

Vienna Fall 1994



Voices

SUMMER SWIM FOR SPOTTED PONY!

A late summer swimmer in Vienna was startled over the Labor Day weekend to see a strange, spotted beast in the north-west part of Flying

Pond.

Mr. T. Harris Abercrombie, a summer resident from Brentwood, New Jersey, at first thought he was seeing "Flying Pond Flossie", a reputed denizen of the deeps similar to "Champ" of Lake Champlain and the older "Loch Ness Monster" of Scotland.

Closer examination—and a pair of binoculars—enabled Mr. Abercrombie to positively identify the creature as the famous Spotted Pony that has also been sighted beside the Vienna Grange Hall and carrying a rider in front of the Town House.

"I watched him for ten or fifteen minutes", Abercrombie told this reporter, "and then he went around behind an island and I never saw him again. I have no idea where he entered the pond, or how and where he left it."

Vienna's First Selectperson, Sharon Shelley, has asked all residents to be on the lookout for the Spotted Pony. "He obviously enjoys visiting our community," Shelley said in a prepared statement, "and we want to make sure that he feels welcome and isn't frightened if and when he returns. Perhaps we could persuade him to take part in next year's Memorial Day parade."

Anyone seeing or hearing of the Spotted Pony is urged to contact Animal Control Officer Justin Meter at any hour of the day or night.



THE DAM SHOP! %?*@69÷

Ma-tha: "Henry, let's go down to where the Vienna Post Office used to be and check out that new store!"

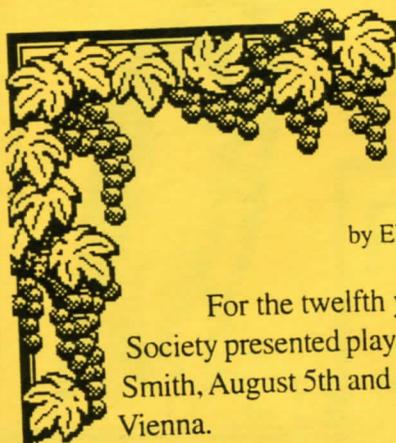
Henry: "What are you talking about, Ma-tha? The Post Office always was, and always will be, down in the village."

Ma-tha: "Well, it's still down in the village, but a brand new one was built across the street. Why—it's got running water and enough Post Office boxes so's that we can have two, if'n we want!"

Henry: "Then what damn shop are you talking about?"

Ma-tha: "Debbie Byrnes and Libby Harville are putting in a consignment shop where the Post Office used to be....in front of the dam! It's going to have lots of home made gifts, made mostly by folks here in Vienna,

Continued on page 3



VIENNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Ellen Miller

For the twelfth year, the Vienna Historical Society presented plays written by Beverly Wight Smith, August 5th and 6th in both Mt. Vernon and Vienna.

This year's plays were entitled *Burtie's Pen-Pal*, *A Lady Friend for Lyman*, and *Aunt Fan and the Fortune Teller*.

The combined casts included (in alphabetical order): Pam Bean, Judy Dunn, Valmore Dunn, Lew Flewelling, Ruth Flewelling, Jim Gajarski, Marie Gajarski, Burton Gilman, Matt Hollingsworth, Kim Murch, Mike Pike, Kathy Sharpe, Beverly Smith, Donald Smith and Arline Waite.

This was Judy Dunn's first year as Director and both she, and Stage Manager Pam Bean, also took acting roles. Jill Sampson ran the lights and Robin Miller designed the poster.

As always, the plays echoed life in an earlier part of the century. The author's ability to combine odd bits of history with Maine country humor produces performances that audiences enjoy every summer. In turn, money earned by the talented players is used for other Historical Society projects.

One such project in which the Society is very interested is the Mill Pond Dam reconstruction, now in progress. The Society has pledged \$5,000 to this effort, as the preservation of an historic site. A grist mill was built and the original dam laid around 1800.

MILL STREAM DAM UPDATE

by Jim Gajarski

After many hours of search and research, consultation with engineers, various government agencies and many others, the long-awaited repair of the Mill Stream Dam is about to be completed. The untiring efforts of Frank Fiore to bring this project to fruition is immensely appreciated by this board of selectmen.

H.B. Callahan Construction Co. was contracted to do the cement work and has been on schedule, doing a super job with many extras thrown in. Meader Construction has donated all time and mileage spent by its president, Lenny, and will be donating all time and equipment for the installation of a fire hydrant at the dam site.

We will soon have a "100 year dam", improved fire defense and greater protection of the Flying Pond ecosystem. Kudos to all involved in this worthwhile project.

VIENNA FIRE DEPARTMENT ABLAZE WITH NEWS!

by Phil Pillsbury, Assistant Chief

On behalf of the Vienna Fire Department, I would like to say "Hello" and hope that this will be the first of many articles in *Vienna Voices*.

The Department would like to thank everyone who helped us with our chicken barbecue. Your generosity and support truly made it a big success.

Wood-burning time will soon be upon us and the Department will be cleaning chimneys again this fall. If you wish to have your chimney cleaned, just sign up at the Vienna Post Office, at the stores in Mt. Vernon, or call any member of the Department and we will do the rest.

As a safety reminder, I would ask everyone who burns wood to check their chimney's clean-out door for creosote buildup before starting a fire.

Other events coming in November will be our Hunters' Supper at the Vienna Grange and our Hunters' Raffle. The winning ticket will be drawn at the station on our regular meeting night, the second Thursday in November. First prize is a Browning 30.06 rifle, second is a Microwave oven, and five ice-fishing traps are the third prize.

There's always plenty of hot coffee, goodies to eat and door prizes for adults and children. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Department is also seeking individuals interested in starting an auxiliary. We need new ideas and are open to suggestions. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact any Department member or call me at 293-2334.

UNION HALL NEWS

by Marty Gross

This year we have not held many functions at the Union Hall; most of our energy has been directed towards completing the current stage of renovations.

I am pleased to report that the generous donation from the Vienna Historical Society will make it possible for us to insulate the ceiling. This means that in the near future the inside of the Hall will be insulated, sheetrocked and painted!

I want to once again thank all the volunteers whose hard work has made this project possible.

We are having our annual Halloween Party once again, and will welcome any and all help and participation. A new feature of this year's party will be an exhibition of Giant Pumpkins, courtesy of the Bad Ass Pumpkin Grower's Association (BAPGA).

The next meeting of the Friends of the Union Hall will be the first Wednesday in October, at 7:30 P.M. in the Hall

plus other stuff, like Jim Morris' Environmental Shirts - they're beautiful and would make great Christmas gifts."

Henry: "Now Ma-tha, why would I want to go look at all that ladies' stuff? You know I don't like shoppin'."

Ma-tha: "Well, Henry, you might find some new hand-tied fishing flies—and besides, while I look around you can sit and have a cup of coffee and piece of homemade cheesecake or pie."

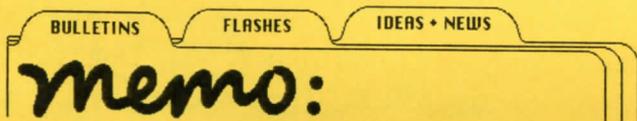
Henry: "Well now, since you put it that way, let's go!"

CHECK OUT THE DAM SHOP, OPENING (HOPEFULLY) ON OCTOBER 8TH.

Call Debbie at 293-2706 or Libby at 293-2362 for information or to sell your arts or crafts!

HIGHLIGHTS OF SELECTMEN'S MEETINGS

by Debbie Byrnes



The street lights in the village will be shining more brightly soon. Central Maine Power, at no cost to the Town, is going to replace the present bulbs with brighter, more efficient ones. An added benefit is that the monthly electric bill will be lower.

With funds raised by members and volunteer labor, the Fire Department will install a dry hydrant at the dam. This new source of water will be of great benefit to the town.

The Selectmen plan to commit the 1994 taxes to the tax collector by the third week of September.

The wellhouse at the Town spring will be cleaned, and the water tested this Fall.

At the Summer Town Meeting, held on September 1st: The Town voted to close parts of the Kimball Pond and Vienna Mountain Roads for winter maintenance. The term of the School Board Director was changed to begin on July 1st, and the real estate tax collector will be paid a percentage of taxes collected instead of a salary for the 1995 tax year.

Several of the Town street signs were vandalized this August, resulting in a cost of \$209.00 to the Town plus several hours spent by the Selectmen finding and gathering up the torn-down signs and posts. Such disregard for public property not only is monetarily costly but also causes a hazard. The absence of signs in an emergency could delay the arrival of needed help.

GROWTH

from Merrymeeting Song and Poem Service

Pulsing crickets; days grow shorter;
Sun is southward of July.

Are we half-full or half-empty?
Autumn kindles, summer dies.

Grasses' tassels ring the tocsin;
swirl of swallows echoes. Time
is the stream and we the ripples:
are we circles? are we lines?

Child I used to change has daughters.
Hair once sun-streaked, striped with grey.
Shall I mend or toss the pieces
Broken, lost in younger days?

Rainbow's end? or just another
baked-bean, brown-bread winter night?
Flower catalogs arrive in
mailbox almost lost in white.

Still the channel buoy keeps flashing
green, but what it means depends:
which way, long or short, we're heading:
outward bound? or journey's end?

Pulsing crickets; days grow shorter.
Peepers later change the tune.
Are we half-full or half-empty?
Ask the waxing, waning moon.

(Submitted by a reader)

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GIARDIA -

What It's All About

by Diane Vandal, Health Officer

(Giardia— Not to scale)



With more hikers hitting the woods trails far from home and civilization, the prospect of getting ill from contaminated water is very likely and highly undesirable. Everyone is talking about giardia. What is it and how can you prevent getting infected?

Giardia is a large protozoa in the microscopic world of micro-organisms. It is dangerous to humans in the cyst stage, at 5-15 microns. It is a hard-shelled, single cell parasite found in lakes, rivers and streams in most areas. It is not found everywhere, and may be in its trophozoite stage which is not harmful, but it is never worth the chance. The source is primarily from human contamination but beaver, moose and domestic animals (cows, goats, etc.) are also a source.

The symptoms can be vague or specific. Onset of diarrhea or nausea and vomiting can occur immediately or over two to three weeks after ingestion. Symptoms can be mild—general weakness and fatigue—to severe, including weight loss and debilitating abdominal cramping.

Some people can be asymptomatic and be carriers of the condition. If you have been with a group of hikers and everyone is sick except you, chances are you are a carrier. The best advice is to be tested, and treated if necessary. You could pass it on or eventually be affected yourself.

If you have any doubts, check with your doctor. A variety of treatments is available—some as simple as one dosage—depending on test results. Fortunately, a large proportion of victims will cure themselves over time. No matter how severe or long lasting the symptoms, the illness is self-limiting.

While giardia is getting much of the publicity, the other water-borne micro-organisms are still around: bacteria, which are smaller but generally less debilitating; viruses, which are very small and can be deadly; and, of course, chemical pollutants from pesticides and industrial wastes. It is best not to try any water that smells or is discolored.

Prevention against water-borne infections comes in three forms: boiling, chemical (iodine) tablets or water filters.

Boiling is very effective. A rapid 5-10 minute boil will make water safe for drinking. The downside is the

requirement for sufficient fuel and time, both of which may be a problem for backpackers. If you're camping in one spot, however, this is the best approach.

Iodine tablets have been a standby preventive measure for many years. They are effective against giardia and other micro-organisms. Some people are put off by the taste and time required; the colder the water the longer it takes to dissolve the tablet and make it effective. Read the directions carefully regarding temperature and time. If you're tired and thirsty, it may be hard to be patient enough for iodine tablets, but the convenience of the size and weight of the tablets can't be beat.

Go into any camping or backpack store and the variety and price of water filters will amaze you. There are at least 37 types that I know of, and probably more. Prices can range between \$30.00 and \$250.00. Why the span? Features range from short and long periods of time required to pump the water through the filter, increased effectiveness with iodine washes, and better resulting taste from the addition of charcoal as the last stage of filtration.

The advice given me by an experienced Himalayan trekker I spoke to in North Conway was, "Don't buy any filter for less than \$50.00." There is a great deal of education required around the use of filters, so do your homework before you buy.

Water filters are considered the best treatment for your water on the basis of convenience, portability and taste. Taking into consideration all aspects of the other preventive methods, they can all be effective. When hiking in the wilderness relying on just one method can be foolhardy, so be prepared to use all three, depending on circumstances. (I have information on water filters if any one is interested.)

Keep happy and healthy and enjoy the fall colors..



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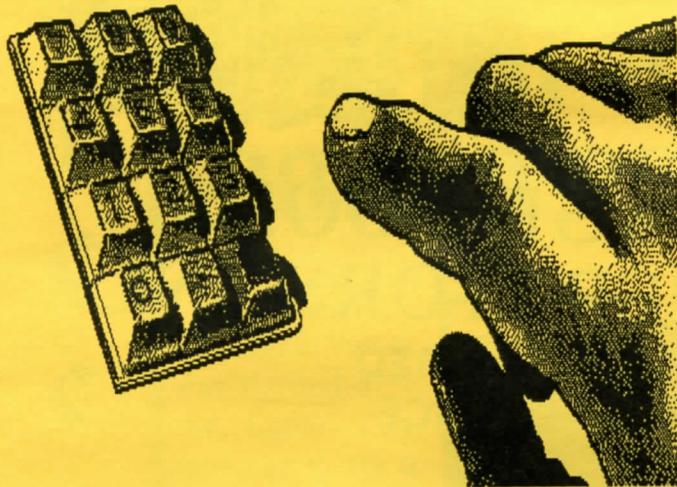
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"WHAT NUMBER ARE YOU CALLING, PLEASE?"

by Donna Williams



The towns of Mt. Vernon, Rome, Fayette and Chesterville have phones with the 293 exchange of the Community Service Telephone Company. All four towns also have other telephone exchanges serviced by other telephone companies.

The town of Vienna has only one exchange—the 293 exchange. This exchange has NO "Basic-Service Calling Area" outside of the 293 exchange. The Public Utilities Commission recently passed a ruling that will soon affect rates, services and calling areas state-wide. One of the purposes of the ruling was to enable and require small telephone companies and towns to expand their Basic-Service areas.

We understand that the Community Service Telephone Company has reported to the Public Utilities Commission that fewer than 50% of those people within the 293 exchange call either Farmington or Augusta at least four times each month. If this is true, it means that the CSTC will not be required to offer us a larger Basic Service Calling Area. A questionnaire will be included in Vienna tax bills, asking for information on your calling practices and preferences. Please fill this out as completely and quickly as you can, and return it as directed.

A newly-formed **Citizens' Telephone Committee** representing all five towns needs your input and direction. **VOICE YOUR OPINION NOW RATHER THAN COMPLAINING LATER.** Adolescent and adult committee members are needed from the five towns to follow the upcoming changes and keep the five towns informed through monthly meetings. We need to take an active role in forming our future telecommunications system. Richard Dearborn (293-2288) is a member of the Advisory Board of the Community Service Telephone Company (CSTC) and will serve as our liaison between the Citizen's Committee and the CSTC. **The next meeting of the Citizen's Telephone Committee will be at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 27th.**

School Budget Changes Possible

by Dan McGillvray

Residents in SAD 9 towns will decide November 8th whether to vote for school budgets in local polling booths. That method would replace the traditional "town meeting-style" votes scheduled each June at Mt. Blue High School in Farmington.

The SAD 9 board of directors on September 12th accepted a petition that seeks this change, signed by over 700 registered voters in the nine district towns. Petition organizer Rosemary Poulson of Chesterville said 81 Vienna residents supported the initiative with their signatures.

If a majority of voters in SAD 9 towns this November want a private voting process, the 1995-96 school budget will be decided that way beginning next June. Doing so will mean extra expenses for the towns, since ballot clerks must be hired for that day.

Poulson says that many district residents have been intimidated by teachers and other school officials at past budget meetings, and are hesitant to speak from the floor against new spending proposals.

"We had over 700 at this year's budget meeting, but we were overwhelmed by the education community," she added. Many in Chesterville, where Poulson sits on the board of selectmen, were against increasing expenses.

The budget adopted last June 13th calls for spending \$14.65 million through next June 30. Although that outlay is up little more than one percent from last year, assessments to some member towns increased significantly. District towns are paying higher assessments because SAD 9 has lost about \$530,000 in state aid over the past two years.

Vienna's contribution jumped by 15%, from \$197,721 to \$226,776. On April 1st, there were 95 Vienna students in the New Sharon and Farmington schools.

Superintendent Michael Cormier acknowledges there is some discontent among district voters over their towns' increased contributions. But he said the 1994-95 school budget was approved by a 2-1 margin. "Rosemary Poulson's initiative is because she was unsuccessful

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Vienna Voices

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Continued from page 5

ful at getting the budget reduced," said Cormier. SAD 9 directors took no position on the petition drive.

If the district goes to private referendum votes in each town, there also will be added costs for the school department, since ballots must be printed. And Cormier says a change will lead to earlier reviews of budget proposals by directors.

Under the proposed new format, residents can still comment on proposals during directors' meetings and at any public hearings. But there is no way to amend spending articles once a voter checks off the ballot in private.

"It's either a yes or now," said Cormier.

If a majority of voters in SAD 9 towns were to reject the budget, the spending package would go back to the directors for revisions. They would then schedule another vote in each town or could call for a return to public voting at the high school, said Cormier.

Poulson explained the petition process to Vienna selectmen at a Monday morning clerical work session. In past years, similar discussions occurred at regular Tuesday night meetings.

Vienna Voices

P.O. Box 35

Vienna, Maine 04360