

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume X, No. 2

November/December 1999

Home Again - Nancy and Fred Strong

by Anne Ormsbee

At the "T" intersection of Dodge Road and Center Road is the home of Fred and Nancy Strong, on whose welcoming porch one can admire the latest harvest from the garden or catch up on family and neighborhood news. This is the farm where Fred and his younger sister Alice grew up, and Nancy adds that Fred's mother traveled to Heaton Hospital by sleigh in time for Fred's birth one December day.

Fred's father Carroll, with hired man Bert Pike, and later Fred, raised pigs and chickens and milked Ayrshire cattle. Fred remembers many things about growing up on the farm, among them ice being cut in the winter, meat being smoked, and early on, he recalls being taught how to defend himself from an aggressive rooster by flapping a piece of cloth at it.

Fred went to the Center School, next to the Old Meeting House, where for 7 years he was the only student in his class. As did most neighborhood youngsters, he learned to do the many tasks required on a farm such as milking and haying. During sugaring, he helped gather sap and was allowed to stay home from school during particularly good runs.

Life wasn't all work, however, and Fred sometimes had the privilege of walking over the field to play with friend Conrad Ormsbee. A parade by neighborhood children and some firecrackers marked the Fourth of July, and Fred recalls a Halloween when the traveling music teacher's Austin car was mysteriously found a-straddle the ditch near the schoolhouse.

Active in a 4-H dairy club led by James Anderson, Fred recollects a fund-raising dance which happened to fall on V-J Day, and people flocked to celebrate the occasion at what is

now the Old Meeting House Sunday School Building.

Fred attended Montpelier High School (now Main St School) riding with commuter Ted Boardman who lived in what is now the Edward Day home, in Conrad Ormsbee's Model T Ford, and later in his own 1932 Plymouth.

Fred worked on the home farm for four years before enlisting in the Air Force. A friendship with Montpelier-born Nancy Stevens had developed at MHS, but Nancy wasn't allowed to date boys with cars. After high school Nancy, with lots of experience as a baby sitter and nurse's aide, began nurse's training at Brooklyn Hospital, then transferred to Johnson Teacher's College. She did some student teaching at the Center School under the supervision of Avis Spencer. Her first teaching job was with 38 first graders at Union Street School in Montpelier. Nancy and Fred's friendship grew, and they were married in 1957, moving immediately to Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho. Over the years their many addresses included Fort Ethan Allen in Winooski and bases in Massachusetts, Mississippi, Newfoundland, Maine, Nebraska, and Labrador. Fred retired from the Air Force in 1980 and worked for ITT's Defense Communication Division in Nebraska for 14 years.

Fred and Nancy made their long-planned-for move home to Vermont in 1994. Since coming home, they have made renovations to their house, which has been in the family for several generations, and Fred has spent many hours clearing brush and trees from overgrown fields, as well as other farm projects. They're happy to be back, although they miss their son and four grandchildren in Nebraska and their daughter and two granddaughters who have just moved to Texas.

Fred volunteers his skills on the town zoning board, funding board, and cemetery commission; Nancy enjoys crafts of all sorts. Both Fred and Nancy pursue their interest in local history as members of the East Montpelier Historical Society, most fitting for the great, great, great grandson of Parley Davis and his wife.

Anne Ormsbee is married to Conrad Ormsbee, childhood friend of Fred Strong. Anne and Conrad live in the Center.



Top of the Signpost

The first flakes of snow are landing on a somewhat bedraggled garden and still-green grass in our back yard. We're never entirely ready for winter, but the summer was for me a warm and wonderful time. So too was the last big observance of the town's Sesquicentennial year — the reenactment of "Early East Montpelier", — which gave those who participated and those who watched a glow about our town. It has been a rewarding year. The celebration events have given us a better picture of our history and a renewed appreciation of how sturdily our citizens have built our community since 1849.

One hundred and fifty years later that tradition of community building is still strong. Without it our wonderful trails system wouldn't exist, Rally Day would not happen, the Four Corners

Schoolhouse wouldn't serve us so well as a community center, and of course this *Signpost* couldn't be.

We are thankful to live in a place where people know how to say "Yes". Our volunteers, our leaders, our young people growing up seem to recognize that just saying "let George do it" leaves us with no one doing it. Being willing to say "Yes" has rewarded us with strong church groups at the town's heart, strong schools expanding our children's minds, and vibrant community organizations to bind us together.

I am proud to be part of the energy that makes things happen.

Jean Cate

RALLY DAY CELEBRATES EAST MONTPELIER'S SESQUICENTENNIAL by Rachel Senechal

First of all, please allow me to apologize to our Jewish friends and neighbors for scheduling Rally Day on Rosh Hashanah. When it was brought to my attention that this conflict existed, it was too late to change the date. We will be sure to check the date in the future so that we don't schedule Rally Day on a Jewish Holiday.

Those of us who attended Rally Day were treated to a wonderful day of fun, laughter, companionship and community. The array of activities drew people in the morning and held their attention throughout the day. Rally Day highlights included the Sesquicentennial Parade, the Group Photo, music by the Vincent Flats Blues Band and the most talked about event: fireworks that truly lit up East Montpelier's sky. We couldn't have said, "Happy Birthday, East Montpelier" in a better way than we did at Rally Day.

Hooray for the Rally Day Auction — the organizers, the workers, the donors and the buyers. The Auction netted \$2000 to keep the Signpost in business. Jane Burroughs was the organizer with the help of: Jean Vissering, Sue Mugford, Wendi Coburn, Kathie Hickman, and Anna Saxman.

Be sure to buy your copy of the Sesquicentennial Group Photo for \$8.00 and the Rally Day T-shirt for \$10 at the Town Hall. It takes a lot of people to plan and carry out all the events of Rally Day. A heartfelt thank you to all who gave time, talent, and goods. We couldn't have done it without you!



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR!!
Marion Codling in the Rally Day Parade

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION

Rachel Senechal, President.

A well-attended Memory Hour was held at FCSH on Rally Day, planned and conducted by Elaine Manghi and Stanley Christiansen. Several residents brought old pictures of school classes, old buildings, etc. and told the stories regarding such pictures.

During August and early September, the schoolhouse was used several days each week for rehearsals for the Early East Montpelier Play and Chorus - one important reason for our maintaining this schoolhouse as a community building.

A new driveway has been installed recently, with re-grading and re-ditching which was much needed for winter and spring use of the schoolhouse. Ventilation spaces have been installed in the foundation to alleviate the dampness problem in foundation timbers and in peeling of paint.

Please contact Marion Codling, 223-2058 for use of the schoolhouse.



TRAILS

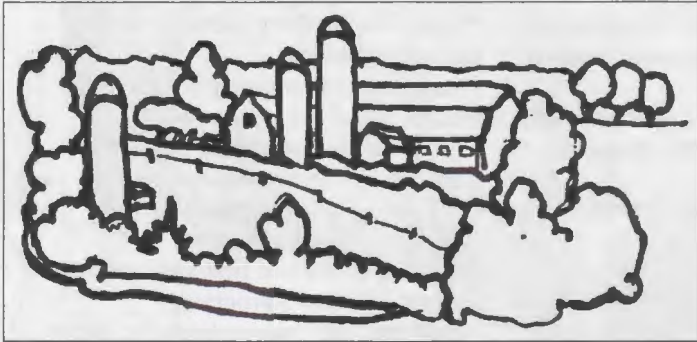
East Montpelier's trails system needs your help to clean up from Hurricane Floyd. Over the years, when trees have come down on town trails, "trail fairies" have sometimes mysteriously cleared the trail. The committee has never known who these occasional anonymous helpers were, but we definitely need help now in clearing.

Some of this work can be done by hand saw, but some of the bigger trees will require a chain saw and someone skillful at hauling brush. Particularly hard hit were the two northern sections of the trail, from Center Road to Templeton Road and Templeton Road to Haggett Road. The other two sections, Dodge Road to Center Road and the Sparrow Farm section, sustained much lighter damage and have already been cleared - the Sparrow farm section in part by some unidentified volunteers. Thanks, whoever you are!

To help and for more information call Jamie Shanley at 223-4856.



MILESTONES



Births

- *Wilson Homer Knight, born July 6, 1999, son to Jane & Paul Knight.
- *Dakota James Fleury, born July 7, 1999, son to Heidi & Richard Fleury Jr.
- *Jesse Matthew Gorton, born August 11, 1999, son to Marina & Jason Gorton.
- *Cricket Osborne Liebermann, born August 12, 1999, daughter to Karen Marie Liebermann & Thomas R. Osborne.
- *Eliza Lee Bruns, born August 29, 1999, daughter to Clara & John Bruns.

Marriages

- *Thomas E. Loso to Tina M. Smith; July 3.
- *Ryan Bruce Simpson to Marci Lynn Gillespie; July 24.
- *James B. Hiller to Sharon E. Carlson; July 31.
- *Anthony Joseph DeCroti to Jessica Lynn Dorney, August 3.
- *E. Gary Pletzer II to Courtney Elizabeth Clark; August 6.
- *John Patrick Radigan to Catherine Elizabeth O'Connor; August 21.
- *Michael Anthony Brown to Kimberly Sarah Sheppard; August 28.
- *Daniel Charles Baginski to Barbara Jean Paulson; August 28.
- *Eric Paul Moshinski to Kami Joy Ennis; August 28.
- *Richard Hall Wiswall III to Sally Margaret Colman; September 18.
- *Russell Raymond McDuff to Dorothy A. Codling; September 25.

Deaths

- *Maurice P. Martin; June 22, spouse of Annette Martin.
- *Catherine Daniels Lane; August 30, spouse of Dennis A. Lane.
- *Mayme E. Bushey; September 15, mother of Betty Wood.
- *Edward C. Banfield; September 30, spouse of Laura Banfield.

Land Transfers

- *Jeffrey C. Taylor to Christine Lee Roberts, 5.5 acres & dwelling, Coburn Rd.
- *UVM & State Agricultural College to Stanley Christiansen, release of lease land rights, 28.5 acres, Hammett Rd.
- *Stanley Christiansen to Vermont Land Trust Inc., conservation restrictions, 230 acres, Hammett Hill Rd., Guyette Rd., Snow Hill Rd.
- *Steven J. & Susan M. Sinclair to Timothy S. Joslyn, 3.01 acres & dwelling, Quaker Hill Rd.
- *Richard G. & Carole Casavant to Steven J. & Susan M. Sinclair, 4.49 acres & dwelling, Vt. Rt 14N.
- *Michael H. Dworkin & Loring Starr to Christopher M. & Rebecca L. Crandell, 1.04 acres, Powder Horn Glen Rd.
- *Richard A. Pender to Charles B. Johnson, 2.7 acres & dwelling, Upper North St.
- *Frederick J. Fedderson to Frederick J. Fedderson, trustee of the Frederick J. Fedderson Revocable Trust, 3 lots totaling 46.5 acres, Towne Hill Rd.
- *Chester & Judith Cookson to Town of East Montpelier, Tay-Con Drive Rd. access off US Rt. 14S.
- *Duncan S. & Therese L.M. Milne to Eric Moshinski & Kami J. Ennis, .28 acres & dwelling, VT Rt 14S.
- *Richard A. & Alice W. Angney to James & Christine M. Abrams, 10.1 acres, Center Rd.
- *Charlotte M., Christopher J. & Curtis R. Karr to Christopher J. Karr, 1.4 acres & dwelling, Center Rd.
- *Jesse F. Gibbs, Estate of, to Arnold I. Goldstein, mobile home in Sandy Pines Trailer Park, off VT Rt 14S.
- *Miriam Antonovich to Mensija Miljkovic, 1/2 interest, 1.2 acres & dwelling, Upper North St.
- *Mensija Miljkovic to Miriam Antonovich, Trustee, 1/2 interest, 53 acres, Upper North St.
- *Mensija Miljkovic to Miriam Antonovich, Trustee, 1/2 interest, 1.5 acres & barn, Upper North St.
- *Everett & Mabel Bissell to Elaine Goodall, Shirley Gossett & Steven Bissell, mobile home in Sandy Pines Trailer Park, off VT Rt 14S.
- *Wendy Deutsch to Irving Deutsch, 10.1 acres & dwelling, Kelton Rd.
- *Annegret F. Pollard to Robert F. Coates, .25 acre & dwelling, Factory St.
- *Robert L. Welch to Hershel B. Graham, mobile home in Sandy Pines Trailer Park, off VT Rt 14S.

THANK YOU TO THESE LOYAL SUPPORTERS!

Marguerite Ferris
Sue Mahoney
Elizabeth Pulsifer

Douglas R. Johnson
Courtland & Donna Perry

The Signpost welcomes contributions. Any amount would be gratefully received \$5, \$10, \$25, even \$50. Send your donation to Anne Sherman, The Signpost, 315 Putnam Road, East Montpelier, VT 05651-4119. All new contributors will be recognized in the next issue.



THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



SELECTBOARD

*Tim Meehan, Chair,
Edie Miller, Tom Brazier*

July 28, 1999

*Rosie Cueto talked about the tax abatement agreements for farms. Changes in the law mean that agreements prior to July 1, 1997, were grandfathered for term voted or for ten years, whichever is less.

*Voted to instruct Washington County Sheriff to enforce speed limit on County Road.

*Signed Barre Town Ambulance contract.

September 1, 1999

*Will not post litter sign on Bliss Road because East Montpelier does not have a litter ordinance.

*Discussed signal project for Rts 2 & 14. Estimated project completion is ten years. AOT will pave Rt 2 from Walker Motors to Plainfield next summer.

*Appointed Gene Troia, Linda McSweeney and Ellen McGurn to Recreation Board for 3 years.

*Information about Y2K prepared by Jim Grundy and Diana Chace will be sent to residents.

*Ms. Betit requested two new computers and new phones. She will provide more information to the selectboard.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Carol Welch, Chair

July 15, 1999

*Approved preliminary and final plat for one lot subdivision on County Rd. by Richard and Robin Blanchard.

*Approved application for home occupation on Quaker Rd. submitted by Brenda Searle-Spratt.

*Approved application for addition to Delair's Carpet Barn.

August 19, 1999

*Reviewed sketch plan of one 1.77 acre lot subdivision on Rt 2 by Karl Strassberger.

*Reviewed proposed equipment location sites by Bell Atlantic.

*Reviewed sketch plan of one three acre lot subdivision on Rt 14 by Doris and Brian Phillips.

September 16, 1999

*Approved final sketch plan of Strassberger subdivision.

*Reviewed sketch plan of 8.5 acre lot subdivision on Snow Hill Road by Helen Eldred.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Claudia Bristow, Chair

August 23, 1999

*Hearing on request by Mr. Shper to grant a variance for a 24' addition to the Video Box and Global Gifts building on Rt 2. Hearing recessed to September 13.

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jan Aldrich, Chair, Richard Curtis, Lisa Rice, Cheryl Rus, Nancy Thomas

July 21, 1999

*Accepted bid of Dexter Electric Co. for additional wiring.

*Accepted bid of NE Air Co. for an air exchanger.

*Johnson & Dix Fuel Co. will continue rate of \$.585 for oil.

*Accepted proposal of Barbara McKeon of IDEA, Inc. for Speech/Language services for the 1999/2000 year.

August 23, 1999

*Discussed Computer Network and Internet Access Policy.

*Tracey Story and crew, Jason Aldrich and Elizabeth White, have painted, cleared brush and cleaned the building.

*Approved a child entering school system once home construction loan approved.

*Approved hiring Linda Cueto and Jude Brister for part-time positions.

September 2, 1999

*Sue Clayton of Washington Central Friends of Education presented the school climate survey results.

*Peg Myer, WCSO Curriculum Coordinator, presented draft of union report card.

*Voted to not administer Standard 9 testing in first and second grades.

*Voted to award snowplowing and sanding contract to Sandy LaPerle.

*Board would like more community input in school budget process.

*Voted to offer Patty LaPerle evening custodian position.

*Accepted with deep regret Cindy Murphy's resignation as school nurse.

U-32 JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL
Tony Klein, Chair, and Ginny Burley, East Montpelier members

July 21, 1999

*Dot Blake reviewed first-year results of Student Assistance Program.

*Approved full time contracts for Debra Clark and Diane Parrott-Stafford, custodians; Math, James Caron; Planning Room Supervisor, Joshua Bouthot; Administrative Assistant, Leslie Fitch; .5 art, Sally Turner; .2 English, Joanne Breidenstein.

July 28, 1999

*Discussed possible models for leadership because of Inga Duktig's leaving.

August 4, 1999

*After discussion decided to hire an interim principal.

August 18, 1999

*Agreed to establish 8th grade Washington DC coordinator position.

*Appointed Jill Muhr as resource aide.

August 21, 1999

*Interviewed David Royce for Interim Principal position. Voted to hire him.

September 1, 1999

*Heard update on building project. Parking is inadequate. Jon Winston authorized to begin exploratory work with engineers for plan to create more parking.

EMES BUDGET SCHEDULE

Everyone is welcome to attend the following meetings and give input to the school budget:

- November 4 - Regular School Board meeting at 6:30.
- Second session of budget presentations: school counselor, nurse, special educators, custodians and office.
- November 18 - Special meeting at 6:30 to review the budget.
- December 2 - Regular meeting. Review of second draft of budget.
- December 16 - Special meeting to approve expense total of draft three.

EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

Phone: 223-3313

Email: EastMont@together.net

Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi

Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Pauline Coburn

Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins

Administrative Assistant - Marlene Betit
(W & Th 9-5)

PO Box 157, E. Montpelier, VT 05651
(Office Hours: M-Th 9-5, F 9-12 noon)



EARLY EAST MONTPELIER

by Alban Richey

Like the early settlers of our town who managed to create a community out of wilderness, more than seventy townsfolk brought off a highly successful production of "Early East Montpelier" on the stage of U-32 September 24 and 25. History repeated itself as neighbors and friends, in a spirit of community-building, brought to life past events and traditions for an appreciative audience. To Director Petie Ferris goes a heartfelt round of applause for her patient, positive, focused leadership. Barbara Paulson and Dan Baginski designed and helped construct and paint authentic sets. Stage Manager Gail England made sure the scene changes went smoothly, and Gina Cook costumed the cast in stylish apparel appropriate to the times. To the many sponsors, Larry Brown, the Sesquicentennial Committee, the Four Corners Schoolhouse Assoc. and all the people who helped backstage - many thanks. A celebration potluck was held October 3, and all agreed they had had a good time and felt the effort worthwhile. Do you suppose the play will be produced again in 25 or 50 years?

BITS & PIECES

Great news for the *Signpost*. Your response to our plea for helpers was quickly rewarded with two new volunteers. Susan Larkin will be handling our mailing list and preparing the labels. Janice Waterman, who had a major role in starting the *Signpost* ten years ago, has agreed to contact people and authors for the features. We again have a full staff. Many thanks to you both!

Our Town Clerk Sylvia Tosi and her husband Donald are rejoicing over the recent induction of their son Greg into the Lyndon State College Athletic Hall of Fame. He earned this prestigious award for outstanding achievement both as a student and since. He is clinical supervisor of athletic training at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital in Ellsworth ME and is married and has a 4 month old son.

Jennifer Boyer who crafted those lovely Sesquicentennial plates will continue to take orders through December 1 so you may have them for Christmas giving. Call her at 223-8926.

Can you find yourself in the group photo taken on Rally Day? It is on display at the Town Office. You can collect the one you ordered that day and may still order a copy (\$8 for 8 x 10, \$15 for 11 x 15).

The local group considering Y2K and other potential East Montpelier emergency situations has changed its meeting time from the first and third Tuesday to the first and third Wednesday of each month. They meet at the firehouse on Templeton road and invite all who are interested to join them.

EAST MONTPELIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nov. 15 - East Montpelier will host a joint meeting with Calais at the Brick Church Sunday School Building, starting with a 6 p.m. potluck supper. Bring a hot dish, salad, bread or dessert and your own place setting. Program will be the Hurricane of 1938.

Dec. 20 - Meeting will be at the Four Corners Schoolhouse. Bring something to talk about - perhaps a "what is it" or a favorite item. Also, bring a holiday food to share.



CHURCH BELLS



OLD BRICK CHURCH

Rev. Marcheta Townsend, Pastor

Worship, Sunday School and Child Care

11:00 am

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.



THE CUTLER CEMETERY

by James M. Cutler

This past June, I attended Elliott Morse's Heritage Days presentation on veterans buried in the Cutler Cemetery. This discussion recalled my family's many hours of labor maintaining this cemetery, and I would like to share some of my memories.

The Cutler family's roots in East Montpelier go back to 1781 when Jonathan Cutler migrated from Massachusetts and settled in the part of the town of Montpelier now known as East Montpelier. He became the first Town Treasurer of Montpelier when it was organized in 1791. In a short while, various members of the family came to own most of the land in the area which now surrounds the County Road as well as some of the land near the Old Meeting House in the Center.

The land which now comprises the cemetery was originally part of the Cutler farms. It was sold to the Town of East Montpelier for \$125 to be used as a cemetery by Lucinda Carroll Cutler (1781-1874), widow of Nathaniel Cutler (1780-1849), by quit claim deed dated October 25, 1860. There had been burials there before that.

I believe members of the Cutler family maintained the cemetery for about the next 100 years. My father was the last Cutler to serve as the sexton, and he retired from the job sometime around 1960. Maintenance was taken over at that time by Verne Graham of Montpelier. There have been several different sextons since then. (For information on other town cemeteries see "Across the Onion", Ellen C. Hill and Marilyn S. Blackwell, 1983.)

When I was a youngster growing up on the nearby farm, the Cutler family mowed the majority of the cemetery lots almost weekly with a push hand mower with a reel-type blade. These were the lots with perpetual care and others where the lot owner paid an annual maintenance fee. Not all of the lots were regularly mowed. We used "sheep shears" for trimming around stones and other encroachments. Those were the clippers normally used for cutting the wool from sheep.

We started the annual hay cutting season as soon as school let out in June. The first week of the haying season always consisted of hand mowing, with a scythe, those lots which weren't otherwise maintained. When the cemetery cutting was finished, we cut the grass on both sides of the road, also with a scythe, from the cemetery up the Center Road to the top of what we called "ledge hill" across from our "frog pond" to a point where the land was owned by other farmers. This haying also

included what we called "The Hutchins Lot" at the top of the hill across from the frog pond. None of the grass was of very good quality, but we raked it up with a hand rake and carried it to the barn. I think it was considered good enough for horse feed.

Graves were dug with hand shovels and picks, generally by two men, my father and one of us boys. It was always very hard digging as the soil in most of the cemetery is clay mixed with shale rock. Grave digging usually took one day of labor. Graves were dug and burials permitted in the Spring as soon as the frost was out of the ground and the mud had dried up, somewhere about the first of May. This continued through about the end of November each year. Persons who died in the winter months were placed in the Green Mount Cemetery Vault in Montpelier. Burials for those were conducted during the month of May prior to Memorial Day.


The cemetery was always cleaned up and made to look in immaculate condition for Memorial Day. Mowing of the lots and other maintenance work usually occupied the family for one day of each week for the entire summer.

Many of the lots are in perpetual care which means when an owner bought a lot, a sum of money for future maintenance was deposited with the town. Maintenance of these lots is provided with town funds. This included mowing the grass, clipping around the stones, filling any depressions in a grave and straightening any stone that started leaning. But there were also many lots where the owners paid for their care. This same service used to cost the lot owner \$3 per year. About October of each year, I remember my mother sitting at the kitchen table hand writing bills and mailing them to those folks. Some paid promptly while others had to be billed two or three times. I don't know what criteria were used to drop the "non-payers" from the maintenance program. I suspect they got two or three years of service before they were dropped.

When we cared for the cemetery, there was a chart of all the lots with names of the owners. I don't know whether that chart is still used or in existence.

The Signpost was planning a feature for the next issue about our town cemeteries, perhaps using a map to show their locations. Then "out of the blue" we received this interesting and informative article about the Cutler Cemetery. It came from James M. Cutler who lives in Essex Junction VT. His brother, Bob Cutler, and sister, Florence Morse, are East Montpelier residents.

Open Everyday 8:30am to 6:00pm

<p><i>We ship Anywhere "A Quality Family Farm" Shop"</i></p> <p>802-223-5757</p>	 <p>BRAGG FARM SUGARHOUSE & GIFT SHOP</p>	<p>Vermont Handicrafts Gifts Vermont Cheese Mail Order Maple Products</p>
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1 mile north of E. Montpelier Village on Rt. 14 (follow signs)

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE



THE COTTAGE SHOP

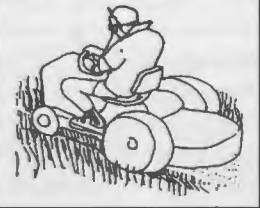
November 13 and November 14, 1999
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Unique Handmade Crafts & Gift Items
Yarns, Patterns, Knitting Needles
Located on Quaker Road in East Montpelier
Linda Royce, Proprietor at 223-6607**

All In The Family

Those Busy LaPerles

by Glen Goodall



There is an old Vermont saying that if you want to get a job done and done right, ask a busy person to do it. I think that best describes the LaPerles: Lawrence, known as Sandy, and Priscilla, known as Pat.

When I sat down with them, I was amazed that two people could be this busy and still find time for their family. Luke, their son, is 18 years old and works full time in the meat department at Howard's Market in South Barre. Nicole, their daughter, is 17 years old and is a senior at U-32 in East Montpelier.

Both Sandy and Pat were born in Vermont and have made their home in East Montpelier ever since. They have been married 24 years and the last fourteen years have lived on the family homestead land on Clark Road near the Barre Country Club golf course.

Before going into business together, Pat ran a day care center for 10 young children, including her own two. Sandy worked



for his dad on the family farm. This was good training as he learned how to run and maintain a lot of equipment similar to what he uses in his own business.

Twelve years ago, Sandy and Pat decided to go into business together. They had a pick up truck which they used for everything — mostly plowing snow. As their business increased, they purchased more equipment to service their customers all seasons. I first met Sandy when he came to plow my garden. Now he plows about 120 gardens and mows about 40 lawns. On the side, he owns a bush hog which adds to his many other jobs in the summer.

In the winter, they service 30 customers keeping their roads and sidewalks plowed and sanded. While you and I are sound asleep in our warm beds, Sandy and Pat are probably plowing out the Central Vermont Hospital, the East Montpelier Elementary School and numerous businesses and homes before business hours begin. You can see how little they sleep during snow and sleet storms.

Pat also keeps the books for the business. And as more equipment is needed, Sandy remarked that at times their two and a half acre lot on Clark Road looks somewhat like the town garage. In her already busy schedule, Pat takes time each week day from 2 to 10 p.m. to work at the East Montpelier Elementary School for the maintenance department. Sandy in his spare (?) time cuts, sells and delivers 25 cords of firewood.

With their busy working lives they still find time for family and hobbies. With Nicole in high school, there are many functions they attend, and, when Luke was in high school, they traveled around the state supporting him and his football team.

As a family they are all members of the Whistling Arrow Archery Club in East Montpelier which provides a place for exercise and training. All of them are bow and arrow deer hunters. Come November, Sandy says, "I'm out of here to get my deer with my bow and arrow or rifle."

Pat is an avid collector, and was happy and proud of her Longaberger baskets and beanie babies. She also remarked that they were rich in family and friends. Sandy chimed in that all he did was mow lawns. We know better than that.

Their business has grown to include so many needed services in the last twelve years it must be much more than just hard work to Sandy and Pat but a job they enjoy and do well with a dedication to their customers and friends.

Glen and Esther Goodall are long time residents of East Montpelier. They live on Maplewood Road and are frequent volunteers in the area.

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

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 Wednesday	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	1:00-2:30	Town Office
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn.	2nd Wednesday	7:30	Four Corners Schoolhouse
Local Y2K Group	1st & 3rd Wednesday	7:00	Templeton Road Firehouse

Meeting times are subject to change.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Ice Cream Social and Marko the Magician	October 28	6:00-7:00	EMES (Sponsored by PTNO)
U-32 Ground Breaking	October 29	1:15	U-32
Stage-32 Fall Play	November 12 & 13	7:30	U-32
Historical Society	November 15	6:00	Old Brick Church
Winooski Valley Music Festival	November 18 & 19		Spaulding High School
PTNO Fall Dinner and Games	November 19	6:00-7:30	EMES
Vermont String School Concert	November 22	7:00	U-32
Thanksgiving Eve Service	November 24	7:30	Old Meeting House
Junior High Holiday Concert	December 15	7:30	U-32
High School Holiday Concert	December 16	7:30	U-32
Candlelight Service	December 19	7:30	Old Meeting House
Historical Society	December 20	7:00	Four Corners Schoolhouse

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Brett Coburn, Photography, 223-6886

Anne Sherman, Business Mgr., 223-2693
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