

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume X, No. 5

May/June 2000

FLYING HIGH WITH SAM AND BARBARA

by Sharon Gouveia

Two barking dogs greeted me as I knocked on the door to Sam and Barbara Starr's house. "Oh, that's Teva," Sam said. "She doesn't actually live here, we're just the doggie day care."

Sam and Barbara Starr moved to East Montpelier in 1989 to be closer to their daughter, Loring, and her family, Michael, Sam and Alice Dworkin. They didn't know dog sitting would be part of the deal! The Starrs live in a home on Center Road in East Montpelier, where, as they describe it, they have the best of both worlds. "We live in the country but are only two miles from the State House."

When I asked why they left their home near Philadelphia, PA, Barbara replied that they had grown tired of the pollution, big trucks and the high cost of living. Plus, summers were too hot, and there was not enough snow in the winter.

The Starrs have been far and wide together, marrying 52 years ago after a courtship that included an airplane ride full of loops, spins and twirls. Sam gave up his airplane not long after (Barbara said she liked the flying, but Sam couldn't afford both her and an airplane!), but he's maintained his interest in planes and flying.

He parachuted for 10 years (and 150 jumps). On his first jump, he was attached to a static line, so he did not have to remember to pull the cord. Now, Sam builds and flies model

airplanes. His shop is full of creations, made from plans or kits, which have flown or will fly through the skies near Knapp airport, where he gathers with a group who share the passion.

In 1974 and 1976, the Starrs sailed the seas in the Caribbean with their two children (their son Mike lives in Colorado). In 1976, a slightly more adventurous tour than they had intended limited their sailing from then on to bays, rather than open ocean.

The Starrs enjoy their time at home these days, spending time dog sitting Teva and their own pooch, Zoe, a rescued Greyhound. Barbara enjoys growing food and flowers in her garden and attending the farmers' market in Montpelier to get the early and varied produce she cannot always get in her own garden.

Her one sadness at living away from a city is that she misses the art museums. She recalls a visit that she and Sam took to Washington, DC, at the Smithsonian, when he spent the day in Air and Space and she across the street in the Fine Arts building. Her eye for art is apparent in their home, which has interesting sculpture, wall hangings and furniture (some of which Sam built). She has also changed their home considerably since they moved in, adding windows, taking down walls, and dismantling built-ins. "It was important to us to buy an existing home. We didn't want to move to Vermont and contribute to problems here that we were trying to leave behind in Pennsylvania."

They keep feeders out for the birds and squirrels. Barbara keeps a keen eye out for animals and has regular visits from the deer, turkeys, a fox and even most recently an ermine. They also share a passion for reading, keeping up with and participating in current events, including issues ranging from global to local.

We ended our visit chatting outside their home, discussing the topics of spring, latest strategies for keeping the deer out of the garden, and whether those sonic mole repellents really work. We were reluctant to end a visit that we all had been a bit shy about at the start.

Sharon Gouveia lives on Clark Road in a solar house that she and her husband Jim Grundy built. She works for the Central Vermont Council on Aging.



Top of the Signpost

With the next issue, July/August, the *Signpost* celebrates ten years of service to East Montpelier. Those sixty issues have brought to our readers portraits of ninety-nine local businesses and individuals or couples. We created these not only because they were fun to do but with the hope that they'd strengthen our sense of community. Did it help? Have you read about people you didn't know, then felt a bit more connected to the town? We hope so. That was one of our goals.

Another goal was to inform townspeople about official and unofficial goings-on in East Montpelier. Each issue for ten years has reported what town boards, schools and committees were doing, as well as activities of our churches and organizations. We have carried a few ads, not so much to raise money as to provide a service to local businesses. We hope you support them. Then there's the calendar. We would carry many more dates if readers provided them, but it should be remembered that this whole enterprise is carried on by a team of volunteers so that news-gathering, in the sense that area newspapers do, is not practical. We strive to make our product fit our town, with the workers who are willing to commit so much time to it.

And who are these people? Ten years ago these names were on the first masthead: Jean Cate, Cherie Staples, Janet MacLeod, Becky Reed, Anne Sherman, Sylvia Tosi, Fred Tubbs, and Janice Waterman. Our current masthead lists eleven people, of whom four have worked the entire ten years: Janet, Anne, Sylvia, and Jean. But others have contributed for shorter periods. In addition to the starting and present staff, they are: Mary Stone, Ginger Hopkins, Kevin Wood, Loring Starr, Tricia Thompson, and Susan Larkin. This makes a total of twenty folks who have made the *Signpost* happen.

But there are more. Hard to believe, but when we started we had no clear idea of who would do the writing. So we asked local people if they'd like to interview and write about their neighbors. It worked beyond our best hopes! The eighty six writers listed below have done stories, some of them more than once. We salute them!

Then there are all you people who support us with checks and by donating and bidding at the Signpost Auction on Rally Day. We wouldn't be here without you.

Thanks for a great ten years. Hope we can do another ten!
Jean Cate

Cherie Staples	Fran Weinbaum	Barbara Ploof	Sandie Chaloux	Ann Carr
Sheila D'Amico	Lilli Lenz	Chris Reed	Johanna DeMartino	Richard Forcier
Dorothy Morse	Sylvia Tosi	Mark McEathron	Margaret Richey	Apple Faulkner
Alban Richey	Rosie Cueto	Richard Czaplinski	Austin Cleaves	Janet MacLeod
Edie Miller	Dean Shattuck	Martha Holden	Heidemarie Heiss Holmes	Sarah Kinter
Jean Vissering	Stuart Friedman	Steve Justis	Sue Rigger	Michael Winchester
Fred Tubbs	Emily Neary	Ellen David-Friedman	Claudia Bristow	Elliott Morse
Ruth Coppersmith	Patti Crossman-Babic	Jeff Green	Sue Chickering	Elaine Manghi
Florence Young	Nona Estrin	Paul Bagalio	Andy & Carolyn Shapiro	Conrad Ormsbee
Barbara Dall	Ginny Burley	William &	Steve Sinclair	Anne Ormsbee
Carolyn Shapiro	Barbara Slayton	Beth Carpenter	Marcia Pauly	Glen Goodall
Rachel Senechal	Don Welch	Ann Stanton	Jo Chickering	Ken Riportella
Phyllis Duso	Nancy Thomas	Julie Rochat	Loring Starr	Carol Dickson
Marian Lord	John S. Hall	Weston Cate Jr.	Jamie O'Hare	Janice Waterman
Jay Goyette	Gene Troia	Kevin North	Andy Christiansen	Sharon Gouveia
Mary Senechal	Jini Bragg	Dick Casavant &	Bruce Chapell	Becky Crandell
David Coburn	Doug Kievit-Kylar	Louise Eldred	Mary Anne Cerasoli	David Connor



Correction: Someone noticed! We heard from both Minnie Lane and Jim Hudson that we incorrectly identified the moderator in the 1983 Town Meeting drawing. It is indeed Jim Hudson. Wes Cate was elected at that meeting and served in 1984.

THANK YOU TO THESE LOYAL SUPPORTERS!

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.

The Nist Family	Allen & Maybeth Butler
George & Minnie Lane	Samuel & Barbara Starr
Russell & Jean Landolt	John & Lisa Burbach
Bernard & Marcia Guilmette	Frances Donaghy
Ronald & Geneva Woodward	Marion Codling
Lois McKnight & Joyce George	Donalyn Blake



MILESTONES

Births

>Celine Anne Biron, born January 27, 2000, daughter of Robin Denise & Jeffrey Roy Biron.

Marriages

>Lawrence Edward Reed Jr. to Amanda Sue Grandfield, married February 26, 2000.

>Scott Alan Simpson to Joni Lynn Richards, married March 4, 2000.

>Scott Gould to Wendy W. Perry, married March 18, 2000.

Deaths

>Patricia A. Parks, died February 25, 2000, mother of Thelma Nutbrown.

Land Transfers

>George C. Pedrozo Estate to Donald J. Pedrozo, 5.2 acres & dwelling, Barnes Rd.

>Peter W. & Barbara C. Sykas and F. Niles & Adrienne H. Taylor, to Douglas J. Aja and Janis L. Mattson, 26 acres, Upper North St.

>Bruce W. & Claudia F. Fitch to Martin Edward Smith, 10.1 acres, Doner Rd.

>Fecteau Homes to Martin E. Smith, mobile home, Doner Rd.

>Cleo B. Wolf to Sari K. Wolf, 1.1 acres & dwelling, Lyle Young Rd.

>Walter F. & Elizabeth Holden Carter, to William Brooks Morrison and Jayne Marie Ollin, 4.6 acres & dwelling, Templeton Rd.

>Diana Clark & Edwin A. Clark to Edwin A. Clark, 13.6 acres & dwelling, Horn of the Moon Rd.

>Thomas Robert Osborne & Karen Marie Liebermann to Thomas Robert Osborne & Karen Marie Liebermann, 18.3 acres & dwelling, Kelton Rd.

>Chester J. & Judith V. Cookson to Stephen R. Pinard & Rachel T. Pinard, 2.37 acres and dwelling, Tay-Con Drive.

>Marilyn L. Morey to Marilyn Morey, Sharon Martin & Sidney Nelson, mobile home, Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park.

>Leslie L. Silberberg to Leslie L. Silberberg, Trustee, 49 acres & dwelling, US 2E.

>Russell A. & Alison K. Schuck to Anthony John Quattrone & Amy A. Torchia, 3.35 acres & dwelling, Haggett Rd.

>Carolyn Ursula Jones to Seth William Sherman, 7.17 acres & dwelling, Haggett Rd.

>Philip L. Sparrow & Roger B. Leland, Trustees of Dorothy J. Sparrow Living Trust, to Stephen E. Knowlton & Lindy B. Biggs, 13.9 acres, Sparrow Farm Rd.

>Kevin Bailey and Brian J. Bailey to Layne A. & Cindy L. Gregoire, 2.11 acres and commercial building, US 2.

>C. Alan & Judith A. Syvertson to Gale M. & Denise M. Gregory, 7 acres & dwelling Bliss Rd.



>Dexter R. & Susan L. Merritt to Douglas & Corine E. Nicholson, 8.38 acres, Factory St.

>Ronald W. & Nancy J. Durgin to Matthew C. & Marianne Goodrich, .78 acres & dwelling, North St.

>James R. Boudreault to Bryan R. & Michelle M. Bedell, .32 acres & dwelling, Paul's Square.

>Dexter R. & Susan L. Merritt to David Rogers, 7.48 acres, Factory St.

>Nancy Durgin to Jamie A. Gray, 0.58 acres & dwelling, North St.

>Joanne C. LaPerle to James R. Boudreault, .32 acres & dwelling, quit claim interest, Paul's Square.

>Pike Industries Inc. to Betco Block & Products, Inc., 3.44 acres & commercial building, VT 14S.

>Thomas Rus to Ivan Rus, 20 acres & buildings, VT 14N.

>John & Grace Mekkelsen to John & Grace Mekkelsen Family Limited Partnership, 10.23 acres and building, US 2W.

>Philip L. Sparrow & Roger Leland, Trustees of Dorothy J. Sparrow Living Trust to David & Miriam Klein Hansen, 11.6 acres, Sparrow Farm Rd.

>Todd Fitch, Martha Fitch & Corinne Lawson to Gwynne David Lewis & Gary Ann Lewis, 66 acres, County Rd.

>Philip L. Sparrow and Roger B. Leland, Trustees of Dorothy J. Sparrow Living Trust to Robert T. & Carley Stevens-McLaughlin, 26.7 acres, Sparrow Farm Rd.

Riverbend Country Store

Pizza - Subs - Videos - Gifts - Crafts

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North Montpelier, VT

(802) 454-7101

New Owners—Maurice & Sue Cerutti



THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



SELECTBOARD

*Tim Meehan, Chair,
Edie Miller, Tom Brazier*
January 22, 2000

- >President Mike Bliss and John Audi of the fire department reported on proposed purchase of a rescue truck and replacement of protective gear.
- >Reviewed budget figures.

January 26, 2000

- >Approved proposed 2000 budget.
- >Discussed compost/sludge plant.

February 2, 2000

- >Reviewed and approved letter to Montpelier City Manager, William Fraser.
- >Tabled letter from Bragg Farm/Doug Bragg regarding closing VT 14 bridge in North Montpelier.

February 16, 2000

- >Marlene Betit will send letter to Chris Williams at AOT noting that VT 14 will not be closed in North Montpelier.
- >Discussed letters from Earle Ellingwood and Dwight Kelton regarding wandering cows.

February 22, 2000

- >Met with Representative Peaslee, Ann Kreis (AOT) and Dave Scott (AOT).

March 1, 2000

- >Will post roads for mud season.
- >Accepted draft auditor's report.
- >Discussed air quality monitoring at compost facility. Wants proposal from Montpelier.
- >Marlene Betit updated board members on Attorney Bruce Bjornlund's research regarding wandering livestock. Mr. Kelton is responsible for any damage done by his cows to Mr. Ellingwood's property.

March 6, 2000

- >Met with Montpelier Council members Sheridan and Brock, Mayor Karparis, and

City Manager Bill Fraser. Discussed compost facility.

March 15, 2000

- >Approved hiring Frank Campbell as truck driver to replace Jason Buck.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Carol Welch, Chair
January 20, 2000

- >Discussed possibility of joint meeting with Board of Adjustment.
- >Permit issued for house on Chickering Road to John and Lisa Burbach.
- >Approved reconfiguration of two adjacent lots on US 2 by Peter and Mary Wonson.

February 3, 2000

- >Public hearing on proposed 3-lot subdivision on Elisha Smith Road by Donald and Marjorie Donnelly. Concerns expressed about run-off problem on road. Road is privately owned by Peter Duhamel who deeded right-of-way to adjacent property owners without restrictions or maintenance agreements. Recessed.

February 17, 2000

- >Approved sketch plan of John Baird for one-lot subdivision on North Street.
- >Agreed to ask Donnellys for more information.

March 2, 2000

- >Met with Board of Adjustment.
- >Discussed possibility of changing current setback requirements.

March 16, 2000

- >Approved preliminary and final plat review of one-lot subdivision on North Street. 14.1 acres to be conveyed from John Baird to Douglas Aja and Janis Mattson.
- >Approved preliminary and final plat review of Donald and Marjorie Donnelly for 3.01 acre subdivision and for 1.03 acre subdivision on Elisha Smith Road which will be conveyed to Ronald and Marlene Kirkpatrick to improve their leachfield.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Claudia Bristow, Chair
February 14, 2000

- >Appeal on Banfield permit is denied and decision of Zoning Administrator upheld.
- >Permit variance for Beverly Lavin carport on Coburn Road granted.
- >Granted dimensional variance to Old Meeting House to construct addition to Sunday School building.

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Jan Aldrich, Chair, Lisa Rice, Cheryl Rus,
Anna Saxman, Nancy Thomas*
February 3, 2000

- >Set tuition rate of \$6,439 for full-time student and \$3,219 for half-time student for 2000 - 2001.
- >Suggested joint meetings with the PTNO, especially encouraging them to attend teacher presentations in the fall.

February 17, 2000

- >Discussed format for presentations on Town Meeting Day.

March 9, 2000

- >Welcomed Nancy Thomas on her re-election and new member Anna Saxman.
- >Re-elected Jan Aldrich as Chairperson of the Board and Nancy Thomas as Vice-Chairperson.
- >Approved purchase of four computers out of fund balance for primary classrooms.
- >After school Arts Program with Goddard students will start. Performance in May.
- >Several students in grades 3 - 6 will take part in mentoring program at Norwich. Both programs funded through a Drug Free School and Communities Grant and the Vermont Excellent Schools Program.

U-32 JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL

*Tony Klein, Chair, and Ginny Burley, East
Montpelier members*
January 19, 2000

- >Received Task Force recommendation and authorized creation of a search committee.
- >Reviewed and approved final building plan.
- >Approved nomination of Dava Lambeth as temporary Middle School English teacher.

February 2, 2000

- >Sludge plant update. Want to continue negotiations with City of Montpelier.
- >Set tuition for FY 2001 at \$8,175 per year.
- >Approved resignation of Teresa Kneen.

February 23, 2000

- >Discussed several questions about budget for next fiscal year.



EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

Phone: 223-3313

Email: EastMont@together.net

Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi
Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Pauline Coburn
Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins
Administrative Assistant - Marlene Betit
(W & Th 9-5)
PO Box 157, E. Montpelier, VT 05651
(Office Hours: M-Th 9-5, F 9-12 noon)



WHAT HAPPENED AT THE HEARING?

Many townspeople attended the 502 Public Hearing on February 29, when the Agency of Transportation heard public comments regarding the agency's plans for the intersection of routes VT 14 and US 2 in East Montpelier Village. The entire hearing was recorded by a court reporter, and the Department is presently studying a number of issues which were raised. Their revised plan is expected to go to the Selectboard in May.

After their approval, the construction schedule will depend on legislative funding, though it is expected to be ready for construction by 2004. Frank Pratt

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

East Montpelier was well represented when the Secretary of State's office recently handed out awards for 20 years or more of town service. We are grateful to you all!

Honored from our town were:

- Austin Cleaves - 33 years Rosendo Cueto - 23 years
Earle Ellingwood - 35 years David Grundy - 20 years
John S. Hall - 21 years Irma Hodgeman - 23 years
Bradford Lane - 40 years Minnie Lane - 21 years
Ruth Lane - 30 years Edith Miller - 21 years
Elliott Morse - 24 years Conrad Ormsbee - 32 years
Anne Sherman - 27 years Steven Sinclair - 20 years

KNOWING YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Richard Czaplinski, Town Sewage Officer

As spring opens up and the building season starts, it is well to remember that septic systems, though hidden, need good attention. What do they require? The short answer is to use and maintain your system properly. Or if you are building a new one or replacing the old one, pick the right site, get a good design and make sure it's constructed as planned. Getting the required permit to build or replace a system helps insure that it will give you good service and not pollute our drinking water and streams. For more details on what you should know about your septic system, two information sheets are available in the Town Office. Pick them up there, or call me at 229-4534 for more information.



Town Meeting Results

- >Planning Commission: Elected were Deborah Fillion, Peter Hill and John "Jack" Pauly.
>School Board, 3 years: Anna Saxman was elected over Richard W. Curtis Jr.
>The position of Auditor for 2 years had no one listed. Genevieve Chapell was elected as a write-in candidate.
>All other candidates listed on ballot were elected for their positions.
>Other Articles on Warning were all passed as printed.
>All Australian Ballot Articles were passed as follows:
Art. 5 - Town Budget: 592 yes - 87 no
Art. 6 - Capital Reserve Fund: 507 yes - 150 no
Art. 7 - Purchase of one ton truck: 547 yes - 118 no
Art. 8 - Kellogg-Hubbard Library: 470 yes - 206 no.

Our checklist for the Town carried 1831 registered voters. A total of 727 votes were cast by Australian Ballot, making a participation rate of just under 40%. On the floor at Town Meeting, at total of 178 voter cards were handed out.

The use of the vote counting machine went very well. A representative from LHS Associates was there to assist when needed. It was a great help since the machine had not been used in an actual vote.

School Meeting Results

- >Article 4 - School Budget: Increased from \$1,799,813 to \$1,801,063 to fund the ELF program.
>Article 5 - To hold fund balance in reserve: Approved
>Article 6 - To borrow money in anticipation of taxes: Approved.
>Art. 7 - Voted not to change school budget to Australian ballot.

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EAST MONTPELIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Elliot Morse, President

The following meetings are planned for the coming months. They begin at 7 p.m.:

- >Monday, May 15. Civil War soldiers of East Montpelier. Four Corners Schoolhouse.
- >Monday, June 19. A visit to the East Montpelier Village Cemetery. Will be held at the cemetery.
- >The EMHS will participate in the Vermont History Expo 2000 to be held at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds Saturday and Sunday, June 17 and 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Watch for more details in local papers.



WASHINGTON COUNTY FIELD DAYS

The dates for the Washington County Field Days, the local fair which is held at Parker Field on US 2, will be July 7, 8, 9, 2000. Anne Ormsbee is looking for quilters who would like to exhibit their work. Call 223- 5372 if you are interested.

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE

Rachel Senechal, President

February 9, 2000

>Met with WCSU members about possible use of building for pre-school.

>Village Harmony used building for two days recently.

March 8, 2000

>Septic tank will be pumped this spring and checked.

>Will install lighting at outside ramp, install outlets at the chalkboards and repair an outlet.



CHURCH BELLS



OLD BRICK CHURCH

Rev. Marcheta Townsend, Pastor

Worship, Sunday School and Child Care
10:00 a.m.

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.

East Montpelier's Civil War Hero

William Wallace Noyes

by Elliott Morse

On May 12, 1864, in Spotsylvania, Virginia, the fighting at the Bloody Angle had been so intense that the trenches were filled with the dead and the dying. Towards midday there seemed to be an interlude with only occasional bursts of gunfire. Apparently, as a subterfuge, a confederate soldier raised his rifle with a white flag attached to the barrel. One 19-year old Vermont boy took this to mean surrender and poked his head above the trenches. He was shot dead.



Infuriated beyond control was William Wallace Noyes of East Montpelier, VT. He hopped atop the parapet and fired his rifle into the nearest confederate, only yards away. He then told his comrades to pass up more loaded rifles. He kept firing until he was forced to take cover. It is not known how many of the enemy were hit. For this act of heroism, William was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1891.

William returned to Montpelier, lived to age 64, and was buried in the Cutler Cemetery. Yours truly, a Civil War history enthusiast, discovered William's grave and mentioned it to Maurice Cerutti of the Sons of Union Veterans.

This year, 2000, after much research and paperwork by Maurice, Tom McKenna and Dan Witcher, a bronze plaque has been supplied by the federal government. This plaque was set into a 200 pound piece of granite, courtesy of Dan Witcher and North Barre Granite Co.



On Armed Forces Day, May 20th, at 2 p.m. we will have a grand celebration and unveiling at the cemetery. We hope to have civil war music, the Hemlocks - a re-enactment group, and speakers. Afterward the group will retire to the Morse Farm Sugar Works for beanhole beans and franks furnished by Florence and Elliott Morse. Hope to see you there.

Source: *Above and Beyond, ...*; Boston Publishing Co.

ALICE'S PERENNIALS - GET 'EM WHILE YOU CAN

by Becky Crandell

I recently had the opportunity to spend a morning with Alice Wright of Alice's Perennials in East Montpelier. Originally from Greensboro Bend, Alice has spent much of her life in two far corners of the United States, Vermont and Alaska. She grew up as one of six children on a family farm. Though her father was strict and told her she wasn't allowed to date until she was 18, she accompanied her parents to a dance at Brown's Barn when she was 17. There she met her future husband, Bob Wright, of Marshfield. Not knowing the family rule, Bob came calling, and as Alice said, her dad "kicked him out!" The week Alice turned 18, Bob called her dad and asked permission to see her. They dated through her senior year and married after graduation. During the time they were dating, Bob often talked about moving to Alaska.

When they were first married, they lived in Montpelier. They owned a house where they rented out rooms on East State Street. During the summer of 1967, they finally followed Bob's dream and moved to Alaska for the summer to try it out. Bob worked for the railroad, and Alice waited on tables. Alice reminisced, "It was the most fun ever!" She loved the restaurant work because she got to talk to people from all over the world. She couldn't believe how many folks she met who didn't know where Vermont was! She shook her head and laughed about how the waitresses would all do a dance on stage. They had little cap guns tucked into their garters that they would pull out and shoot off as part of the performance.

When Alice and Bob headed back to Montpelier at the end of that summer, she was pregnant with the first of their four daughters. They lived in Montpelier another five years during which time their second child was born, but Bob never got Alaska out of his system. In 1973 they made the big move as a family to Anchorage. Bob worked as a carpenter, and Alice cared for the family, which grew to include two more daughters. They left



Anchorage for the Kenai Peninsula. She explained, "In Alaska everyone's from somewhere else. Your friends are your family. I had wonderful friends there."

As time went by, the Alaska economy took a downhill turn, and work became scarce. Coupled with the fact that the Wrights wanted their children to know their grandparents, Bob and Alice moved back to, as Alice says, "the lower 48". She paused in telling about leaving Alaska, and shook her head. She looked at me and said with passion, "I miss it!"

Somewhere along the way, Bob and Alice had purchased their current lot from the Braggs. When they moved back to Vermont, they set up a mobile home there, and Bob continued working as a carpenter. The last carpentry job he did was to design and build the Bragg Farm Sugar House. He now drives the whey truck for Cabot Creamery and is building a house for them in his "spare" time!

Alice worked for Flower City on US 2 until they closed. About six years ago, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She says that opening her own perennial business at her home on VT 14 was her therapy. She poured herself into her love of plants and sharing them with people as she recovered from cancer. Her business thrived and her outlook on life was good. Several years went by and she began to feel her health slide. The doctors couldn't figure out what was wrong. On the fifth anniversary of being breast cancer free, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. It was a terrible blow. One of her doctors gave her a bleak outlook. She asked her other doctor what he thought her chances were. He replied, "You beat breast cancer. If anyone can beat ovarian cancer, Alice, you can." She took those words with her as she set out for Hanover for in-depth cancer therapy. She responded well to the treatment program. She says her own positive outlook has been crucial. She also credits her success with her health to the wonderfully supportive doctor she had in Hanover. She said the doctor never once referred to statistics, or chances for not surviving. Alice added that her good friend Joyce Copping has been a great support. She gave Alice the book *Love, Medicine, and Miracles*, by Bernie Siegel, which confirmed her own theory that "you can beat anything if you have a good attitude". Alice added that her gardens have always said to her, "Get out there, get working, get over it! Get over yourself!" So, once she was able, it was back to the garden for Alice!

The story is not over though. Alice has recently decided this will be her last year in business as Alice's Perennials. The dawn to dusk work of keeping a nursery running is beginning to catch up with her. She works part time for Emslie the Florist in Montpelier and has been asked to increase her hours. So, enjoy Alice's Perennials on VT 14 for one more season. After that, look for her at Emslie's in Montpelier. At the close of our talk, she said to me, "People who like nature and flowers are a different breed of people. They're nice people!" I agree.

Becky Crandell teaches preschool in East Montpelier. She and her husband Chris and their son and daughter live on Powder Horn Glen Road, where she minds some pretty impressive perennials of her own.

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

Meeting times are subject to change.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Green Up Day	May 6	All day	All over town
East Montpelier Historical Society	May 15	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse
Dedication of Noyes Memorial	May 20	2:00 p.m.	Cutler Cemetery, County Rd.
U-32 Graduation	June 15	6:30 p.m.	U-32
Vermont History Expo 2000	June 17 & 18	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Tunbridge Fairgrounds
East Montpelier Historical Society	June 19	7:00 p.m.	East Village Cemetery
EMES Graduation	June 19	6:30	EMES
Washington County Field Days	July 7-9		Parker Field, US 2

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
Dawn Anderson, Mailing, 229-0606
Dave/Darlene Grundy, Copy Editors, 476-4300

David Coburn, Layout/Design, 223-6886
Margaret Richey, News Editor, 454-7862
Brett Coburn, Photographer, 223-6886
Janice Waterman, Features, 223-5826

Anne Sherman, Business Mgr., 223-2693
Sylvia Tosi, Town Records, 223-3313
Janet MacLeod, Artist, 223-2296

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