feeling of peace and security to the client and to family members and friends who worry that cries for help in an emergency might otherwise go unheard.

Here's how it works. Imagine you live alone at the home you and your spouse built fifty years ago. You have a few health problems and you don't get around as well as you used to, in fact you took a fall on the ice on the back step this winter. The people who care about you are starting to talk to you about a nursing home. You're not ready to leave your home, don't know if you ever will be. You discuss the situation with your physician, family members and a senior advocate at the Council on Aging. You and your group decide that it would be safe for you to remain at home with the service of a medical alert system. Earl Montague installs the little black box near the phone jack and offers the choice of a pendant or wrist band. You give Mr. Montague a list of three phone numbers to call during the day or night, if and when you press your alert button. Usually the nearest family members and neighbors are listed, as well as pertinent medical information. The fourth, or last number to be called is always the nearest ambulance service.



If you press your button, your code number immediately flashes and an alarm sounds on the computer at GMM. Earl's wife Polly, on duty in their home office, will call you back. If after a few rings you don't pick up the phone your call will be treated as an emergency and the first number on your list will be called. If no answer to the first number, the second number is called, and so on. If no one can be reached, the local ambulance is called. In some cases, such as a client with a severe heart condition, the client and physician de-

termine that the ambulance should be called first. But most subscribers press the button when they need help getting up from a fall, so three numbers to call is usually adequate. After Polly sends someone to the scene she shuts off a buzzer on your transceiver to let you know that help is on the way. She then calls you back after a few minutes to be sure the responder has arrived. She will continue to be in contact with you, making calls, sending help, until the situation is resolved.

*(Continued on page 8)*

# COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	2nd & 4th Wednesday	7:15	Town Office
Planning Commission	1st & 3rd Thursday	7:00	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
U-32 School Board	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:30	U-32 High School
Elementary School Board	1st Thursday (Except July)	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Monday	7:00	Town Office
Town Clerk's Office Hours	Mon. - Thurs. 9 - 5; Friday 9 - 12		Town Office
Zoning Administrator	Tuesday & Thursday	1:00 - 2:30	Town Office
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn.	3rd Wednesday	7:30	Four Corners Schoolhouse

**Meeting times are subject to change**

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 23	Rally Day planning meeting	7:00	Four Corners Schoolhouse
Saturday, July 27	Book sale	9:00 to 3:00	Four Corners Schoolhouse
Saturday & Sunday, August 3 and 4	Washington County Fair and Field Days		Parker Field, U.S. Route 2
Monday, August 26	Rally Day planning meeting	7:00	Four Corners Schoolhouse

**Saturday, September 7th: RALLY DAY!**

## EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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**INSIDE:**  
Marion Barclay  
Mooselips  
Green Mtn. Monitoring  
Rally Day Plans

