

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume 6, No. 3

January/February, 1995

MARIAN LORD - IN THE WOODS

Four years ago this past August I moved with my family to Sodom Pond Road. A large bouquet of gladioli was waiting for us in our sink. That's how I met my neighbor, and now friend, Marian Lord.

Marian was born in New York City on April 30, 1920. She was abandoned as an infant in a Manhattan flat. Found and cared for by New York State Charity she was adopted by Grace and William Bainbridge when she was five and a half. She was then raised in Brooklyn, attended private schools and studied art and English at Packer Collegiate Institute.

Marian first came to East Montpelier in the summer of 1928 during a polio scare. Ellen Currie (now Hill) was a dancing school, music school and elementary school friend in Brooklyn. Marian was invited to stay with the Currie family in East Montpelier and came to know Roy Sibley and his family. She fell in love with Vermont and spent several summers here. In 1949 her present home was completed. Marian had taken an architectural course in school and the house was built to her specifications. Her father had worked on the house but did not live to see it occupied by Marian and her husband.



Marian met Kenneth Lord while she was a college student. They were married in 1941, one week before she took her college boards. Kenneth served in the Army, he took part in the invasions

of Sicily, Africa and Normandy during World War II. He served in the Army Reserves for many years and retired as a full colonel. They raised three children: Kenneth Prince Lord III, who lives in Tennessee and is an investigative officer with the U.S. Navy; William Bainbridge Lord, a detective in Essex Junction; and Daniel Craig Lord who owns a music store in Manchester, New Hampshire.

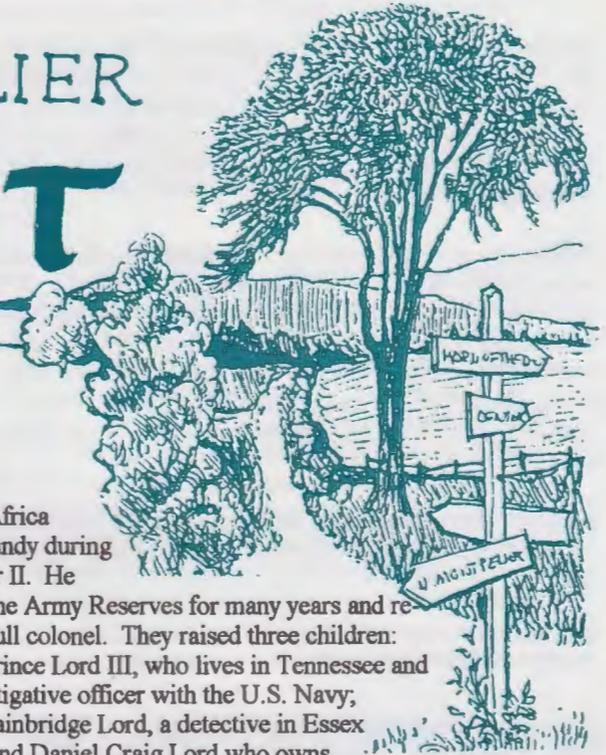
In her earlier years Marian appeared in several off-off Broadway productions. An agent from William Morris saw her perform and signed her up to work at MGM in Hollywood. It turned out that she didn't photograph well so she returned to New York.

Marian finished a three year course at Carlisle War College in Pennsylvania. From 1954 - 1974 she served in the Civilian Air Patrol in Binghamton, New York, teaching young men and women how to fly and be qualified to serve in the Air Force. In 1978, after their youngest son finished school, Marian and Kenneth moved to their home in East Montpelier. They had been spending summers here and were happy to be here full-time.

Marian loves animals. She has a German Shepherd, Max, an Airedale, Monte, and a newly-adopted feline, Shaddoe, many fish and a bird named Maurice Chevalier. In 1991 a bear spent four weeks in the vicinity of her home. The only damage the bear did was knock down some birdhouses - Marian has several. Marian now has a large wooden bear in her yard named Belvedere in honor of her former friend, and a small wooden bear in a tree.

Marian lives on Sodom Pond Road. She has a man-made pond named Gomorrah and recently had a small pond built for a fountain, which will be the summer home for her goldfish. Over the years she has bought parcels of land and now has 38 1/2 acres. Much of the land is tree covered with a large area around the house mowed - by Marian on her riding mower.

Marian loves children and volunteers at the Elementary School in the RIF (Reading is Fundamental) program. Hallowe'en is a special time of year. Greg McNaughton's sons help Marian turn her house and yard into a suitably ghoulish area. The boys help decorate,



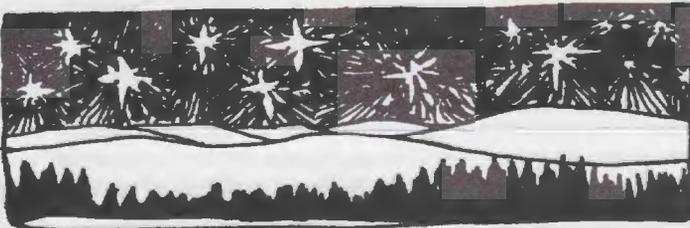
sometimes with stuffed figures regulated on a wire by pulleys and Marian dressed as a witch or with a scary mask. The neighborhood children know they will be scared but look forward to this event and the reward of a variety of candies.

Marian was surprised by her neighbors and friends last April on her 75th birthday. The party was at her home and prepared without her knowledge. My two girls love to go up the road for a brief visit that includes conversation, milk and cookies. During this interview Marian and I enjoyed a cup of coffee and angel food cake with raspberry sauce.

Marian is a proficient gardener. In addition to gladioli she has a variety of flowers, vegetables and many wild flowers. A few years ago a bull trampled through the gladioli, an event remembered with humor and dismay. Gomorrhah Pond is home to many fish, well fed by Marian. She is an artist of many talents. She has produced many paintings and clay sculptures. In the winter she is a "happy hooker", hooking rugs with an animal or nature motif, many for gifts.

Neighbor, friend, volunteer, artist, animal lover, and lover of Vermont, Marian says, "I've had a wonderful life!" and indeed she has.

This article was written by Sandie Chaloux with Margaret Richey. Sandie is a neighbor of Marian Lord's and teaches driver education part-time at U-32.



THANK YOU TO THESE GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

James S. Brock
Eula Brown
David and Janet Burrus
Fairmont Farm Inc.
Alban and Margaret Richey
Doris Washburn
Ronald and Geneva Woodward

You may notice that among the contributors to this issue is Fairmont Farm. A little background: it seems that each year several hunters ask to hunt on the farm property, then show their appreciation by bringing a gift (maybe a bottle). This year the owners suggested to them that instead they support the town in some way. The Signpost is very lucky to be the beneficiary! Thank you all.

* * * * *

Top of the Signpost:

As many as fifty years ago I first noticed that East Montpelier was blessed with more beautiful scenery than most places in Vermont. In those days the town was simply a place we passed through on our way to camp. With each trip up old Route 14, we were struck by the vistas which opened up to us both to the east and to the west.

Years later this town became our home, and would you believe that one day at a planning commission meeting someone offered a scientific explanation of why East Montpelier has such impressive scenery. Here it is. The mountain ranges both east and west of us are just distant enough to offer a fine view, while our elevations are enough lower to put us at center stage. We're in the middle of a vast amphitheater, and the fields kept open by generations of farmers provide the perfect stage from which we can view our mountains. Whether you like to have scenery dissected with such scientific precision or just want to enjoy what you see, it's a fact that we are richly blessed.

We can't take any credit for this gift of nature, but there is another area in which East Montpelier has caught people's attention and one which is truly an achievement of our own. We are becoming identified with our developing trails network connecting neighborhood with neighborhood. Sure there are towns like Stowe who have created an extensive - and expensive - paved trail for the use of young and old, locals and tourists, runners, walkers and wheelchairs. They deserve a lot of credit for this. Here in East Montpelier the approach has been more low-keyed. A group of persistent trails people have worked quietly with the diverse groups who use the trails. They have worked with landowners who were conserving farmland, so that recreational goals might be realized at the same time. Then they have rolled up their sleeves and laid out new trails, cut brush, and put up trail markers so the rest of us might comfortably enjoy the trails. What an achievement!

The *Signpost* will be carrying trails news on a regular basis. I hope you will respond in whatever way you can, whether you walk and ski the trails themselves, help with the slugging work of trail building and maintenance, or just encourage the trail blazers as they make this all possible. You can get there from here.

Jean Cate





SELECTBOARD

Allan Couch (Chair), Edie Miller, Frank Pratt

September 28, 1995

- Discussion of contamination of well which serves Town Garage and the Fire Department. Mike Garand has installed a stop sign on Center Road where it intersects with Center/Adamant Road.
- The Class 4 section of Sodom Pond Road is being lost to the elements and the efforts of beavers. The pond may soon overrun the road.
- Approved policy discouraging property owners from planting trees in town highway right of way. Property owners are also encouraged not to place other objects in the right of way which may be road hazards or which may be damaged during maintenance operations.
- Expressed concern that the Cross Vermont Trail project not create any unreasonable barriers to a future Route 2 & 14 bypass of the Village, which has also been planned to use portions of the old railroad bed.
- The Agency of Transportation has begun preliminary review of possible improvements to the intersection of US Route 2, VT Route 14, and Town Highway 25 (Quaker Road).

October 11, 1995

- NYNEX will be asked to provide a two-inch-caliper sugar maple as compensation for the easement on Municipal Building property.
- Will implement the tax stabilization agreement with E.E. Packard as soon as construction is completed on each of the three buildings.
- Letter of resignation received from Hugh Hawkins from the Board of Adjustment.
- Agreed to seek three bids for well drilling to repair the contaminated well at the Town Garage and Fire Station.

October 24, 1995

- Mike Garand has driven the new dump truck cab and chassis from Underhill to Williamstown where the equipment will be installed. He is satisfied with the truck.
- Two way radio on 1994 dump truck died. Will replace at cost of about \$400.
- Approved proposal of Griffin International, Inc., to monitor a 35 yard pile of contaminated soils from the fuel tank removal project at Fire Station.

► Discussed annual permit renewal at Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Chair: Richard Curtis

October 5, 1995

- Bethany Bishop sworn in as a member of the commission.
- Were informed that copies of the revised zoning regulations must be sent to abutting towns at least 15 days prior to public hearing.

October 19, 1995

- Proposed amendments to the East Montpelier Zoning Regulations were reviewed with the Board of Adjustment.

November 2, 1995

- Continued review of proposed amendments to Zoning Regulations.
- Scheduled public hearing on proposed amendments for Tuesday, Nov. 28.
- Peter Hill and Charles Codling attended Regional Planning Commission meeting. East Montpelier has no highway improvement projects before this commission.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Chair: Jeff Cueto

July 24, 1995

- Granted variance to Justin and Kathleen Parry, who would like to open a landscaping and nursery business, to build a two story addition and garage on the existing residence owned by Isabelle Plummer, corner of Route 14 and Fair Road.
- Granted conditional use permit to Isabelle Plummer to set up a mobile home on a 1-2 acre piece of her existing property. Subject to issuance of town permits for septic and road cut.
- Voted to reverse the decision of the Zoning Administrator not to require a Conditional Use Permit for the construction of a road built by Larry Brown. Application for a zoning permit should include a conditional use review of the newly constructed roadway.

October 9, 1995

- Granted permit for Larry Brown's road. Commercial traffic to use new road from Route 14 to Brown's printing business.
- Act 250 permit allows Brown to move

sign if size and setbacks are the same.

October 23, 1995

- Heard application of Old Meeting House Church to move belltower with setback of 20 feet. Recessed until October 29 for site visit.
- Read letter from Peter Duhamel regarding directional signage on Larry Brown's property. Decision has already been made and questions are no longer relevant.

October 29, 1995

- Met at Old Meeting House Church. After discussion, appeal is withdrawn. Building permit application will be amended to provide 50 foot setback.

November 13, 1995

- Larry Brown was issued permit by Zoning Administrator to build structure for RV winter storage. Peter Duhamel appealed. Voted to reissue conditional permit for structure. To be used for residential purpose only.

November 27, 1995

- Granted Pauline Lee variance to construct 8' x 15' addition to home on Johnson Road.
- Discussed proposed zoning changes.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

October 5, 1995

- Ginny Burley will be the coordinator for the LEAP program this school year.
- Robin Gannon talked about her new program "Wee Deliver" funded by the PTO. Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 will act as mail room workers, sorting and delivering mail.
- The Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy and the Smoking Policy were adopted unanimously.
- Reviewed and discussed the Weapons Policy.
- Nancy Thomas attending Governance Committee meetings to discuss ways of managing the district.
- Jan Aldrich reported on work of the Blue Ribbon Committee.

November 2, 1995

- Laura Johnson reported worms had come into the school during the heavy rains.



- ▶ The Weapons Policy moved to second reading.
- ▶ Several teachers and staff presented their proposed budgets.

November 20, 1995

- ▶ Special meeting to hear presentations regarding budget.

November 29, 1995

- ▶ Special meeting to hear presentations regarding budget.

FIRE AND RESCUE

Jon Winston (Chief)

Safety tips for wood stoves and fireplaces taken from a pamphlet put out by the U.S. Fire Administration:

- ▶ Be sure the stove or fireplace is installed properly. Woodstoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces, and proper floor support and protection.
- ▶ Woodstoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed.
- ▶ Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary.
- ▶ Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- ▶ The stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15 - 30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- ▶ Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- ▶ Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- ▶ Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- ▶ Keep flammable materials away from your mantle. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.
- ▶ Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.
- ▶ If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They

- often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.
- ▶ Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.

FOUR CORNER SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION

Ginny Burley, Ruth Frost (Co-Chairs)

- ▶ Events at the schoolhouse during October were a basketry workshop, rug hooking workshop, and the Halloween party, as well as two meetings of the Board of Directors. The PTO used the schoolhouse in late November for wreath making.
- ▶ The Vermont String School is again renting the schoolhouse on Mondays for lessons for schoolchildren in our town.
- ▶ We have installed a furnace malfunction signal - a colored light over the stage area. If you see this light lit, please phone one of the Board members.

RECREATION BOARD

Pat Fitzsimmons, Rachel Senechal (Co-Chairs)

- ▶ Are your lips dry, cracked, or bleeding? Do you want to make them feel better and help support recreation in East Montpelier? Well, one dollar buys you an Autumn Harp lip balm that will make your sore lips smooth and soft, and will add to the fundraising effort for bleachers and other improvements at the recreation field. Soon your lips will be singing! To buy some lip balm, please contact Rachel Senechal at 223-0539. If you are interested in selling the Autumn Harp lip balm in your store on behalf of the East Montpelier Recreation Board please call Rachel, or Pat Fitzsimmons at 229-6156 or Jon Dunkling at 223-7493 and we will get it to you! With your help we will have the lip balm at various locations around the town.
- ▶ The Recreation Board meets at 7:00 p.m. the third Monday of each month at the Town Hall, except in December. Minutes from these meetings are available at the Town Hall. Current members of the Board are Pat Fitzsimmons, Rachel Senechal, Jon Dunkling, Terri Codling, Nona Estrin, Robyn Hall, Dave Burley, Larry Reed, Al Goodine, and Kevin Wood.

- ▶ We are looking for helpers to flood the ice skating rink at the Elementary School. If you can help please call Jon Dunkling.
- ▶ Our Fall Sports and Fitness Consignment Sale was a great success! Not only was money raised for the recreation fields, but a lot of equipment was "recycled". We will continue this popular event in the spring and fall each year.
- ▶ We welcome all townspeople to join us at our meetings.

CONSERVATION FUND STUDY TASK FORCE

At Town Meeting last March many people raised questions about the effects of our support of land conservation through the East Montpelier Conservation Fund. In May the Selectboard established a task force made up of people who had expressed an interest in being on such a committee.

The task force is charged with investigating the effects of sale or gifting of development rights on the town grand list, on possible loss of future taxes, on possible demand for town services if development had taken place, effect on our share of state aid to education, benefits to the town, and the permanency of the development rights.

The task force has consulted with representatives of the Listers, the Conservation Committee, district representatives, state tax review bodies, the Vermont Land Trust and others. The task force has gathered information from the town reports for the past ten years on changes in the grand list, tax rate, building permits and school population.

The committee welcomes your questions and ideas. It is hoped that a draft report will be presented to the Selectboard and be available to you in the Town Office by early January. Ed Blackwell is chair of the task force.



TRAILS COMMITTEE

- ▶ Trail update on the Sparrow Farm Trail: We've been working on the trail this fall. It's going to be an amazing run, all the way down into Montpelier, to the recreation fields on the North Branch of the Winooski.
- ▶ The trail is brushed out but not signed yet. It'll be easier to find when there are signs, but for now, the trail starts from Hill Road, near Sparrow Farm, about half a mile west of the farm, in the low hollow. The trail goes off to the left, down the steep bank. Remember, we did not buy the farm itself. The town, with Conservation Fund money, helped to buy two kinds of rights: the development rights, and a trail easement. Since the farmers actually own the land, they can still post land which is not part of the easement. Please be considerate of their posted land.
- ▶ The section of the Town Trail running north from the Town Garage is being well used and enjoyed--in some places, a little too well used. To protect the trail, please don't take horses and bikes on that section in mud season. Please keep horses and bikes off trails until Memorial Day, because the trail is getting torn up.
- ▶ To maintain our trails, and to help make new ones, we are applying for three more grants. Some of the money, if we get it, will help finish the Sparrow Farm Trail, and other funds will go toward building our section of the Cross-Vermont Trail. More on this in the next *Signpost*.
- ▶ And speaking of grants . . . we're looking for a person to help us coordinate our grant writing!
- ▶ Finally, a winter parking reminder: there isn't much satisfactory parking for our trails during snowplowing season. Please don't block driveways, and park off the road -- leaving enough room so that two cars can pass. See you on the trails!

MILESTONES

(Received by the Town Clerk by November 30, 1995)

BIRTHS

- ♥ Emily Beth Graves, born July 22, 1995. Daughter to Denise & Jay L. Graves.
- ♥ Maranda Nicole Cote, born August 15, 1995. Daughter to Anita K. & Michael B. Cote.
- ♥ Jeffrey Paul White, born August 30, 1995. Son to Alison Beth & Paul H. White.

MARRIAGES

- ♥ Mark David Lane to Connie Jean Beauregard; September 9, 1995.
- ♥ Gary Andrew McMillen to Kelly Sullivan; September 17, 1995.
- ♥ Seth Bennett Gardner to Michelle Elise Biron; September 30, 1995.
- ♥ Aaron Scott Lemieux to Amanda Lynn Parry; October 1, 1995.
- ♥ Bradley Brian Fleury to Melissa Ann Patenaude; October 14, 1995.

PASSINGS

- Reginald Paul Brown, died August 10, 1995. Son of Paul and Elizabeth Brown.

LAND TRANSFERS

- Joanne C. (Boyd) LaPerle to James R. Boudreault; dwelling and 0.32 acres on Paul Square.
- Richard G. & Carole A. Casavant to Ellery & Jennifer Packard; 1.96 acres off Paul Square.
- Chester J. & Judith Cookson to Steven & Janet Noyes and Chester J. & Judith V. Cookson; 1.36 acres in Cookson Subdivision on Rt-2 East.
- Town of East Montpelier to John E. & Grace I. Mekkelsen; right of way formerly Towne Hill Rd.
- Mary L. Baird to Robert E. & Judith A. Nist; 13.4 acres on County Rd.
- Patricia Renzello to David R. & Linda M. LaFlower; mobile home in Sandy Pines MHP.
- Mary L. Baird to Daniel & David Antonovich Sr.; 19.9 acres on North St.
- Catherine C. Watkins to Patrick T. & Jennifer B. Mullikin; dwelling and 1 acre.
- Leonard A. Giroux to Leonard A. & Elsie J. Scribner; mobile home and 1 acre on Fair Rd.
- E. Christopher, Peter W. & Vera C.

Pratt to Michael & Pamela Heffernan; 7 acres on Johnson Rd.

- Ellen C. Hill, Joanne & Roy Bair, trustees to Vermont Land Trust; conservation easements to 85.2 acres on Templeton & Adamant Rds.
- G. Lewis Raymond & Norma H. Raymond to Samuel C. Fitzpatrick; dwelling and 41.75 acres on Towne Hill Rd.
- Samuel C. Fitzpatrick to G. Lewis Raymond; 35.74 acres on Towne Hill Rd.
- Samuel C. Fitzpatrick to Norma H. Raymond; dwelling and 6.1 acres on Towne Hill Rd.
- Wesley & Patricia Merriam to Peter Noel Duhamel; easement-right of way off Rt. 14 North.
- D. Michael & Margaret Czok to Kenneth Emerson; 7.6 acres on Horn of the Moon Rd.
- Ruth Ann Crose and Kenneth A. Riportella to Samuel M. Snipes, Jr.; right of first refusal on Chickering Rd.
- Samuel M. Snipes, Jr. to Jessica W. Taylor; dwelling and 10 acres on Chickering Rd.

CHURCH CHIMES Old Brick Church & Old Meeting House

Over the past many months the two churches have each conducted a series of searching discussions to crystallize their goals and plans for the future. In November by vote of the members, they decided to end their long-standing yoked relationship. Now each church is working on a design for its new structure. What is certain is that they will no longer share the services of a minister, and each church has started the search process. However they do expect to share such services as music and mission projects. In the interim, church members are carrying out the regular and special services.

The Old Meeting House invites everyone to its Sunday services at 9:30 a.m., with Sunday School held at the same time. The Old Brick Church welcomes all in the community to its 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning services, as well as other activities such as the Community Koffee Klatsch on the first Monday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.





NOTES FROM THE TOWN OFFICE



A big thank you from us all for the beautiful tree, wreath, garland and poinsettia which adorn our town building. The donors are the Carver Family Tree Farm, Morse Farm, Bragg Farm, and Legare's Farm Market. Many thanks!

Have you looked in on the new display in our showcase? Winter is here, and the photographs, sleigh bells, lantern and other wintry treasures show winters of the past here in East Montpelier. Come in and look for familiar faces in the old photos. The Ormsbees prepared the case.

Town Meeting Day 1996 - Planning Calendar

- January 25 Last day to submit petitions for special Warning articles.
- January 29 Last day to submit candidate petitions to run for local office by Australian ballot.
- January 31 Final action by Selectboard on Budget and Town Meeting Warning.
- February 14 Absentee ballots are available at Town Clerk's Office.
- February 24 Last day to register to vote at Town Meeting and in the Presidential Preferential Primary. Town Clerk's Office will be open 10 a.m. to noon.
- February 29 Town Forum
- March 5 Town Meeting Day, (voting is from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Australian Ballot)

NEW THIS YEAR:

Presidential Preferential Primary will be held on Town Meeting Day. There will be separate ballots for each party. Voters will have to indicate which party they will be voting in order to receive a ballot. The ballot clerk will mark the checklist to indicate which one was taken. No party declaration is needed for voting on other town business.

U-32 High School voting will be done at Town Meeting by Australian Ballot, as was voted at last year's Annual Meeting.

Everybody's Business

(Addendum)

A new East Montpelier business which was not included in "Everybody's Business" last September is Cow and Lizard, owned by Lucy and Joe Ferrada of the County Road. Cow and Lizard designs and sells practical comfortable clothes for kids and women. Most of it is wholesaled, but in November an outlet store was opened on River Street in Montpelier.

Signpost Notice

The deadline articles for the March/April issue is February 1. Please get any copy to:

Margaret Richey
RD2 Box 380
Plainfield, VT 05667

HELP WANTED

Lively local trails group seeks grants writing coordinator. Lots of expert helpers, willing to do various parts. Examples of successful grants to work from. A great team, and a great cause!

Call Nona Estrin (223-7745) or Sandy Woodbeck (229-0734)



THE LIFE OF RILEY, ACCORDING TO JOHN



It was 1974 and John Riley was working for ABCD (Action for Bridgeport Community Development) when he decided it was time to make a change. As a child, John often vacationed in Vermont and had come to love the state. He made a decision early on that someday he would move to Vermont. This seemed like the right time, so John applied for a position in State Government. He was subsequently interviewed for and offered two positions, an accountant position at the Brandon Training School, the State's only residential facility for individuals with mental retardation which closed its doors in 1993, and a cost allocation specialist position with the Central Office of the Department of Mental Health in Montpelier.

John accepted the position with the Central Office, keeping in mind his goal that someday he would own his own business. He felt a position in the Central Office of a large State Department would provide the level of exposure he needed to achieve his future endeavor. But this wasn't the only change in John's life. At this point John decided to defy the experts who advise us not to make too many changes in our lives in too short a span of time. In a few short months, John not only changed jobs and moved across state lines, he also managed to get married. Then he began to settle in. He bought a farm in East Montpelier, had a couple of kids, and worked his way up through the ranks in the Department's Business Office eventually becoming Business Manager. Then he got restless again.

In 1981, feeling as though he had reached a plateau in his career, John decided to take what many would consider a big risk. He resigned his state position and started his own business. Capital Accounting began in rented space over the Denis, Ricker & Brown Insurance Agency in downtown Montpelier with one employee, John Riley. John was able to draw on his experience with the state and garnered business from non-profit agencies and other state government entities that he had worked with. In the beginning, the services he provided consisted of mainly keypunching and inputting data for companies that didn't have their own computers. Because he didn't have his own mainframe, the information was recorded on tapes that were sent to a company in Boston for processing. The next step was to work out a timeshare

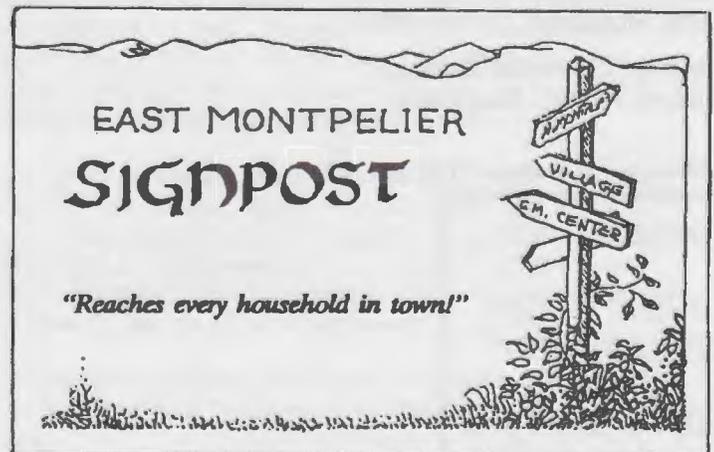
arrangement on another computer in Montpelier. Then as the business continued to grow, he bought his own computer for \$30,000, a major outlay for a small business. However this expenditure allowed John to provide a greater array of services. He began doing financial projections, audit preparation, and quarterly financial statements. While the clientele has changed somewhat over the years, the majority of his business continues to be with non-profits and many of his original clients are still with him to this day.

Today he runs the business out of an office in his home with a couple of small computers which cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000 and have capabilities that far exceed the older model. John has employed extra staff now and then and currently has a part-time person, but he has been the mainstay of the business. Without computers John estimates he would probably need ten people to accomplish what he does with one or two staff. But the disadvantage to being so small is the amount of time John personally must devote to his business. He works 70 to 80 hours a week, and because he processes payrolls for a number of businesses, he finds it extremely difficult to take time off. With the exception of a trip to Washington with his family a few years ago, he hasn't had an extended vacation in years. So, if John could have his wish, it would be to have more time to spend with family and friends.

Johanna DeMartino is an Administrative Assistant to the Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. She and her husband live on Barnes Road.



The staff of the East Montpelier Signpost wishes all our readers a wonderful year in 1996!



COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	2nd & 4th Wednesday	7:15	Town Office
Planning Commission	1st & 3rd Thursday	7:00	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
U-32 School Board	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:30	U-32
Elementary School Board	1st Thursday	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Monday	7:00	Town Office
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

Meeting times are subject to change

EVENTS CALENDAR

Thursday, January 25	Deadline for Warning Articles	Town Office
Monday, January 29	Deadline for Candidate Petitions	Town Office
Wednesday, January 31	Selectboard Finalizes Budget and Warning	Town Office
Friday, February 2	Will the Groundhog See His Shadow?	All About Town
Wednesday, February 14	Absentee Ballots Available	Town Office
Saturday, February 24	Last Day to Register to Vote	Town Office, 10 - 12
Thursday, February 29	Town Forum to Discuss Warning	EMES, 7:30pm
Tuesday, March 5	Town Meeting Day	EMES, Voting 7am - 7pm

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Published six times a year; mailed without charge to all residents of East Montpelier.
Subscriptions mailed out of town for \$10 a year. Business card ads: \$15/issue or \$75/year.

Jean Cate, Publisher, 223-2951
David Coburn, Copy Editor, 223-6886
Anne Sherman, Business Manager, 223-2693

Kevin Wood, Layout/Design, 223-3714
Ginger Hopkins, Photographer, 229-4375

Janet MacLeod, Artist
Sylvia Tosi, Town Records, 223-3240
Margaret Richey, News Editor, 454-7862

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East Montpelier Signpost
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Volume 6, No.3: January/February, 1995

INSIDE:

IN THE WOODS
TRAILS ABOUT
TOWN
TOWN MEETING
INFORMATION
LIFE OF RILEY

