

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume 4, No. 3

January/February 1994



STANLEY CHRISTIANSEN: A DEDICATED MAN

Looking at the stately Christiansen farmhouse on Hammett Hill Road, one can imagine the team of carpenters and farm helpers whose skill and sturdy materials made this structure last so long. It must have a myriad of tales to tell -- but so does the family within.

I stepped out of the nippy November morning air into the large kitchen, toasty-warm from the cook stove in its well-earned place of honor. I was greeted by the enthusiastic barking of Molly the dog, and then by Stanley with his wonderful, welcoming smile. His son Chris was by the door, and his sister-in-law Jackie Shearer was preparing lunch at the kitchen table.

In the living room, I greeted his wife Joyce and their son Andy holding Anders, the youngest of their nine grandchildren. Joyce recently returned home after battling a long illness in the hospital and area nursing home. Andy is our District Representative to the Legislature. Andy's wife Jennifer had just returned from her duties as a social worker. Peter, Stanley's third son, and his wife Ramona who live just

down the road and are in a farm partnership with Stanley and Joyce, were doing morning chores at the barn.

Of Danish decent, Stanley was brought up on both the farm known as the Cate Farm and the farm where Jeff Taylor lives. He graduated from the Randolph Agriculture School (now VTC). His father, Andrew, purchased the present Christiansen property, and they farmed together for many years until Stanley took over in 1965. When asked about the future of agriculture he answered with a dubious smile and small shrug of the shoulders, "I haven't much faith in it."

A very public spirited man who has always considered the welfare of the townspeople top priority, Stanley feels his greatest accomplishments (aside from his life-long farming experience) took place during the 4½ years spent on the East Montpelier School Board. "I feel very gratified in my accomplishments while school director."

Tough issues were tackled during that period of time: Drilling a new well for the North Montpelier school (Stanley offered to deliver water in milk cans on a daily basis during the interim if the school board would vote to have a new well dug...it happened!); the bussing of all children to the town's six elementary schools; switching the grades in the elementary schools (grades 1-4 in some schools, 5-8 in others) to more easily facilitate the bus schedule; proposal to raise \$0.25 on the Grand List to eliminate the school deficit of \$1,600 (which passed and successfully accomplished its goal); proposal of a head tax (this was voted in and raised enough money to purchase land for the new school); and the new elementary school issue (very controversial but, as we all know, finally became a reality).

During the considerable time spent on studies and meetings at this time the comment has been made that large quantities of iced tea were consumed in order to keep temperatures down!



Stanley & Joyce Christiansen

Throughout his tenure as school director, Stanley's philosophy has remained consistent, "to give the townspeople a chance to move forward." He has since helped form study committees to investigate alternative methods of school funding so that each town, rich or poor, may experience his dream of "equal education for all."

Joyce's employment as a teacher may have sparked Stanley's interest in the school community, just as her musical talent encouraged Andy to teach piano and Chris to play piano and be the most faithful member of the Old Brick Church choir.

A main source of family fun, however, can be found in the second story of that stately farmhouse. In a room balanced between the front and back stairs, Stanley and his family enjoy rousing games of ping-pong. So do avid friends and neighbors who stop by for friendly games and energetic tournaments.

Over the years Stanley Christiansen and his family have remained strong, dependable and dedicated, a rich gift to the community.

Jini Bragg

Jini lives at the Bragg Farm on Route 14 north of the Village and began the shop whose expansion we featured in our March/April 1992 issue.

PREPARING FOR TOWN MEETING

Absentee Voting on the Australian Ballot:

Beginning February 10, absentee voters may request ballots for themselves up until 5:00 p.m. on February 28, the Monday before Town Meeting on March 1. Requests for absentee ballots for other family members or by an authorized person must be made by 12:00 Noon on February 28. Ballots will be mailed to the voter by the Town Clerk. A return envelope and a special ballot envelope will be enclosed with the ballot for use in returning the ballot to the Town Clerk. Ballots sent to absentee voters may be returned by a family member on Town Meeting Day as long as they are in the special ballot envelopes and are received by 7:00 p.m., the time the polls close.

Deadlines and Meeting Dates:

- January 20: Last day to file petitions for warning articles.
- January 24: Last day to file nominating petitions with Town Clerk for offices to be voted by Australian Ballot.
- February 12: Town Clerk's Office will be open from (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. to Noon for the purpose of receiving applications for additions to the Check List.
- February 19: Town Reports mailed; sample Australian Ballots must be posted.
- February 24: Town Meeting Forum/Information Meeting for Australian Ballot voting, at the Elementary School, 7:30.
- March 1: Town Meeting at the Elementary School at 9:30. School District Meeting at 1:00.

TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

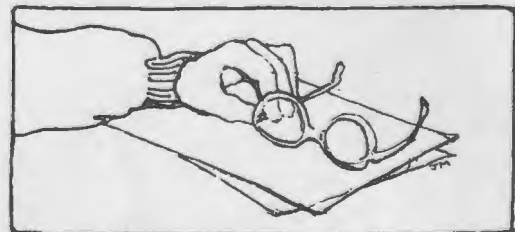
No one would quite describe East Montpelier as a Writers' Colony, but our town nonetheless hosts a surprising pool of writing talent. Witness the 34 writers who have contributed articles to the *Signpost* since it was launched three and a half years ago. Who would expect to find so many competent journalists in a small town? Starting the paper was truly an act of faith, with the team having no clear idea who would actually write our stories. But see what's happened.

When we plan an issue of the *Signpost*, we start by choosing the individual and business we want to profile. Then we cast about for suitable authors - maybe from the same part of town, or familiar with the job the person does, or possessing some other link to make the story interesting and revealing. When we approach the persons we want to feature, the responses are almost always "Why me?" The authors in turn nearly always say modestly "I really don't know how to write." Then after this self-deprecation comes a great story which brings to the rest of us some insights into the lives and work of our fellow townspeople.

And how does it feel to be the subject of a feature story? Joyce Bean wrote us a letter of appreciation, thanking us for the honor, so we decided to talk with others we had written about. Those we reached all seemed to enjoy the experience and especially liked getting to know the author. One reporter described a series of friendly notes she exchanged afterwards with the folks she interviewed, calling them "an unexpected payoff" for her effort. Dot Morse admitted that she put off writing her article till the last minute, sighing that "maybe we all work best under pressure." One of the most surprising parts of the *Signpost's* profiles is that they often tell as much about the writer as about the subject. How about John Hall's interview with Claudia Bristow in our last issue? John's unlooked-for skill with words delighted us all.

So thank you all, writers and subjects, for giving us a fresh look at some of the people we live near. And if you readers would like to try your hand at doing a profile, just get in touch with us.

Jean Cate



Please Note: By action taken at Town Meeting last year, the town budget and any other article calling for expenditure of \$10,000 or more will be voted by Australian Ballot on Town Meeting Day.

NEW TRAIL SECTION COMPLETED

Walk it or ski it, but do try it! A new trail in town from Dodge to Center Roads, through woods, along fields and over stonewalls, was cleared the week-end before hunting season. The still air and golden light spurred on an inter-generational work crew of fifteen as they cleared and cut a trail across Templeton Farm (Chapell property) to the existing Fairmont Farm Trail. With work completed, the crew enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies.

Special thanks to the Chapell family and the work crew: Andy and Carolyn Shapiro, Carolyn's father Tom Dean, Logan, Austin and Paul Cate, Jean Cate, Cameron O'Connor, Lloyd Richards, Madeleine Mongan, Laurie Justis, Charles Johnson and Nona Estrin. Thanks to Janet MacLeod for the design of the blue and white fox paw trail markers (look for the markers to keep you on the trail!) and to Dave Burley for arranging the production of the trail markers through the town Recreation Committee.

The next section of trail work will start on Center Road, cross Templeton Road at the Town Garage, and continue to the Town Forest trails on Haggitt Road passing through Chapell, Holden and Bair properties.

To try the new trail section, park at the legal trail access on the north side of Dodge Road and follow the white and blue fox paw signs approximately 1.5 miles to Center Road. Where you leave the multi-use section of the trail for the foot and ski path, be sure to note the **trail rules: Walk and ski only on marked trails. No fires or camping. Leave nothing behind.** We hope you enjoy the trail!

This permanent trail easement is part of a singular Vermont project which has involved three bicentennial farms. Austin Cleaves led the way more than two years ago when he bargain-sold development rights on his farm to the Vermont Land Trust and the Town. The conservation easement included a trail access. The Holden family followed with a donation of a conservation easement on their land to the Trust which also included a trail access.

This past year saw the continuation of this effort when Roy and Joanne Bair and Roger and Genevieve Chapell each bargain-sold the development rights on their farms to the Trust, which included options for trail easements to be exercised once the final location of the trail was determined.

The people of East Montpelier were fortunate to be able to participate through our Land Conservation Fund in partnership with the founding families and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund. Thus beautiful and productive farmland and the recreation access to it has been preserved.

If you have comments or would be willing to assist in further trail development please call Nona Estrin (223-7745), Sylvia Tosi (223-3313), Paul Cate (223-6466), Carolyn Shapiro (229-5676) or Madeleine Mongan (223-2579).

East Montpelier Trail



COMMITTEE RECEIVES GRANT

Two members of the Trail Committee have received a grant from the EPIC (Environmental Programs in Communities) foundation at the University of Vermont. The small seed grant will be used by Nona Estrin and Carolyn Shapiro to establish an environmental stewardship program based on the outdoor and human resources of the community. The grant will focus on the trail system - historical, current and potential future uses and natural history of the land it crosses.

An educational component with children in the community is being launched by Ginny Burley who will be working with a group of students to find out and document everything they can about the land along a section of the trail. The project will culminate in a pamphlet to serve as a guide for users of the trail. It will also point the way for classes or other groups who might adopt a special interest in the trail to study and share with the community.

MANY THANKS TO OUR KIND CONTRIBUTORS

Frieda Battles
Phil Cookson
Marguerite Ferris
Peter & MaryEllen Hill
Bradford & Ruth Lane
Edward & Carolyn Schnitger
Doris Washburn

(and hope this list is much, much longer in the next issue)

CHURCH CHIMES

Old Brick Church
Old Meeting House

Singing and dancing are happening at the Old Brick Church as Pat Pritchett guides an enthusiastic cast through the fast action of "Godspell." This rock opera, noted for its vibrant music and catchy skits illuminating the story of Jesus and the disciples, will be performed in March. Watch the newspapers for dates and be prepared!

A joint service will be held on January 2 at 10:00 a.m. at the Old Brick Church to welcome Hamilton, Mary, and their children back from five months in Washington State and to say good-bye to Deborah LaPorte who will be returning to Union Seminary. Deborah and Susan Cooke Kittredge have shared pastoral care for the churches this fall and have done a splendid job.

RECREATION NEWS

The Recreation Board members are Chair Judy Cookson; Treasurer Dave Burley; Nona Estrin; Al Goodine; Pat Fitzsimmons; Larry Reed; and Kevin Woods.

Swimming lessons for non-swimming adults may be offered at Wedgewood on Tuesday evenings 7:30-8:30 (\$38) or Monday mornings from 11:00-11:45 (\$30) for four consecutive weeks. Call Judy at 479-2915 for info.

They plan to hold a used sports equipment sale this spring on consignment. Check your closets and let them know at Town Meeting. They will also need someone to run the concession stand at the Rec Field from late April through June. It involves almost every week night and possibly Saturday mornings.



THE SELECTBOARD

Weston Cate, Allan Couch, Edie Miller

September 22, 1993

● Heard request from Chris Pratt who seeks Town reclassification of a portion of the Class 4 section of Brazier Road to Class 3 from the farm to the old trail. Would like the trail brought up to Class 3 as well as he plans to develop three lots off the old trail.

● Representatives of the Central Vermont Economic Development Corp. presented their programs and the economic outlook for the area. Discussed available industrial/commercial sites in town. Selectman Cate noted that clean businesses which do not need great water and sewer capacity should be encouraged.

● Special town vote on loader passes 87 to 27. Voted to accept delivery of the new Caterpillar front-end loader.

● Voted to purchase dog license program for the town computer and to create an advisory committee to investigate and define future computer needs and benefits to the town.

● Approved Agency of Transportation counter on Towne Hill Road for 1994. This would be placed on the newly reconstructed section.

October 13, 1993

Selectboard Retreat at Miller Homestead

● Al Couch reported on Regional Planning Commission's urban transportation plan. The Commission forecasts that 200 new homes would be built in the town in the next decade. The town's primary interest in any urban plan would be the construction of the East Montpelier Bypass and improvements to the Center and County Roads.

● Selectboard was asked about purchase of the old town sand pit by local citizen. Will explore matter.

● In order to be better informed, the Selectboard will write to the Vermont Land Trust and inquire what procedures are in place to keep the Selectboard informed about the status of prospective and anticipated inclusions of conservation easements in the town.

● Established the Task Force on Fire and Emergency Services from local citizens to look at our present relationship with EMFD, possible financial or contractual arrangements with EMFD/Calais, and the possible establishment of a fire district. The Task Force would be asked to give an interim report at Town Meeting and a final report by July 1, 1994.

October 13, 1993

● Heard monthly road report from Mike Garand. Agreed to buy a set of tires for dump truck and new snow blades and to rent a walk-behind power broom to sweep sand build-up on edges of some paved roads so as to improve drainage.

● Approved dumpster service at Town Garage for \$70.00/month. Town used to take trash to C.V. Landfill. Since closure of unlined landfill, C.V. charged town \$299 to dump last load.

October 27, 1993

● Discussed capital budget which Planning Commission is working on.

● Set up work schedule for budget preparation for Town Meeting.

November 10, 1993

● Public Hearing re: Richard Casavant's "Pines" development and road. Three residences are built and the fourth lot is sold and will be built on next spring. Some discussion about road name, speed limit, road width. Town agreed to plow road providing side slopes are regraded by next spring.

● At Mike Garand's request, approved hiring Greg Pelchuck as the new back-up driver for plowing.

● A beaver pond along Muddy Brook Road has filled a culvert and threatens to wash out the road. Can't get to problem with equipment. Agreed to hire someone to dynamite problem area after speaking with landowner, Fish and Wildlife, and AOT.

● Heard concern from Don Donnelly re: Board of Adjustment lack of minutes and that tapes of minutes are being kept only three months. Jeff Cueto, chair of BOA, explained that minutes are adequate to meet open meeting law and that

his brief, handwritten minutes are available the next day. Lag in formal minutes has been due to no board secretary.

● Approved hiring of Ginger Hopkins as new BOA secretary.

● Nona Estrin met with the group to update them on status of a new trail system in the town spanning Fairmont Farm, Holden property, Chapell farm and Bair farm.

● Jon Winston and Bill George of EMFD present to discuss department's interest in purchasing a new fire truck next year. This will be a special Town Meeting warned article voted by Australian Ballot in conformance with last year's mandate on capital purchases.



PLANNING COMMISSION

Chair: Johanna DeMartino

September 16, 1993

● Approved request of Clifton King for home occupation which would include woodworking, cabinet making, finishing and sale of hardwood in building on land adjoining his residence on Vincent Flats Road.

October 7, 1993

● Request from Cortland Perry to interpret applicable zoning regulations for development on 11.9 acre lot on County Road across from Powder Horn Glen Road. It was determined that the lot had sufficient width to meet frontage requirements provided any building be set back on lot at least 250 feet from building front line.

October 21, 1993

● Public hearing on the Sparrow subdivision recessed again until December 2.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Chair: Jeff Cueto

October 25, 1993

- Hedges case on Fair Road recessed until further information received.
- Cate woodshed on County Road. Wished to build woodshed with 36 foot set back in Zone E which requires 75 foot setback. Members unclear why another location can't be picked. Recessed until site visit can be scheduled.

November 8, 1993

- Denied Cate application for construction of a woodshed.
- Second hearing on Hedges case. Approved application for mobile home with conditions that septic provision and access is complied with.
- Voted to recommend hiring Ginger Hopkins as secretary for BOA.
- Voted Jeffrey Cueto as Chairman of BOA, Karen Saudek as Vice Chair.
- Discussed need for some changes in zoning regulations.

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jan Aldrich, Jim Hiner,
Tony Klein, Burr Morse, Sue Stephen

November 4, 1993

- School library, support services, general and school administration part of budget reviewed. Laura explained that of the \$1.2 million budget, 96% was fixed costs - salary, benefits, and utilities.

November 16, 1993

- Voted to purchase a new computer and printer for front office for \$2,800.
- Discussed exploring group purchases for supplies with other schools in district. Will pursue this.

December 2, 1993

- Approved the ice skating rink proposal made by Jon Dunkling. Jon and other community members will create and maintain an ice skating rink on school grounds to be used by the community and the school.

- Heard report from Technology Committee. Hope to upgrade computer lab and technology in the school. Community participation is welcome.

Correction to October-November Issue:

It was incorrectly reported that the salary increase for EMES principal was 3%; the salary increase was 2.4%.

Other School News

- BEADS - Do you have any old beads (plastic, wooden, or any kind) hanging around that you would like to donate for the 'Beading' mini course at EMES? Just send them in or call Ellen Knoedler (223-6931) or Patty Jocelyn (223-3276).

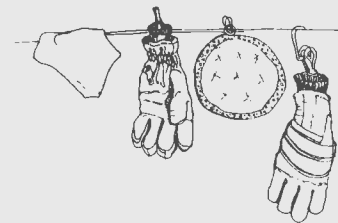
FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION

President: Don Donnelly

Once again, Ginny Burley and her many 'witchcraft' helpers have put on a Halloween Party for the community, held on October 31. It was well attended by children and parents.

QUILTS WANTED: A search is underway for quilts (old and new) to be exhibited at a future quilt show to be held at the Four Corners Schoolhouse. Check your attic and trunks, and if you are interested in the possibility of exhibiting your quilt, please contact Four Corners Board member Ruth Frost at 223-6892.

You can fight cabin fever this winter by doing some armchair travelling, thanks to a series of Sunday afternoon travelogues being offered at the Four Corners Schoolhouse. The first show, on December 5th, was given by Nona Estrin and Charles Johnson on their 1993 trip to the Northwest Territory. On **January 9**, you may travel to **Finland** with Sandal and Paul Cate and Austin and Logan who will tell about visiting friends there this past summer. On **February 6** the Kievit-Kylars will report on their recent travels in **Costa Rica**. The series will end on **March 6** with slides of **Spain** presented by Jean Vissering, Bob Klein and their children. Each of the shows begins at 4 p.m. Please watch the *Washington World* and the EMES newsletter for reminders. If you want more information or would like to share your travels, call Rachel Grossman at 223-3177.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department and Electric Co-Op Get Together

The next time you drive past the Town Clerk's Office look across the road and you will notice a new East Montpelier Fire Department sign hanging above one of the bays of the Washington Electric Co-op's garage building.

This fall the EMFD entered into an agreement with the Co-op to house one of its fire trucks at the Co-op's garage complex across the road from its office in the Village. The Co-op will not charge for the use of the space because of the enhanced protection it will provide to their two buildings and the community.

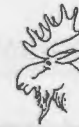
This move has been discussed for some time but was not feasible due to the lack of fire department volunteers in the immediate area. The Co-op had one bay in the garage building that was capable of housing the engine, and, now that there are volunteers in the area, the arrangements are complete. Volunteers have spruced up the bay and have installed a heating system for the truck. Locating fire fighting capability in the Village will insure a quicker response to the many homes and businesses located in that part of Town than if the fire truck travels from the station on Templeton Road. Fire Chief Mike Garand reports that the department has already responded to a number of calls from the Village area and that the response time has been much quicker. Department members who live in the Village area can go directly from their home or business and pick up the truck. Department President Jon Winston expects that quicker response times will be even more noticeable in winter and during mud season.

It is nice to see two community organizations such as these working together to benefit our town.

Dean Shattuck and Michael Duane



MOOSE LIPS



☼ *Georgianna Miranda recently toured Portugal for 12 days. She and a college roommate took a bus tour over a 6000' mountain passing vineyards on the mountain side. She toured through Lisbon & O'Porto.*

☼ *Neil Bjornland is in Australia for three months.*

☼ *Elaine Goodall was one of two recipients of the CVHHH's 1993 Susan Maituck Meacham award for excellence and dedication to Hospice.*

☼ *Put on your dancing shoes! There will be a community contra dance for all ages on Saturday, February 5, 7-9:30 p.m. at EMES. A small admission will be charged to cover expenses, and refreshments will be served.*

☼ *There's a wonderful display of historic toys at the Town Office. Also, many thanks to the Carver Tree Farm, Morse Farm, Bragg Farm, and Legare's Market for the decorations.*

☼ *Congratulations to the U-32 X-Country Team for winning their third consecutive Division II State Championship! Josh Cookson, David Welch, Michael Hill, Joel Fielder, and Jamie Libertoff are on the team. Sarah Czok led the women's team to a third place finish at State's, along with teammates Emily Johnson and Marcia Tosi.*

MILESTONES

(Received by the Town Clerk by December 1)

BIRTHS

♥ *Evan Blair Tarullo was born Sept. 8 to Martha Broad and Glenn Tarullo.*

♥ *Katie Jane Phend was born Sept. 29 to Lori Lynn and Perry Joe Phend.*

MARRIAGES

♥ *Todd Arthur Peduzzi and Ellen Marie Blanchard, August 6.*

♥ *Barry Frederick Langer and Margaret Louise Rooney, August 8.*

♥ *Charles Brickett Bailey II and Michele Marie Brown, October 2.*

♥ *Shawn Kenneth Barrieau and Allyson Anne Wood, November 20.*

PASSINGS

● *Dollard Frigon, husband of Ruth Frigon, February 23 (in Florida).*

● *Roland C. Greene, husband of Hazel Jones Greene, November 3.*

● *Wendell E. Walker, husband of Jacqueline A. Walker, November 7.*

● *Barbara Ann Cerasoli, wife of Joseph Cerasoli, November 12.*

● *Edwin Charles Codling, husband of Dorothy Codling, November 19.*

LAND TRANSFERS

(Received between July 15 and October 29)

Laura A. Antonovich to David F. Jr & Diana Antonovich; one-third interest in 51 acres, Upper North Street.

Richard & Carole Casavant to David & Judith Joly; 1.01 acres - Pines Sub-division off Rt. 14 and Paul's Square.

Real & Angele Ouimet to Gloria Biron; 31.63 acres with dwelling, Lyle Young Road.

James R. & F. Marie Evans to Paul A. & Ann C. Shper; 0.56 acres with video store, East Montpelier Village.

Alexandra Thayer, Administrator of Estate of Frank & Grace Hutchinson to Chester J. & Judith V. Cookson; 8.5 acres with buildings, Rt. 2.

Alexandra Thayer, Administrator of Estate of Frank & Grace Hutchinson to Merrill D. Legare; 3.07 acres, Rt. 2.

Richard G. Casavant to Kenneth E. & Jennifer M. Ferno; 1.05 acres - Pines Subdivision.

Kevin M. & Sherri L. Wall to John M. & Jana L. Bagwell; 20 acres with dwelling, Center Road.

Ashtek Properties, Inc. to David F. Jr. & Diana Antonovich; 1.75 acres and 1.25 acres - water system located in Montpelier and E. Montpelier.

Laura A. Antonovich to David F. Antonovich Jr.; 1.4 acres with dwelling, Upper North Street.

James G. & Mary Jean Spinelli to Mathew K. & Janet A. Bigelow; 10.1 acres and dwelling, Rt. 14.

Guy Welch & Dona Ryan to Thomas Brown & Mary Rose Dougherty; 1 acre with dwelling, Horn of the Moon Road.

Richard G. Casavant to Arthur D. Rice; 0.78 acres - Pines Subdivision.

Lucille Cerutti to Maurice Cerutti; 0.50 acres and dwelling, Rt. 14 in North Montpelier.

Northfield Savings Bank to Douglas Bell & Leslie Drown; 37 Acres on Rt. 14.

Paul A. Mascitti to Susan C. & Stephen T. McKenney; 0.4 acres and dwelling, Rt. 14 in North Montpelier.

Thomas M. & Diane M. Paulger to Michael P. & Suzanne M. Liff; 1 acre with dwelling, Country Club Road.

Deadline for the next issue is February 1. Please get copy to Janice Waterman, RR 1, Box 4330, Montpelier, VT 05602, 223-5826

IT'S GREEN-UP TIME AGAIN...FOR THE SIGNPOST!

At the end of our first year, Fred Tubbs crafted an eloquent argument for supporting the *Signpost* with a contribution of \$10 or more. As he said, if you paid someone just 25¢ to go to each of the meetings on town business, you'd spend at least \$25 per year, to say nothing of the time involved. The response was wonderful and proved that having a newspaper was valid. To continue Fred's argument just a bit more... once again the can of green paint is about to run dry. When it is gone -- so is the *Signpost*. If you want the *Signpost* to continue, why not write out a check for \$10 or more *right now!* Use the form on the next page, and send it along. Fred closed with "See you next issue...we hope!" To that we can only say, "Amen."

NORTHLIGHT STUDIO PRESS: A CREATIVE NEIGHBOR

As Lew Bell figures it, variety may be the spice of life, but true happiness is found in taking your passion and making it happen. And thus, in 1988 Lew Bell bought Northlight Studio Press in order to re-enter the printing business and continue to build on a vocation he'd first embarked upon more than 40 years ago in New York City.

In effect, as he puts it, "I've come full circle. And though it's a completely different business than it was when I was just a kid, the similarities provide a continuity, a context for my efforts to realize continuous improvement." It is this striving for continuous improvement, attention to detail, and stress on a quality product that becomes clearly evident in your first few minutes at Northlight Studio Press.

Located on Route 14 just a few miles from East Montpelier Village, the quonset hut that today is the home of Northlight actually first served as an indoor archery range. Converted to accommodate printing presses and related machinery in 1972 by George Brady, Northlight Studio Press quickly developed a reputation as a quality print shop. According to Lew, "George Brady was a stickler for detail, and when I bought the business in 1988 I made a commitment to continue to build on that tradition."

Northlight Studio Press has no promotional literature. Lew does not advertise for new print jobs but relies instead upon repeat customers and "word of mouth." And it's worked. With a growing customer base that consists primarily of colleges, universities, museums, and historical societies, Northlight Studio Press continues to exceed customer expectations in its production of town histories, books, pamphlets, posters, newsletters, and the like.

With a full-time production staff of 16 people and the usual assortment of cameras, typesetting machines, automatic photo-processors, single and two-color presses, collators, binding and trimming machines, Northlight Studio Press would, at first glance, seem rather typical. But according to Lew, "Northlight is anything but typical. And in all honesty, it's the people who work here at Northlight Studio Press that set it apart from all other print shops."

Although Lew seems to be the driving force behind the push for excellence and a quality product, it is the employees, many of whom have been with the company five or more years, that make it happen on a day-to-day basis. For Lew Bell, pride in accomplishment is evident not only in what he prints but in his family as well. He traces his own circuitous vocational path from printer to entrepreneur, to motel owner, to business consultant, and finally back to printer again. Lew is quick to point out that his three daughters are also well established, one as a lawyer, one as the manager of an accounting firm, and one as a nordic coach who was also the top-rated woman biathlete in 1992 and who competed as a member of the U.S. Olympic Team in the Winter Games last year in Albertville, France.

Print shops can be notorious for the amount of hazardous waste they generate and for how they deal with this waste. As a good neighbor, Lew Bell uses his version of total quality management to constantly improve the efficiency of his operations and thereby reduce the generation of hazardous wastes. Investment in a more efficient photo-processor and a silver recovery system allows him to remove this heavy metal from photo-processing waste waters before shipping for treatment. New processing chemicals and techniques have allowed him to further reduce the hazardous waste he ships off-site for treatment from 20 to only 8 barrels each year. In addition, Northlight Studio Press prints primarily with vegetable soy-based inks rather than the more toxic petroleum-based ones. Nearly 70% of the jobs are on recycled paper now.



Lew Bell at Northlight

With a focus on quality and attention to detail Lew Bell continues to grow a business in East Montpelier that draws customers from all across the United States. Northlight Studio Press sends its roots down deep in the fertile soils of East Montpelier, capitalizing on local talent and remembering what it means to be a good neighbor.

Doug Kievit-Kylar

Doug lives on Brazier Road and works for the Agency of Natural Resources.

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST CONTRIBUTION FORM

Yes, I want to help keep the *Signpost* coming! Here is my contribution toward that effort.

Name(s): _____ Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Enclosed \$ _____

We thank you for your help! Please mail this with your check to Anne Sherman, RD 1, Box 80, East Montpelier, VT 05651.

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	2nd & 4th Wednesday	7:15	Town Office
Planning Commission	1st & 3rd Thursday	7:30	"
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30	"
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:30	"
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
U-32 School Board	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:30	U-32
Elementary School Board	1st Thursday	6:30	Elementary School
Town Clerk's Office Hours	Monday-Thursday: 9-5, Friday: 9-12		Town Office
Zoning Administrator	Tuesday & Thursday	1:00-2:30,	Town Office
Four Corners Schoolhouse Ass'n.	3rd Wednesday	7:30	Four Corners Schoolhouse
PTO Meeting	2nd Tuesday	7:00	Elementary School

Meeting times are subject to change

EVENTS CALENDAR

January 9, Sunday, 4-6 p.m.	Travelogue - Finland	Four Corners School
February 5, Saturday, 7-9:30 p.m.	Contra Dance	Elementary School
February 6, Sunday 4-6 p.m.	Travelogue - Costa Rica	Four Corners School
February 17, Thursday, 7 p.m.	Sr. High Pops Concert	U-32
February 24, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.	Town Meeting Forum	Elementary School
March 1, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.	Town Meeting	Elementary School
March 1, Tuesday, 1:00 p.m.	School District Meeting	Elementary School
March 6, Sunday, 4-6 p.m.	Travelogue - Spain	Four Corners School

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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