

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XIII, No. 2

November/December 2002

LYN BLACKWELL - HISTORIAN, TEACHER, MOTHER

by Jean Vissering

Lyn Blackwell watched her husband Ed perched on the cupola of their old barn with his carpentry tools. She lamented the fact that several of East Montpelier's barns have already disappeared, and others were in poor condition. "They are very difficult to maintain", she said. Lyn Blackwell knows about most of East Montpelier's old barns, which are such an important part of East Montpelier's landscape. Photographs and histories of many of these impressive structures, both extant and extinct, can be found in *Across the Onion: A History of East Montpelier, 1781-1981*, which Lyn coauthored with Ellen C. Hill.

When Lyn Blackwell and her neighbor Ellen Hill wrote *Across the Onion*, the two women felt strongly that the book should focus on the use of the land and the people, not just on commerce and politics. Indeed, the book devotes an entire chapter to farmhouses and barns. "Early settlers knew this was a good place to farm," Lyn said, and added, "That's one reason why we still see so much active farmland even today."

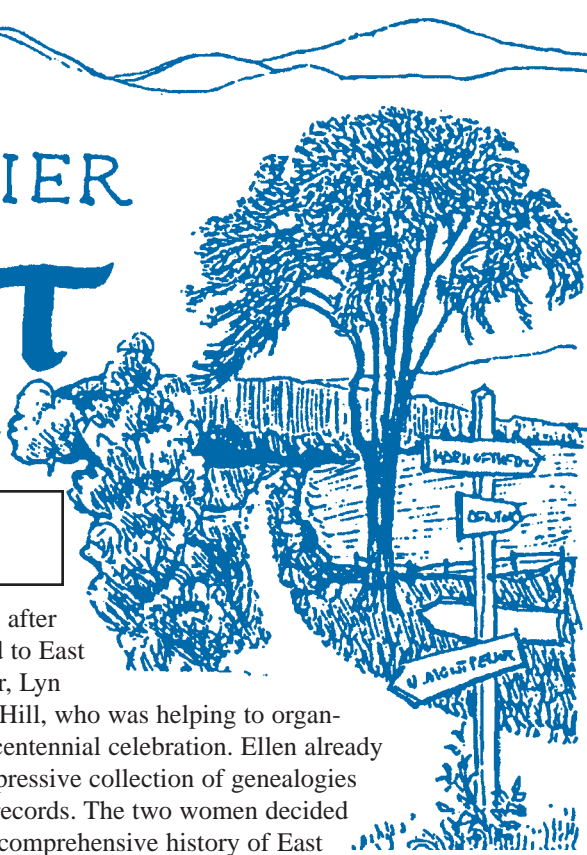
For Lyn, writing the book was a wonderful way to become part of her new community. While Ellen Hill's family had been here for generations, Lyn and Ed Blackwell had moved here from New York City. Ed had been a brokerage analyst and wanted a more rural lifestyle and to be able to work with his hands. Lyn was pregnant with their first child when they moved to East Montpelier in the early 70s. She arrived with an already well-established love of history instilled in her from an early age and drawn out by a gifted high school history teacher. The social and psychological aspects of history have most intrigued her. For example, what motivated people at a particular time, and how did historical events affect the lives of individuals?

Soon after she moved to East Montpelier, Lyn met Ellen Hill, who was helping to organize the Bicentennial celebration. Ellen already had an impressive collection of genealogies and farm records. The two women decided to write a comprehensive history of East

Montpelier. Lyn conducted oral histories, recording interviews with many of East Montpelier's long-term residents. She loved the work and met many people with wonderful stories and experiences, from the salvage operations of World War I to driving the milk truck.

By this time Lyn had three children and would work on the book after they had gone to bed. She and Ellen divided up the eras and worked on alternate chapters, a technique she said that worked well because it forced them both to meet their deadlines for each chapter.

By the time *Across the Onion* was published in 1983, Lyn was ready to expand her horizons. She pursued a Master's degree and then a Doctorate in history. Academia, she discovered, was a world in which writing a local history didn't count for much. Nevertheless, Lyn's interest in social history was reflected in her on-going research. Mary Palmer Tyler (wife of Royall Tyler, Vermont's first Supreme Court Chief Justice), a Vermont woman who wrote the first child care manual in the United States, was the subject of her Master's thesis. Her subsequent doctoral research focused on poverty in the Progressive Era. Urbanization and industrialization in the 1890s and early 20th century made some people very wealthy, but had a devastating effect on many others. Lyn was particular-



TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

A decade or so after the Revolutionary War was over, two New Hampshire men joined the stream of people heading into the relatively untamed lands of Vermont. These two men chose land in the recently granted town of Montpelier, building farms in that part of the town which later became East Montpelier. One of these men was our ancestor Enoch Cate who built the Cate farm in 1793. The other was Elias Wakefield who built the house we now live in.

What a coincidence that these two men should have settled in the same town at about the same time, and that they should both be important players in our family history. Did these men know each other? Did they worry together at Town Meetings over roads, schools, taxes? Were their wives, Susannah Cate and Joanna Wakefield, neighborly enough to exchange recipes and talk child upbringing? These two families lived far apart by that day's standards, nearly across town. How tantalizing that these very real people have stories we'd love to know but can't uncover!

What is exciting, however, is that we CAN find out some hard facts in order to imagine other pieces of their lives. Their birth, marriage, and death dates and their land purchases are

readily available in town records. We can find in the nineteenth century census reports revealing figures about their farm production. If we're lucky, we can even find some colorful details of their lives in town histories and genealogies. And what is best is that these sources are so near at hand. Our own town office has records back to 1849, after which one must go to Montpelier City Hall, since we were part of that town in the early years. Other records are in the State Library and Vermont Historical Society. Furthermore, I have found clerks and librarians extremely helpful, getting out the early books and providing space to work.

What really brought this story to life for me was a deed conveyed in 1852. Elias had just died. Joanna sold the farm to her neighbor John White with these provisions: "the right to occupy during my lifetime the southwest room, the west entry and close press and front yard...reserving also a place in the barn for a horse when I wish to" as well as fruit from the orchard, 3 cords of wood for the woodshed, half a ton of hay, and "a privilege in the cellar."

Who said that history is dead!

Jean Cate

OOPS - In the last issue of the *Signpost* we neglected to include Mary Papineau's son Norman who lives in North Montpelier in the article that featured her Indian Pudding. My error - dac.

"Thank you" to these loyal supporters.

The *Signpost* welcomes contributions. Any amount would be gratefully received, \$5, \$10, \$25, even \$50.

Richard & Donald Hill in memory of Tess
Albert & Betty Jerome Adair & Dorothy Graves
Raylene Blanc Ronald & Therese Ferland
Anonymous

All the good people who bid on the items at the
Rally Day Silent Auction

BUSINESS CARD ADS

The size is 3.664 by 2 inches. (The size of this box).

New and renewal ads are \$20/issue or \$100/year.

Call David Coburn (223-6886) or email (dacoburn@adelphia.net) for more details. You will receive a form with full instructions on how to order.

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Do you have a son or daughter going to college, a mom or dad who are now living in Florida? Would they like to stay in touch with what's happening in Town? Send the *Signpost*! Or maybe it's you who are headed elsewhere. Subscribe for yourself. New and renewal subscriptions are \$15.00 per year. Send payment with recipient's name and address to: PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651. Contributions should go to the same address. And we thank you!

ly interested in how women were affected, as well as the women who helped to bring about reform.

Lyn now teaches at Community College and serves as a mentor for graduate students at Vermont College. Her eyes light up as she talks about her teaching and about her latest historical interest: Clarina Howard Nichols, a very early advocate of women's rights in pre-Civil War Vermont. Clarina Howard Nichols believed that women should be allowed to own property and to vote in school district meetings. Women were, after all, largely responsible at the time for education. She took her case all the way to the Vermont Legislature. It was very unusual for women to speak in public then, never mind before this esteemed assembly. Vermont, however, was not ready for such reforms,



and Nichols eventually moved to Kansas, where she had more success.

Lyn's mind moves easily from the importance of past events to the realities of the present and the possibilities for the future, especially the future of East Montpelier. Through her research, she has come to know a great deal about how the town has evolved to the present day, and to feel a great attachment to the landscape and people of East Montpelier. She has played her own role in helping to shape the future of our community. She served on the School Board for five years, and is now a member of the Planning Commission. And thanks to Lyn and Ed Blackwell's restoration work, their old farmstead and barn are likely to be around for at least another hundred years.

Jean Vissering is a landscape architect who lives and works on upper North Street. She is married to Bob Klein and they have two children.

MORE CHANGES ON THE SIGNPOST

With the new enlarged *Signpost*, it takes more volunteers to make it happen. We are pleased to announce that all of the assignments are now filled. We plan to provide space in each issue for the various clubs and organizations in town to report on their activities and announce their meetings. To round up these reports are new team members Rhoda and Rob Chickering. They will also connect with organizations (mostly out of town) which provide services to our townspeople, and for which we annually vote funds at Town Meeting. This issue includes two reports.

To expand our coverage of school news and writing, Ellen Knoedler has agreed to represent EMES and Nancy Disenhaus will cover U-32. They will be providing occasional writing pieces by students, from the youngest to those seniors who will be off to other adventures next year, and we think the contributions of these younger East Montpelierites will add an interesting dimension to the *Signpost*.

Another change which a sharp-eyed reader will notice is the new address for the *Signpost*: PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651. Holding a post office box in East Montpelier is new for us, and it represents a bigger change - from long-time business manager Anne Sherman to her successor Charlotte MacLeay. Anne has served the town in several capacities: Auditor, Board of Adjustment. She was one of the stalwarts who first believed that East Montpelier needed its own newspaper and helped make it happen. In fact, the name was Anne's suggestion. We will miss her careful accounting and razor-sharp editing.

With the new issue, Charlotte will assume the job, and all money matters should go to her at the new box number. Charlotte has served as treasurer of several groups and she published the newsletter for the Old Meeting House for many years. We welcome her experience and help.



CHURCH BELLS



Old Brick Church

Angelo Tillas, Interim Pastor
Sunday Services at 10:00 am
Phone: 223-1232



Old Meeting House

Rev. David W. Connor
Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge
Co-Pastors
Worship, Church School
and Child Care - 9:30 am
Phone: 229-9593



Crossroads Christian Church

Rev. Bob Walton, Pastor
Worship and Sunday School - 9:30 am
Phone: 476-4843 & 229-9389

PARISH HOUSE CAFE AT THE OLD MEETING HOUSE

Every Wednesday at 12 noon
Serving hot soup, fresh bread, salad and delectable desserts.
Anyone is welcome. Donations accepted.
For more information, including transportation possibilities call
Jessie Taylor 229-4617 or Vicki King 229-4674.

The Riverbend Country Store

A Convenience Store & Gift Shop
Grocery - Videos - Gifts - Crafts
Maurice and Sue Cerutti - Owners

(802) 454-7101

2040 VT Route 214 - N. Montpelier, VT 05666

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Four Winds - by Simone

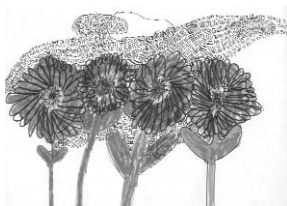
Once there was a drought. It was a very, very bad drought. The only way it could be resolved was if the four winds worked together. Finally they did.

They each blew a seed. The north blew a blue seed, south a pink seed, east a blue seed, and west a pink seed. The seeds came together and developed into flowers.

When the seeds reached four feet high they could speak to each other. Sometimes they just talked about what it was like to live with the Four Winds but as they reached ten feet they talked about the drought and how bad it was.

Then many days later they reached fifteen feet and the earth suddenly stopped moving and went dark. Next they heard the pitter patter of the rain.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: I am Simone and I am in fourth grade. During art class, I decided to make flowers with a special design. The design is called Hatching to show the magic of the winds.



Horses - by Ashley



- Horseback-riding
- Obeying their owners
- Running fast
- Saddling up
- English riding
- Show time

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: I am Ashley. I drew the picture because I like horses. During art class I picked up a horse and I drew what it would look like in a cornfield. To make the corn I used a hatching design with my pen.

The Royal Cat - by Julia

There was a royal cat
That lived in a royal temple
That slept on a royal bed
That had a royal jewel upon his head
And he was a Royal KING



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Julia is in fourth grade at EMES.

The Hopes and Dreams of Mrs. Pastore's First Graders

- I hope to learn about cats.
- I hope to learn to tell time.
- I hope to learn about dogs.
- I hope to learn about dinosaurs.
- I hope to read lots and lots of books.
- I hope to get along with other kids at recess.
- I hope to read books and books.
- I hope to learn to read cursive writing.
- I hope to make books.
- I hope to learn how to play chess.
- I hope to learn how to read and do lots of jobs.
- I hope to do all kinds of math.

Filly Millie Day - by Ali

There is a goat named Filly. I call him Millie. He lives on the farm I live on. I play with him every day and he always eats hay.

Horse Life - by Ali

There is a horse named Clara. Some people get her mixed up with Lara. I ride her day and night. I give her hay and that's how I end my day.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Ali is in third grade. She likes drawing and riding her bike. She loves to read and she loves horses.

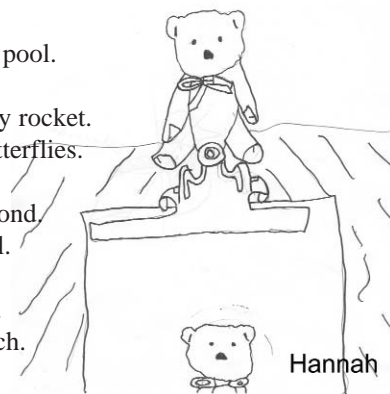
Aurora Borealis: a Poem Story - by Nikita

There she was, shimmering above us.
Clad in a dress, misty white, covered in stars.
She lit up half the sky.
I could see her rippling, hear her breathing,
feel her pulse drumming through the sky.
THUMPa thumpa THUMPa thumpa THUMPa thumpa.
Aurora, the space fairy, Queen of all the space folk.
The Sky fairies, the Mist fairies, and Sun fairies.
The Dust fairies, the Star fairies, the Moon fairies
and so many more.
Also known as the Northern Lights, like an angel,
posed in the sky.
Staring into my eyes.
A feeling of understanding that I can't explain.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Nikita loves to write. She also spends a lot of her time reading. She is ten years old and lives with her mother, father and two sisters. She has two cats, a dog and a flying squirrel. She goes to East Montpelier Elementary School. She likes to write fairy tales, narratives, free verse poems and stories that bring out strong feelings from other people.

The Kindergarten students said so long to summer on the first official day of fall.

- So long playing in the sunshine and butterflies.
- So long sunshine and me and my dad playing ball.
- So long swimming at camp and sleepovers at camp.
- So long swimming with my friends, watching the sun go down and flowers.
- So long bike riding.
- So long swimming in a pool.
- So long warm sun.
- So long playing with my rocket.
- So long flowers and butterflies.
- So long beach.
- So long fishing at the pond.
- So long Grandma's pool.
- So long catching frogs.
- So long summer soccer.
- So long Grandma's beach.
- So long rainbows.
- So long hot weather.
- So long grandma's pond and rainbows.
- So long sandbox and climbing trees.



Hannah

Rally Day 2002



Photos: Rick Mastelli

This year's best kept secret? Citizen of the Year honors went to Paulie Coburn, who was surprised and delighted to be paraded in style, courtesy of Tic Morse and his Model T. Carl Etnier led the parade on his recumbent bike, followed by Grand Marshall Hobie Guion. The Humpty Dumpty float was created by the Biron family.

We had another great Rally Day, thanks to the work and generosity of many people. East Montpelier is a wonderful community in which to live and work. Celebrating with fun activities throughout the day and evening, topped off with fantastic fireworks donated by Northstar Fireworks, is very special. Thank your neighbors for all they do to bring us together on Rally Day.

The auction brought in an astounding \$2,800. This is enough to pay for almost four issues of the *Signpost*. Many thanks to all who put in bids for the goods and services (winning and otherwise), to Deborah Fillion and all of the Rally Day volunteers responsible for the organization of the auction, and to these generous individuals and businesses who contributed the items:

Deborah Backus	Richard Czaplinski	Bruce & Connie Mekkelsen (Mekkelsen's RV)
Willis Backus (Cool Jewels)	Jim Eaton	Montpelier Elks Country Club
Marlene Betit	Ella Emerson	Burr Morse (Morse Farm)
Robin & Jeff Biron (C.P. Dudley Store)	Nona Estrin & Charles Johnson	Sue Mugford
Lyn Blackwell	Lydia Faesy (Green Mountain Natural Health)	Dan Neary
Karen Blosser	Lucy Ferrada (Cow & Lizard)	Steve Noyes (East Montpelier Home Center)
Dave Blosser	Ray & Bette Fillion (Raymond Pewter)	Diane Paulger (Trade Winds Hair Styling)
Jennifer Boyer (Thistle Hill Pottery)	Nadelle Fishman	Tracy & Brian Phillips
Barbara & Doug Bragg (Bragg Farm)	Stuart Friedman	Lori Rice
Ray & Jody Brown (The Drawing Board)	James Goodall	Mary Ann Rob
Abby Bruce & Sean Downey (Ruby's Run)	Amy Goodman (Vermont Trading Co.)	Cheryl Rus (Sign Here, Inc.)
Jane Burroughs (Fothergill, Segale & Valley)	Bonnie Hall (Fairmont Farm)	Anna Saxman
Jan Burrus	Julie Halpert	Marie Senechal
Cabot Creamery	Rob Halpert	Andy Shapiro (Energy Balance, Inc.)
Ginny Callan	Hannah Hamilton	Anne Sherman
Tim & Ann Carver (Carver Family Tree Farm)	Karl Hammer (Vermont Compost Co.)	Paul Shper (Video Box Office & Global Gifts)
Carol Casavant	Dennis & Hugh Hawkins (Land Care)	Bob Smith (Tinker and Trade)
Jean Cate	Kathie Hickman	Wendy Soliday
Paul Cate	Martha Holden	Mary Stone
Sandal Cate	Jon Jewett (CAI Silkscreens)	Sylvia Tosi
Mo & Sue Cerutti (Riverbend Country Store)	Marcia Kemp (Marcia's: A Taste of Jamaica)	Utton Muffler
Sandie Chaloux	Andrew Kline (AfterImage Photography)	Katherine Vaughan
Tarin Chaplin	Bob Labbanca	Jean Vissering
Rhoda & Rob Chickering	Fred Levine (Fred Levine Productions)	Washington Electric Co-op
Dave Coburn	Janet MacLeod	Bob Watson (Capitol Grounds)
Barbara Cote (Delair's Carpet Barn)	Elaine & Paul Manghi (Manghis' Bread)	Bonnie & Dennis White (Cold Pocket Farm)
Don Cote (Don's Driving Range)	Rick Mastelli (Image & Word)	Richard Wiswall & Sally Colman (Cate Farm)
Joe & Ceylan Cross (Pizza Joe's)	Hal Mayforth	Alice Wright (Alice's Perennials)
Jan Crossan (Jan's Beauty Boutique)	Pat McKee	



THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



Selectboard

*Tim Meehan, Chair
Tom Brazier, Edie Miller*

August 13, 2002

>Accepted bid from Dubois Construction for replacement of box culvert on TH-1 County Rd. State will pay 80% of cost.

August 26, 2002

>Approved and signed Tax Anticipation Note for \$57,000.

September 9, 2002

>Made Town Officer appointments: Sandy Conti to Board of Adjustment to Town Meeting 2005; Janice Waterman, Rally Day Committee Treasurer for one year; Richard Czaplinski, Sewage Officer.
>Approved the Chad Scribner and Alan Freund right-of-way (r-o-w) as a future public street with permanent 60 foot r-o-w. Would not be part of the Town of East Montpelier highway system. Residents must follow statutory process as outlined in VSA Title 19 and meet VTrans standards before Selectboard would accept road and provide maintenance.
>Gravel pit on Coburn Road owned by State of VT, AOT was discussed. Town has great interest in this quarry and aquifer running beneath it as future water source.
>Signed Washington Electric permit for construction of 7200-volt distribution to serve Hilde Sibley residence off Bliss Road.

Planning Commission

Carol Welch, Chair

July 18, 2002

>Held an informal discussion with the public on "Patterns of new housing, growth centers, villages, affordable housing, and rate of residential growth." Ed Blackwell, town rep. to CV Regional Planning Comm. presented information about growth centers. Doris Washburn spoke of need to provide housing for the elderly. Renee Carpenter addressed issues of affordable housing and preservation of large tracts of agricultural land.
>Public Hearing for re-certification of Preliminary and Final Plat Review of subdivision of 12.1 acre lot off Muddy Brook Road and US2 by Louis Farrell. Original certification was 1985. Approved.
>Continuation of Final Plat Review of Scribner Subdivision. Approved 2-lot subdivision with revised 60 ft. right-of-way. Terminated previously granted r-o-w. Scribner

must arrange to have Selectboard review and approve new r-o-w.

August 1, 2002

>Informal discussion with the public on preservation of rural character, scenic resources, agricultural land, undeveloped land, natural resources, and historical structures.
>Opened public hearing on Porter Subdivision Preliminary Plat Review. John Thetford, engineer, presented plan for 5 building lots at end of proposed road from Cherry Tree Hill. Discussion on possible placement of new road. Objections from neighbors and Cemetery Commission. Agreed to schedule site visit for Aug. 15.

August 15, 2002

>After site visit re-opened hearing on Porter subdivision. New road proposed. Hearing scheduled for Oct. 3.
>Provided copy of new sign regulations to Paul and Emma Grant for their home pet shop.
>Allen and Debora Freund discussed subdividing their land on VT14N. Will contact state about upgrading their existing VT14N access permit from residential drive to subdivision road. Will also meet with Selectboard.

September 5, 2002

>Duso Sketch Plan Review. Proposal to move an existing boundary line 75 feet, creating two larger lots. Discussed needed surveys.

Board of Adjustment

Claudia Bristow, Chair

August 12, 2002

>Hearing on application of Chris and Arlene Goodrich for a dimensional variance to build a garage at their house on Jourdan Road. Setback would be 43 ft instead of 75 ft from Jourdan Road right of way.
>Board members visited the site.
>Hearing recessed to Aug. 16.
>Patrick McCoy's term ended in May. He agreed to continue until replacement found. August 26 will be his last meeting.
>Discussion of need to have permit applications completed in full. Property owners then need to follow plans as presented and approved.
August 26, 2002
>Continuation of Goodrich variance hearing.
>Mark Elliott, general contractor for the Goodriches, spoke, discussing the reasons why the placement of the

garage was different than in original plan. Topography limited siting of house and septic system.
>Voted to deny variance as all criteria have not been met.
>Discussed status of Variance Hearing on ATC with Tom Brazier. Meeting recessed until Mark Hutchins will have more information for the Board on the proposed cell tower.

Elementary School

*Jan Aldrich, Chair
Lucy Ferrada, Bob Rikken
Anna Saxman, Nancy Thomas*

August 22, 2002

>Carol Randall reported that capital improvement project was delayed due to asbestos removal. Fans, exterior lights and new toilets have been installed. Project will be finished by opening of school. Woodchip facility project is progressing and old silo will be removed.
>Voted to hire Alan Jackman for evening custodial position.
>Carol Randall presented draft of FY04 budget timeline. A community forum is planned for Jan. 2 and a Candidates Forum for Town and School Candidates for Jan. 9, 2003.

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

*Tony Klein, Chair
Ginny Burley
East Montpelier Members*

July 17, 2002

>Dylan Cate was introduced as one of two new student representatives. He spoke regarding student issues.
>Ginny Burley reported on Finance Committee meeting. Revenues are up. There is no policy for tuition students. Recommended issue be referred to Policy Committee.
>Approved money for lighting and lamps for Performing Arts Program.
>Approved bus routes.

THE U-32 ReNEWS

If you don't have children attending U-32, you may not know that the school puts out a monthly newsletter, *U-32 ReNEWS*, which is full of news about the school, the students, and activities of community interest. They'll be glad to send the newsletter to any community members who would like to have their names added to the mailing list. It is as easy as calling the school and providing your name and address. The *U-32 ReNEWS* is of special interest this year as it tells of the year-long series of special events celebrating the completion of the renovations to the school. We should all be proud to have supported this renewed school which serves our young people, and visiting the school is a great way to show it.



THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



August 5, 2002

- >Jon Winston gave update on building project. Discussion of talks with Pepsi about portable score boards. Voted to approve scoreboard sponsorship.
- >Approved 2002-2003 Student/Parent Handbook.
- >Offered position of Dean of Students to Bonnie Johnson-Aten.

August 21, 2002

- >Kyle Magida welcomed as new student representative.
- >Town Clerks and Selectboard members will be invited for breakfast and tour on Sept. 26.
- >Approved adding one-fifth teaching position for strings program.
- >Approved spending up to \$35,000 from fund balance for purchase of mower.
- >Approved Department Heads and stipends as presented, approved Fall Coaches, and approved stipend of the Gender Equity Coordinator.

MILESTONES

BIRTHS

- >Molli Mychele Brown, born July 19, 2002, daughter to Rebekah Janine and Robert Francis Brown.
- >Averie Georgiana Brown, born August 16, 2002, daughter to Kimberly Sarah and Michael Anthony Brown.
- >Navaeh Catherine West, born August 28, 2002, daughter to Christine Ashley West.

MARRIAGES

- >Arthur Edwin Clark to Amanda Ayers Enman, married June 29, 2002.
- >Matthew James Curtis to Julie Amber Dunbar, married July 20, 2002.
- >Scott David Collins to Patricia Elaine Liese,

married July 27, 2002.

- >Dana H. Lawrence to Nancy Thomas, married July 27, 2002.
- >Brian M. Emmons to Linda R. Cyr, married August 3, 2002.
- >Mark Alan Rochefort to Melanie Collard, married August 23, 2002.
- >Shawn Gregory Chase to Dawn Marie Seguin, married September 21, 2002.

DEATHS

- >Arsene Lucien LaPerle, died July 4, 2002, father of Maurice LaPerle, Norman LaPerle and Annette Lawson.
- >Joseph E. Brown, died July 16, 2002, spouse of Laura Brown.
- >Helen Dwyer, died July 18, 2002, mother of Irene Dwyer Beattie.
- >Doris D. Blair, died July 31, 2002, mother of Pat Luce.
- >Laurette Menard, died July 31, 2002, mother of Sylvia M. Tosi
- >Virgil Henry Falldorf, died September 10, 2002, father of Diane Brown.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- >Grace Mekkelsen Revocable Trust to Bruce & Laurie Mekkelsen, 50 acres, Cherry Tree Hill Rd.
- >Patricia L. Anair to Eric & Scott Sibley, 1/2 interest, 144 acres, Sodom Pond Rd.
- >Louis G. Farrell to Patrick Malone, 12.10 acres & commercial building, US2
- >Raynald A. Lessard to Penelope V. Lessard, 0.28 acre & dwelling, Paul Square.
- >Wilson J. Demingware to Vanessa Baker, 0.75 acre & mobile home, VT14N.
- >David A. Gauthier to Gregory & Roxanne L. Blake, 0.97 acres & commercial building with apartments, VT14S.
- >Jean Paul & Lucille M. Duranleau to Armand J. Laquerre Jr. and Jamie J. Laquerre, 3.1 acres and mobile home, VT14S.

THE LISTERS ARE COMING! THE LISTERS ARE COMING!

It's that time of the year. To keep the Grand List current, the Listers are beginning their annual visits to all properties that were issued building permits after April 1, 2002.

Because of the number of properties, they cannot make appointments, unless necessary to inspect the inside of new dwellings. When they access outside construction, they will leave a notice that they have been there.

The Listers are continuing to take photos of all properties, new dwellings and any changes of existing dwellings and structures. These photos are then scanned into the computer and a copy is made for the Appraisal Card that the Listers maintain. Any questions, you may call the Listers at 223-3313. A Lister is in the office every day from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The East Montpelier Listers.

ELECTION INFORMATION

Early Voter or Absentee Ballots are available until November 4, 2002, until 5:00 pm.

You can vote at the Town Clerk's Office or take your ballot home. It can be brought back or returned by mail. Or call the Town Office (223-3313) and ask to have one mailed to you. Full instructions on the voting procedures are included with the ballot.

Last day to register to vote in General Election is Saturday, October 26, 2002.

The Town Clerk's Office will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on that date to receive new applications for adding names to the checklist. People who are not eligible to register to vote as of this date but who will be by election day, may file a written notice of intent to apply with the Town Clerk .

Property Taxes are due on or before 5:00 pm. November 15, at the Town Office. Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00 am. to 5:00 pm. and Fri. 9:00 am. to noon. On Friday November 15, the Town Office will be open until 5:00 pm. Payments received by mail after the November 15 deadline will be late regardless of postmark as per vote at 2002 Town Meeting. Questions? call the Town Office: 223-3313.

PUBLIC FORUM ON ED LOAN POLICIES

The East Montpelier Revolving Loan Committee will hold a public forum on November 6 at 7:00 pm at EMES. This will be to present the draft Economic Development loan policies.

PUBLIC HEARING ON DRAFT OF THE TOWN PLAN

The Planning Commission held a hearing on October 24 and more are planned. Notice of dates and copies of the draft are at the Town Office and online at www.madriver.com/~fillion

U-32 OPENING

Watch for notices of dates for open house to see the new and renewed school facility. Be sure to go and see what was done.

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TOWN DOINGS

EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Robin J. Copping, Firefighter, EMT-D, Chaplain

At this point in the year, the department has responded to over 190 fire, EMS, and mutual aid calls.

The East Montpelier Fire Department had another great turn out for Rally Day activities. At the House of Hazards several groups took the 15 minute tour, got first hand training on fire hazards, safety precautions, and escape from a smoke filled house. The department's jumping house was once again a big hit with the kids. Many fire fighters spent long hours setting up and setting off the evening fireworks. Our thanks to the Swensons and Northstar Fireworks for a truly awesome display!

On September 11, several department fire fighters attended a memorial service held at the Central Vermont Hospital to honor those people killed in the attacks in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. Our Engine 4 fire truck was one of several fire vehicles, ambulances and police cars parked in front of CVH during the service around the flag. I had the honor of speaking at this memorial service and again at Woodridge Nursing Home.

To all community members: think safe, act safe, be safe.

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE

Marion Codling, Secretary

On July 25, the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association presented a program entitled "Keeping Color in Your Garden." Guest speakers Jean Vissering, Liisa Bradley, and Barbara Weedon discussed shrubs and showed a variety of both perennial and annual plants. A question-and-answer period followed their talk.

The Rally Day Memory Hour was hosted this year by Elliott Morse who presented a most interesting talk on the late William Wallace Noyes of East Montpelier, a Medal of Honor recipient for gallantry during the Civil War.

Maintenance efforts during the summer included sanding and refinishing the main areas of the Schoolhouse wood floors. Come see the improvements.

RIBBON CUTTING AT U-32

On September 26, a Ribbon Cutting Day at U-32 officially recognized the opening of the new additions and remodeling. The Town Clerks from the five towns were invited to help with the ribbon cutting as well as a student from each school. East Montpelier students Danielle Chaloux an eighth grader U-32 and Bridget Bishop a fifth grade student EMES, represented their schools. Everyone received blue scissors tied up with a blue and white bow to cut the official blue ribbon that was drawn across the front entrance of the school. Several of our Town School Board and U-32 members as well as Carol Randall, the principal, were also in attendance.

JOIN IN THE BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS!!

The East Montpelier School Directors invite community members to be active participants in development of the East Montpelier Elementary School budget for the 2002-03 school year. Budget presentations by staff will be held during board meetings on November 6, 2002. A Community Potluck Dinner and Forum to celebrate our progress and plan for our future will be held on November 12th. A Dessert and Discussion of the final FY04 budget recommendations is planned for the evening of January 2, 2003. Meeting times and agendas are posted at the town office and EMES. For more information, please call our school at 223-7936.

ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

by Jamie O'Hare

For the past 22 years I have had the pleasure of teaching Kindergarten in East Montpelier. Last year I was invited to participate in the Washington Central Supervisory Union's Kindergarten Task Force. This group was formed in response to the WCSU Executive Committee's goal to develop a plan to study the feasibility and benefits of providing families the option of a full-day Kindergarten program in all five elementary schools in this supervisory union. Here are some highlights from our study:

Why a Full Day K? Student learning expectations have increased. Research has shown that the most significant brain development occurs during a child's first five years of life. It is now evident that children are ready for formal learning much earlier than we previously expected. Changes in our society including more households with two working parents and more single-parent households were some of the reasons cited for investigating this educational opportunity for young children.

The benefits of a full-day Kindergarten were looked at from the standpoint of family and child needs and academic expectations. Some benefits are:

- + Full-day programs offer more time to enrich and expand learning opportunities,
- + Academic instruction and in-depth study, exploration and special projects.
- + More time for early intervention, educational support and special education service would be available.
- + Research has shown that most children adjust well to a full-day program and do not seem more "tired."
- + More opportunities for in-class participation, practice of social skills and learning conflict resolution would be available.
- + Full-day programs provide daily consistency since Kindergarten children are in the same school and are on a similar time schedule as their older siblings. The number of transitions in their day is reduced (e.g. daycare to school, school to daycare.)

Some concerns are:

- + Some parents want to stay at home with their children during the Kindergarten year.
- + Space for a full-day program may not be available in some of our schools.
- + There would be additional cost for staff. (However, the cost of mid-day transportation would be eliminated.)

Throughout Vermont, more schools are offering a full-day Kindergarten program each year. Fifty of the 236 public elementary schools in this state currently have full-day Kindergarten. At the present time in our supervisory union, the Berlin, East Montpelier and Doty Memorial Schools offer a half-time program. Calais Kindergarten students attend 70% of a full-time program and Rumney Memorial has a full-day program. In our neighboring districts, Montpelier and St. Michael's schools have full-day Kindergarten programs.

The WCSU Kindergarten Task Force recommended the following: "Recognizing the benefits of a full-day program, we would like to take a leadership role as a proactive district. Instead of waiting for legislation, it is our goal to provide the enriched learning environment of a full-day Kindergarten program in all WCSU elementary schools." The discussion on full-day Kindergarten will continue during the East Montpelier School District's budget development process for 2002-03.

THINGS OF INTEREST



MOCK CHERRY PIE

Julia Clark

1 cup cranberries
½ cup sugar
1 cup boiling water

½ cup seeded raisins
1 tablespoon flour

Boil this all together. Cook until berries are soft, let cool, then add 1 tablespoon of vanilla and a little salt. I cook cranberries, raisins and water together first, then add the sugar and flour.

Julia was the daughter of Martin V. B. Hollister and Sophia W. Davis. She was the wife of Theo Clark and lived in North Montpelier in the house that is now the Riverbend Store. Their son Raymond was a farmer and long-time Selectman. Raylene Blanc, Raymond's daughter, lives with her son on Codling Road on Raymond's farm.

The *Community Cook Book* was "sponsored" in the early 1940s by The Friendly Circle.

It also featured some helpful hints. For instance:

- * Pie crusts will be flakier if a tablespoon of cornstarch is added to the flour used for each pie.
- * Too much water will make pastry tough.
- * A drop of perfume on the electric light bulb will scent the whole room.

RECIPES FROM THE COMMUNITY COOK BOOK

"Taste-Tested" with hints and up-date as needed
by *Paulie Coburn*

Paulie's Comments

This is an excellent Thanksgiving pie.
Use two crusts in an eight inch pie plate.
The berries are "soft" when the skins crack.
Bake in a 400 degree oven for 20 to 30 minutes or until the crust is brown. (I am instructed by my family not to make the pie too sweet- this gives them an excuse to put maple syrup on it.)

Historical Society

by *Anne Ormsbee, Treasurer*

Following a 19th century community tradition, the East Montpelier Historical Society held a lyceum in September to hear a debate:

RESOLVED: that the State of Vermont should issue vouchers providing school choice options for students and their families.

Lyceums were neighborhood gatherings held at the district school. Participants were young people and adults who volunteered to do skits, readings, provide music, dialogues, contribute to a "paper" full of comments and poetry, and, most important of all, debate a resolution, all of this under the coordinating hand of someone elected as editor. At a lyceum, according to Wes Cate in *Forever Calais*, "ordinary people learned how to get on their feet and speak, practicing orderly discourse and following procedural rules." Subjects debated ranged from "women should have the right to vote" to "the unbridled tongue has done more injury than intoxicating drink." After the debate, the audience voted on which side won, based on the strength of the arguments presented.

In September, arguments on school choice were clearly made by Dave Coburn and Margaret Richey; the vote was for the negative.

The Society Program Committee would appreciate ideas for the coming year (contact Elliott Morse), and all are welcome to the joint Calais-East Montpelier meeting on November 18. Pot luck supper at 6:00 pm at the Old Brick Church. Speaker will be Bill Doyle.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Sylvia Tosi

East Montpelier and Middlesex make up Washington 7 — a new Legislative District. We were previously with Calais, Plainfield, Marshfield, and Woodbury in the Washington-2 District.

Under Washington-2, we had two representatives whereas now we have only a one. The 2000 reapportionment used a total population base of around 4500 for a single-member district. The two-representative district was set up during the 1990 reapportionment on a population base of about 7500. The towns we had been combined with are now in new districts.

As the Town of East Montpelier has more voters on the checklist than Middlesex, I am the Washington-7 District Clerk. I will receive the counted votes for House candidates from Middlesex and combine them with East Montpelier's and report the total to the Secretary of State. (This is the same as I was doing when I was Clerk for Washington-2.)

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The East Montpelier Cemetery Commission is seeking someone to help maintain the four cemeteries. For information call Paulie Coburn at 223-6886.

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SOCIAL SERVICES

CVHHH - OVER 90 YEARS OF SERVICE

Barbara Butler, Community Relations and Development Director

Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice, a not-for-profit visiting nurse association, is governed by a voluntary Corporation and Board of Directors. Serving the residents of 23 Central Vermont towns in the comfort and privacy of their own homes, CVHHH is committed to providing comprehensive, high-quality home health and hospice care to all Central Vermonters who need it, regardless of their ability to pay. In addition, the agency promotes the general welfare of the citizens of Central Vermont with health promotion and long term care services.

Founded in 1911, 2001 marked CVHHH's 90th anniversary of service to Central Vermonters. With registered nurses on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, CVHHH emphasizes the needs and wishes of our patients and their families.

Payment for home care comes from many sources including Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, town funding, local businesses and individuals. When a CVHHH client has no insurance or has limited coverage, the agency uses a sliding fee scale based on the client's ability to pay, and takes into consideration any catastrophic health care costs.

Following is an overview of the services provided to the residents of East Montpelier during calendar year 2001:

	Families Served	Home Visits
Home Health Care		
Skilled and High-Technology nursing	48	497
Home Health Aide Service	12	398
Physical Therapy	29	212
Occupational Therapy	4	35
Speech Therapy	1	1
Medical Social Service	6	19
Long Term Care		
Aide and Attendant Care	5	68
Homemaker	2	72
Hospice Care		
Nursing	7	174
Therapy	2	4
Home Health Aide Service	4	87
Medical Social Service	1	1
Bereavement	10	17
Maternal Child Health Care	10	15

In addition to home visits, CVHHH provides the citizens of East Montpelier with a variety of health promotion activities including flu and pneumonia vaccinations, health screenings, and foot care clinics. Our hospice program offers volunteer training and comprehensive bereavement services throughout the year.

Community support is critical to CVHHH's ability to provide universal access of home health services to all Central Vermonters, regardless of their ability to pay. Donations and bequests are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Eileen Blake, President and CEO, or Barbara Butler, 223-1878.

Mark your calendars for the PHWC Annual Volunteer Recognition Night Dinner & Auction on Friday, November 15, at the Old Labor Hall on Granite Street in Barre. Dance to the Dave Keller Band after an evening of silent auction and dinner.

Call for prices and more information: 479-1229

PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS CLINIC

Alison Underhill, Director

Health care is certainly a big issue nowadays. The politicians are talking about it, the insurance companies are talking about it. While all the talk is going on, some people are doing something about at least a small part of the overall problem.

The People's Health & Wellness Clinic (PHWC) provides health care services to our community members who are uninsured or under insured. Over 75 regular volunteers provide health care and support to a patient base of over 2000 people. Medical, chiropractic, psychiatric and naturopathic doctors, nurses, mental health counselors, massage therapists, nutritionists, receptionists, office assistants and many others volunteer their time and expertise at the clinic site so that those in need have access to essential health care. Health care professionals often work together to ensure that the patient has a full range of recovery, prevention, and educational options for his or her condition.

The small office staff forms the hub of the clinic's activities. It is overseen by full time director Alison Underhill of East Montpelier, who does everything from fundraising, paying the bills and recruiting volunteers, to working with other community leaders in addressing the health issues of this target population. Administrative assistant Kris Kelly is the clinic's daytime contact person, making appointments, entering data and typing reports, overseeing the office volunteers, and generally being Alison's third hand. Carolyn Cavalier, the part time case manager, provides the essential continuity of patient care which might otherwise get lost in this rotating volunteer-based clinic. At the beginning of each clinic night, she advises the evening's volunteers about the patients' symptoms and/or conditions, past medical history, and other pertinent information vital to their evaluation and treatment. Between these three women, the clinic runs smoothly and patients are well taken care of.

There are nearly 100 East Montpelier residents who are PHWC patients. They are your neighbors, friends, and family members. They are daycare workers, aides in our schools and hospital, truck drivers, carpenters, farmers, mechanics, clerks in our stores, small business owners, musicians and artists, the self-employed, and so many others. They earn under \$19,000 per year for an individual, \$26,000 for a family of two, etc. They make too much money to qualify for the state's Vermont Health Access Program (VHAP) but not enough to afford the high costs of traditional health care, especially if they have chronic conditions such as diabetes or hypertension. They might have catastrophic insurance with a high deductible but not be able to afford a general visit to the doctor.

The PHWC opened in 1994 as a temporary Band-Aid to address these health care needs until a comprehensive, workable solution to the problem was implemented. Eight years later the problem persists. We read every day that insurance rates have skyrocketed, and small businesses are forced to eliminate health care benefits for their employees. Low to moderate income people cannot afford the high cost of insurance premiums on their own. Over the years, the Clinic has seen steady growth in the number of people needing its services. The People's Health & Wellness Clinic will continue to be needed for the long haul.

The People's Health & Wellness Clinic still needs volunteers in all areas: medical doctors, mental health counselors, referral dentists, and receptionists. It also needs people in our community to distribute brochures, posters, and do other occasional jobs. To inquire about volunteering, call the PHWC at 479-1229

PATRICK MCCOY — A MAN OF MANY TALENTS

by Trevor Lewis

I'm often struck by the range of talents and depth of the work ethic among people in our community. I was reminded of this most recently when I had a chance to visit with Patrick McCoy, who owns and runs P.W. McCoy Corp. from his family's home on Bliss Road in East Montpelier.

Patrick was born in Woodbury and lived there until about age four. His family then moved to Bliss Road in East Montpelier; the land where he now lives is part of that home place. His family had a large barn, where he helped his family raise livestock. While the barn later burned and he wound up moving to Stowe during high school, it isn't hard to tell that he developed a strong fondness for working the land, and also for this area.

Patrick went on to Champlain College, spent some time in Arizona, and later transferred to and graduated from Johnson State. Around that time he met his wife Margaret, who is from Montpelier. She works at the River Network in Montpelier. Patrick and Margaret bought their current property on Bliss Road from his brother. Their house is a modified post and beam that they helped build themselves. They share their home with their four year old son Jackson and several pets, including two Labrador retrievers, one of which had given birth to a litter of puppies just hours before my visit.

After college, Patrick spent several years as a counselor and supervisor at Spruce Mountain Inn in Plainfield, a residential facility serving young adults with dual diagnoses involving addiction and mental challenges. Later, Patrick decided to follow in the footsteps of his father and others before him and start his own business. After several years as a painting contractor, he built a spec house and found success in both undertakings, but his work often took him away from East Montpelier and he missed working more directly with the land. These realizations led him to his current line of work.

Just down a handsome landscaped slope below their home, in a barn that Patrick designed and helped build himself, is the headquarters of P.W. McCoy Corp. The barn houses the equipment that Patrick uses to provide a variety of services to customers in East Montpelier and the surrounding area. Patrick's tools are a sizeable Kubota four wheel drive tractor and a variety of rugged implements, ranging from a bucket loader, to a bushhog for mowing brush, to an extra-rugged back blade for grading, to a six foot tractor-driven rototiller for preparing peoples' gardens. Patrick transports the equipment to his customers' sites on a trailer pulled by his heavy duty Chevrolet pickup. In the winter, Patrick uses the truck and a big Fisher plow to clear snow from driveways for local residents and businesses. All of the equipment is plainly of high quality, and it's not hard to tell that Patrick maintains and uses it carefully.

In spring and early summer, Patrick takes care of trees and limbs brought down or damaged by winter's wrath, although he leaves high altitude tree work to those who specialize in that. He also builds and re-builds gravel driveways. He's particularly fond of work where he can use the tractor and implements to sculpt



the land to pleasing contours. As if all this were not enough to stay busy, he harvests ten cords of firewood a year and is an avid outdoor sportsman. He's recently helped reclaim areas around the Town's recreational fields from brush, and plans to be on the Town Recreation Board now that he's finished serving for three years on the East Montpelier Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Patrick is an easy-going and modest fellow, but when he talks about his work, you can sense his enthusiasm and "can do" outlook in his voice. He likes working with the tractor, truck, and implements, and he likes to help people achieve their goals of what they want to do with their land.

Trevor Lewis lives on County Road in East Montpelier with his wife Priscilla White, their son Caleb, and Priscilla's two daughters, Leah and Hannah Baribeau. Trevor works as a lawyer in Montpelier.

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COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Monday	6:30	Town Office
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Tuesday	7:30	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA)	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:30	Town Office
U-32 Board	1st & 3rd Wednesday	6:30	U-32 High School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	1st Thursday	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Monday	7:00	Town Office
Revolving Loan Committee	2nd Wednesday	6:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
Four Corners School House Assoc.	2nd Wednesday	7:00	Four Corners Schoolhouse

EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, Vt 05651
Office Hours: M-Th 9:00-5:00 F 9:00-Noon
Phone: 802-223-3313

Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi

email: eastmont1@adelphia.net

Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Terri Conti

email: eastmont2@adelphia.net

Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins

Town Administrator - Marlene Betit

email: eastmontp@adelphia.net

(M-Tu 9:00-5:00, W 9:00-12:00)

Chief Lister - Rosie Cueto

(M-F 9:00-11:30)

Zoning Administrator - Gene Troia

(Tu & Th 3:30-5:00)

email: eastmont3@adelphia.net

EVENTS CALENDAR

November 5	Election Day	7:00 am - 7:00 pm	EMES
November 6	Public Forum on Economic Development Policies - Revolving Loan Comitee	7:00 pm	EMES Auditorium
November 12	Budget development potluck dinner	Call for times	EMES
November 15	Property taxes are due at the Town Office	by 5:00 pm	Town Office
November 18	Historical Society - joint potluck supper with Calais Society - "Stage Road to Memphremagog"	6:00 pm	Old Brick Church
Nov. 27 - 29	Thanksgiving - schools in Washington Central closed.		
December 16	Historical Society	7:00 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse
Dec. 23 - Jan. 1	Holiday Vacation for all schools in Washington Central		
January 3, 2003	Desert and Discussion of FY04 EMES budget	Call for times	EMES
Every Wednesday	Parish House Cafe	12:00 Noon	Old Meeting House

Deadline for next issue: 26 November to Dave & Darlene Grundy, 1630 Clark Rd. East Montpelier, VT 05651

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Volume XIII, No. 2
November/December 2002

Inside: **The Historian**
and **Very Handy Man**

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