

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume VIII, No. 5

May/June 1998

A LIFE FULL OF FAMILY, FRIENDS, MEMORIES — MARION PALMER



Marion Schaefer Palmer lives on Center Road in the house she and her late husband Dave built in 1952. Next door is the farm where she grew up, where cows were milked, fields mowed, apple trees grafted, berries grown, and chickens raised. Marion was the third child in the family, born just days after the historic flood of 1927. Her father soon added carpentry work to farming to support his family.

Some of Marion's early memories on the farm were of tunneling through the hay mow with her friend Freida Badger and slipping up to the Badger sugar-house in the woods. After sugaring, low areas around the sugar-house flooded to make small lakes just right for two girls in a sugaring pan to paddle around in.

The neighborhood consisted of the Badgers (now the Ostrum house), the Swaseys (now Jeromes'), the Closseys (now Browns'), and the Schaefers, whose children all attended school in the one-room school next door to the Old Meeting House. Sometime in the 1930s power was strung up along Center Road. Marion remembers a winter storm when Badger's Hill drifted so badly that men had to shovel just to get the snowplow through, and the crust was so hard that people walked on top, nearly touching the power lines. In winter the children rode their sleds to school and, at lunch time, went traverse sledding on the fields that now belong to the Atkinson farm. King of the Hill was also a popular lunchtime game, and in summertime, softball games were played in the field where the Karl Johnson house now stands on Barnes Road.

Marion Schaefer and Marilyn Ormsbee (now Marilyn Piro) were the only students in their class until eighth grade, when a new boy, David Palmer, moved to town to live and work on the Brazier farm.

Their young teacher had many get-togethers for the students — sledding parties, ice skating

and square dances in the Badgers' living room. Dave Palmer started walking Marion home from these festivities.

During these years, Marion and most of her friends had to walk to high school in Montpelier (now Main Street Middle School). After her father died, she helped out with farm chores and also worked in the Union Elementary School office. After graduation she became secretary to the Principal.

Over the years, Dave and Marion's friendship grew. He returned from service in 1946 and they married two years later. During 1951 they built the house

next to the farm and in the next few years their family grew to six children. Those children have now given Marion eleven grandchildren and two great-grand-children. Oldest son Bob lives in the farmhouse with his wife and six children.

On an unforgettable Town Meeting Day, 1960, Marion heard an explosion as she was heating a baby bottle and minding her small children playing on the floor. A vehicle had left the road, flown through the air and catapulted into the house, but the family fled to safety without knowing what had hit them. They were amazed to see the back end of a sedan sticking out of the house. Dave's bare feet, cut by the glass that covered the floor, were the only visible injuries. Marion says she's amazed by the number of people who arrived to view the spectacle, especially the ones who took "souvenirs" from the house.

As the family grew, Marion started sewing out of her home. She had her mother's love for sewing, and was asked to make the bridesmaids' dresses for the wedding of Florence Cutler and



Top of the Signpost

Every year we Vermonters perform a ritual which to the world beyond evokes either puzzlement or envy - the March Town Meeting. We sort of take it for granted, as generations of Vermonters before us have warned, gavelled, discussed, and voted the affairs of our town. How do we each feel about the process? Is it useful? Interesting? Stimulating? Or is a relic of a simpler age, better replaced with new forms of decision making? Each of us must answer that question, though it is unlikely that we will totally give up Town Meeting in the near future. More likely it is that the forms of the meeting will be altered to meet changing times.

After March 3, I tried to sort out what was valuable about our Town Meeting and whether it was worth keeping. Our traditional meetings do of course settle many issues of policy and expenditure of town funds. In doing so we each have a chance to express our views and try to convince others of what we believe. And we ask questions for town officials and others to clarify. Then we discuss. Oh how we discuss. Just which items on the warning are likely to stir up discussion can rarely be predicted.

But in my book, that discussion is one of the real values of Town Meeting.

Town Meeting takes the pulse of the town. More than specific questions voted upon, it measures whether we are generally content with the performance of our officials, with the direction the town is taking on growth, public safety, and the welfare of our townsmen and women. And we shouldn't underestimate the social value of Town Meeting. We meet, visit, discuss, vote, eat together, and go home feeling a certain solidarity and good feeling about our accomplishments. That is important. It is exactly the sense of community that is hard to envision in large cities.

These values are what I want to see preserved through our Town Meeting system. We should do everything we can to strengthen the system, to foster wide participation, to retain lots of room for discussion during the meetings, and to discourage the shift to Australian ballot. The values of group discussion are priceless. When they are lost we also lose our sense of cooperative effort and we must accept more impersonal government to replace it. Let's keep our Town Meeting personal and effective.

Jean Cate

Elliott Morse. That was about thirty years ago. She also did alterations for Howe's Dry Cleaning. The Howes would drop off items at Marion's on the way home to Bliss Road. One day she received a new suit to alter for then Governor Deane Davis. By some misunderstanding, the order "lengthen sleeves two inches" became "shorten", and of course the suit didn't fit. Luckily another suit was located so Marion could alter it properly for the Governor's speech the next day. And Dave suddenly owned "the Governor's suit" which with alterations he was able to wear.

Carroll Badger, Dave and most of the neighborhood sugared every spring. When Dave got home from work at the State Highway Department, neighborhood children and adults jumped into the wagon to gather sap. There was always a sugar-on-snow party at the end of the season. Sadly, Dave died of cancer just before his fifty-fifth birthday. Marion continued her sewing and worked part-time for many years at Morse's Sugar Shack, clerking and serving sugar-on-snow for the tour bus season.

Volunteering is an important part of Marion's life: the Old Meeting House church where she's a lifelong member, the gift shop at the hospital, the Cancer Society, and for four summers Camp Ta-Kum-Ta, a camp for children with cancer. She loves to travel and to create imaginative crafts with her sister Wilma. Her beloved brother Bud, a carpenter like their father, died last November.

The town of East Montpelier is fortunate to have Marion, always ready with a smile to listen, praise, and help family, friends and neighbors.

*** Ann F. Carr is a teacher assistant in the third grade at EMES. She lives on Center Road and has been Marion's neighbor for 25 years.



MICROFILMING OF VITAL RECORDS

George & Jayne Cady of The Genealogical Society of Utah, of the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City, have completed microfilming East Montpelier vital records. This covers births from 1856 to 1930, marriages from 1856 to 1950 and deaths from 1856 to the present. These microfilms will be added to the genealogical records in Utah as well as providing the town with a copy for our use. East Montpelier is fortunate to have had this volunteer service provided by the Cady's, who were formerly Vermont residents. They've worked in the town office for two weeks, using the kitchen as a darkroom, and now move on to other Washington County towns.

THANK YOU TO THESE LOYAL SUPPORTERS!

Joe and Laura Brown
Stanley Christiansen
Richard and Sally Donaghy
James and Janetlee Goodall
George and Minnie Lane
Dorothy L. Mix
Stephen and Lisa Pratt
Samuel and Barbara Starr

Paul and Sandal Cate
Edwin P. Clark
Barbara Fitch
James and Lois Hanna
Lois R. McKnight
Harold and Carolyn Pastore
Loring Starr and Michael Dworkin

The *Signpost* welcomes contributions. Any amount would be gratefully received - \$5, \$10, \$25, even \$50. Send your donation to Anne Sherman, The *Signpost*, RFD 1, Box 80, East Montpelier, VT 05651. All new contributors will be recognized in the next issue.



MILESTONES

Births

- *Taylor Black-Deegan, born November 20, 1996, son to Keri-Ann Black-Deegan and Edward M. Deegan.
- *Dashiell Thomas Vermilya, born October 24, 1997, son to Meredith Tredeau and Shelly Vermilya.
- *Myrissa Morgan Fleury, born November 6, 1997, daughter to Melissa Ann & Bradley Brian Fleury.
- *Abigail Delia Lawrence, born December 9, 1997, daughter to Edith Delia Lord and Stephen Douglas Lawrence.
- *William Cyrus Royce, born December 28, 1997, son to Wendi Lee Coburn and William Cyrus Royce.
- *Paul William Lavallee, born December 29, 1997, son to Michelle Ann & Peter Paul Lavallee.
- *Laurel Ann Sherlock, born January 1, 1998, daughter to Christie Ellen & Brett Charles Sherlock.
- *Duane Oliveira Wheeler, born February 8, 1998, son to Simone and Duane Wheeler.
- *Flora-Sae Kim Chessman-Chaplin, born February 20, 1998, daughter to Rose Kim-Chessman and Daniel Adam Chaplin.

Deaths

- *Robert Arthur Clark, died January 23, 1998.
- *Allen G. Bolio, died January 30, 1998.

Marriages

- *Sean Dennis Smith to Kelly Jeanne Stuart, February 14, 1998.
- *David W. Pope to Pam S. Bockes, February 17, 1998.

Land Transfers

- *George F. Sibley Jr. & Bonnie L. Sibley to Vermont Land Trust Inc./Town of East Montpelier; Conservation Easement on 187 acres, Sibley Rd.
- *Mary L. Welz to Kevin G. North; 1/2 interest in dwelling on 1.1 acres, US 2 East Village.
- *Ellen C. Hill to Ellen C. Hill, Trustee of the Ellen C. Hill Revocable Trust; dwelling on 80 acres, Templeton Rd.
- *Ellen C. Hill to Ellen C. Hill, Trustee of the Ellen C. Hill Revocable Trust; dwelling on 10.2 acres, Adamant Rd.
- *Garey G. & Ann B. Kreis to Benton N. & Krista B. Larrow; dwelling on 0.99 acres, North St.
- *Jill M. Tanner to Michael L. Tanner, dwelling on 1.56 acres, US 2 East.
- *Gene S. & Carolyn H. Kreis; to Garey G. & Ann B. Kreis; dwelling on 1.1 acres, Cummings Rd.
- *Paul J. & Erika G. Dayton to Thomas P. & Joan A. Myers; 10.2 acres, Cummings Rd.
- *Oakes Bros. Inc. to Chad & Amy Scribner; 41 acres, VT 14N.
- *John T. Graves to Malcolm R. Graves; 0.89 acres, US 2, East Village.
- *Veronica Wheeler-Martin & Gary Martin to M & T Mortgage Corp.; dwelling on 1.1 acres, Carleton Blvd.
- *Thomas M. Paulger to Diane M. Paulger, 1/2 interest in dwelling on 10.1 acres, Towne Hill Rd.
- *Seth B. & Michelle B. Gardner to Katharine Pierson; 6.2 acres, Stony Corners Rd.

- *Richard G. & Carole A. Casavant to Neil E. & Nancy Martel; 1.06 acres, Pine Ridge Rd.
- *Jeffrey A. & Tanis L. Roberts to Tanis L. Roberts; Mobile Home, Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park.
- *Lassie Culling Adams to Reuben Culling Adams; 6% interest in dwelling on 9.6 acres, Brazier Rd.
- *George V. Landry Jr. to Carolyn A. Lawrence; dwelling on 2.54 acres, Horn of the Moon Rd.
- *Lassie Culling Adams to Reuben Culling Adams; 6% interest in dwelling on 9.6 acres, Brazier Road. (Second Transfer)
- *Marion Palmer to Robert Palmer, Peter Palmer, Rebecca Mestieri, Susan Aho, Jo Ellen Eyre & Laurie Palmer; dwelling on 0.8 acres, Center Rd.
- *Donald R. & Elizabeth K. Ibey to Paul W. Haynes; dwelling on 3 acres, Quaker Hill Rd.
- *Kenneth Bailey to Donny E. Yates III & Jody A. Yates; 10 acres, VT 14 S.

RECREATION BOARD

Pat Fitzsimmons, Rachel Senechal, Co-Chairs

- *Spring clean up day is Saturday, May 2, which is also Vermont's Green Up Day. We need people to help rake the field, cut brush, paint, erect the fences and ready the fields for softball and baseball. Families of baseball and softball players are especially encouraged to volunteer. Bring your rakes and clippers, 9:00 a.m., rain or shine.
- *The Spring swim program was successful. The Summer session will begin the last week of June. We are looking for someone to coordinate the swim program. This would entail participant registration and coordination with Wedgewood. Anyone interested please call Robyn Hall (223-3308) or Pat Fitzsimmons (229-6156).
- *Anyone interested in joining the Recreation Board please call Pat Fitzsimmons or Terri Codling (479-3169). We are friendly people who want to expand the recreational opportunities for East Montpelier residents. Won't you join us? We meet the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- *Spring Soccer - Jon Dunkling is working on AAU spring soccer and the possibility of combining with Montpelier. He is also looking for a donation of some land or a field for the kids to practice and play on. Call Jon Dunkling (223-7493).



HEARTS CENTER

BELIEVES

EVERY CHILD IS AN ARTIST

Exploring personal & artistic expression for 7 to 11 year olds

- Fine arts summer day camp
- Weekly sessions begin June 22
- For our brochure, call Heidemarie Heiss Holmes at 802/223-1227



THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



SELECTBOARD

Tom Brazier, Chair

Edie Miller, Tim Meehan

Jan. 21, 1998

*Paul Cate present to discuss purchase of brush chipper. Voted to purchase a Morbark Model 10 Brush Chipper.

*Worked on budget and reviewed draft Town Meeting Warning.

Jan. 28, 1998

*Selectman Brazier reported on progress of regional ambulance discussions.

*Will invite Regional Planning Commission representatives to future Selectboard meeting to discuss proposed Montpelier sludge composting facility.

*Brush chipper will be paid for with Town Forest committee funds including funds from a proposed timber sale.

*Public hearing on Capital Improvement Program. Not ready for presentation at 1998 Town Meeting.

*Reviewed fuel purchasing proposals. Accepted proposal of Rice Fuels for heating and diesel fuel deliveries.

Feb. 18, 1998

*Mike Garand gave monthly Road Dept. Report. Sand supply in good shape, salt usage down because of new smooth roads and use of road surface temperature gauge.

*Have signed timber sale contract with Mike Molleur for a cut on Town Forest.

*Approved contract with Cartographic Assoc. for annual update of Town's property line maps.

*Selectman Brazier expressed concern with State's plan for single primary dispatch center for E-911 out of Williston State Police barracks. Urged Town to consider using Montpelier Police Dept. dispatch center. Bill Bryant is beginning telephone number verification process.

March 18, 1998

*Tom Brazier was elected Chairperson.

*Selectman Brazier reported on discussion with Montpelier Police Dept. about possible designation of their dispatch center as the "primary service answering point" (PSAP) for E-911 calls from East Montpelier. Mr. Brazier will pursue this.

*Bill Bryant is matching phone number information from Bell Atlantic with

property owner and location information.

*Road Foreman Mike Garand made monthly report. Mud season is early this year and so far about twice as much of the gravel budget has been spent as usual.

*Completed closing documents for loan from VT Community Development grant to replacement sewage system at Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park. Construction to occur this summer.

*Selectman Brazier reported on status of regional ambulance discussions.

Selectboard favors moving forward with formation of new organization.

*Approved draft letter to be sent to Act 250 District Commission regarding Town Meeting vote on sludge composting facility.

*Two volunteers from Genealogical Society of Utah have been working in Town Offices to update microfilm copies of vital records for a national database for genealogical research.

Kudos to Mike Garand and his road crew for the many hours of work they have put in to get us through mud season. This has been an incredibly muddy year and they deserve our thanks!

PLANNING COMMISSION

Doug Johnson, Chair

Jan. 22, 1998

*Approved sketch plan review for storage buildings and driving range as proposed by Donald Cote with request to deal with the insufficient distance on the driving range.

Feb. 5, 1998

*Accepted preliminary plan of Chris Pratt to subdivide a lot on TH#45 into 2 lots. Tom Brazier present to express concern that map reflects 60' ROW and 49' is the actual width.

*Approved application of Morse Sugar Shack to add a 5' shed roof over entrance.

*Voted to have Chris Walsh or another VLCT representative come in to discuss zoning regulation improvements.

Feb. 19, 1998

*Accepted Preliminary Review Plan of

Don Cote for storage sheds and driving range, if permission is received from neighbors for the driving range. Golf range area has been moved back to allow more room.

*Heard request of Nate Danforth to build 30' by 100' storage building. Approved contingent on formal acceptance March 5.

March 5, 1998

*Introduced new members Tracy Phillips, Tim Carver and Dave Sparrow.

*Accepted Preliminary Review Plan for 2 lot subdivision off Brazier Road of Chris Pratt. Plan shows a 49.5' road, preexisting as a trail road.

Recertification from Richard Czaplinski also presented.

*Approved changes Peter Wanson outlined to be made to his mail order business on Route 2.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Gene Troia, Chair

Jan. 26, 1998

*Hearing on request of Steve Noyes, East Montpelier Home Center, for permit to construct two 16' x 75' lumber storage canopies behind existing storage building. Recessed hearing until permit request filed with Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

March 9, 1998

*Resumed hearing on East Montpelier Home Center. Approved two storage units with conditions.

*Approved application of Jennifer Myka and Richard Smith to put a 12' x 18' addition on their home, a former small

EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

Phone: 223-3313

Email: EastMont@together.net

Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi
Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Paulie Coburn (M-Th 9-5, F 9-12 noon)
Administrative Assistant - Bill Bryant (W & Th 9-5)

PO Box 157, E. Montpelier, VT 05651



**EAST MONTPELIER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

*Jan Aldrich, Chair, Richard Curtis, Cheryl
Rus, Loring Starr, Nancy Thomas*

Feb. 4, 1998

- *Discussion of proposed carpeting of classrooms. Two carpet representatives present: Ed McKinnon of Collins & Aikman and Stanley Martin. Several townspeople attended and discussed concerns. Board also talked about vinyl and linoleum. Laura Johnson and Lucy Ferrada will get more information.
- *Tuition rate of \$6,179 for 1998-99 school year approved.
- *Northfield Lumber Co. no longer has extra wood chips to sell. EMES will split a load with Morse Sugar Shack during sugaring season. Rice Energy Co. would lock in price for oil at \$0.70 a gallon.

Feb. 16, 1998

- *Made plans for budget presentation at Town School Meeting, March 3.

March 5, 1998

- *Jan Aldrich re-elected Chairperson of the Board, Nancy Thomas Vice-Chairperson, and Cheryl Rus Clerk. Jan Aldrich will remain as representative to the Negotiating Committee.
- *Approved configuration plan to have kindergarten through fourth grade be straight grades and 5/6 be multi-age classrooms until numbers warrant change.
- *Heard from several people about carpet in classrooms. Also heard about marmoleum and vinyl flooring. Will study further and make decision by June so work can be done this summer.
- *Accepted bid of Cliff King to install coat racks and benches by the 5/6 grade classrooms.

U-32 JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL

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

Jan. 20, 1998

- *Discussed Jr. High/Middle School basketball. Policy is to have mixed ability teams and to play schools that have such teams.
- *Space action team reported, plan trips to other schools. Discussed polling voters of each town at Town Meeting on possibility of a Middle School.

Feb. 3, 1998

- *Approved hiring architectural firm Gossens Bachman.
- *Generated questions for the Guidance Program Review. An outside facilitator will be identified to assist in performing this review.

Feb. 24, 1998

- *Approved setting tuition rate at \$6,469.

March 17, 1998

- *Elected Peter Schober as Chair, Ginny Burley Vice Chair, Marilyn Miller Clerk.
- *More than 20 faculty members attended meeting regarding Principal's contract and expressed strong support for renewal of Inga Duktig's contract.
- *Results of Town Meeting survey show need for separate space for Middle School
- *Approved Kathy Topping's appointment to a VT Institute of Science and Math Teachers Teacher Associate Position.

**EAST MONTPELIER FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

Chief Jon Winston, President Bill George

With spring upon us and summer not far away most of us are in a hurry to get out and start cleaning our lawns and gardens of winter debris. Many town residents like to dispose of their winter debris by burning. Please be aware that in order to burn grass and other natural debris, (construction debris may not be burned) you must obtain a permit from the Town Fire Warden or his assistant. The Town Fire Warden is Bob VanZandt (223-7101). Chris Reed is Assistant Town Fire Warden (223-7707). Questions about outside burning? Please contact one of these individuals.

**FRANCES FITCH MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP**

A \$300. scholarship is available through the Friendly Circle, formerly the County Road Homemakers, to any student at U-32 who intends to teach school. The application deadline is May 30. Contact Kathleen Doner at HCR 32, Box 224, Montpelier, VT 05602 for information. An application form is available at the U-32 Guidance office.

ENHANCED 911 UPDATE

By now many East Montpelier residents have received notice from the Post Office and the Town of their new locatable road address. The rest should be receiving this information soon - it all depends upon which Post Office serves your area of town and the progress to date in matching property owner information with rural route and occupant information. It is important that you post your new address on your home or building as soon as possible. The Town urges that the addresses be posted with numbers at least 4 inches in height and of contrasting color with the background.

If your building is not visible from the road, it is also important to post the number at the end of your driveway, either on a post, mailbox, fence, etc. The Town will be installing new road name signs for all town and private roads in the coming weeks to further assist emergency providers in using the new locatable address system. The statewide E-911 telephone network should go on line toward the end of the year. East Montpelier has been doing its part to be included in the new system, which will provide emergency dispatchers with your location on a computer screen as soon as your call is received.

The process for matching phone numbers, owner or occupant and location information has been very tedious and complicated, especially for rental properties and businesses with multiple phone numbers.

You can assist by forwarding your new locatable address to Bell Atlantic with your next phone bill to supplement the information the Town has been able to provide.

The Post Office will continue to deliver mail addressed to your old rural route box number for the next several months, but it is still important for you to pass along change of address information to assure efficient mail delivery.

If you would like further information, please contact E-911 Coordinator Bill Bryant at the East Montpelier Municipal Building (223-3313).

FRIENDS OF EDUCATION FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY

Margaret Meade once wrote, "Never underestimate the ability of a small group of dedicated people to change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." In September of 1992, a dedicated group of people formed an educational non-profit called Washington Central Friends of Education, not to change the world but to improve the communication between the schools and communities in our five towns and to be a resource for those schools. That dedicated group includes four people from East Montpelier - Mary and Paul Redmond and Sue and Putnam Clayton. They, together with Wanda Baril and Winton Goodrich of Berlin, are founding members. Donna Fitch and Lowell VanDerlip of Calais and Jane Blanchard of Middlesex round out the Board. Deb Wolf of Middlesex is the new Executive Director, taking the place of Sue Clayton who has been director since the beginning.

In the past six years, WCFE has won \$143,500 in competitive grants for our schools, including \$54,000 in grants this year. These funds will help our schools develop and implement long range plans for improvement, based on data around student achievement. The funds will also help continue projects that help connect students to their communities. For example, in East Montpelier students studied and mapped historic sites in town and presented a finished product to Sylvia Tosi and Roger Chapell for the Town Office.

WCFE has also worked to improve communications by publishing and distributing a newsletter, *Bus Stop Conversations*, as an insert in the *WORLD* 16 times during each school year. We are very grateful for the support from business advertisers and contributors that keeps this publication afloat. It receives no financial support from taxes.

As our children leave school, we lose contact with a big part of our community. Indeed, about 60 percent of the people in the five Washington Central towns have no children presently in school. Staying connected benefits both students and community members. Friends of Education is working to bring our communities together.

Sue Clayton

(Andy Christiansen, cont.)

Andy's love of the past and his appreciation for computer technology are no recent enthusiasms. They were abiding passions when he worked at the elementary school, when he toured as a singer and musician with the Bread and Puppet Theatre and Green Mountain Crossing, when he served in the legislature advocating a progressive but fiscally responsible agenda, and even today in his new business, Old Barn Vermont.

You may consult his web page at www.oldbarnvt.com or E-mail him at oldbarnvt@together.net or you may communicate with Andy the old-fashioned way by calling him at 223-7858.

Artist, educator, community servant, local business person, historian, computer aficionado, the Janus of East Montpelier - all of these descriptions aptly describe the founder of Old Barn Vermont, Andy Christiansen.

***Richard Forcier lives with his life partner, Dawn Anderson, along with their five children, five dogs and one cat on Horn of the Moon Road in East Montpelier. He serves the Barre Universalist Church as their minister.

Open Everyday 8:30am to 6:pm

We ship Anywhere

"A Quality Family Farm Shop"
802-223-5757

BRAGG FARM

SUGARHOUSE & GIFT SHOP

Vermont Handicrafts
Gifts
Vermont Cheese
Mail Order
Maple Products

1 mile north of E. Montpelier Village on Rt. 14 (follow signs)

EAST MONTPELIER CELEBRATES 150 YEARS 1849 - 1999

Did you know that East Montpelier came into being almost 150 years ago when it was divided off from the Town of Montpelier? Let's celebrate!

A meeting will be held on May 19 at 7 p.m. at the Town Municipal Building to discuss our 150th birthday. The East Montpelier Historical Society is looking for ideas for this event. Anyone interested in the history of our town is most welcome to attend. Hopefully, we will see many of you there.

Please bring a friend and your ideas of how you would like to see our town celebrate this special event.

Questions? Please call the Town Clerk's Office (223-3313).



CHURCH BELLS



OLD BRICK CHURCH

Rev. Marcheta Townsend, Pastor
Worship and Sunday School - 11 a.m.

OLD MEETING HOUSE

Rev. David W. Connor and Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, Co-Pastors
Worship, Sunday School and Child Care 9:30 a.m.

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Rev. Bob Walton
Worship and Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

IN PRAISE OF JANUS - ANDY CHRISTIANSEN

Recently, I met with longtime East Montpelier resident, Andrew "Andy" Christiansen. Although we focused on his new business, "Old Barn Vermont", we also talked at length about his evolving career.

As I spoke with Andy, the image of the ancient Roman god, Janus, kept appearing before my mind's eye. Janus possessed two faces that were attached to one another, one old and one young; one that looked to the past and one that gazed forward. It seems to me that Andy's present work incorporates both of these elements.

Old Barn Vermont, Andy's new business, relies on his knowledge and experience with computers to perform two essential services: one, to create a custom-made web-site for individuals, agencies, and businesses on the Internet; and two, to preserve and index historical collections. By using cutting-edge technology, Andy can package your business, your service, and even your self with a creative array of pictures and words to a worldwide audience that will ensure a positive response. Or, if you have diaries, letters, or collections of old, valuable books that are deteriorating, Andy can preserve them with technological equipment such as a CD-ROM. Through his new business Andy also provides technical computer support and information retrieval for customers.

One exciting aspect that Andy hopes to plunge into is the area of "cultural tourism." Travelers, nationwide and beyond, are searching the Internet to look for the historical sites and points of attraction in an area to determine if they want to personally visit. Andy wants to package local businesses and attractions in such a way that people from afar will want to come to East Montpelier to visit.

In starting this new business venture, Andy is satisfying a yearning he has had for many years to creatively link his interest in history and music with a way to make a living. Andy remarked, "I am not passionate about computers, but I am passionate about what they can do. They are a tool." It is a tool to link the past with the future.

Through Old Barn Vermont Andy has already created a web-site for the Adamant Music School. Years before, Andy himself had studied piano at this school. By the time he was in high school, the founders were women in their 90's. They had been political activists and anti-war demonstrators. These feisty women kept all of their reflections and correspondence which are deteriorating. So, in addition to putting the Adamant School on the worldwide web, Andy has also created a valuable local archive of these activities and thoughts.

Andy is also going to preserve the old records of the Danish Brotherhood Society, an organization of Danish immigrants that established itself in Central Vermont after a wave of Danish immigration.

This Janus-like passion of combining futuristic technology to maintain the valuable past is not merely a vocation for Andy but an avocation. He intends to go through his grandmother's trunk of disintegrating letters, papers, and books and post them on the Internet, or put them on a CD-ROM. With a smile, he commented they would then be preserved for five hundred years.

Having listened to Andy Christiansen speak excitedly both about history and computers, I asked him if he was aware of why he has this twin passion. He told me that he was raised on the Christiansen Dairy Farm in East Montpelier, land that his



ancestors had farmed in our town back to the 1700's. Andy grew up doing the same kind of work part-time that his parents and great-grandparents did. Moreover, he did so on the same land. He lives with his wife, Jennifer Zollner, and children, Zoe and Anders, in the same home in which his grandmother lived.

Andy grew up listening to colorful family stories from the past. He heard about Aunt Evie Sawyer, who had moved to the Dakotas. The Native Americans were "acting up" in this period. Evie's partner was returning to the farmhouse when he was horrified to see the homestead surrounded by natives. Fearing the worst, he was astounded to discover that the natives were being treated to Aunt Evie's

homemade donuts. They had surrounded the house, not to wreak havoc, but to get their fill of this "delicacy". Andy developed a taste for real history like the kind his parents communicated to him.

His fascination with computers was born in a less romantic setting. He had to take required computer courses as an undergraduate at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, where he earned a degree in music and psychology in 1976. Later he worked with his mom at the East Montpelier Elementary School as a special education aide. While doing this job, he assisted his mother in teaching first graders how to use computers. Andy remembers fondly the children role-playing how the important components of the computer worked and how they worked together. Andy and his mother even taught the children how to do elementary programming.

(continued on page 6)

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDER

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Wednesday	7:00	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	1st & 3rd Tuesday	6:30	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-Thur: 9-5, Friday 9-12		Town Office
Zoning Administrator	Tuesday & Thursday	1-2:30	Town Office
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn.	3rd Wednesday	7:30	Four Corners Schoolhouse

Meeting times are subject to change.

EVENTS CALENDAR

May 5	Rec Field Clean-up Day	Rec Field	9:00 A.M.
May 19	Town History Meeting	Town Office	7:00 P.M.
June 11	Laura Johnson/George Matkowski Retirement Open House	E.M.E.S	2:00 P.M. on
June 16	East Montpelier Elementary School Graduation	E.M.E.S.	
June 17	East Montpelier Last Day of School		
June 19	U-32 High School Graduation & Last Day	U-32	6:30 P.M.

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Published six times a year, mailed out free of charge to all residents of East Montpelier.
Subscriptions mailed out of town for \$10 a year. Business card ads: \$15/issue or \$75/year.

Jean Cate, Publisher, 223-2951
Dave/Darlene Grundy,
Layout/Design, 476-4300

David Coburn, Copy Editor, 223-6886
Margaret Richey, News Editor, 454-7862
Brett Coburn, Photography, 223-6886

Anne Sherman, Business Mgr., 223-2693
Sylvia Tosi, Town Records, 223-3240
Janet McLeod, Artist, 229-1430

Deadline for next issue: May 27 to M. Richey, RR2, Box 380, Plainfield, VT 05667

Printed on recycled paper with soybased ink

East Montpelier Signpost
RFD 1, Box 80
East Montpelier, Vermont 05651

Return Service Requested

Volume VIII, No. 5
May/June 1998

INSIDE:
MARION PALMER
ANDY CHRISTIANSEN
150th Birthday

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
L. Brown & Sons, Inc.