

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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March/April, 1996

## Dean Shattuck, Newly Retired

Dean Shattuck's father told him many years ago not to keep a job if he didn't like it. Dean took his advice to heart. He started work at the Washington Electric Co-op in May of 1947 and retired forty-eight years later, on September 1, 1995. He says it was always interesting and enjoyable work and always challenging.

Dean Shattuck was born and brought up in Lynn, Massachusetts. In 1943 he entered the Army, saw action in the European theater, and two and a half years later was honorably discharged just as he was about to be transferred to Burma.

Dean's father had graduated from Norwich and Dean enrolled at the same college. He studied electrical engineering which helped him in his later work. In time his money ran out and he started work for the Co-op, first in the field and then in the office where his skills in electrical engineering were useful.

While not a Vermonter by birth, Dean had early ties to Vermont. His maternal grandparents were from Roxbury. His grandfather tended the horses at Norwich and his mother grew up loving to ride and became an expert horsewoman. Dean also enjoys horseback riding and for three or four years kept two horses.

Dean is married to Susan Morse, daughter of Harry and Dorothy Morse. In 1965 Susan and Dean were offered a piece of land by Susan's grandparents, Sidney and Mildred Morse. They became one of the five families now living in the Morse complex. For the first couple of years the only way to get to their home in the wintertime was by snowmobile, since the old road broke up easily. The town fathers were reluctant to improve the road, but were finally convinced after seeing a vehicle impressively sink.

Dean and Susan have two birth children: a son, Peter, who is studying in Barre to become a licensed electrician,

and a daughter, Kim, who lives in New York City and is expecting her first child. They also adopted two Vietnamese children.

Dean is obviously proud of all four of their children. He told me about the adoption of Jacob, now a student at Champlain College, and Nan, living in Worcester and planning to be married.

Peter and Kimberly were young children when Dean and Susan met someone who had adopted Korean children. They decided they would like to adopt also, feeling there were many children in the world needing love and care.

After investigation they found a woman in Montreal who had adopted nine children. Licensed in Canada, she acted as liaison to Vietnam to facilitate the adoption of Vietnamese children, many with a GI parent. She was able to arrange for the adoption of Jacob when he was two years old.

Shortly after, the Shattucks were asked to adopt an eleven-pound six-month old girl, Nan, and after much thought did so. Both children had health problems when they arrived but soon were well, and became an integral part of the Shattuck family.

Dean is an avid down-hill skier and in the past taught skiing at Sugarbush, some at Stowe, and taught his children, now all proficient skiers. For two years in the late 60s he taught skiing to a class of thirty to forty from the East Montpelier Elementary School. He helped build three small ski areas with rope tows: in South Barre, on the Morse complex and in Waitsfield.

For twenty-five years Susan and Dean have spent some time in Maine in their camper at Sebago Lake. Susan went to the



same lake when she was growing up. There are twenty-five to thirty people who return to the lake every summer, from New Jersey, New York and New England. The Shattucks look forward to seeing these friends each year.

Retirement brought a big trip—to Alaska. This two-week vacation saw them fly to Seattle and to Fairbanks, taking a train to Anchorage. A bus took them on an eighty-mile trip through Denali Park with its six million acres and many animals. The second week was spent on a ship where they visited glaciers. Dean had a helicopter ride to the top of a glacier, got out and walked around.

Dean enjoys working on old cars. He now has a 1973 Volkswagen "thing." I learned that the "thing" was manufactured in 1972 and 1973 as Germany's answer to a jeep. For three or four years Susan and Dean have had a mixed breed dog, "Augie", who was found in a culvert down the road, obviously abused. With much love and TLC became a part of the family. Augie loves to sit in the "thing" and waits for Susan to take him for a ride.

Susan Shattuck works in the office at Washington County Mental Health Children's Services. According to Dean, she's a fast and accurate typist who also does some work at home for clients.

Dean was a lister for the town for five years. During that time he, Steve Sinclair and Bradford Lane developed a town mapping system and completed a reappraisal. The mapping was very helpful in determining property boundary lines, and with the reappraisal some people found they owned more—or less—acreage than they had thought.

Asked if he is enjoying retirement, Dean said he's busy. He is still doing some consultant work for the Co-op. Insurance coverage had been one of his responsibilities and his help is needed in renewing coverage. Last year he negotiated a new health coverage plan. During his tenure at Washington Electric Co-op Dean had many responsibilities. He has seen the Co-op's service territory go from predominately farms to primarily residential, including vacation homes. His jobs have included billing, analyzing and forecasting power needs, and developing power needs. He was instrumental in bringing data processing into use at the Co-op.

Dean was honored to receive the Governor George D. Aiken Award from the New England Association of Electric Cooperatives in 1989, for "meritorious achievement in the rural electric power industry and for exemplifying the ideals and practices of George D. Aiken."

On August 3 last summer 110 people—retirees, employees and family—gathered at Lague Inns for a surprise retirement party. In talking about his years at the Co-op Dean said, "It's been a real pleasure." It's a real pleasure to talk with you, Dean, and we hope many more people will now come to know you.

*Written by Margaret Richey: Margaret lives in North Montpelier in the house in which her mother and grandfather were born.*



## Top of the Signpost:

I never thought I'd live to see the day! If you have ever exploded these words either in exasperation or in awe, you will understand my amazement that the world could have changed so much and so fast. I am speaking of the Signpost and how it is a symbol of the huge changes taking place in the world of communication. Here's what is happening.

In September 1990 you received your first issue of the Signpost. To create it the contributors each wrote out their offerings - some on typewriters, some by hand on yellow pads of paper. Janice Waterman gathered them all together to deliver to Fred Tubbs, who entered them into his computer. In standard form. Fred passed them along to Cherie Staples, who converted them to the shapes you are used to seeing in the paper and laid them out attractively. Drawings and photographs were added, and only then were the "mechanicals" ready for L. Brown and Sons to print.

And now, six years later? Most of our authors create their pieces on computers, though we don't require it. They can e-mail them directly either to Kevin Wood or our new design/layout person, Loring Starr, or they can deliver them to Margaret Richey who herself e-mails them to the designer. Janet MacLeod's drawings are being scanned onto disks so they can be instantly transferred to the computer screen. ("Cut and paste" hardly means what it used to!) The pieces are now all on screen, ready to be laid out on their proper pages. That is how we have moved into the 21st century.

Oh, how staff meetings have changed. New terms — like file compression, attaching files to messages, ink-jet vs. laser printer — are exchanged between the more computer-literate among us, while the rest of us are getting an amazing education. What's next? Well, it is possible to eliminate the paper-mechanical step altogether and send the final manuscript directly to the printer. The tricky part is the photographs. Long-range (maybe not so long at that) is sending the Signpost directly to anyone with e-mail capability. And how about an East Montpelier "home page" on the Internet?

Awesome it is, but regardless of this electronic wizardry, the Signpost still hasn't changed one whit in its commitment to keeping everyone in East Montpelier in touch with what's happening. Thank you for supporting us so well!

*Jean Cate*



# THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



## SELECTBOARD

Allan Couch (chair), Edie Miller, Frank Pratt

### November 8, 1995

- Cheryl Rus requested possible street light at intersection of Towne Hill Road and Route 2. Agency of Transportation will be asked to place reflectors.
- Charles Codling appointed as representative to the Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee, with Peter Hill as alternate.
- Stuart Friedman appointed to Board of Adjustment.
- Richard Blake asked Selectboard to consider paving portion of Carleton Blvd. from Route 14 to Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park.
- Joy Wilcox reappointed to three year term on Wrightsville Beach District Board.

### November 29, 1995

- Mike Garand reported new dump truck is very satisfactory.
- Norma Raymond reported on status of delinquent taxes.
- Tom Brazier met to discuss status of Ambulance Advisory Committee issues.
- Appointed Patty Hambro to the Town's Funding Request Committee.

### December 6, 1995

- Gunner McCain and Gerald Jourdan present to discuss Mr. Jourdan's proposed nine lot subdivision off Clark Road. Will resubmit to make clearer proposed road.
- Approved proposal from Wragg Bros. for repair of well at Town Garage and Fire Station.
- Discussion of VAOT alternative designs for improvements to US 2, VT 14 & Quaker Road intersection. Think this intersection needs to be considered in connection with US 2/VT 14 intersection and bridge project at other end of village.
- Plans for repair to roof of Municipal Building have not worked out.

### December 20, 1995

- Met with Dennis Benjamin and Sam Lewis from Agency of Transportation. Regulations have changed since proposal of bypass - wetlands, archeology and deeryards. Project may be deleted by legislature from capital program.
- Worked on 1996 budget.

### December 27, 1995

- Decided to raise pay rates for the Road Dept., Town Clerk's Office, and Assistant by 3%, effective with the Jan. 2, 1996 payroll. Hourly rates for Zoning Administrator, Sewage Officer, and Listers increased from \$7.00 to \$8.00, and Ballot Clerks from \$5.00 to

\$6.00. Will pay half of the 15.7% premium increase in health insurance. Will pay half the cost of coverage for a single person to employees who do not utilize the Town's health insurance coverage.

### January 3, 1996

- Richard and John Hall discussed their proposal for the Town to apply for a Community Development grant to lend Fairmont Farm funds to construct manure storage and separation facilities.
- Gerry Jourdan and his engineer, Gunner McCain, discussed proposed subdivision and development road off of Clark Road. Would be built to less than A-76 standards. Developer would not ask town to take over road.
- Mark Milazzo's letter of resignation from the Board of Adjustment was accepted with regret.

### January 9, 1996

- Bill George and Mike Bliss discussed Fire Department budget requests for 1996.
- Mike Garand presented monthly road report. Sand and salt budgets for 1996 are already strained and sand pile seriously depleted. Board authorized purchase of up to 1000 tons of sand (granite) from Pike.
- Collector of Delinquent Taxes Norma Raymond has begun tax sale process on four accounts.
- Several members of Conservation Fund Study Committee discussed their draft report. Copies will be available at Town Clerk's Office and at Town Meeting, with summary report in the Town Report.
- Petition from NYNEX signed for location of a utility pole on the Municipal Building property. NYNEX will provide a 2" maple tree to be planted as requested.
- AOT suggests further discussion of both intersections in the Village.
- Raised elected Auditors hourly rate to \$8.00.

### January 17, 1996

- Richard Hall met with Selectboard to discuss the first draft of Vermont Community Development Program grant.
- Tom Brazier reported on latest proposal from City of Montpelier for 1996/1997 ambulance services. Board will send a letter to City expressing concern over increasing costs and possible reductions in service due to decreased staffing.

## PLANNING COMMISSION

Chair: Richard Curtis

### November 16, 1995

- Zoning Administrator provided an update on complaints.

### December 7, 1995

- Approved request for home occupation by Mark Lane of a gun shop on Gould Hill Road: sales, repair and rifle range.
- Discussion with Chris Pratt about public water system located in his proposed subdivision.
- Decided to continue to review proposed changes to Zoning Regulations and have finalized changes ready for vote in the November 1996 elections.

### December 21, 1995

- Preliminary Plat Review of Gerald Jourdan's nine lot proposed subdivision off Clark Road. Mr. Jourdan asked to bring in bearings and distances on all lines as well as copy of perimeter survey to next meeting. Hearing recessed to January 4 due to lack of quorum.

### January 4, 1996

- Accepted amendment to Chris Pratt's application for proposed subdivision. He is withdrawing three lots.
- Approved preliminary plat review of Gerald Jourdan's nine-lot subdivision off Clark Road.

### January 18, 1996

- Approved final plat review of three lot subdivision on Johnson Road submitted by Christopher Pratt.

## EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jonathan Winston, President Michael Bliss

With 1995 at an end and 1996 starting, it is time to reflect back on the activities of the East Montpelier Fire Department. In 1995 the department responded to 189 emergency calls of which 73 were fire related and 116 were emergency medical calls. Of the fire calls 25 were in the Town of Calais, 31 in East Montpelier, and 17 were mutual aid calls to surrounding towns. The emergency medical calls were as follows: Calais 38, East Montpelier 75 and mutual aid 3. The emergency medical calls also included automobile accidents in which fire suppression apparatus responded along with the emergency medical personnel. For more statistics and information stop by our booth at town meeting. Just as a side note, as of January 26 the fire department has responded to over two dozen calls.

At town meeting the fire department will be asking the towns of East Montpelier and





# THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



Calais for an operating budget and capital budget of \$63,275.00. This is a \$2,129.00 decrease from 1995. The proposed operating budget is \$55,575.00 with a proposed capital budget of \$8,000.00. If you should have any questions regarding the above request or in what is in the town report, please feel free to contact any fire department member.

The fire department is always looking for new members. Information on the department or on how to become a member may be obtained by contacting any member of the department. We encourage anyone to stop by so we can give you a tour of either station.

The members of the East Montpelier Fire Department and Auxiliary would like to thank the citizens of East Montpelier and Calais for their continued support.

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## EAST MONTEPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jan Aldrich (Chair), Jim Hiner, Sue Stephen,  
Nancy Thomas, Paul White

### December 7, 1995

- Approved the new Special Education contract for 1995-1996.
- Approved the Weapons Policy by a vote of 4 to 1.
- Approved hiring Ginny Callan for a three month period as consultant to the hot lunch program at a cost of \$300.
- Approved temporary time of 7 1/2 hours for Brian Hurlburt, substitute cook, and an extra 1/2 hour for Marcia Pauly to do the Hot Lunch accounting.

### January 4, 1996

- Approved M. Hurlburt's request for a one year unpaid leave of absence as school cook.
- Laura Johnson will advertise for bids for the new soundproofing of the gym.
- Voted to set the budget at \$1,502,081. for 1996-1997. This is a 0.5% increase over last year's budget. The tax rate would increase more because last year \$55,000. was used from the fund balance to offset expenditures.

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## U-32 - JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### November 14, 1995

- John Coolidge outlined some options for providing increased space; enrollment data reviewed.
- Discussion of editorial in Burlington Free Press regarding decision to not have National Honor Society.

### November 28, 1995

- Two new courses approved - music appreciation and high school guitar. Will consider

adding legislative seminar pending receipt of course content and student outcomes for the course.

- Approved elevator repair.

### December 12, 1995

- Discussion of why U-32 decided not to continue National Honor Society. Susan Auld and Ruth Towne present to discuss issue. Faculty considerations were outlined.
- Elliot Burg spoke for the parents' group to summarize concerns: ventilating, space considerations, crowded classrooms, additional small buildings on site.
- Voted to admit two Russian students for the spring semester.
- Discussion of possible co-curricular stipends.

### January 2, 1996

- Discussion of various aspects of budget.

### January 9, 1996

- Facilities Committee updated Board on ventilation, heating, fire, etc. Proposal will be submitted by April 1.
- Ventilation Study presented. Will submit proposal and recommendations by April.
- Julian Goodrich was presented the Randy Allen Distinguished Service Award. He was given one of the original bricks made by student for the building.

### January 23, 1996

- Set final budget at \$6,569,002. to be voted on by Australian ballot at Town Meeting.
- Heard from Facilities Committee. Want to get to work as soon as possible on improving air quality.
- Need to provide more space for seventh graders next year. Andy Shapiro suggested building two buildings in the manner of Habitat. Final decisions to be made in spring.
- Reviewed auditor's report.
- Heard report on food plan suggesting healthier meals with lower fat.

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## FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE

Ginny Burley, Ruth Frost, Co-Chairs

The vestibule has been renovated and insulated, using funds not expended from the grant received in 1995. In November we contracted for restoration/renovations in the kitchen area and furnace room door.

Recently we received a matching grant for work in the stage area. The duct work and wallboard from the old furnace will be removed. Stage drapery, stage window shade and lighting will be installed.

Exterior painting of the schoolhouse will take place this spring. Any funds unexpended from the 1995 town funds will be applied to this renovation work.

George Landry, Jr. has resigned as a director. We thank him for his work and donations on behalf of Four Corners Schoolhouse.

Four Corners plans to sponsor the following activities this spring: basketry, chair caning, bird/wildflower hike, using your sewing machine with confidence, and design and planting of gardens. Call Ruth Frost to register and/or for details.

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## RECREATION BOARD

Pat Fitzsimmons, Rachel Senechal, Co-Chairs

One of the most exciting developments for the Recreation Board is the possible use of 13 acres located behind the recreation field next to the Elementary School for expanded recreational opportunities. Some of the ideas for the use of this space include another soccer field, community swimming pool, picnic area, walking trails, tennis court, skating rink with warming hut, enhanced parking area and electricity. We encourage residents to give us their ideas for use of this space. The prospect of Community Block Grant Development funds coming to East Montpelier is truly exciting. Some of our recreation goals could be met with financial support from the CBGD funds. The Recreation Board will be discussing various fund raising ideas and evaluating the Wedgewood Swimming Program at its next board meeting. Come and join us!

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## TWIN VALLEY SENIORS

People age 60 and over are invited to attend the Twin Valley Senior Center located at the Plainfield Fire Station. Twin Valley serves East Montpelier seniors as well as residents of Calais, Plainfield, Marshfield, Cabot and Woodbury. Meals are prepared by the New England Culinary Institute for a donation of \$2.00 per meal. Starting in March, every Monday the seniors will meet at Goddard College for lunch and activities. For reservations call 454-8600 or 479-0531.

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## CHURCH CHIMES Old Brick Church

Old Brick Church is in the process of searching for a full-time pastor. Sunday services continue at 11 a.m. We are a community church and all are welcome.

We were saddened in late December by the death of Helen Allen, a beloved member of our town, of the village, and of the Old Brick Church.



# THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



The church has resumed its Sunday School program at 11:00 on Sunday mornings. Some of the upcoming activities are making valentines for seniors, decorating heart cookies, building whimsical bird houses to place in the flower garden that the children will develop. Coordinating the Sunday activities are Helen Eldred, Wayne Hamilton, and Rachel Senecal. Children of all ages and faiths are welcome.

## Old Meeting House

The annual meeting of the Old Meeting House was held on January 21, with reorganization high on the priority list. It was agreed to begin searching for a new full-time minister immediately. In the meantime, pulpit supply is being determined by the Spiritual Life Committee.

Many lay members have agreed to give a sermon/meditation. David Connor and Susan Cooke Kittredge continue to provide spiritual guidance and direction. Janice Waterman has agreed to serve as Administrator on a part-time, temporary basis providing structure and continuity for the ongoing projects and committees.

New mailing address: RR #1 Box 4355, Montpelier, VT 05602. Telephone: 229-9593. Choir rehearsal: 8:45 on Sunday mornings. Worship service and Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Child care is provided.

The Old Meeting House is handicapped accessible and all are most welcome to come and worship.

## MILESTONES

### BIRTHS

♥ Justin Orians McEathron; born December 11, 1995. Son to Julie Manus Rochat & Mark Howard McEathron.

### PASSINGS

- James Patrick Murphy; died December 19, 1995. Husband of Patricia E. S. Murphy
- Morin Smith; died December 21, 1995. Partner of Leslie Silberberg
- Ruth Bilderback Moody; died December 30, 1995. Mother of Laura Rae Brown
- Carlton C. Smith; died December 25, 1995.
- Helen Allen; died December 30, 1995. Mother of Kate, Beth, George, Lynn, Nancy, Timothy, and Wendy. Widow of George Allen.

### LAND TRANSFERS

- Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont to Diana F. Chace; release of lease rights on Gould Hill Rd.
- Philip L. Sparrow, Dorothy J. Sparrow & Roger B. Leland, trustees of the Dorothy J.

Sparrow Living Trust to Mary Jane Percy; 10.13 acres on North St.

- Philip L. Sparrow, Dorothy J. Sparrow & Roger B. Leland, trustees of the Dorothy J. Sparrow Living Trust to Philip L. & Linda L. Sparrow; 2.2 acres on Gould Hill Rd.
- Frederick S. & Sally L. Martin to Patrick McCoy and Margaret Gibson; 16 acres on Bliss Rd.
- Brenda L. (Chapell) Furber to Bruce Paul & Janet Lynn Chapell; interest on 14 acres and dwelling on Center Rd.
- Richard G. Casavant to G.J.G.W.P. Land, Inc.; 4.6 acres on Route 14 south.
- Mark D. & Kelly A. Codling, James G. & Patricia Finer, and Michael & Margaret Czok to K. Putnam & Susan Clayton; easement on Horn of the Moon Rd.
- K. Putnam & Susan Clayton; to Mark D. & Kelly A. Codling, James G. & Patricia Finer, and Michael & Margaret Czok; easement on Horn of the Moon Rd.
- Estate of Arthur W. Meiggs, Sr. to Marion W. Meiggs; ½ interest in 1.1 acres and dwelling on Clark Rd.
- Katherine Ryan, Gary Ryan and Pamela Ryan-Burbur to Paul R. Brechin & Joan Brooks; mobile home in Sandy Pines MHP.
- Mario J. LeClerc to Normand & Jeannie LeClerc; ¼ interest in 13.6 acres, mobile home and camp on Route 14 south
- Normand & Jeannie LeClerc to Mario J. LeClerc; ¾ interest in 13.6 acres, mobile home and camp on Route 14 south.
- Christopher Bender & Gail E. Brouseau to Samuel A. & Doreen M. Palmisano; 10.4 acres and dwelling on Dodge Rd.
- Hilde E. Sibley to Hilde E. Sibley & Lincoln L. Sibley; 1.3 acres and dwelling on Route 14 in N. Montpelier Village.
- Richard A. & Lorraine A. Copping to Douglas R. & Joanne S. Johnson; easement on Kellon Rd.
- Estate of Edwin Beckley to Kenneth & Rose Land; 0.42 acres and dwelling on Dillon Rd.
- Frieda M. Battles to Anthony C. & Jean M. Cassani; 10.9 acres with dwelling on U.S. Route 2 in E. Montpelier Village.
- Fairmont Farms, Inc. to Vermont Land Trust, Inc.; amendment to conservation easement on 53.6 acres on Vincent Flats Rd.
- Town of East Montpelier to John P. & Patricia A. Connor; right-of-way on Old Town Hill Rd.
- Town of East Montpelier to Cheryl Potter; right-of-way on Old Town Hill Rd.
- Adrian R. & Lois M. Craven to John G. LeClerc; establish a common boundary on Clark Rd.
- John G. LeClerc to Adrian R. & Lois M. Craven; establish a common boundary on Clark Rd.

- Adrian R. & Lois M. Craven to Gerald C. Jourdan, Jr. and Jill Jourdan; 80.37 acres on Clark Rd.
- Shelly Cannon, F/K/A Shelly Feddersen to Frederick J. Feddersen; 12.1 acres on Towne Hill Rd.
- Patricia A. Renzello to Camellia L. Hann; mobile home in Sandy Pines MHP.
- Bergha M. Ives to William B. Holmes & Helen T. Russell; mobile home in Sandy Pines MHP.
- Henry A. & Mary Schnaars to Donald K. & Valerie L. Bigglestone; 1.18 acres and dwelling on Cherry Tree Hill Rd.

## TRAILS COMMITTEE

Nona Estrin, Sandy Woodbeck, Co-chairs

East  
Montpelier  
Trail



Three notes  
from the Trails  
Committee:

1) We will open the first local section of the **Cross Vermont Trail** on National Trails Day, June 1st! Cross Vermont Trails, the East Montpelier Trails Committee, and the city of Montpelier will dedicate this section of the trail with a Gala Celebration. The Celebration will be near Agway, at the foot of Gallison Hill Road. It will be a big deal, with prizes, food, and general Hoopla. Mark your calendar, now, and stay tuned!

2) **MUD Warning and Reminder:** Please stay off our trails with bikes and horses during mud season. With thaws unpredictable, and little snow cover, trails are very vulnerable. NO bicycle or horse use until June 1st, and after that, don't use if muddy. Thanks!

3) **Grant Money!** We have received a small grant from the Fields, Streams Fndn. of Massachusetts for trail work. We'll apply this grant to the new Sparrow Farm Trail, and will work on the trail this summer. Anyone who wants to help with trail construction this summer, give us a shout. And finally, thanks to the notice in the last Signpost, Erica Zimmerman has volunteered to be our Grants Coordinator. Thank you, Erica!



# NOTES FROM THE TOWN OFFICE

## TOWN MEETING AND FORUM

Town Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 5**, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The voting booths will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for items to be voted on by Australian ballot:

- U-32 District:  
All articles in the Warning
- Elementary School:  
Moderator and School Directors
- Town:  
All Officers  
Article 13 (town budget)

U-32 School District ballots will also be handed out with Town ballots on Town Meeting Day.

Absentee ballots can be picked up at, or requested to be mailed by, the Town Clerk's office. They must be received at the Town Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m. March 4 or on Town Meeting Day. Phone requests are also honored as long as there is enough time to get the ballot to the voter and back by Town Meeting Day.

### Information meetings:

U-32 District: **Tuesday, February 27** at 7:30 p.m. at U-32.

Town Forum: **Thursday, February 29** at 7:30 at the Elementary School. Discussion of all the articles and the budget will take place and there will be an opportunity to meet the candidates running for office. The special Conservation Fund Study Committee report requested at the 1995 Town Meeting will also be discussed.



## TOWN MEETING POTLUCK:

Last year we all shared potluck lunch at Town Meeting. It was such fun that we are going to try it again. We hope that lots of people will partake. Here's what you should do:

- Bring a hot dish or salad or breadstuff or dessert. If you are alone, your dish should serve four. If your family of four plans to eat, your food should serve 16. This rule of thumb assures that there will be plenty for all.
- Bring your food to the cafeteria window where it will be exchanged for a ticket showing the number of people in your family who will eat with us.
- If you absolutely can't bring food, call 223-2951 and plan to eat with us anyway. Your ticket will cost \$3.00, which helps pay for butter, coffee, milk, etc. **Share and enjoy!**

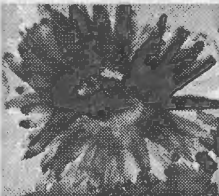
## NAMES TO BE PRINTED ON AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

Sample ballots will be posted by February 24, 1996 for all ballots. Questions? Please call the Town Clerk, Sylvia Tosi at 223-3313.

Moderator Selectman for 3 years  Lister for 3 years Auditor for 3 years Trustee of Public Funds for 3 years First Constable Second Constable Town Grand Juror Cemetery Commissioner for 5 years Planning Commissioner for 2 years of a 3 year term  Planning Commissioner for 3 years (vote for not more than three)  Elementary School Director for 3 years (Vote for not more than one)  Elementary School Director for 2 years (vote for not more than one)  U-32 Director for 3 years  U-32 District Clerk for 1 year U-32 Treasurer for 1 year U-32 Auditor for 3 years	Martin K. Miller Edward S. Blackwell Tom Brazier Rosendo Cueto Paul T. Redmond Susie Hudson Dennis Carver Arthur Montague Tim Carver Carroll Witham, Jr.  Bethany "Betsy" Bishop Maurice Brown Charles Codling Douglas R. Johnson  Arthur Rice Loring Starr  Earl Montague Nancy Thomas Anthony "Tony" Klein Susan Clayton Florence Young No candidate
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## PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY:

Three ballots will be available: one for Democratic, Liberty Union and Republican. Voters who want to participate in the presidential primary will have to state which party ballot they wish to cast, and their choice will be recorded by an election official. This is not a declaration of party membership, but merely an indication of which ballot you choose to vote. You can vote on the U-32, elementary school and local articles without voting in the primary.



*Formerly The IDEAS Camp presents*

## HEARTSENER

*Exploring environmental & artistic expression for 6 to 12 year olds*

HEARTSENER is a summer day camp for boys and girls. It's about discovering their personal expression through various art experiments, exploring the natural world, and interacting with others in a small group setting. For more information and our brochure, call Heidemarie Heiss Holmes at 802/223-1227.

# BILL SMITH, MAPLE SYRUP MAKER



We were to have met on a Saturday morning for coffee at the Maple Valley Cafe in Plainfield. I would ask the questions and take notes for this article while Bill would oblige by talking about his maple sugaring business. That's the way it should have gone, but when Bill got called at 6:00 a.m. to fight an East Montpelier fire in sub-zero temperature, his priorities for that day changed.

Later that same morning, Bill warmed up to our project over a cup of much-deserved coffee. Before too long, a picture of Bill emerged as a man of action—independent, resourceful, a compassionate and thoughtful family man for whom the annual ritual of making maple syrup is only one of several callings.

As a young man, Bill answered the call to help on the family dairy farm. He traces his love of the woods, especially when the sap is running, from those years when he and his father, Walter Smith, collected sap the old fashioned way—with a team of oxen.

Opportunity to make better money in auto mechanics called Bill away from the farm to jobs in Connecticut and Massachusetts. When he returned to help run the family farm in 1978, the herd had grown and the farm's land holdings had grown to include a sugarbush of some 40 acres. For dairy farmers statewide, the production of maple syrup was becoming a business.

After a few years of working side-by-side with his father and the legendary farmhand-poet "Miff" Keene, Bill started caring for those who have been dealt a poor hand in life. Bill and his wife Valerie purchased a home and 155 acres adjacent to the old Smith farm. Bill and Valerie became licensed foster home parents and are registered Professional Parents for Washington County Mental Health.

About ten years after Bill's return to Vermont, Walter Smith began planning his retirement from farming. So deep was Walter's love of the land that he felt the right thing to do was to gift the development rights on the family farm to the Central Vermont Land Trust. He converted his own house to congregate living for himself and others whose needs could be met best by living communally. By prior arrangement, seven building lots were reserved for Bill's children, should any want to live on the old homestead in the future. One daughter and her husband have taken the option to do so and have recently moved into the new home they built last summer.

Today the source of Bill Smith's syrup is the same 40 acre sugarbush, but it's now protected from further development by covenant with the Central Vermont Land Trust. This stand of trees is a joy to behold in any season of the year.

Normally Bill will make about 400 gallons of syrup, bringing in enough profit to pay his taxes and insurance. In an unusually good year he makes about 600 gallons. However, if one applies strict accounting principles, the "profit" evaporates like the sap in the sugarhouse. Figure on amortizing \$10,000 worth of new equipment bought five years ago and a new sugarhouse built last summer. Don't forget to count the long hours of labor in transporting sap to the sugar house, putting wood to the fire for evaporation, tasting and testing the product, grading and canning the syrup.

And then comes the marketing. Every Saturday during the summer Bill sells his maple syrup from the tailgate of his truck at the Montpelier farmer's market. He also does a small amount of mail order

business from his home, as well. His wholesale markets are Hunger Mountain Co-op and the Plainfield Co-op.

Quality maple syrup, Bill will tell you, is the result of combining nature's bounty and human know-how. Minerals in the soil on which his trees grow and the slope's eastern exposure contribute to good taste. Beyond that, there's careful attention to detail: flushing out the pipelines with sanitizer after the sap stops flowing; moving spouts around the tree to prevent damage to the tree; tasting and testing the new sap for impurities; culling the weak and storm-damaged trees to use for firewood; storing new syrup in plastic drums to preserve taste.

Bill puts all of his talents to use almost everyday, interweaving the making and marketing of maple syrup with professional parenting, and working part-time as a self-employed auto mechanic out of his well-equipped garage at his home. Still, he reserves time for himself. As a Vermonter, Bill answers one other call that's bred in the bone: deer hunting. Bill and this writer share a boundary line—to which the local deer pay no attention—a metaphor for the way Bill lives his life: man and nature working together harmoniously. Good neighbors—whether man or beast—don't need fences.

*By Alban Richey: Alban lives in North Montpelier. He enjoys skiing and golfing, and is an active volunteer.*



# 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 Advis. 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	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

Saturday, February 24	Last Day to Register to Vote	Town Office, 10 - 12
Tuesday, February 27	U-32 Budget Meeting	U-32 Theater, 7:30
Thursday, February 29	Town Forum to Discuss Warning	EMES, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 5	Town Meeting Day	EMES, Voting 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
	Town Meeting and potluck lunch	EMES, 9:30 a.m.

## EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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**INSIDE:**

**Dean Shattuck  
Bill Smith  
Town Meeting Info.  
Ballot Information  
Trails Gala**

