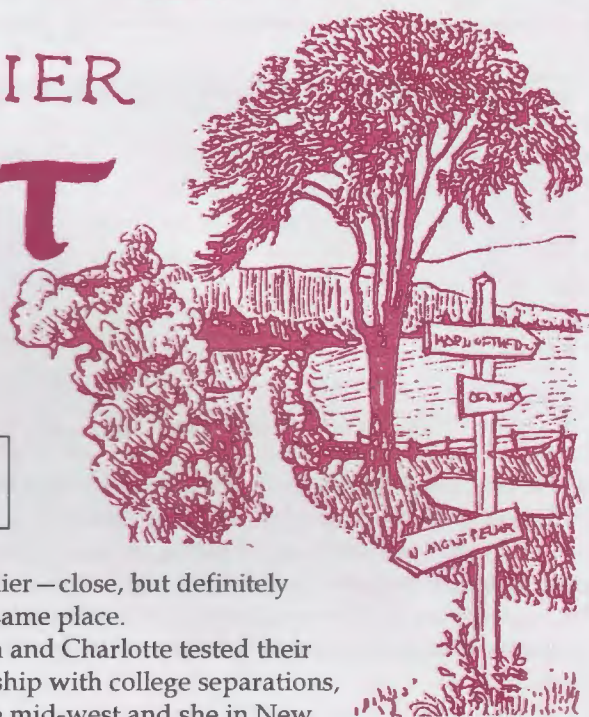


EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume VII, No. 5

May/June 1997



LIBRARIAN? PILOT? LAMAZE? & PREZ? DON'T READ AHEAD; JUST TAKE THE QUIZ!

I had a wonderful time interviewing my friends and neighbors recently, and learned so many new things about them that I want to start with a short quiz.

What ninth generation Vermonter is married to what former Air Force pilot?

What former zoning board member is married to which former school board member?

Which East Montpelier couple gave up the pleasures of Colorado, Arizona, and New Jersey to return to their home state of Vermont?

What founder of the Green Mountain Childbirth Educators Association is married to what person who crews for his son's race car at Thunder Road?

Got it yet?

What couple took up golf (again) in recent years and is now rethinking the bonds of their Vermont heritage in light of our very short golfing season?

Which couple recently took a trip to England and Scotland in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary?

OK - you'll get it on this last clue...

What president and chief operating officer of central Vermont's largest business is married to which librarian who supplies cultural nourishment to young minds at the Rumney School?

Isn't it amazing how we can recognize folks by what they do from 8 to 5 everyday, but aren't always aware of other interesting parts of their lives. Of course, you know I'm talking about my next door neighbors, Charlotte and Tom MacLeay.

Our talk together spanned two hours and got off to a fabulous start when I caught my first glimpse of the Hale-Bopp comet on my way down the road, and then the three of us enjoyed a spectacular view of it from the MacLeays' living room window.

It's Charlotte who is the ninth generation of her clan in Vermont, but Tom is a native as well. The two were high school sweethearts in Windsor — though Charlotte is quick to note that she is from West Windsor where her mother still lives, sort of like Montpelier and East

Montpelier — close, but definitely not the same place.

Tom and Charlotte tested their relationship with college separations, he in the mid-west and she in New York and Vermont. Shortly after each had a bachelor's sheepskin in hand, together they headed off to Colorado. While Charlotte used her nursing degree and skills to support them, Tom completed an MBA degree before fulfilling his ROTC obligation. Assigned to a base near Phoenix, Tom used his new business skills to become a pilot of large freight and personnel carriers.

Tom found flying a challenge and a pleasure, and that interest survives in his maintenance of an instructor's license and part ownership in a small plane that he rarely has a chance to fly these hectic days. After being away from home for 10 years and completing the Air Force assignment in New Jersey, Tom and Charlotte with their small son David began to look northward. Tom refused a job offer in Connecticut when he was unexpectedly offered a job at National Life, and the MacLeays were home again in 1976!

Tom had a National Life mentor who noticed that Tom was being less than fully absorbed by the job of bond analyst, and he saw that Tom had opportunities to see other sides of the business as a manager, planner and strategist. Tom noted with some pride that he was responsible for bringing the first two personal computers into National Life — in the investment department — at a time when they were so new, they were still considered to be home toys.

While Tom's career flourished in various departments at National Life, Charlotte quickly picked up her nursing career and worked in the delivery room at CVH. With the arrival of Katie, Charlotte knew she needed a different focus and so she merged her interests in nursing, children, and education and took advantage of the popularity of the Lamaze childbirth method to become a

Top of the Signpost

Readers who follow this column each issue know that I jump all over the landscape, each piece unconnected to the others. Now I am compelled to break with that, since the past month has taken some amazing turns for me.

In the last issue I marveled at the treasure trove of family history I was uncovering from a huge box of materials we studiously refer to as the Cate Archive. While I was still immersed in Cate family history, I received a call from my older sister in New Mexico begging me to come out and help sort family papers from our side - the Stetsons. Ruth is rapidly losing her sight and panicked over her responsibility for these materials. To say that I was astounded is putting it mildly. So far as I knew, our mother had destroyed everything many years ago.

History junkie that I am, I promptly made plane reservations and spent a week immersed in another family - my own. There are letters, Japanese books, and century-old poetry books with tender courtship inscriptions on the flyleaf.

There are snapshots, in albums and out, representing a different age of photography - stiffly posed shots of my grandfather with his favorite horse and my grandmother standing gracefully at her kitchen stove which is as shiny as a mirror. These are of course long before my time, but one well-remembered day appears in a later album. It shows the day my family arrived home from Japan and we three little girls first met our three boy cousins. I remember it as though it were yesterday.

If there is any message in these very personal remarks, it is that family stories and memorabilia are a far greater gift to your children and grandchildren than computers, cars and candy. Go ahead, be a pack rat. Hang onto the valentines and letters you receive from your grandchildren, and record the names and dates on the back of those old snapshots collecting in a shoebox under the bed. By the time you reach retirement age, you will find that these treasures are beyond price, your most precious possessions.

Jean Cate



(continued from page 1)

teacher of that practice. She notes that during her ten years as a Lamaze educator, she was often stopped to talk to many of the thousand or more kids that she helped parents to birth. Those youngsters are now between 9 and 19 years old, and Charlotte is still greeted warmly on the street by "her kids".

A Lamaze instructor works many evenings, and as Katie and David grew, Charlotte made a second major career change to better meld her interests and her schedules. Fate stepped in when the Rumney School sought a librarian, one who didn't have to be certified, but was willing to undertake the certification program. Charlotte's experience as an educator carried the day, and she is still on the road to Middlesex three days a week.

For many years, (and I know a bit of this from personal experience) Tom has been an innovator and a leader of change at National Life. His contributions

have been well recognized many times and culminated last year in his appointment as President and CEO. I asked Tom if there was ever a defining moment when he knew that National Life was the place where he would remain and make a major contribution. After pondering that for a moment, he said he never planned his tenure in that way. He looked for challenges and remains committed to meeting challenges as they present themselves, and present themselves they do. Changing the direction of a large company does not happen overnight, but it is happening at National Life. The pace is accelerating, and Tom appears to revel in each day's tests and demands.

Asked how they balance their challenging and stressful lives, Tom and Charlotte described their athletic endeavors in golf, skiing, canoeing on Peacham Pond, and most importantly, their daily early morning walks on Bliss Road which clear the mind for the day ahead. Enjoying the "empty nest" now that Katie has joined her big brother at Colby College, the MacLeays described their greatest pleasures as revolving around family and children - their own and others. On their trips to Maine, when the rest of the family is shopping in Freeport, Tom finds the local gym to catch a high school game.

As I was leaving, I asked Tom and Charlotte if there was anything else that their friends and neighbors might be surprised to hear. Though they couldn't think of anything, I sure enjoyed putting my quiz together.

Edie Miller lives on Bliss Road and is another "empty nester" who spends many of her evenings chairing Selectboard meetings.



SELECTBOARD

Edie Miller, (Chair), Tom Brazier, Tim Meehan

Jan. 15, 1997

- > Further work on budget.

Jan. 22, 1997

- > Discussion of break-in Jan. 18 at Town Garage.

Jan. 29, 1997

- > Michael Dworkin discussed Conservation Committee request for \$10,000 to be voted on at Town Meeting.

- > Worked on budget.

Feb. 12, 1997

- > Mike Garand presented monthly road report. Sand pile running low. Has purchased 271 tons of granite sand from Pike at \$7. per ton.

- > Approved right-of-way for Hawkins' four-lot subdivision off Towne Hill Road.

- > Approved additional monies to allocate \$5,000 from Conservation Fund for Friihauf project and will send letter of support to Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

- > Approved request by Recreation Board for \$1,400. from Carlton Smith Fund for winter swim program.

- > Reviewed and edited letter to Agency of Transportation (AOT) concerning proposed scoping report for the US 2 and VT 14 intersections and Winooski River Bridge.

Feb. 13, 1997

- > Information meeting concerning proposed City of Montpelier sludge composting facility.

Feb. 26, 1997

- > State Representatives Elaine Alfano and Donny Osman discussed issues facing the legislature, including status of education funding changes.

- > Sam Lewis from AOT discussed status of road improvement projects in East Montpelier village and long-range plans for East Montpelier bypass (perhaps 2014).

- > Mike Bender expressed concerns over proposed sludge composting facility. Additional public hearings to be held by the Solid Waste Division and District Environmental Commission.

- > Renewed liquor license for Dudley's Store.

- > Vermont Community Development Program requested documentation concerning contract for the Fairmont Farm grant. Information is being provided.

Feb. 27, 1997

- > Pre-Town Meeting Forum

Mar. 12, 1997

- > Edie Miller elected chair. Timothy Meehan was administered oath of office.

- > Liquor license renewals approved for the Creamery Store and Riverbend Store.

- > Town Constable Dennis Carver discussed need for a quarantine kennel for dogs suspected of rabies. C.V. Humane Society does not provide for rabies quarantine.

- > Rachel Senechal present to discuss C.V. Council on Aging proposal for grant to work with Twin Valley Senior Center. Board will send a letter of support to Goddard College for the grant.

- > Rachel Senechal, as a new member of Four Corners Schoolhouse Board and as a member of Recreation Board, will be able to exchange ideas for use of Carlton Smith Recreation Fund.

- > Discussion of grant application for Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park. Has multiple septic systems and several have failed. Housing Foundation, Inc. asking for grant to construct a septic system for the entire park in an old sand pit. Will send a letter of intent to the Vermont Community Development Program and warn a public hearing for April 9.

- > Discussed outside audit management letter.

- > Will prepare press release concerning upcoming hearing process for state permits for composting facility application to allow greater public awareness.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Stephen Rauh, Chair

Jan. 16, 1997

- > Approved fireworks storage facility in Packard Industrial Park.

- > Approved two 50' x 140' buildings in Packard Industrial Park.

- > Approved final plat review on two-lot subdivision on Route 2 presented by Kevin Bailey.

Feb. 6, 1997

- > Approved request by Alan Goldman to reopen existing dance hall in North Montpelier, to be used primarily for dance classes, and to create two-bedroom apartment in basement. Request for overhang over entrance to apartment referred to Board of Adjustment due to setback requirements.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Jeff Cuelo, Chair

Feb. 24, 1997

- > Approved request by Alan Goldman for variance to construct a 6' x 5' overhang over an existing side entrance at the North Montpelier hall.



EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Jan. 14, 1997

- > Jan Aldrich reported on search for Washington Central Supervisory Union superintendent.
- > Voted to hire Kelly Heney for physical education position.

Feb. 6, 1997

- > Sue Clayton reported on results of surveys sent to staff, parents and students. Meetings were led by Vicki Bernhardt and parents, then with teachers. Board will look at ways to disseminate information.
- > Approved administration of Metropolitan tests to students in grades 1-6.
- > Board will no longer grant unpaid leave to staff except in exceptional circumstances.
- > Accepted Special Education contract.

Feb. 11, 1997

- > Discussed budget for 1997-98.

Mar. 6, 1997

- > Re-elected Jan Aldrich Chair; elected Nancy Thomas, Vice-chair, and Loring Starr, Clerk.
- > Lee Sease talked about "inclusion" in education in the classroom.
- > Adopted the Safe, Physical Restraint Policy and procedures.
- > Agreed that fourth grade teachers will administer the New Standards Math and Language Arts Exams in April instead of the METS tests.
- > Decided to hold school sessions on April 4th and May 30th if teachers agree, because of snow days.
- > Approved putting a brass plaque on the display case near the Library in memory of Margurite Hurlburt. An extra-curricular scholarship fund would also be established.
- > Approved adoption of the District Math Curriculum.

U-32 BOARD

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

Feb. 4, 1997

- > Approved M. Coletti's leave of absence, the hiring of M. Luce as temporary leave replacement, and S. Cleary as instruction assistant.
- > Set graduation date as June 20, 1997.
- > Voted to add Interactive Math Program to course of study.

Feb. 15, 1997

- > Endorsed concept of Green Mountain Excellent Schools initiative.

Feb. 25, 1997 Annual Meeting

- > Public question and discussion of proposed budget.

Mar. 13, 1997

- > Elected Peter Bluhm as chair, Ginny Burley vice-chair, and Marilyn Miller clerk.

- > Heard committee reports.
- > Appointed C. Delaney as Special Educational Individual Assistant.
- > Approved High School Spring Coaching List as presented.
- > Accepted teacher evaluation schedule/plan presented by I. Duktig.

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE

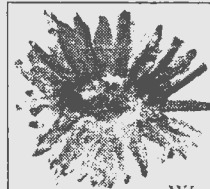
Ruth Frost, Chair

- ❖ A gift of \$1,500 was received recently from Ellen Hill and Marilyn Blackwell, from funds from their book, *Across The Onion*. Thanks to Ellen and Marilyn from all of us for their support of our Schoolhouse activities.
- ❖ The Board has just met to receive input from townspeople on the type of programs they would be interested in as we plan for the spring and summer.
- ❖ Rachel Senechal has filled the remaining position on our Board of Directors. We welcome her to our group.
- ❖ A **Bird and Wildflower Walk** led by Paul Cate will be held **May 10** from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. A small fee will be charged by the Association. Call 223-6466 to register.

RECREATION BOARD

Pat Fitzsimmons, Rachel Senechal, Co-Chairs

- ❖ The Recreation Board will sponsor Flag Football next fall for girls and boys in grades 4-6.
- ❖ The Winter Carnival was stormed out. We saw thunder, lightning, snow, and rain after a morning of sun and warm weather. Will plan one again next year.
- ❖ Are there **adults who are interested in swimming lessons**? Are you afraid of the water and want to learn how to overcome that fear? Please let us know and we will arrange for an adult swim class if there is enough interest. Call Robyn Hall at 223-3308.
- ❖ Jon Dunkling will organize a **coaching clinic** for parents who coach Little League. This will be advertised through the school newsletter.
- ❖ Is there **anyone interested in running the concession stand** during the baseball/softball season? Please call Dave Burley at 229-0826.
- ❖ We will have our **annual clean up day** at the Recreation Field on May 3rd. We could use your help!



HEARTSENER
BELIEVES
EVERY CHILD IS AN ARTIST
Fine arts summer day camp

- Weekly sessions begin June 23
- Exploring personal & artistic expression for 7 to 11 year olds
- Drawing, painting, woodworking, sculpture, & music
- For our brochure, call Heidemarie Heiss Holmes at 802/223-1227

EAST MONTPELIER TRAILS

- ❖ A grant has been received to build a bridge across the Winooski as part of the East Montpelier section of the Cross-Vermont Trail. The old bridge abutments just upstream from the hydropower station on Rt. 2 will be the basis for the new bridge and connecting trails. It will be for multi-season use by pedestrians, skiers, and snowmobiles. We will need community donations of fencing, plus landscaping planning and materials, such as mulch and seeds. Please call Sandy Woodbeck (229-0734) or Nona Estrin (223-7745) if you can contribute.
- ❖ **Adopt-a-Bridge!** A second grant to finish the northern section of the new Sparrow Farm Trail, just south of Hill Street, has been received, which will help us finish clearing the trail, and also build a number of small bridges/causeways over wet sections. We are looking for families or groups of friends to build a small section of causeway and then help install it. We will provide you the materials. It can be a fun weekend project, and will make a wonderful trail a reality. Please give Nona or Kris Hammer (223-0577) a call if you are interested.
- ❖ **Prune-as-you-go:** Feel free to take pruners or a machete when you walk the trails this summer. Prune as you go -- just please lop off branches flush with the trunk to promote healing. See you on the trails!

EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jon Winson, President Bill George

- ❖ Responded to 50 fire and emergency medical calls to March 26, compared with 56 for same period last year.
- ❖ Committee is updating five year plan. Will outline capital improvements as well as provide direction for the department. Will be completed by mid-summer.
- ❖ Three people have recently left the department: Jason Sanborn due to conflicts with his job; Brian Lusignan who has served as treasurer and was a primary driver out of the Templeton Road Station; and Paul Lowney who is relocating to Jericho.

CHURCH BELLS

OLD BRICK CHURCH

Rev. Marcheta Townsend, Pastor

- † Worship services, as well as Sunday School, are held at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

OLD MEETING HOUSE

David Connor, Interim Pastor

- † Sunday Service and Sunday School both begin at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome.
- † An Easter Sunrise Service was shared by both churches, followed by breakfast cooked by the men of the OBC.
- † Easter services in each church featured members of both choirs joining to sing Franz Schubert's *Mass in G*.

PATIENCE! ROAD WORK AHEAD!

A recent study showed that over nine miles of the town's eleven miles of pavement are in need of serious maintenance work. On Town Meeting Day, voters authorized the Town to issue bonds or notes for up to \$900,000 to fund the road maintenance. Here's an overview of what to expect to encounter this summer:

May: roadside preparation work. Much of the growth by the side of the roads will be removed by chainsaw crews, followed by heavy equipment operators who will clear and rebuild the drainage ditches and repair culverts as needed.

June & July: repairing the roads. The road work will occur in approximately this order: (1) County Road, starting at the Montpelier line and moving north to the Calais line; (2) Center Road; (3) Quaker & Vincent Flats Roads, from U.S. Route 2 to beyond the Elementary School; (4) Towne Hill Road, from the Montpelier line to Gallison Hill Road; and (5) Gallison Hill Road, from the Montpelier line to Towne Hill Road.

Please drive attentively and be patient with the inevitable delays. Hopefully, we'll be able to enjoy smooth roads by the summer's end.



THANK YOU TO OUR LOYAL SUPPORTERS

The following have contributed to the *Signpost* since our last issue:

Harold & Joyce Bean
James S. Brock
Nona Estrin
Bernard & Marcia
Guilmette

Russell & Jean Landolt
George & Minnie Lane
Tom & Charlotte
MacLeay
Robert & Delia Robinson
Carroll & Joan Witham, Jr.

The *Signpost* welcomes contributions, especially right now! The proceeds from the Rally Day auction have been used to print the fall and winter issues, and the summer months (yes, summer is coming... sometime) are kind of lean in the treasury department. \$5, \$10, \$25, even \$50... any amount would be received with open arms. Can you help? Send it to Anne Sherman, The *Signpost*, RFD 1, Box 80, East Montpelier, VT 05651. We would love to thank you in the next issue.

MOO'S SLIPS

★ Weston Cate, Jr. has recently been chosen as the Retired Educator of the Year for 1997 by the Vermont Retired Teachers Association. He retired after 48 years in the field of education where he was recognized as an outstanding classroom teacher and for his service as head of the statewide teachers' union.

Weston is a former Town Moderator and Planning Commission and Selectboard member, and is currently on the Four Corner Schoolhouse Association board and serves as a Cemetery Commissioner. He has headed a statewide competition to improve the quality of town reports. Currently president of the Vermont Folklore Society, he is also active in the Vermont Historical Society and is an avid gardener.

He will be honored at the statewide meeting of the VRTA in Rutland, Oct. 13, and be a candidate for the National Retired Educator of the Year Award. The winner of that award will receive a \$3,000 grant to be donated to the organization of choice.

★ East Montpelier welcomes its new postmaster, Paul Maynard. He comes from the Hinesburg post office and lives with his wife in Burlington. They have four children and three grandchildren.

★ Katy Langer graduates from Norwich University in May with a bachelor's degree in geology. She plans to continue graduate studies in geology at the Colorado School of Mines.

★ We thank Loring Starr for her great work in doing the editing and layout for the *Signpost* for the last couple years, and we welcome back Cherie Staples to cover the next two issues.

News from the Twin Valley Seniors

★ Starting April 9 the Twin Valley Seniors will be meeting every other week at the Old Brick Church for activities and lunch. For reservations please call 479-0531 twenty-four hours in advance, and if you need transportation, call CVTA Wheels at 223-2882.

★ Beginning on April 10th the Twin Valley Seniors and the Cutler Memorial Library invite you to a Thursday Afternoon Tea Party. These Teas will happen every second and fourth Thursdays at Cutler Library in Plainfield. Some days will feature musical entertainment, other days writers will read from their works. Join us for tea from 2-4.

Scholarship Aid for Town Students

📖 There is a little-known scholarship available to the town's young people, administered by "The Friendly Circle" (formerly the County Road Homemakers) in memory of Frances Fitch. Since 1953 the group has been awarding \$300 each year to a boy or girl headed for college to become a teacher. The simple application may be obtained by calling Kathy Doner at 223-3366. The deadline is May 30.

📖 Other scholarships which are being well advertised in the newspaper are the Carlton C. Smith Scholarships administered by the Montpelier Rotary Foundation. They are available exclusively to East Montpelier students and are quite substantial in value. Check the newspaper for the ads.



Marriages

♥ Duane E. Wheeler, Jr. to Simone P. DeOliveira; February 11, 1997.

Births

- ♥ Kollin Lee Witham; January 6, 1997. Son of Penny Jean Copeland & Robert E. Witham.
- ♥ Rachael Lindsey Phillips; January 23, 1997. Daughter of Jo Ann S. & Nathan M. Phillips.
- ♥ Steven Sinclair Shepler; January 23, 1997. Son of Mary Ellen & Gregory S. Shepler.
- ♥ Autumn Rayleen Payette; February 7, 1997. Daughter of Samantha Jean Sanborn & Travis J. Payette.
- ♥ Eliza Faulkner Guion; March 10, 1997. Daughter of Abigail D. Faulkner & Hobart G. Guion.

Deaths

- ☼ Bessie Tellier, married to Raymond R. Tellier, died December 31, 1996.
- ☼ Margurite Hurlburt, married to Harold Hurlburt, died January 24, 1997.
- ☼ Stanley Ralph Boardman, married to Zeta Boardman, died February 28, 1997.
- ☼ Pauline Montague, married to Earl Montague, died March 4, 1997.
- ☼ Carroll E. Witham, Sr., married to Helen Witham, died March 8, 1997.

Land Transfers

- ☼ Diane Vieweg, Glenna Masure, Don Hawkins, & Gary Hawkins to Roger Ehret & Rose Sze-Ming Ehret; dwelling and 10.1 acres on Rt. 14 in N. Montpelier.
- ☼ Diane Vieweg, Glenna Masure, Don Hawkins, & Gary Hawkins to Roger Ehret & Rose Sze-Ming Ehret; 75 acres on Rt. 14 in N. Montpelier.
- ☼ Bean's Mobile Home, Inc. to John Mascitti; mobile home w/o land on Rt. 2, East Montpelier.
- ☼ Richard Copping & Lorraine Copping to Charles Wanzer, Lydia Wanzer Faesy & Robert Osborn; 55 acres on Kelton Rd.

SHUFFLING THE SCHEFFLERA WITH JOYCE LaMOUNTAIN

Joyce LaMountain makes success sound easy. Work is play at PICK-A-POSY GARDENS. The story behind it should inspire anyone who has dreamed of one day having a successful business.

As Joyce tells it, "I was in my garden picking peas and wondered what kind of work I might get. I went over to one of these fifty-five and over places to begin the search and learn about what I could do.

"I was in Flower City about the same time and no one came to wait on me. I figured they might need some help. I've always loved flowers. I ended up doing an internship there. As assistant to the designer, I washed buckets and floors. I drove their truck and delivered plants and was in charge of their plant maintenance and office buildings. Three years later they closed, but I kept working with their customers. That was four years ago.

"That's when I asked my husband to put up a greenhouse, hitched to our house on Hagggett Road in Adamant. I had planted lots of gladiolus, dahlias, and sweet peas. I put a sign up so that people could pick a bouquet for ten cents a stem. They came and I'd help them dig perennials and come back and see what else was coming in."

"Sounds like Flower City Florists was a good place to start," I suggested.

"Unfortunately, no one there knew about the plants in the office buildings. I would get books from the library and pore over all the different kinds of plants and what they needed when leaves turned yellow or what to do for different bugs. I bought second hand books and spent lots of time learning about plants. Lots of times when the phone would ring and it was about some problem plant, they'd hand me the phone. Somehow when I'd hear the question whether it was about a rhododendron or whatever, the answer would just come to me. Maybe the Garden of Eden." Joyce looked up at me and chuckled.

Joyce has been working in gardens since she was four so she is very rich in gardening experiences and lore. Her grandmother lived right next to Cutler cemetery which they referred to as "God's little acre." She remembered driving the "doodlebug" tractor and working in her grandmother's gardens as a teenager. Joyce carries on the tradition and hires her grandchildren to help in her business now.

Twice a year you can see her up in a lift at the Berlin Mall pruning all the trees and fielding questions like "Why can't you get a chain saw and cut them down?" or comments like "Look at Tarzan."

We met at The House of Tang. The owner greeted me and took me over to where Joyce was sitting. After our lunch buffet, she walked me around pointing out the difference between pachos, which are from South America, and philodendrons, which originated in Africa. She knew every plant in the restaurant well.



"Pineapple plant, schefflera and ficus, Benjamin and fiddleheads, two very different types of fig trees," said Joyce as she showed me the distinct leaves. "These yuccas need more sunshine than they're getting," she said as she looked at two forlorn plants. To the folks at the House of Tang and especially to the plants, she was a familiar and loved friend.

This winter she'd been making wreaths of balsam, pine, and cedar, boxwood trees, and garlands for Morse's farm where over 400 wreaths were shipped out.

"I tell everybody, I don't work, I just play. I invite anyone who wants to come and play in my greenhouse and garden to join me. I start with a sale price of two dollars for geraniums. I say, 'Come early and pick your perennials. Then come a few weeks later and see what's in bloom.' I've planted flower beds for people. I'm the gardener for the Adamant Music School, Shoney's, House of Tang, Subaru, *The World*, Dubois Construction, Legends, and others. I carry insurance so that if a plant dies from neglect I can replace it.

I asked Joyce about my cyclamen which hid its tiny blossoms under its leaves and sat sulkily on my shelf. She told me that I had to keep it cool and water it from underneath or I would rot the bulb from which the flowers came. It's worked. She also told me my black gnats were from over-watering and that I needed to wash the dirt off the roots and replant them in different soil. My thanks to this self-trained horticulturist.

She doesn't stop. She's designing a silk wedding for October. All the bouquets and corsages, except the one that's thrown, are made of silk flowers. She started doing the weddings three years ago, when her grandson Davy Gallison got married. She's done fifteen since.

I know that when spring comes I'll be going over to PICK-A-POSY GARDENS to learn more about perennials and what to plant to have blooms all summer and into fall. I've found a great teacher in Joyce.

Joanne Chickering and her husband moved back to Chickering Road after 18 years. They live in a house built by their sons-in-law, just down the road from where they raised their family.

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	2 nd & 4 th Wednesday	7:15	Town Office
Planning Commission	1 st & 3 rd Thursday	7:00	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2 nd & 4 th Monday	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2 nd Thursday	7:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Road
U-32 School Board	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday	6:30	U-32 High School
Elementary School Board	1 st Thursday (except July)	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3 rd Monday	7:00	Town Office
Town Clerk's Office Hours	Mon-Thur: 9-5, Friday 9-12		Town Office
Zoning Administrator	Tuesday & Thursday	1:00-2:30	Town Office
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn.	3 rd Wednesday	7:30	Four Corners Schoolhouse

Meeting times are subject to change.

EVENTS CALENDAR

May 3	Rec Field Clean-up	Morning	Recreation Field
May 7	Twin Valley Seniors Lunch	Noon	Old Brick Church
May 8	Twin Valley Seniors Tea	2:00-4:00	Cutler Library, Plainfield
May 10	Bird & Wildflower Walk 8:00-Noon		Four Corners Schoolhouse
May 21	Twin Valley Seniors Lunch	Noon	Old Brick Church
May 22	Twin Valley Seniors Tea	2:00-4:00	Cutler Library, Plainfield
June 4	Twin Valley Seniors Lunch	Noon	Old Brick Church
June 12	Twin Valley Seniors Tea	2:00-4:00	Cutler Library, Plainfield
June 18	Twin Valley Seniors Lunch	Noon	Old Brick Church
June 19	Sixth Grade Graduation	tba	EMES
June 20	Senior Graduation	6:30	U-32
June 26	Twin Valley Seniors Tea	2:00-4:00	Cutler Library, Plainfield

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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

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Janet MacLeod, Artist
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