

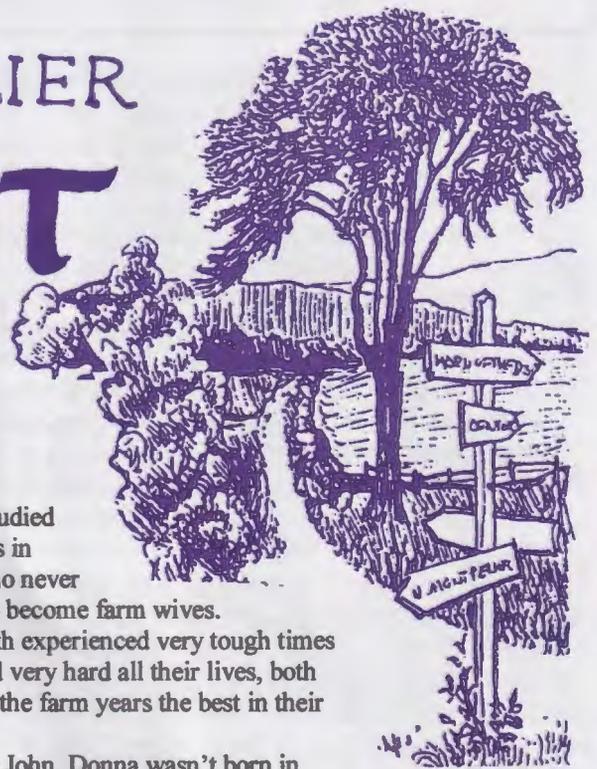
EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume X, No. 3

January/February 2000

Donna and John Hall —a Vermont Farm Family

by Edith Miller



I jumped at the opportunity to interview Donna and John Hall since it provided me the chance to visit with these East Montpelier stalwarts whom I have known and admired for twenty-five years, but don't see very often these days.

Our visit started and ended with talk of our children and grandchildren — what they're doing, how they've grown and what influences our lives and theirs (while they were at home with us) have had on who they are today.

A simple statement offered good insight into their lives. "Farms and kids go together," said Donna. "Life is very real on a farm." Farming provides the opportunity to see and understand life as it begins and when it ends and all the growth and experience that happens in between. John added that it's easy for kids to learn responsibility, independence, and gain self-confidence based on the simple fact that as part of a farm family the kids' efforts are needed for the family to be successful in the farming venture. Clearly, for the four Hall children, their family experience must have been a most positive one since three of them have made farming their lives.

Both Donna and John (who met at UVM and married shortly after graduation) grew up on farms. Their families share a common interesting background. Both their fathers chose farming after pursuing other careers and taught themselves (not without difficulty) how to do it. But farm life was very satisfying for all despite some real hardships that both families encountered farming in the 40's and 50's before many of the household and farm convenience aids that we assume these days were available. Donna's and John's mothers were college educated women (in

fact both studied at Simmons in Boston) who never expected to become farm wives.

Though both experienced very tough times and worked very hard all their lives, both considered the farm years the best in their lives.

Unlike John, Donna wasn't born in Vermont but moved to Barnard from the rural Boston area in her early years when her father, a professional engineer, bought a farm there. Donna mentioned that he wasn't a very successful farmer, but he persisted, and, after a few years, bought a farm in South Burlington where Donna grew up. She graduated from Burlington High School and then from UVM as an elementary school teacher. I had the feeling that Donna felt she had very good preparation to take on the varied roles she's had since then: teacher and role model for her own children, farm manager, chair of the Washington County Agricultural Stabilization Committee (first female chair in the U.S.), member of the VT Agricultural Advisory Council (appointed by Governor Kunin) and active community member.

John grew up in Bennington. His father was a supervisor at the EZ Union Suit factory, who after a falling out with his management, chose to leave the only place of employment he had ever known and start a small dairy farm. His years at the mill benefited his new venture, however, as he was able to recruit most of his fellow mill workers as customers for his bottled milk. John remembers washing glass bottles every evening after school and helping to bottle raw milk in the early morning so his father could make his deliveries each day. John proudly showed me one of a collection of glass bottles he has from those days which is labeled with the name of the farm (Benhurst) and contains the quality assurance mark that says "Hallmark of Quality" - from which the Halls took the name of their farm. Another of John's favorite pieces of memorabilia is a set of framed advertisement posters created for the EZ Union Suit factory featuring pictures of John's father, Richard, and his three younger brothers modeling various styles of the factory's union suits. Apparently one of the senior Hall's lasting memories was his plaint to his parents that "everyone will see us in our underwear."

One of John's agricultural economics projects at UVM - a survey of farms in Vermont - convinced him that farming in

(Continued on page 2)



Top of the Signpost

It takes a mental stretch to write these words now, knowing they won't be read for more than a month. I must pretend that it is already the brave new century and that we're gearing up for Town Meeting, when, in fact, I'm still glowing with the joys of the family Thanksgiving.

Did you hear Garrison Keillor on public radio's *Prairie Home Companion*? He was celebrating Thanksgiving with his "Happy Song", appreciating such daily joys as his 110 degree morning shower. He had it right. It's important to be happy, and it's just as important to recognize when you're happy. And - heaven forbid—to even let people around you know you're happy.

It's no cup of tea to look at the state of the world, the state of Vermont, Town Meeting and things closer to home without becoming hopelessly gloomy. We all do it. Then it's time to

look around us. There shouldn't be a one of us whose life doesn't have warm showers, good neighbors, fresh venison, sparkling snow, a purring cat or a purring car, jobs well done - whatever it takes to give us true happiness. Celebrating what is good in our lives will in no way diminish the problems, and, of course, it's no good to just stick our heads in the sand, ostrich fashion. Quite the opposite. Facing "the real world" with courage and balance may be a lot more possible if we accept happiness and celebrate it.

I guess our nation's founders also had it right—they included the pursuit of happiness as one of our fundamental principles, right beside life and liberty. Aren't we lucky to live in this land. That alone is enough to make us happy.

Jean Cate

(Continued from page 1)

Vermont in the 1950s was a very risky and difficult financial challenge. Accordingly, he went to work for the Extension Service after graduation. But once the Halls started their family, it became apparent that John's job, requiring him to be away from home many evenings and weekends, didn't offer them the opportunity to live the type of family-oriented lifestyle that they both valued so much. Another factor in the Hall's decision to take up farming was the air of optimism generated by President John F. Kennedy who encouraged young families to stay on the country's farms. After a brief sojourn in Chelsea, the Halls purchased the "Baldwin" farm in East Montpelier in 1965 - 270 acres, house, barn, herd and equipment - despite a price that was 25% higher than what they had budgeted and warnings from neighbors that "...no one stayed on that farm very long."

Perhaps the Halls are living out their family history of perseverance in the face of significant obstacles, but here they are 35 years later still living in their East Montpelier farmhouse. They've consolidated their original 270 acres and 75 cows into the large operation that is now known as Fairmont Farm - currently milking 630 cows, caring for more than 400 heifers, and tilling more than 1600 acres. Fourteen million pounds of milk were shipped last year.

Day-to-day life has changed significantly for the Halls in recent years while the underlying basis of their lives has remained very constant and reflects their values. In 1992, Donna and John, their two sons and daughters-in-law joined long-time friend Austin Cleaves in creating Fairmont Farm. Donna, John and Austin stepped down from farm management (they say they have to bite their tongues a little less each year) under this new arrangement though they continue to work actively on the farm. Donna now manages the books for Fairmont and has largely given up farm operations work which was such a significant part of her life for many years. John, acting on the literary inclinations of his mother's side of the family, has made writing a large part of his life while continuing to work daily on farm operations wherever he's needed. Though the Halls were always attentive to having a yearly vacation away from the farm with their children, they now plan at least a month's time off and are thoroughly enjoying lives that include serious writing for John and more gardening and reading

for Donna. Both revel in the time spent traveling and with their 11 grandchildren—including more time with the whole family at their camp on Greenwood Lake.

So at a time when many folks are thinking about retirement, the Halls have no such intentions, are well satisfied with their lives and have no plans to make big changes. They visit John's 90-something mother daily at Woodridge nursing home (apparently she's still one of the most demanding critics of his literary work) and hope to do some volunteer work as schedules permit. They observe with great pride their children's families and accomplishments and see a true Hall family legacy in the making.

Edie Miller is Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association. She serves on the East Montpelier Selectboard and lives with her husband Martin on Murray Road. He is moderator at Town Meeting.



THANK YOU TO THESE LOYAL SUPPORTERS!

Frieda Battles
Stanley Christiansen
Malcolm & Diana Fielder
Bradford & Ruth Lane
Samuel & Barbara Starr
Frederick & Nancy Strong
Alban & Margaret Richey

Eula Brown
Eddie Clark & Pauline Loso
Fairmont Farms
"Nist Family"
Doris Washburn
Alison Underhill

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



MILESTONES

Births

- >Kaitlyn Elizabeth Phillips, born August 24, 1999, daughter of JoAnn S. & Nathan Mark Phillips.
- >Connor James Loso, born August 27, 1999, son to Tina M. & Thomas Earl Loso.
- >Ford William Porter, born September 2, 1999, son to Beth Ann S. & Robert K. Porter.
- >Parker Mathieson Morse, born October 6, 1999, son to Sally K. Mathieson and Andy Richard Morse.

Marriages

- >Todd Michael Audet to Jenny Lynn Morris, married October 23, 1999.

Deaths

- >Robert Smilovitz, died October 3, 1999, spouse of Cathy Smilovitz.
- >Boynton R. Saia, Jr., died October 8, 1999, spouse of Melinda Saia.

Land Transfers

- >T. Wayne Clark to T. Wayne & Helen M. Clark, Trustees of T. Wayne Clark Living Trust, 228 acres & dwelling, Codling Rd.
- >Heather R. Brown to Bank of New Hampshire, 1.37 acres & dwelling, Pine Ridge Rd.
- >Richard Linton Brock, Executor of Natalie Brooks Beal Estate to Austin C. Cleaves, 0.6 acres & dwelling, Quaker Hill Rd.
- >Laura F. Banfield to New England Telephone & Telegraph Co., easement at intersection of Clark Rd. and Drake Rd.
- >Gerald C. Jourdan, Jr. and Jill E. Jourdan to Arthur and Lisa Rice, 10.11 acres, off Clark Rd.

Note from the Listers

The time has come to begin updating the Grand List for the year 2000. The Listers will be visiting properties to record any changes made during 1999. With 1107 parcels in town, it is impossible, time-wise, to make appointments unless necessary. If there is no one home, the Listers will leave a note stating that they have been there and inspected your addition. We thank you for your cooperation.

Y2K Preparedness

Most everyone has heard of the Y2K (Year 2000) problem and the impact on computers around the world. Although there has been a great investment of time and money to fix the programming problem, many government agencies and private firms cannot guarantee no disruption of services. Keep in mind these same disruptions can and do occur during ice storms, tropical storms blown inland, blizzards, and floods.

Contingency preparation should include:

- Heating without the use of electricity
- Back-up source of water should electric pumps be unusable
- Flashlights, candles, batteries
- Non-perishable food
- If you require regular medication talk to your physician or medical supplier about your needs
- Finally, keeping in touch with your neighbors is always a good idea.

Please note the Town of East Montpelier will have an emergency shelter available at U-32.

If you have further questions call Jim Grundy at 476-5680 or Diana Chace at 223-2564.



NOTICE

The East Montpelier Planning Commission is looking for a person to take notes at the meetings and act as secretary to the Commission. For further information call Carol Welch at 223-6208 or Tracy Phillips at 223-0216.

Address Change? New names in town?

Call Susan Larkin at 223-6244. Susan has joined the Signpost staff and will be maintaining our mailing list. You can also e-mail her at <slarkin@together.net>.

We try to keep our list current, but it is hard to catch all the new names in town. If you have a new neighbor or need to have your address changed...how about letting Susan know?

OPEN EVERYDAY 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 PM

We ship Anywhere

"A Quality Family Farm Shop"

802-223-5757

1 MILE NORTH OF E. MONTPELIER VILLAGE ON RT. 14 (FOLLOW SIGNS)



Vermont Handicrafts

Gifts

Vermont Cheese

Mail Order

Maple Products



SELECTBOARD

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

October 6, 1999

- >Public Hearing on VT Community Development Program grant for Sandy Pines. Project is officially completed.
- >Reviewed Sheriff's activity report.
- >Voted to purchase computer equipment, software and telephones for Town office.
- >Discussed letter drafted by Jim Grundy and Diana Chace regarding Y2K preparedness. A postcard size version will be reviewed.

October 27, 1999

- >Voted to approve Agency of Transportation US-2 & VT-14 signalizations plans.
- >Y2K postcard will be sent to East Montpelier residents.
- >Marlene Betit's title will change from Administrative Assistant to Town Administrator.
- >Voted to pay Paul Cate for services rendered for Town Forest timber sale. Over 300,000 board feet of timber removed; financial proceeds paid for town chipper, landscape improvements at EMES, and a sizable account for future activities.

November 8, 1999

- >Approved the Act 250 minor amendment for U-32 to expand its parking lot.
- >Will request that "narrow-bridge" signs be placed on US-2 leading up to the bridge over the Winooski by the Carpet Barn.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Carol Welch, Chair

October 7, 1999

- >Reviewed preliminary plat plan of William and Mary Porter's 8-lot subdivision off Johnson Road. Will do site visit.
- >Approved preliminary and final plat plan of a one lot subdivision on Snow Hill Road by Helen Eldred.
- >Reviewed and approved sketch plan of an 8-lot subdivision by Sparrow Trust at Gould Hill and North Street.
- >Reviewed and approved sketch plan of two lot subdivision on Fitch Road by Bruce and Claudia Fitch.
- >Reviewed and approved a roof addition to the East Montpelier Home Center.

October 21, 1999

- >Approved preliminary and final plat plan for Sparrow Living Trust subdivision.

>Reviewed change of use for old Chadwick Baross building on US-2 by Layne Gregoire to sales and service of recreational vehicles. Approved.

November 4, 1999

- >Reviewed final plat plan for Fitch subdivision. Approved.
- >Recessed review of Porter plan.
- >Looking for a secretary to take minutes at meetings.

November 18, 1999

- >Reviewed a business permit for a pizza and sub shop in the addition to the Video Box office building. Approved.
- >Reviewed last revision of sign ordinance, will submit to Selectboard.
- >Viewed letter from City of Montpelier regarding possible construction of water line extension from Towne Hill Road area to Gallison Hill.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Claudia Bristow, Chair

September 13, 1999

- >Granted approval for U-32 Phase II.
- >Paul Shper granted dimensional variance to construct addition to Video Box Office building on U-2.

September 27, 1999

- >Washington Electric decided to pull application for construction of front entranceway after extensive discussion of various options.
- >Annual election held. Claudia Bristow was elected Chair and Patrick McCoy Vice-Chair.

VOTE TABULATING MACHINE

East Montpelier voters are in for a new experience when they vote on Town Meeting day. Last year, the Board of Civil Authority recommended the Selectboard consider purchasing a vote-tabulating machine. Representatives of the two leading machine manufacturers made presentations, and the Selectboard was sufficiently impressed to include the expenditure in this year's budget.

Voters will find very little difference in filling out the ballot. All town officials and questions will be listed on one page. To indicate a choice, voters will fill in an oval, similar to the way many exams and questionnaires are structured. The ballot will be marked in the privacy of a booth as has been our tradition. Upon completion of the ballot, the voter will take it to the vote-tabulating machine and simply slip it into the slot of the machine and let go. The machine will draw in the ballot and electronically count the votes.

When the polls close, our town clerk will be able to print out the results of the ballots, which were read in a matter of minutes. Incomplete or spoiled ballots will be collected in a tray in the machine and will be counted separately by members of the Board of Civil Authority.

By using the new voting machine, votes can be tallied and contests decided within 30 minutes of the polls closing. This will be a refreshing change for many of the 40-50 ballot counters who remember counting paper ballots into the night.

Town Meeting Countdown

- Thursday, January 27—Last day to submit petitions signed by at least 5% of registered voters for articles to be included in the Warning.
- Monday, January 31—5:00 pm deadline for filing nomination petitions for town officers to be filled by Australian Ballot.
- Sunday, February 6— Last day to post Town Warning with checklist.
- Wednesday, February 16—Australian Ballot available for absentee voting.
- Wednesday, February 16—Public showing of the vote tabulating machine at the Select board's regular meeting 7:00 pm. This hearing is required by state statute. The machine can be viewed at the Town Office until March 6.
- Saturday, February 26—Last day to receive applications for adding names to checklist. Town Clerk's Office open from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Also, last day to post sample ballots for public viewing.
- Saturday, March 4—Town Forum & Australian Ballot information meeting at EMES 9:30 am. The vote tabulating machine will be on display.
- Tuesday, March 7—Town Meeting, EMES 9:00 am. Polls open 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.



**EAST MONTPELIER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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

October 7, 1999

- >Dave Angolano reviewed draft of Audit Report for year ended June 30, 1999. Surplus of \$77,000 available for use at Board's discretion as approved at Town Meeting.
- >Approved discontinuing magazine drive and putting extra money in the teachers' budget every year.
- >Lee Sease discussed Title I funding. Suggested a centralized Title I budget be available to all schools and have funding at the Central Office.
- >Discussed enrollment projections for next school year. Fifth and sixth grade classes will have 74 students. Will need four fifth-sixth grade classrooms and one more teacher. Preschool Program, now at the elementary school, will need to find another location.
- >Approved Patty LaPerle as evening custodian and Laurie Reilly as school nurse.

October 14, 1999

- >Heard budget and program presentations by Lisa Gariboldi for fourth grade team; Gladys Cote and Barbara Pelkey, first grade; Kathy Christy and Carolyn Pastore, third grade; Mary Ann Robb and Ann Parker, second grade; Jamie O'Hare, kindergarten; Lindy Johnson, as reading specialist; Nancy Bisson, art; Ellen Knoedler, library.

November 4, 1999

- >Heard further program and budget presentations. Chichi Barrett, Rollin Tait and Ben Weiss presented 5/6 grade

- program and budget; Ellen Magnum presented Jon Dunkling's request for playground improvements; Steve Towne the physical education budget; Pam Dunkling, the music program; Monika Reiss, guidance program and budget; Laura Reilly, school nursing program; Tracy Storey, head custodian, made suggestions for budget; Ann Carter, special education program; Carol Randall and Linda Royce, the office budget.
- >The PTNO has requested \$1500 for ELF program in budget.
- >Voted to purchase new overhead screen for gymnasium and install a chlorine system.
- >A group of 5/6 graders won the WCSU spelling bee.

U-32 JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL

Tony Klein, Chair, and Ginny Burley, East Montpelier members

September 15, 1999

- >Dave Angolano reviewed highlights of audit results. Approved 1998-99 Audit Draft.
- > Approved Steve Craddock as Jr. Varsity Basketball Coach.

October 6, 1999

- >Jon Winston gave update of Phase I progress. Discussed revised planning configurations.
- >Jon Winston and members of Youth Council for the Preservation of Students' Space (YCPSS) discussed issues with parking lot proposal and suggested moving the student parking and creating some student designed green space.
- >Appointed Rick Hoerman for Phase Two Clerk of the Works.
- >Approved request of East Montpelier to

- use U-32 as an emergency shelter.
- >Approved fall coach appointments.

October 20, 1999

- >Approved YCPSS parking lot proposal.
- >Approved winter coaches.
- >Approved lease and purchase of two special education vehicles.
- >Approved creation of Administrator Search Task Force.

November 3, 1999

- >Discussed draft budget of Washington Central Supervisory Union.
- >Jon Winston discussed building of additional parking and provided update on completion of Phase I.
- >Discussed charge for Administrative Search Task force.

PRE-SCHOOL CENSUS

(Birth to in-school)

If you have a child who is not yet in school, please call the East Montpelier Elementary School office (223-7936) so their names can be included in the preschool census. This information is compiled according to the year they will enter kindergarten. Children must be five by September 1 to enter school.

**EAST MONTPELIER TOWN
OFFICE**

Phone: 223-3313

Email: EastMont@together.net

Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi
Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Pauline Coburn

Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins

Town Administrator - Marlene Betit
(W & Th 9-5)

PO Box 157, E. Montpelier, VT 05651

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION

Rachel Senechal, President

October 13, 1999

>\$1,000 from the Carleton Smith Fund being used for driveway and foundation projects.

>Will install an outside light at the fire door/ ramp area.

>Paul Cate will handle repair of chimney cap on roof.

November 10, 1999

>Donation from Sesquicentennial Committee for use of schoolhouse for play and chorus rehearsals.

>Discussion of possible use of schoolhouse by Washington Central Pre-School Early Education Program.

>Elaine Manghi will work on framing photos, including Rally Day photo, to hang in classroom.

EAST MONTPELIER CEMETERY COMMISSION

September 8, 1999

>Voted to authorize clerk to reallocate portions of the cleaning fund if any of the approved applicants is unable to complete his portion of the cleaning.

>A lot has been sold in Cutler Cemetery.

Do you know where the East Montpelier cemeteries are located?

There are 13 of them, of which 2 are private (P)
Can you find them?

- **Cutler** – County Rd. just north of the Montpelier City line.
- **Doty** – Center Rd. north of Dodge Rd.
- **Wheeler** – just east of Gallison Hill Rd. on Cutler Rd.
- **Peck** – east of Adamant Rd. north of Sibley Rd.
- **White** – east side of County Rd. just south of Haggett Rd.
- **Quaker** – west side of Vincent Flats Rd. opposite Quaker Rd.
- **Tinkham** – directly west of Quaker Cemetery.
- **Cate** – on Cate Farm Rd. just off Coburn Rd.
- **Clark** – east side of Clark Rd. almost on the Plainfield town line.
- **Old Cutler** – west side of Cummings Rd. off County Rd.
- **Plain-Mont** – (P) west side of US-2 north almost to the Plainfield town line.
- **Poplar Hill** (P) – east side of VT-14 (In truth, it is just north of the Calais town line).

A LETTER FROM MARION CODLING

I was certainly surprised, but very pleased, to receive the check for the Four Corners Schoolhouse in appreciation of use of the building for play and chorus rehearsals. As scheduler for FCSHA, I was looking for a way to show my appreciation for this group keeping the schoolhouse classroom and stage in such good order during the many weeks they used it; so I made such a remark at the recent Historical Society meeting and asked that those present carry this message to the actors and singers.

The building belongs to all East Montpelierites, so our Board is glad it was useful to all of you.

EAST MONTPELIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Genealogy will be the topic for the January 17 and February 21 meetings. For more information call Anne Ormsbee 223-5372.



CHURCH BELLS



OLD BRICK CHURCH

Rev. Marcheta Townsend, Pastor

Worship, Sunday School and Child Care

11:00 am

OLD MEETING HOUSE

Rev. David W. Connor and Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge,

Co-Pastors

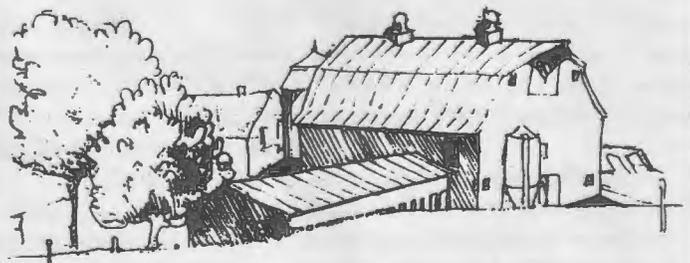
Worship, Sunday School and Child Care

9:30 a.m.

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Rev. Bob Walton

Worship and Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.



Barns — Past and Present

Conrad and Anne Ormsbee have assembled a most interesting exhibit of the barns of East Montpelier. It is in the display case at the Town Office. Photos are identified with dates, the historic name and the present owner. The highlight of the exhibit is a model of a barn; in true Vermont Red! Come and take a look...

"Diversification is the Key" — Paul Shper and Grace Gilbert

by Ken Riportella

For years our family knew it fondly as the Gray store. Now it sports an eye catching fluorescent yellow paint job. Two signs hang outside: one still reads Video Box Office, (VBO), the other Global Gifts. More substantial changes are taking place as the proprietors, Paul Shper and Grace Gilbert, take their personal foray into the American dream of owning one's own business one step further.

For the Shper-Gilberts, diversification is the key. Hedging trends and seizing opportunity come naturally to Paul, a one time stockbroker, who adds to his resume a stint working on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

The couple met when Paul was working the counter at Buch Spieler's and Grace was working next door at the former Appalachian Gap. Theirs was a Langdon Street romance. They married, had a couple of kids, and decided to seek their fortune in the wilds of Florida. It took five years for the heart strings of the Vermont they had come to love to pull them back to their chosen land.

They came back to be country people, settling in Marshfield. Reluctantly, Paul took a position at A. G. Edwards in Burlington. Quickly, the commute and the big city life wore Paul down. Finally, he decided to leave the semi-secure stockbroker life.

Houston Coshatt first opened the VBO in 1986 hoping to keep himself busy following retirement. The business took off and, by 1989, Houston realized it demanded more of his time and energy than he had to give. He turned to Paul to manage the business. It was the right place at the right time for Paul, and in just five short years, he and his wife mustered up the money and the courage to buy the business.

Global Gifts, an import emporium the couple started two years ago, has been slowly making its way into the space reserved for the video rental business. An addition, just started, will include more room for Global Gifts and space for a true-blue Pizza Shop. Joe Cross, the former knock-out pizza king of Plainfield's Maple Valley Country Store, will be renting the parlor space.

Grace's interest and energy as the buyer for Global Gifts is the key to its success. She sees current sales ahead of original projections. To meet her goal of offering her clients interesting products of high quality at a reasonable price, she has studiously developed relationships with international distributors in New York and Montreal.

The couple's three children, all home schoolers, have had the unique opportunity of watching the mechanics of growing the family business first hand, often traveling with Mom and Dad to the trade shows to help in the selection of inventory.

Right around the time Paul started at the VBO, a relative of his was shaking up the national radio airwaves. The self-proclaimed "King of All Media" shock-jock Howard Stern was very close with Paul growing up. Cousin Howie's syndicated radio program is now the number one rated talk radio show in America, reaching an estimated 20 million listeners every week. Paul, on the other hand, is quite content to dole out advice to his hundreds of customers on everything from motion picture reviews to traffic problems on US-2.

Paul is keenly aware of the concerns parents voice about the types of videos their children watch. He states that although there are no rules governing the rental of R-rated videos to children, when he is behind the counter he tries to screen movies that kids rent in accordance with views expressed by their parents. He also states that this in no way replaces the role of the parent in screening what their kids are watching.

It's on traffic issues that Paul becomes most animated. Having to listen to the daily onslaught of screeching tires in the near distance telling the tale of a near miss or a true vehicular collision at the junction of US-2 and VT-14 is bad enough. Paul says the biggest problem for him is the speed at which over half of east bound cars zoom past his establishment. Drivers shoot out of the hole coming out of turn six of East Montpelier's backstretch on their way to the Indy 500. The couple's views on the US-2 controversy are as long as US-2's span from Montpelier to Danville itself. They were there for Plainfield's "Battle of the Bypass" and are happy to chew your ear about future plans for US-2. As US-2 business people themselves, they understand the importance of developing a plan that will best serve the affected communities.

Paul's answer to the East Montpelier US-2/VT-14 junction problem would include a round-about to slow traffic, and considerable effort to make the village pedestrian and bicycle friendly. As chair of TAC (the Transportation Advisory Committee) of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, his views have potential clout. He's been chair for three years, on the committee for five. The committee has a budget and the ability to hire consultants to assist them in the creation of a transportation plan for the region's future development.

The couple recently took title to an expansive Victorian in a section of Montpelier that lives in the shadow of Hubbard Park and where the streets are named for the seasons.

Ken Riportella is a violin maker. He and his wife, Dr. Ruth Crose, live on Chickering Road and have three children.



COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Wednesday	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission	1st & 3rd Thursday	7:00	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wednesday	6:30	U-32 High School
Elementary School Board	1st Thursday	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Monday	7:00	Town Office
Town Clerk's Office Hours	Mon-Thur: 9-5, Friday 9-12		Town Office
Zoning Administrator	Tuesday & Thursday	1-2:30	Town Office
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn.	2nd Wednesday	7:30	Four Corners Schoolhouse
Local Y2K Group	1st & 3rd Wednesday	7:00	Templeton Road Firehouse

Meeting times are subject to change.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Town Office closed	December 23-24 & 30-31		
Historical Society	January 17	7:00 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse
Australian Ballot available for absentee voting	February 16		Town Office
Public showing of the vote tabulating machine	February 16	7:00 pm	Selectboard meeting
The machine can be viewed at the Town Office until March 6.			
Historical Society	February 21	7:00 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse
Town Forum & Australian Ballot information	March 4	9:30 am	EMES
Town Meeting	March 7	9:00 am	EMES
Polls open		7:00 am to 7:00 pm	EMES

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.

Jean Cate, Publisher, 223-2951
Dave/Darlene Grundy, Copy
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