



# Vienna Voices

December 1993

Volume 2.

Winter Issue

Number 4.

## Letters to the Editor...

25 Forest Circle  
Winchester, MA

To the Editor,

I've enjoyed your articles on the Calico Kid, although I must say that at times I've had my doubts. After all, it is the sort of coverage that's more likely to be seen in the supermarket check-out line! However, this past summer I had the great pleasure of staying in Vienna for two weeks in August.

During that time an event transpired that removed any doubt from my mind as to the existence of the Calico Kid and his famous polkadot pony. One morning on my way to Farmington, I spotted a man on horseback trotting through the fields. I nearly passed him by when, to my surprise, I recognized the distinctive markings of the famous horse.

I quickly turned into the parking area in front of the town house and waited until the pair approached. The rider (a handsome gentleman decked out in some sort of period attire) was kind enough to let me take a picture, of which I enclose a copy.

Clearly, the Calico Kid is alive and well!

Yours sincerely,

Nassim Fotouhi

(See photograph on next page)

## DAM REPORT

by Frank Fiore

In case you missed it earlier, the Mill Pond Dam in Vienna Village is in need of repairs. The dam is structurally sound but has become rather porous, and it is temporarily patched with coarse gravel and rock.

The dam repair project involves excavating the fill from the upstream side of the dam, resurfacing the dam wall, and repairing the spillway, gate and cap. During this construction, a temporary cofferdam will have to be constructed to divert the water away from the area of the dam being worked on. This will help minimize the amount of sediment washing downstream while the work is underway.

The repair project is limited by the available funding. Thus far, the Vienna Historical Society has set aside \$5,000 for the project. Another \$15,246 has been made available by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Additional funds are being sought.

In October, FEMA extended its grant for an additional nine months (until July) to allow the dam repair to be performed late this coming spring. The project had originally been slated to happen late last summer, but it was postponed to better coordinate the timing of the repair with the fish spawning run in Mill Stream.

A good deal of work remains to be done before the project's construction can begin. If you are interested in getting involved in this project, give me a call at 293-2677.



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## VIENNA VOICES CELEBRATES SECOND BIRTHDAY

With this issue, *Vienna Voices* celebrates its second birthday. To all subscribers, donors, advertisers and skeptics (since healthy skepticism is a powerful incentive for accomplishment)—"Thank you."

In order to assist our faithful readers to renew their subscriptions in a timely manner, your mailing label—beginning with this issue—will indicate the last issue you are legitimately entitled to receive. Although we may be able to occasionally send expired subscribers (that's subscribers whose subscription have expired) one more issue while we wait for your check (undoubtedly already "in the mail"), the *Vienna Voices* Publishing Company, Inc. is strictly a cash-and-carry operation, so run—don't walk—to the nearest mailbox with your renewal request if your subscription has expired.

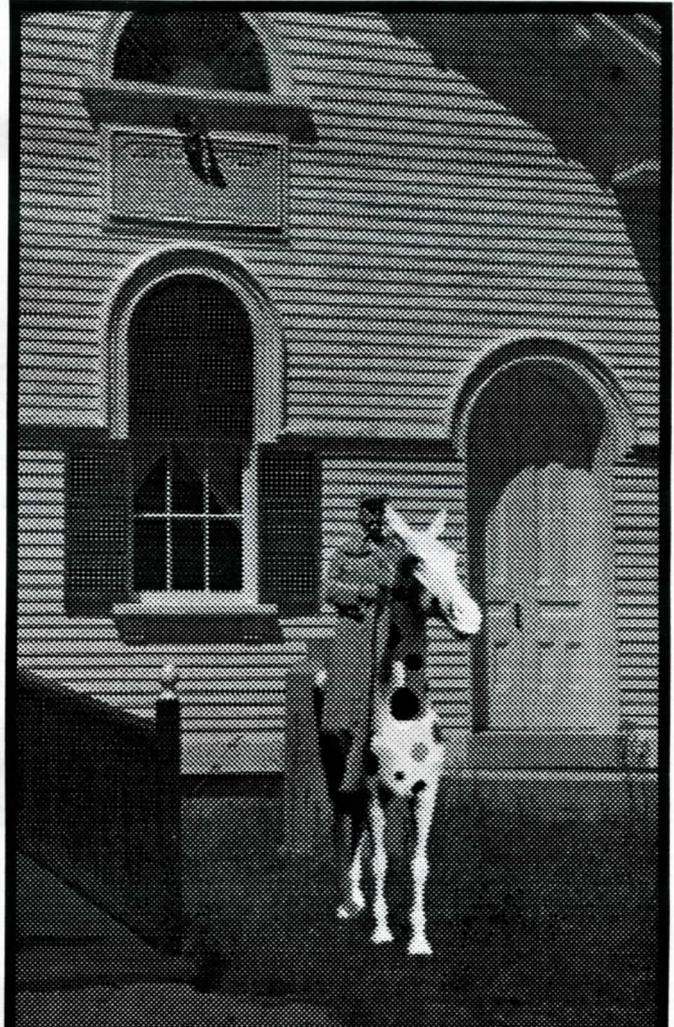
During the past two months, since the last issue, our publisher suffered a computer calamity that erased the subscribers' data base. We have reconstructed our mailing list to the best of our ability, but if we have your address wrong, or if you meet other Viennese lamenting the fact that their issue hasn't arrived, please notify us so we can correct the error.

Remember: Subscriptions are \$2.50 a year (four issues) with publication planned for March, June, September, and December. Contributions of material (written or artistic) are always welcomed—if you have anything you'd like to say to your friends and neighbors, this might be a good way to get it off your chest. Ideas for features or articles are also helpful, though we'd rather you write them. Advertising rates are \$10.00 for 2x3.5", \$15.00 for 3x5" and \$25 for 4x7.5" in a single issue.

**Let us hear from you!**

### CORRECTION

In the front page story in the last issue—about the "Vienna Town Park Project"—we neglected to credit Frank Berry (and B&S Enterprises) for the construction of the Parking Area and Scenic Overlook. Our thanks—and apologies—to Frank.



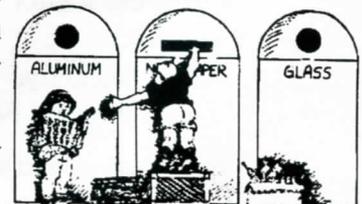
**Calico Kid and Polkadot  
Pay Summer Visit to Vienna**

### RECYCLING COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Ann Gibbs

The Merry Dumpsters (a.k.a. the Recycling Committee) met 1st week and decided that we needed feedback concerning recycling in Vienna. With that in mind, we will be sending out a short survey to residents in early January, to find out what you think of the recycling program. Are you satisfied with it, or do you think it should be changed?

You can either mail the survey back or complete it and bring it to to a Community Recycling Meeting, to be held at the Town Hall on **Wednesday, January 26th, at 7:00 p.m.** Watch for the survey—see you on the 26th.



# IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN

by Jo-Ann Pillsbury

Our annual Vienna Town Meeting and Elections will be held on March 5, 1994. Elections will be from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on that day, at the Town House.

At 2:00 p.m., we will reconvene at the Cape Cod Hill School to continue with the articles of the Town Meeting. We have scheduled the gym until 6:30 p.m.

Nomination papers for Town Offices will be available on December 20th, 40 days prior to the filing deadline of January 29th. An additional grace period until Monday, January 31st will be given, as the 29th lands on a Saturday.

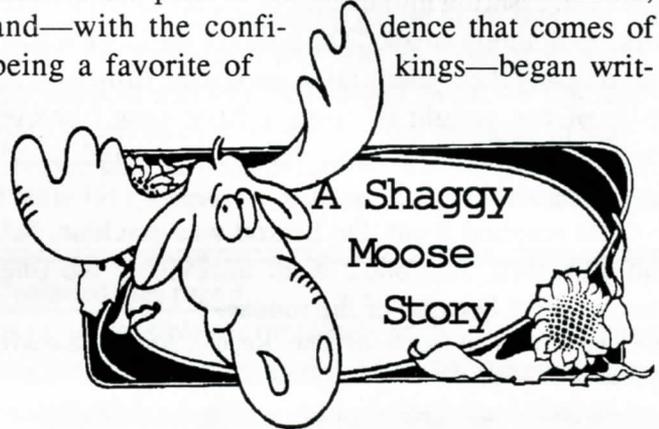
In towns with a population of 201 to 500—in which category Vienna falls—no less than 10 nor more than 25 signatures are required on nomination papers.

(Editor's note: Though the '90 census reported the population of Vienna to be 417, Town officers believe the true number to be in excess of 500, based on tax records and similar documentation.)



During the early days of our republic, George Louis Leclerc de Buffon was royal botanist and zoologist in the courts of French kings Louis XV and XVI. Though known throughout the professional world of his time, he was a sometimes slipshod scientist.

At the wishes of his royal masters, de Buffon stocked the park at Versailles with wild animals, and—with the confidence that comes of being a favorite of kings—began writ-



ing a natural history of the world.

In it, de Buffon expressed his opinion that native animals of the New World were smaller than those of Europe, that there were fewer species in the New World than in Europe, and that domestic species degenerated upon crossing the Atlantic.

Enter Thomas Jefferson. On top of his hill at Monticello, Jefferson read these opinions with outrage. In his *Notes on the State of Virginia*, Jefferson went to great lengths to rebut his rival. He compiled tables of the number and weights of North American and European species, in an attempt to prove that New World representatives were bigger, more varied, best! He purchased the largest mountain lion skin he could find, and sent it to de Buffon.

In 1784, Jefferson was appointed minister to France. Before leaving America, he asked John Sullivan, then governor of New Hampshire, to capture a moose—the biggest that could be found—prepare it for stuffing and ship it to Paris.

The Governor's agent "sallied forth with his forces" into the snowy wilderness of Vermont, where he killed "with difficulty" a moose. It took two weeks to remove the animal from the forest, a task that required building a 20-mile road to the nearest settlement.

By the time the moose reached Governor Sullivan, it was already in a state of putrefaction. The governor set about having the moose cleaned and prepared for shipping, a job (as he wrote to Jefferson) "such as was never before attempted." The moose's antlers were apparently unimpressive, so Sullivan sent along those of a deer, an elk and a caribou for good measure. "They are not the horns of this moose," he wrote, adding—with a certain lack of scientific scruples—"but they may be fixed on at pleasure."

Sullivan's bill for the job arrived in Paris before the moose. Jefferson had expected that an animal could be obtained from some hunter for a pound or two, to which might be added a few pounds for shipment. To his astonishment and dismay, Sullivan's carefully itemized invoice amounted to 46 pounds sterling. This

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

would be about \$4,000-\$5,000 today, a pricey put-down for de Buffon.

At last, the moose itself appeared in Paris, in an appalling state of decay. A good part of the hair had fallen out in transit. The carcass probably smelled to high heaven. Jefferson nevertheless sent it on to de Buffon, along with the horns of the elk, deer and caribou, assuring him that all of the specimens were disappointingly small. "The horns of the Deer which accompany these spoils (*sic*), are not the fifth or sixth part of the weight of some I have seen," wrote Jefferson in his cover letter, no doubt with red-faced embarrassment.

He toughed it out. De Buffon was gracious, but unimpressed. His book went unrevised. No one knows what became of the moose.

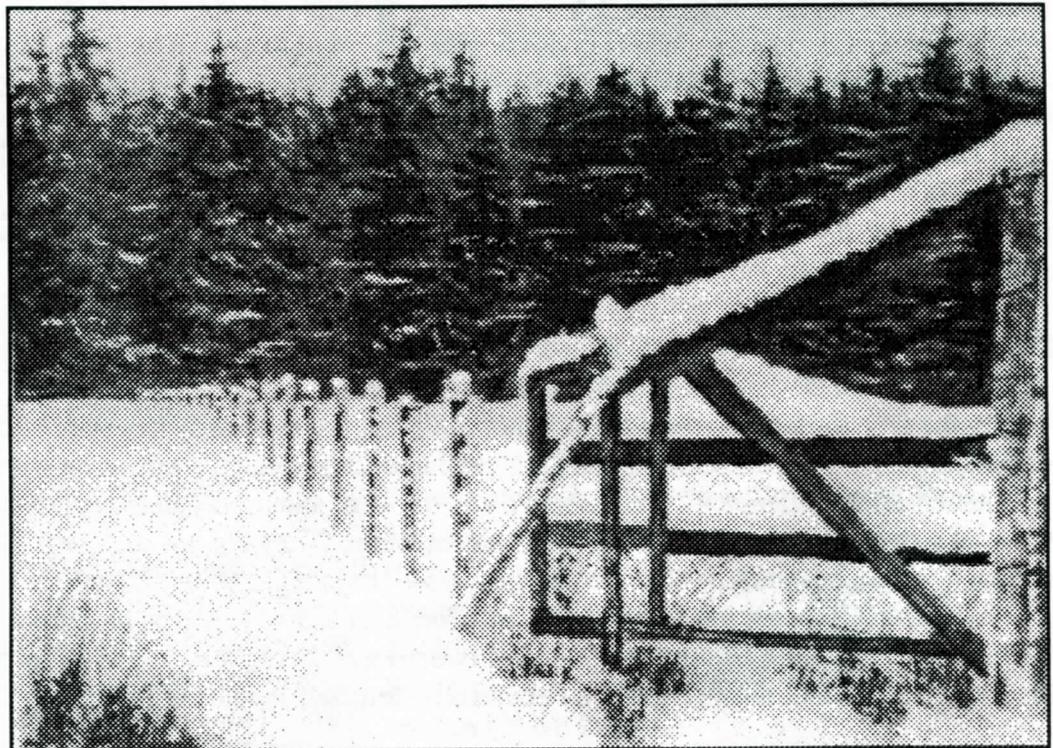
(Adapted from an article by Chet Raymo, *Boston Sunday Globe*, 11/28/93)

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**Norman Waite's  
Decorated Field  
Fence(1989)**

by Dee Herbrandson  
of Vienna, Maine and  
Latham, New York  
(A photocopy of a laser  
printout of a scan of a  
xerox copy of a photo-  
graph of a water color  
painting!)



(4)

## *Yours in good health....*

by Diane Vandal, Health Officer

In the October issue of the *Better Living Center Newsletter* there was an excellent article entitled "Hot Tips for the Cold Season," by Agatha M. Thrash, M.D. Some of these remedies may remind you of your grandmother or great-grandmother, while others sound more New Age. I've tried them and they work! Here are some excerpts.

- **WATER** - Upon feeling the first symptom of discomfort, begin drinking lots of water. Take one glassful every 10 minutes for one hour. This simple measure dilutes the fluid bathing the cells of your respiratory tract, making it less possible for a virus to infect your cells. The water can also expand your blood volume, bringing more blood to a greater number of capillaries in the nose and throat. Also, think water rather than cough syrup. Take a large drink of water every time you cough. Drink six to eight glasses daily.

- **DEEP BREATHING** (This is my favorite) - The treatment of a cold or flu should begin within 15 minutes of the very first symptom. Take a deep breath to the fullest extent of your ability, then slowly exhale over 10-20 seconds, pushing out the breath

Continued on page 5

## SOME VIENNESE HISTORY

Nathaniel Whitter, born at Salisbury, MA, in 1743, married Elizabeth Prescott, two years his junior, at Brentwood, NH. The Whittiers and Prescotts came to Maine and settled in what is now East Readfield, near the Jesse Lee Memorial Church. Whittier and his brother-in-law, Jedediah Prescott, Jr., purchased from the Commonwealth in Massachusetts, in 1782, a tract of land approximately six miles north-and-south and three miles east-and-west, bounded by New Sharon to the north, the "Plymouth Line" on the east, Fayette to the south and by McGurdy Stream and Little Norridge Stream to the west.

Prescott was a surveyor; he and Whittier and another brother-in-law, Captain Osgood, surveyed their new tract into lots, and after setting apart "ministerial lots" they offered the rest to settlers, at around ten cents an acre.

Early purchasers, in 1786 and 1787, found the nearest settlement to be at Bishop's Mill and Hopkin's Tannery at the outlet of Minnehonk Lake, a mile below the present Mt. Vernon village. During this period, and for several years after, there were no roads in town, people finding their way by blazed trees. First settlers had to travel to Winthrop for milling flour—no easy task. Much wheat was ground in hand coffee mills!

In 1800, thirty-five residents petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts for permission to incorporate what had until then been known as Wyman Plantation, or occasionally as Goshen. The petitioners claimed the plantation contained "sixty ratable polls" or eligible voters, some of whom opposed the petition. The name of Vienna was chosen by Daniel Morrill, and Jedediah Prescott was authorized to call the first Town Meeting. The incorporation became effective on February 20, 1882, and Vienna became the 132nd town in the Province of Maine.

Vienna's territory was enlarged by territory taken from Rome and Mt. Vernon in 1814 and 1833, but it also lost territory to Fayette and Chesterfield during the same general period. The "center of town" and post office identification was a source of competition between North Vienna and Vienna from the early 1800s; in 1854 the present village area obtained the identification of "Vienna" for its post office, in part

because of the location of a number of mills along the present Mill Stream.

A grist mill, a fulling mill, a carding mill, a saw mill, a shingle mill, a bark mill, and a barrel stave mill were among those that came and went from 1800 to 1930. Lime burning, brick-making, construction of wagons and sleighs and blacksmithing were among Vienna's early industries.

In 1850, the population of the town was 871. In 1900, the population was 406. In 1950, it was 231. By 1990, it had climbed to 417. What do you suppose it will be by our bicentennial birthday in 2002? (Adapted from the sesquicentennial *History of Vienna, Maine: 1782 to 1952*, by Irving R. Bradley, H. Warren Foss and Clyde C. Waugh)

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Continued from page 4

as far as possible to completely empty the lungs; then begin the cycle over again. After 40-50 breaths, the tissues of nose, throat and chest that are being attacked by viruses will be refreshed: new blood will have been brought in by the exercise and toxic materials and viruses washed away.

- **HEAT** - Instead of nose drops, use hot compresses to the face, or hold an ordinary desk lamp to the face, about two to four inches away. The heat opens up the congested nasal passages like magic. Another treatment is to soak the feet for 20-30 minutes in water as hot as can be tolerated. Got to bed for 30 minutes to allow the reaction to occur.

- **MASSAGE** - While you are deep breathing, massage your head, back of the neck and front of the neck. This will increase the blood supply bringing the attacking white blood cells and other proteins to the area. (It will also feel wonderful as endorphins rush to trigger the healing process.)

- **HOT BATHS** - Alternating hot and cold baths will stimulate the white blood cells in the blood stream. At the first sign, sit in a hot tub for 15-20 minutes, followed by a 30 second cold shower and a brisk rubdown with a coarse towel. Keep a cold washcloth on the forehead to keep the head cool for the latter part of the bath. Lie in bed for 30 minutes to allow the treatment to "react." This can keep you going until you're well, if done daily.

Have a happy and healthy Holiday and New Year...and do the deep breathing regularly—you'll love the vibrant feeling.

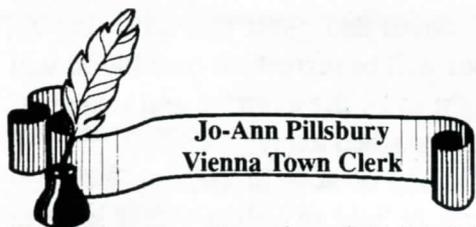


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Jo-Ann Pillsbury  
Vienna Town Clerk

### *...from the Vienna Record Keeper*

Hello again, friends and neighbors! There are two notices I would like to make in this publication that are noteworthy.

First, the 1994 Hunting and Fishing Licenses are in and on sale.

The prices are: **Hunting**-\$17.00+\$1.00, **Fishing**-\$17.00+\$1.00, **Combination**-\$32.00+\$1.00

**Junior Hunting**-\$5.00+\$1.00, **Small Game Hunting**-\$10.00+\$1.00, **Bear Hunt**-\$5.00+\$1.00

**Serviceman's Combination**-\$20.00+\$1.00, **Supersport Combination**-\$42.00+\$1.00

Second, the 1994 Dog Licensing has begun. The State has requested that all dogs age six months or older be licensed by January 1st, with a grace period until January 31st. After that date there will be an additional \$3.00 fee. **This is a change!** We will be unable to offer a rabies clinic with on-the-spot licensing as we did last spring, but I will try to arrange one in November '94 when new licenses for 1995 will be required. So please check your rabies slips and get your dogs licensed before January 31st.

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### *Vienna Voices*

P.O. Box 35

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