

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



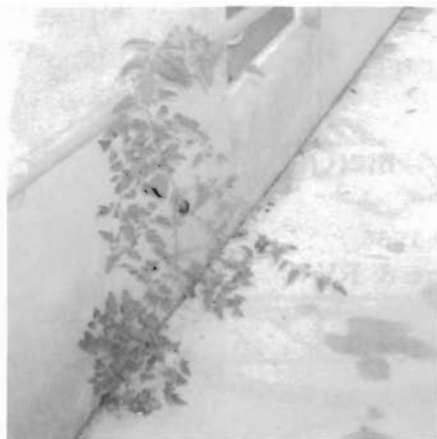
HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND BEST WISHES



Preston's Municipal Garden

Watered by Jerry Luty
Supported by Ron Robbins

During this summer's addition to Preston's famous referendum series, you may have noticed a healthy tomato plant growing beside the access ramp to town hall's lower level. Our Resident State Police Troopers had nurtured the seedling to fruition with occasional watering and a bit of string. Secured to the handrail, out of harms way, the plant survived heavy traffic as Preston's electors passed by to cast their ballots. And indeed there appeared a ripe, red tomato --- proving once again that with a little TLC, it's possible to flourish just about anywhere.



Board of Selectmen Year in Review

by 1st Selectman Robert Congdon

Since taking office on November 21, 1995 the current Board of Selectmen has had a very challenging and busy year. Tom, Gerry and I have worked well together. We would like to share some of the issues and projects that the Board of Selectmen have faced during year.

One of the most important issues facing Preston is the disposition of the Norwich State Hospital. Early last December the Board of Selectmen met with the Office of Policy and Management (the state department responsible for the closing and disposition of the hospital) to discuss potential impacts on Preston. We were told at that meeting that local input was not going to be solicited and that the Hospital was going to be sold to the highest bidder. The Board of Selectmen has worked to ensure that Preston has a say in this process. With the help of many town and area residents our voices are being heard. Public hearings have been held and an oversight committee has met several times with OPM. We must all continue

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO PAM (Parmelia) ROGERS!!! She will be 90 years old on November 28th, 1996- Thanksgiving Day!!! Best Wishes and many more birthdays Pam!!!

Happy Birthday to : Nicole Anderson who was 4 years old on Oct. 31st

Happy Birthday Kristie Anderson who was 2 years old on Oct. 8th.

Happy Birthday to Barbara Olsson, Dec. 16th

Happy Birthday to: Giles Crouch, Dec. 21st

Happy Birthday to David McShane

Happy Birthday to: Brittany Harris who will be 9 years old on Dec. 24th

Happy Birthday to: Parke Spicer- Dec. 2th

Happy Birthday to: Raymond Roberts-Dec. 25th

Happy Birthday to Carol Harris-Dec.30th

Call or send us Birthdays, Anniversaries etc. Its FREE! Tel. 887-0272 or 889-2482



Henry is about 8 mths old. He is a Rottweiler-pit Bull mix. Very lovable and good with other animals. For information call Preston Animal Control 887-8091.

to insist that this very important piece of property is used for the good of the residents of Preston and our region.

Communications and relations with both the Mashantucket and Mohegan Tribes have improved this year. The Board of Selectmen has met several times with both Tribes to discuss issues such as the Norwich State Hospital, traffic, public safety, and construction projects. We feel that both Tribes will have a significant impact on the town of Preston. While we may not agree on all issues, we must develop lines of communication so that our concerns are heard. We have found that both Tribes are aware of the impact they are having on our town and that they are willing to work with us.

One of the highlights this year has been the relationship the Town has developed with our adopted crew from the USS Shippingport. This group of young men and women have helped with many projects during the past year including the Preston City Fair, Parks and Recreation Halloween Party, Green Field brush removal, roadside litter removal, and helping to serve lunch at our senior center. Please make an effort to introduce yourself to these individuals and make them feel welcome and appreciated for their generous efforts.

There will continue to be extreme pressure on Preston to deal with the economic growth that surrounds us. For the first time, joint meetings of the Board of Selectmen, Planning and Zoning Commission and the Economic Development Committee have been held on a regular basis. These meetings have proven to be very helpful and productive in our efforts to plan for the future. A committee has been appointed to interview and recommend a Town Planner. We have received many resumes and are now ready to begin the review and selection process.

Some operational and functional challenges and developments of this past year include: The removal of record setting amounts of snow from our roads; the vote of all general government employees to reject unionization;

resurfacing of 81/2 miles of town roads; the purchase and implementation of improved townwide accounting software; contracting for the purchase of heating oil at a price of 57.5 cents per gallon; applying for and receiving approximately \$17,000 in Federal Emergency snow removal funds; in spite of the extraordinary winter and aggressive roadwork, operating expenses came in under budget and we were able to return \$160,000 to the general fund.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work for and with you this past year.

Memorial Garden

by Nancy Mignault

Bill and Florence Prue work daily on a memorial garden behind St. Catherine of Siena Church, created in memory of their son, Michael, who passed away last February. Family members agreed that a garden would be a perfect memorial for Michael, as he spent many years mowing


the church lawns and working with his Mom and Dad on the beautiful flowers surrounding the church. Stop by St. Catherine's, located on Route 164 and see the fruits of their labor. This is a true labor of love in memory of their son, Michael - you can see it in their eyes and hear it in their voices when speaking of this special memorial garden.




Pictured above, Florence and Bill Prue


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Dear Editor:

NORWICH YOUTH SOCCER DISTRICT CHAMPS INCLUDE PRESTON YOUTHS

While reading THE DAY newspaper November 11, I came upon an article that described how the Preston Board of Selectmen had approved \$20,000 to the Preston City Firehouse for the installation of a ventilation system for the garage portion of the firehouse. This new system as described in the paper, is to vent the exhaust fumes of the fire apparatus while they are running in the garage. This is, as I'm going to assume, as they drive out the open bay doors of the firehouse. Now don't get me wrong, I think what the volunteers do is great, but 20 grand for a ventilation system for a garage.

In a time when the electoral of the town has told our children we can't afford new computers for the school, or no you can't open that window in the classroom on that hot May afternoon because there are no screens, or sorry its cold in here, the boiler should be fixed soon, or please don't flush the toilets we are currently out of water. Don't you think this money could be a bit more wisely spent? We ask our kids to think and use their heads - perhaps its our turn.

Brad Clark, Preston

The Norwich Youth Soccer Club Boys' U-14 Division B Team were the District champions and America's Cup winners this Fall. The team is a member of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association Inc., which is affiliated with the United States Youth Soccer (U-14). The team includes boys from Norwich as well as Preston. Sponsors are Prue, Lavigne and Bacharach P.C., Chelsea Groton Savings Bank, and parents. If you would like to be a sponsor, please call 886-1656 or 886-4401.



The coaches in the picture are Paul Read and Doug Hughes.

Standing from left to right;

Back Row: David Houseman, Doug Hughes, Greg Brown, Matt Heinz, Matt Sawyer, Brian Racicot, Darren Favello, Carlo Frese

Middle Row: Kieran Shippee, Bob Nelson, John Wirth, Chris Wisniewski, Timmy Hassell, Alex Schnip, Matt Aubin

Front Row: John Ladyga, Bucky Siragusa



Begin the Christmas Season with
the

**PRESTON
COMMUNITY
CHORUS**

As they Present their annual
Christmas Show
at Three Rivers Community College
Mohegan Campus

Dec. 6th at 7:30 P.M.
Dec. 7th at 4:00 P.M. and 7:30 P.M.
Dec. 8th at 4:00 P.M.

For Tickets call: 887-6452
\$10.00 Adults-
\$6.00 Seniors and Children

PRESTON PARKS AND RECREATION

389 Route 2 Town Offices Preston, CT 06365-8830

Telephone - 889-2482

BODYSCULPTING

AEROBICS

Tuesdays and Thursdays
January 7 - April 1
(not 2/18)
Preston Plains Cafeteria
7:00 to 8:15 PM
Beginners or experienced
weighted low impact aerobics.
Fee: \$35.00 per person

SENSIBLY SIMPLE GENTLE AEROBICS

Mondays and Wednesdays
January 6 - March 5
(not 1/20 or 2/17)
Preston Plains Cafeteria
7:00 to 8:15 PM
Hampered by arthritis, bursitis,
weak or injured back or knees?
Overweight due to inactivity?
Try this moderate level program,
modified for individual conditions.
Fee: \$30.00 per person

UP & OVER

Wednesdays, January 8 - February 26
3:00 to 4:00 PM
Poquetanuck School Cafeteria
Introductory level gymnastics
with an emphasis on fun!
Fee: \$25.00 per child
Eight week session

SOLUTIONS THEATER

with Carol Glynn Productions
Thursdays, January 13 - March 13
3:30 to 5:30 PM
Preston Plains School
Skits addressing contemporary teen
issues will be developed and performed
by students in grades 6 thru 12
during this nine week session.
Tentative Performance Date - 3/20
Fee: \$10.00 per student

YOUTH BASKETBALL MEETING

Monday, December 9
Preston Public Library
7:00 PM
Parents interested in continuing
Preston's youth basketball program
are invited to attend this meeting.
Volunteers are needed to staff the
league at all levels.

WINTER CRAFTS

Thursdays, December 5, 12 & 19
A variety of mediums will be used to
create gifts and decorative items.
Snack and materials included.
Fee: \$12.00 per child
POQUETANUCK SCHOOL
with Sue ~~Theve~~
3:00 to 4:00 PM
Poquetanuck School Cafeteria
PRESTON CITY SCHOOL
with Gail Rigney
3:15 to 4:15 PM
Preston City School Cafeteria

SOCCER CLINICS

Wednesdays, January 8 - February 26
6:00 - 7:00 PM
Preston Plains Gymnasium
Grades K and 1
Shin guards and gym shoes required.
For more information on this
FREE eight week program
call Peter (887-7158)
or Brian (886-8326)

TUMBLING TOTS

Tuesdays, November 26-January 14
(no class 12/24 or 12/31)
9:30 AM to 10:15 PM
Public Library Meeting Room
Tumbling fun for pre-schoolers.
Fee: \$15 per child

PRESTON COMMUNITY PARK FUNDRAISERS

CRAFT SHOW AND SALE

Saturday, December 7, 1996
10 AM until 3 PM
Preston Plains School
FREE ADMISSION
Santa will be on hand to greet shoppers
at this home-town holiday sale.
Refreshments available.
For information call Kelly (887-6030)

NORWICH NEPTUNES BASKETBALL

Fundraiser for Preston Community Park
Saturday, February 1, 1997
Game Time 3:00 PM
at the Thames Campus of
Three Rivers Community College
Bring the family & enjoy an
exciting afternoon of ABA basketball.
Tickets - \$8.00 per person
Call Kelly 887-6030

SPRING CAR SHOW & SWAP MEET

Memorial Day Weekend
Sunday, May 25, 1997
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Preston Plains School
General Admission: \$3.50 per person
(under 12 years old = free admission)
Enter your classic or antique auto
in the show for only \$10.00

CAN DRIVE

We are collecting returnable bottles &
cans at the Landfill on Ross Road.
Fridays & Saturdays 8AM - 4:30PM
Remember - every nickel helps.

PRESTON PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ AGE _____
(Minors Only)

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMERGENCY PHONE/CONTACT _____

PROGRAM _____ FEE ENCLOSED _____

MAIL REGISTRATION TO: PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION, 389 ROUTE 2 TOWN OFFICES, PRESTON, CT 06365-8830

Board of Education

by Nancy Bartlett

One of the most important duties of the Board of Education, albeit one of the least exciting, is the development of Board policies. The Board of Education's policies are the governing plans and guidelines for the implementation of our school's programs. They define our principles and offer direction to the staff, Board, parents and students.

Policy revision/development is an on-going process as the needs of students and staff change and as state and federal requirements are implemented. Each year one of the Board's goals is to review and revise existing policies and add new ones as necessary. The Board tries to be proactive rather than reactive in formulating policy. We are not always successful. However, when we can anticipate an issue or problem and a policy is already in place to give direction and guidance, our job becomes much easier.

Many of you are familiar with some of the policies dealing with students as they are covered in each school's handbook. However, gone are the days of simply addressing issues of truancy, tardiness and homework. In recent years Preston has had to deal with "big city" issues such as sexual harassment and discrimination, child abuse, drug abuse and suicide prevention. We now have policies to address all of these issues when and if the need arises. In trying to address issues and concerns of the School Building Committee, we have recently formulated a policy on school facility planning to establish a master plan to keep buildings maintained and up-to-date and a policy for school faculty retirement. Did you know we have a policy dealing with telecommunications and the Internet? We need to encourage our students to feel comfortable using the technology we have available but we need to be ready to address some of the issues and problems that can arise when "surfing the Net". We also have policies to handle more of the mundane issues -- student confidentiality, use of school facilities and equipment, volunteers, and family and medical leave for our employees.

Included in our policy making chores, we must also write and revise job descriptions for all of our certified and non-certified staff. These descriptions are used when hiring new employees and in our evaluation of existing staff.

This year the Board has set as our policy goal, writing some new student related policies dealing with the areas of retention, attendance, middle school athletic eligibility, behavior expectations, dress codes, summer reading requirements, awards, graduation ceremonies, police in the schools and staffing assignments. In order for a policy to be revised or adopted, it must be presented to the Board at two regular meetings and discussed and revised in public session. It can then be passed, rejected or tabled for further discussion. It is a time consuming process.

If you have any questions concerning any of our existing policies or if you would like to see our policy making in action, please come to a Board meeting. We meet the second Monday of every month at 7:30 p. m. in the library at Preston Plains School. Or give us a call, we're all in the phone book.

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Preston, CT 06365

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Preston Trading Post

Issue 5

Gazette

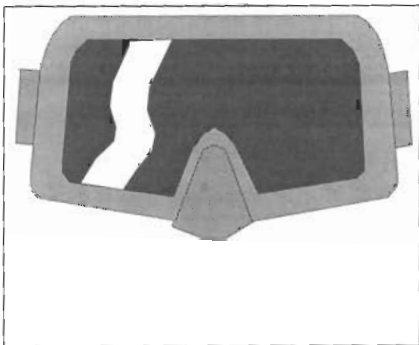
November, 1996

New Faces at PTP...

It's a pleasure to welcome four new employees to our staff. Delivery, warehouse, and shop services will share two of the new people. One new recruit has been added to the stove floor and one has been added to front office. Welcome - Mike, Mike, Geri and Craig!

A PTP Ski Team?

When Shannon Rodgers began work at PTP, one skill set he brought along was his experience as a ski instructor, (Snowy Range - near Laramie, WY) and certified Salomon Ski technician. Joe Biber, PTP pres., is a former Grumman Ski Club and ASRA racer and was NASTAR ranked in the top ten in Connecticut by age class. ('93 & '94). Now, Craig Ryans brings National Ski



Patrol skills to the party. Is there a corporate team in the making?

One lump or two?...

Making a big comeback on the home heating scene, is coal. We began carrying coal a few years ago as a service to our customers. It has grown in sales for a host of reasons. Certainly, rising fuel and gas prices are giving solid fuel heating a big boost. Anthracite coal has

risen above the pollution claims usually associated with bituminous coal (power plant stuff), and proven it is a clean, American, source of energy. Much credit is due to Jack Stauffenberg of Blaschak Coal Company. He has almost singlehandedly championed the merits of anthracite coal during a period when other concepts were gaining in popularity. Now some of these other concepts have hit rougher times and coal is on the rise. Thanks, Jack!

What happens when we run out of wood?

Strangely, we hear this comment often enough, that it bears some reflection. While it is

natural to see developed land replace woodland and wonder, 'what if', the truth is, there is far more woodland in the Northeast than there was at the turn of the century. The gradual declines of crop planting, building wooden ships, and fueling industry and most home heating, has left New England forests with a budget surplus.

One number relating to this overgrowth is in the vicinity of 4 to 8 quadrillion BTUs of energy in excess growth each year. An old saw says, "there aren't enough strong backs in all of New England to cut that much wood". There are better things to worry about.

Computer desks on a roll...

With all the home computers now out there, one might ask if there are attractive desks, fit for the home, that are specifically made for PCs. The answer, is yes. The best of them have specially designed features to hold diskettes, CDs, keyboards, mousepads, and more. Come on in and see!



PIPELINE PROFILE

Each month, the Pipeline will profile a special resident of Preston. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Harriet Rosiene

Phyllis Crary



Preston City Fair August 17, 1996. Presentation of the Charles K. Crary Halter for Senior Showmanship. Katie Gileau, Phyllis Crary, Lynwood Crary

Born in Norwich nearly 75 years ago, Phyllis Crary lived on 10th Street near Boswell Avenue. She remembers Greenville as a friendly community where everyone knew each other. Going to school meant classes of 40 - 45 children, with teachers who had many duties in addition to teaching, but there were few problems. In those days, Phyllis recalls, children were taught to respect their elders, and discipline was stricter. For instance, children dreaded being sent to the assistant principal, "Kate" Coughlin, who administrated justice with a ruler across open hands. The school playground had different sections for girls and boys, there were no organized sports, and the girls enjoyed playing jump rope, dodge ball, and marbles.

After graduation from NFA, Phyllis worked for Camp Insurance, for the founder, Walter Camp. Soon she married Charles K. Crary and moved to Preston in October, 1943. They began building a house, but supplies were so scarce during the war that the young couple lived with Charles's parents until February, 1944, when they moved into their unfinished home across the road.

Unable to buy a furnace, appliances, and other necessities, Phyllis cooked on a two burner hot plate, which was her only source of hot water. An ice box required a daily supply of ice; the only running water came through inferior plastic faucets which usually worked only with the assistance of a screwdriver.

Phyllis assisted her husband on the dairy and plant farm, undaunted by the hard work. Because she was a child of the Depression, she was happy that life on the farm could supply them with milk, vegetables to store, can, and freeze, and meat. Her generation was used to "doing without" and making do with what they had. For instance, when her first child Priscilla was born, Phyllis had to heat the water to wash diapers on that hot plate! And she recalls fondly the compassion of her father-in-law who extended credit to families with no means to pay for the milk the children needed. We wondered together if today's generation would be able to cope in a similar situation.

Today Phyllis speaks with pride of her 4 grown children. Charles Kenyon, Jr. (Kenny) lives in Ashford but is in charge of sales and marketing at SPAFAS here in Preston. Nancy and her husband live in Griswold, and many of us remember when she taught our little ones here. Lydia has built her own home nearby, and is Human Resource Director at SPAFAS. Lynwood, the youngest was just married, has meticulously restored an old house next door, and will earn his Ph.D. this year. He still does the haying on the farm, although the dairy farm is run by others.

Phyllis has always been active in the town, attending Grange meetings twice a month when she was younger, and assuming the duties of treasurer and bookkeeper of the New London County Soil and Water Conservation District. She is a valued member of the Preston City Congregational Church, where she has served as organist, Sunday School teacher, financial secretary, and member of the finance committee and the Ladies' Evening Circle. For the Circle's fair, and her own pleasure, Phyllis knits sweaters and mittens, hooks rugs, makes quilts, and lately is known for painting windows.

On a serious note, Phyllis expresses concern about today's families. It is difficult to pinpoint the cause, - the adverse influence of TV, - the financial problems which force young mothers to work outside the home, - but the breakdown of the family is evident to everyone. "Each generation is brought up under the influence of the previous generation," she says, "and what is this generation teaching its children?"

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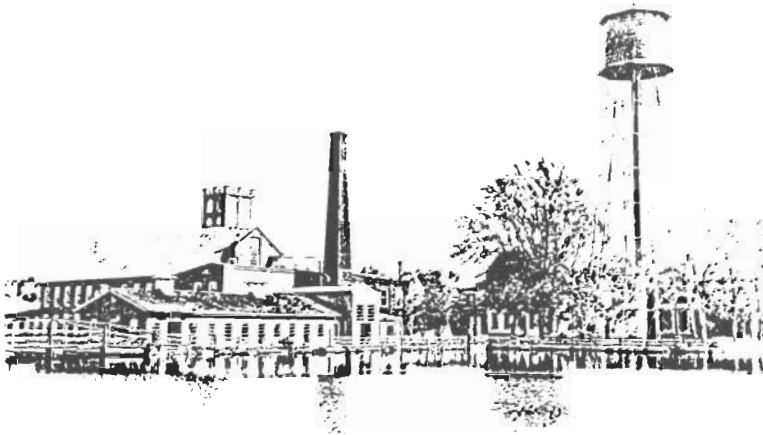
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Hallville Mill Historic District

Last month, we pictured several properties in Poquetanuck Village, which was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This month we focus on the Hallville section of Preston, which joined Poquetanuck and Preston City on the National Register.

What is the significance of Hallville? According to the registration form filed with the US. Department of the Interior by Richard Youngken, "The Hallville Mill Historic District is significant as an intact representative small-scale 19th century manufacturing village containing a high concentration of contributing buildings and structures built as components of a company town based initially upon the Rhode Island system of manufacturing. During the period of significance, the Hallville Mill became one of the Town of Preston's major employers and source of local tax revenue. It represents the shift in the town's economy to industrial production during the period of significance."

The history of Hallville and the mill is well documented in the PHS files at the Preston Public Library. The PHS collection includes photographs of the mill, its workers, diagrams of early property ownership, newspaper articles, and other information about the mill and the mill village. As Youngken notes, "Manufacturing activity has been undertaken at the site from before the Revolution when Robert Kennedy bought the property on Indiantown Brook and erected a fulling mill in 1752." Owners of historic properties in this area, or, for that matter, anywhere else in Preston, should be aware that detailed histories of these properties are in the PHS files, and are always available to the public through our helpful library staff. Youngken's reports are also in the library's collection. The PHS encourages Prestonites to look up the history of their neighborhoods!



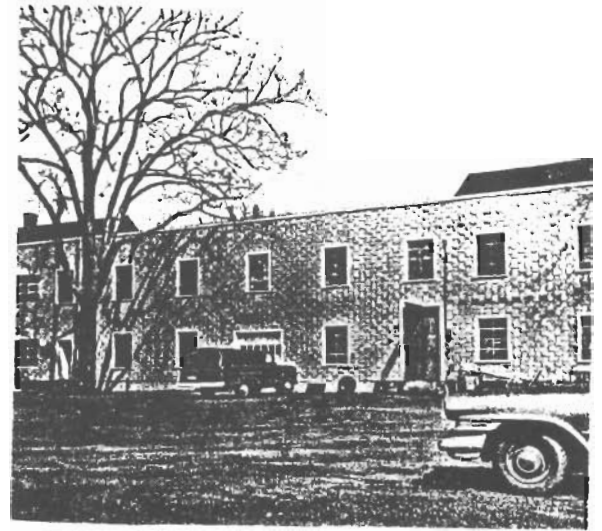
Hallville Mill c. 1910

Note 2 houses in background



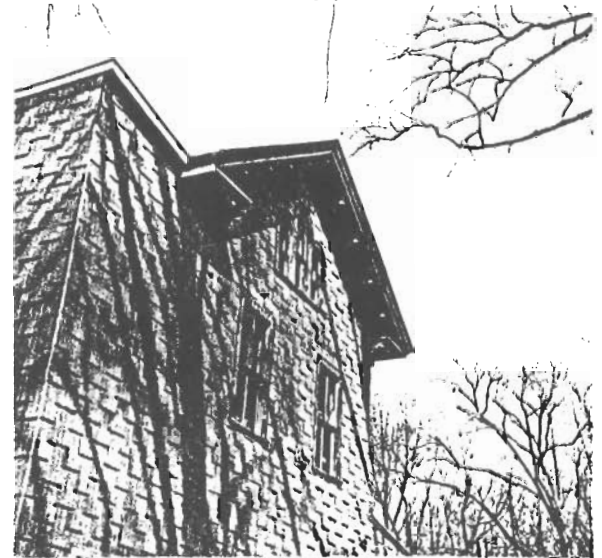
**Preserving The
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April 1964

J. Piela covered the entire front with asbestos siding, made a new entrance and a picture window.



April 1964

South gable end of the south house.

(Photos and notes by M. Hall)

News from the Preston Historical Society

At our annual meeting held on October 20, plans for upcoming activities were discussed.

Three programs are planned for after the first of the year, continuing a successful series. Subjects for this year's evening programs are music, spirituality, and history, -details will be in upcoming issues of the Pipeline.

The teachers' Tea will be held in an historic Preston residence in the spring, and a yard sale to benefit the PHS is also scheduled for June.

The annual May Day celebration will be held May 3 at Downer Doane Park.

The December meeting will take the form of a pot luck supper to be hosted by Martha Briggs on Sunday, December 8, at 5 p.m.

PRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

389 Route 2, Preston, CT 06365
(860) 886-1010

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

- * Infant Story/Play Time
10:30AM, Tues., Dec. 3, 10, 17
- * Library Board Meeting
7:30PM, Tues., Dec. 3
- * Evening Teddy Bear Storytime
6:30PM, Wed., Dec. 18
- * Children's Dance & Movement
4:15PM, Wed., Dec. 11
- * Open House - Refreshments
Thurs., Dec. 12 & Fri., Dec. 13
- * Call for information! 886-1010

A TREAT for ALL is what will be found at the Library on Thursday evening, December 12, at our monthly Open House.

Join us for stories of the winter season, at our **Teddy Bear Storytime**, Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30PM. All children are invited

This month's **Children's Dance** will feature

the "Jingle Bell Rock." Please join us at 4:15PM, Wednesday, December 11. Registration is not required.

LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY - SATURDAY
MORNINGS 9AM - 1PM
MONDAY - THURSDAY
EVENINGS 4PM - 8PM

Cancellations and delays will be announced on WICH radio, 1310AM.

NOTES from the LIBRARY BOARD

The Board wishes to introduce its slate of officers for the upcoming year:

President - Jane Hoddinott
Vice President - Jane Leibert
Secretary - Marilyn Herbert
Treasurer - David Hoddinott

The next Library Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 3, 1996, at 7:30PM in the Library meeting room. The public is welcome to attend.

TODDLER and INFANT

STORYTIMES will resume after the

holidays! See you in 1997!

THANKS to very generous patrons, we have many new-to-us videos! Twister, Jumanji, The Nutty Professor, and Toy Story have also be added to our collection. Keep us in mind during those long, cold days and nights!

And while you are here looking for a good movie, why not check out an interesting book or two. Some of the Staffs' recommendations for this month include:

Sue Grafton	"M" is for Malice"
Mary Higgins Clark	"My Gal Sunday"
Ken Follett	"The 3rd Twin"
Olivia Goldsmith	"Marrying Mom"
Maevie Binchy	"This Year Will Be Different"
Ed Rollins	"Bare Knuckles and Back Rooms"
Carl Bernstein	"His Holiness: John Paul II"
Bob Greene & Oprah Winfrey	"Make the Connection"

Janet Wallach	"Desert Queen"
Robert H. Bork	"Slouching Towards Gomorrah"

and for the kids:

Marcia Brown	"Shadows"
R.L. Stine	"Stay Away from the Treehouse"
John Scieszka	"Knights of the Kitchen Table"



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LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

by Wanda M. Anderson



As we ready ourselves to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, one of the most anticipated events is the arrival of holiday guests that we have not seen for some time. The guest list includes family, old friends and, particularly, those traveling from afar. For bird watchers and nature lovers, the Thanksgiving guest list includes some of our feathered friends who show up about that time every year or so. Probably the most spectacularly beautiful bird on the list is the Snowy Owl.

A large, beautiful and impressive bird of prey, the Snowy Owl spends most of its life on the treeless tundra of the Arctic north. Hatched in a ground nest not much higher than the surrounding terrain, the Snowy Owl

grows from 21 - 24 inches in height with a wingspan approaching five feet across.

Each year some of them, mostly immature birds, migrate southward to escape the depth of the Arctic winter and find more plentiful prey. Their usual diet is made up of lemmings, snow-hares and other small-to-medium sized rodent inhabitants of the tundra. They migrate into our area in search of a more plentiful food supply including mice rats and other small rodents. Their travel is also an indication of severe arctic weather conditions as well. Some people see an early migration as a possible predictor of a more cold and harsh winter to follow. This year the Snowy Owls have been since early November on Cape Cod and in neighboring Rhode Island. At least two have already been spotted in Preston. We have been privileged to see both of these magnificent birds, one near Foxwoods and the other found in Ledyard and brought to us for assistance.

The Snowy Owl rarely roosts in trees (remember his home range is essentially treeless) but perches on higher patches of ground, to bask in the sun or better, to locate possible prey.

They hunt in daylight as well as at night. Usually low flyers, they are at risk from those unrecognized predators that people know as automobiles and from the occasional, misguided humans who cannot resist the temptation to shoot at such a large, stand-out bird flying low and within range.

As migratory birds of prey, all owls including the Snowy Owl, are protected by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Thus, intentional harm to or illegal possession of these birds can lead to rather substantial penalties. Besides, it is much better to enjoy these beautiful birds in the wild where they belong. Our first sighting of one near Foxwoods was exciting and caused us to wonder what gambling instinct caused him to brave the traffic and congestion of that area. A nearly all white immature male, he leisurely avoided our attempt to approach him and flew onto a neighboring hillside to bask in the afternoon sun. Needless to say, his presence attracted a small group of interested watchers.

Our second Snowy Owl of the week came to us from a couple who found her sitting alone on a low stone wall after a probable collision that left her dazed and unable to fly. A checkup by a local veterinarian uncovered no major injuries but a mild concussion and a bruised left wing. An immature female nearly full grown, she was decked out in full white feathers sporting small bars of brown and black. The contrasting bright yellow eyes were quite alert as she calmly gazed at the humans who were trying to help her. After a quiet night of cage rest, she showed interest in a mouse for early breakfast and several more for lunch. Convalescing safely in an outdoor flightcage, she should be releasable in 3 to 5 days to enjoy her stay in Preston.

This may be an excellent year to see one or more of these birds in our area. Look for a large (24") white bird perched low to the ground or flying at a low altitude in search of prey. They can be seen in daylight or after dark in fields, beaches or other open areas. If you should find one in need of help we will be happy to respond and provide needed assistance. Approach them cautiously, they are a large bird and have long sharp talons on their feet. Better to leave them in place, protected from danger and call for assistance.

As always, we at WANFRAN can be reached at (860) 889-6608 for information or assistance in wildlife matters. Enjoy your holiday.

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The Installation of Father Antony as Pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church

by Eleanor Miller



Above Picture: Father Antony & Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree color Guard

This past November 3rd, Rev. V. Antony J. Alaharasan was installed as pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church by Monsignor Henry N. Archambault, P.A. of the Norwich

Deanery, Diocese of Norwich. The ceremony both inspired and impressed those attending and Fr. Antony was given an enthusiastic welcome. He expressed his gratitude to everyone who organized the Installation Ceremony: Sr. Cathleen, Pastoral Associate, Mary Mull, Parish Secretary, Nancy Mignault, Religious Education Coordinator, Fred Gale, Church Custodian, the Installation and Liturgy Committees, Joan Hartung and the Ladies' Guild, Mary Jane Haddad and the choir members, the Knights of Columbus, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Trustees, Parish Council members, and special mention to Fran Minor, for the beautifully decorated cakes served at the reception that followed.

Fr. Antony is a member of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and the Knights sent the Fourth Degree Color Guard in honor of Fr. Antony's installation.

A touching quote from Fr. Antony's homily was, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. The true qualities of greatness are humility and simplicity. A proud man cannot

serve. If you want to serve well, you are to be humble." And as always, Fr. Antony wants everyone to "Smile and Shine for Jesus."

SENIOR CONGREGATE MEAL PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 1996

by Josephine Melgey

For reservations call Fran Minor, Municipal Agent to the Elderly-889-2482 by Wednesday noon. Meals are served Monday at 11:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. Menus are subject to change without notice. 1% milk and whole grain bread are served with each meal.

Monday-Dec. 2nd- Chunky Beef Stew
Country Potatoes
Country Blend vegetables
Whole Grain Bread
Fruit Cocktail

Monday-Dec. 9th-Boneless Pork Chop
Mashed Sweet potatoes
Broccoli, Carrots w/ chestnuts
Applesauce

Monday-Dec. 16th Crispy Boneless
Chicken
Country Potatoes
Vegetable Medley
Whole Grain Bread
Baked Apple

Monday-Dec. 23rd- Breaded Cod
Fluffy White Rice
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Monday-Dec. 30th-Herb Chicken /
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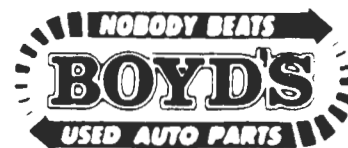
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**FORMER PRESTON STUDENTS
AN UPDATE**
by Eleanor Miller



In the November 1995 issue of the Pipeline in this column the feature was about Joshua George, who at that time was a youth minister in Tennessee, but has applied to work at Missionary Flights International, located at West Palm Beach, Florida. When I learned that Joshua and his wife Patricia were staying with Joshua's parents for a visit, I thought an update would be of interest.

Joshua and Patricia are now located in West Palm Beach, Florida and are technical missionaries serving with Missionary Flights

International. They provide support to Bible-centered missions in the West Indies. MFI has a board of directors that is responsible for raising funds for its support and maintenance and Joshua and Patricia are responsible for their own upkeep.

The ministry of MFI enables the people of the West Indies to hear about Jesus and have their basic needs met through the ministry of the missionaries working with MFI. MFI hopes to expand its mission into the Dominican Republic and Cuba and is looking forward to being part of the effort to promote the work of the church in Cuba.

Things we take for granted - good food, mail from friends and family, supplies essential to our work - are provided only through the ministry of MFI for over 400 missionary families working in Haiti.

Joshua has a pilot's rating for both single and multi-engine aircraft with visual and flight ratings. One of his responsibilities is maintaining the MFI DC-3 transport planes built around World War II, loading and unloading cargo, flying the DC-3's as a co-captain and being a source of encouragement for the

missionaries in Haiti.

Patricia is planning to work at the mission in whatever capacity is needed: sorting mail, making purchases, etc. She is also looking forward to becoming involved in urban missions in the West Palm Beach community.

While here in Preston, Joshua and Patricia have been making presentations to several churches in the area, describing their mission and seeking much needed financial support. We wish these two dedicated people well on their mission.

**THREE SISTERS HIKE PEQUOT
TRAIL THROUGH PRESTON**

Three sisters, who grew up and continue to live in Preston, take a yearly hike with family members on the Pequot Trail. Nancy Mignault, Diane Majcher and Sue Wirth take their children each year on a three hour hike, (which includes time to stop and enjoy lunch along the trail). Their hike begins on Long Society Road and ends, for them, on Rout 2 at the Sunoco station, where they are picked up. What do they enjoy most about the hike? They say just being together catching up on family news, enjoying nature and hanging out with the cousins!

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BOOKS FOR BIRDERS

by Richard Greene

There are numerous books about birds, birding and bird feeding. There are books on backyard habitats, guidelines for birds, providing water, as well as field guides. There are so many books, how do you decide which ones are for you? Being at Wings of Nature, I have been able to read more of the books available and have talked to a number of people about books they feel do a good job. Here is a quick review of some of the newer books that people with an interest in wild birds may find helpful.

A field guide's goal is to help you identify a bird at your feeder or one you see on your bird walks. Some have photographs and some use drawings, like the Peterson field guide. There is a new field guide, THE STOKES FIELD GUIDE, EASTERN REGION, is very well done with great photographs. The information provided includes habitat, nesting and fledging data, as well as diet and range of the species. For the backyard birder, there are identifying symbols to know quickly if the bird will come to a feeder and if it will nest in manmade boxes.

An exciting October 1996 release in

CONNECTICUT BIRDING GUIDE, by Buzz Devin and Dwight Smith, with illustrations by Mark Santyr, all Connecticut residents. This 500+ page book tells you when, where and how to bird Connecticut's coast, hills, valleys and highlands. It has directions to the locations and trail maps of the areas. The pages on birding habitats in Connecticut will be most helpful to the novice birder and the species list with cross references to areas often seen, is an asset for all birders. Connecticut has needed a guide to help the beginning birder, as well as the more advanced birder, to be in the right place at the right time. I feel this book will be used and greatly appreciated by Connecticut birders of all levels.

A number of books have tried to cover the many aspects of birding and bird feeding. One that provides a great deal of information is WILD ABOUT BIRDS by Carrol L. Henderson, published in 1995. This book goes beyond the basics of simply feeding birds, to information on migration, plumage, habitat and relationship and nesting details. The book goes on to cover woodshop basics and feeder designs to make at home. The chapter on feed is great


for those of us who like to experiment with things like grape jelly, apple slices, oranges, raisins or mealworms.

GARDEN BIRDS OF AMERICA is a book by George Harrison, released in 1996. The book, as the title suggests, is about gardening for birds and an identification guide to the birds that will come to the garden. The basic plans for a garden, what to plant for food and cover, and information on providing water is covered. A species list on cavity nesters is included with birdhouse dimensions, hole size and where to place them. It is a good glimpse of what people have done in their gardens, with great photographs and information on the birds that visit gardens.

There are many other good books on birds and bird related topics, some by the National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Federation, that cover a wide range of topics. There are also a variety of books for children, so that their interest in and appreciation of birds can be stimulated. Any questions about these or other birding books, call Rick at Wings of Nature. (860) 887-2367

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Photograph by Richard Greene of a female Downy woodpecker feeding a fledgling.

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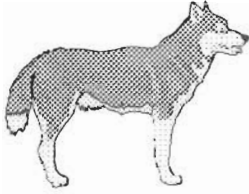
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Rescue on Route 117

written by Gloria Barber



There he was, alone on the highway; confused, tired and thirsty. He seemed unsure of which direction to take, and there I was, driving along Rt. 117, enjoying the fall foliage. It was about mid-afternoon, with very little traffic and no school buses; strange I thought at the time, but I continued on my way. You see, I am not an animal lover, so his being in the middle of the road, walking the yellow lines, meant nothing to me, or so I thought. What do I know of animal behavior anyway? I don't even like them!

After stops at the gas station and bank, I went into the post office. Finding a line, I left. On my return home, there he was again. He was slowly dragging himself up the steep incline, his tongue down to his knees, his little legs buckling under him. The weight of his body seemed too much to bear. In a flash I thought I must do something for this poor creature before he got hit by a car!

I drove back to the post office, pulled the doors open and in a frantic voice yelled, "Is there a dog lover in here?" The folks in line looked at me as if to say, "What is this gray-

haired old lady sputtering about?" In a heart-touching way, I told them that there was a dog in need of help before he got killed, or caused an accident. One of the ladies in line pointed to the door and said the dog warden was in town hall. I thanked her and flew through the door and went to find the warden. When I finally found her, I told her the story and we both jumped into our vehicles and took off in the direction of the dog.

I arrived first and found the dog still standing in the middle of the road, huffing and puffing. I got out of my car and tried to coax him toward me, at which time we both started to panic, with cars swerving all around us. Now, what the heck was I thinking and what was I going to do if he did come over to me? I'm deathly afraid of dogs! The dog warden arrived and I took cover behind my car! The warden tried in vain to place a leash over the dog's head.

In the meantime, cars were lining up on both sides of the road. The poor dog didn't know what to do. He just kept going back and forth between the cars... and then a wonderful thing happened! As if on cue, car doors opened and people got out, and very carefully, they made a circle around the dog, until the warden was able to do her job. When the dog was safe, there was a round of applause, and everyone got back in their cars and took off. You should have been there! What a sight to

see! It was wonderful from the point of view of a person like me, who does not like animals. I thought to myself, "What will happen now? Oh, my gosh! She's going to shoot him!" What did I know?

I followed the dog warden to the town dump, where the dog pound was located. Little did I know there was a special procedure that must be followed when a dog with no name tag roams the streets. The dog warden, a lovely young lady, compassionate and understanding, realized I was concerned about the condition of the dog. She told me that she felt he was probably lost and had slept in the woods all night; his fur was matted and snarled with dry leaves and twigs. He had no apparent broken bones or bruises, which meant he had not been hit by a car, or abused by a former owner. A male, German shepherd, his approximate age was 6 to 8 months. No one claimed him and as it turned out, the dog was adopted by a lovely couple with two young children. And so ends the story of the lost dog of Route 117, in Galesferry, Connecticut, as recalled by the person who doesn't like animals.



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**PRESTON COMMUNITY CHORUS
CHRISTMAS SHOW**

Premiere Presentation
by Eleanor Miller

In this year's Preston Community Chorus Christmas Show (see advertisement) the audience will have the privilege of hearing the premiere presentation of the Christmas song "The Star & the Manger" with lyrics by Maggie Hardy and music by Glenn Hardy.

Glenn & Maggie Hardy began their happy association with the Preston Community Chorus when Glenn received a phone call from a member, Roberta Baird last year. Roberta sang in the chorus of the Southeastern Connecticut Composer's Forum several years ago when Glenn's cantata, "The Four Artists" - a setting of Maggie's poetry - was performed. Roberta thought it would be a good idea if the Preston Community Chorus sang one of Glenn's works. The result was the presentation of "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening" - Glenn's setting of the beloved Robert Frost poem - by the Select Chorus at the 1995 Christmas Concert.

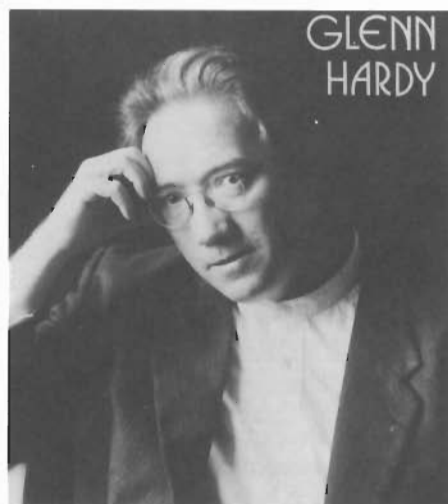
Glenn and Maggie attended that concert, and were so impressed that they wrote "The

Star & the Manger", which is being premiered at the 1996 Christmas Concert. Maggie says of the lyric: "Many of us feel disheartened by the speed and complexity of life in the modern world, especially during the season which is supposed to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This piece is about welcoming simplicity and grace - qualities of the Christ - and thereby reclaiming our own hearts from the thinking of the world."

Glenn and Maggie are starting their own business, "Hardy Perennials Music", to record and publish their work, and eventually the work of other like-minded individuals. Their first project is a recording - CD and cassette - of Glenn's original music on "Glenn Hardy Solo Piano." They are also in the process of preparing several works for sheet music publication, including "Seven Sacred Songs", Glenn's setting of texts from the King James Version of the Bible, for solo voice and organ or piano.

Glenn and Maggie especially enjoy working with a fine chorus in their own area. "It allows me to hear the work - not just in my own head - and that's very important for a composer," Glenn says. Both Maggie and

Glenn look forward to the 1996 Christmas Concert and the presentation of their new



THANK YOU!!!

The Preston Pipeline would like to thank everyone who bought tickets at our Turkey Raffle on Election Day. We appreciate the support!! The Turkey dinner was won by David Rivera.



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**PRESTON'S HALLOWEEN PARTY
SCARES UP SOME FUN!**

by Susan Theve

This year's townwide Halloween party was a success due to the team effort shown by the community. The spirit of giving is alive and well in Preston. Various businesses and civic organizations made donations which were used to purchase the candy for the indoor trick or treat. Girl Scouts helped by making signs, creating a game, distributing treats, and helping with the clean up. They are a great group of girls willing to help with community service. Several teens from N.F.A.'s Project Outreach helped with all aspects of the party. Our wonderful and fun-loving adopted crew of the Navy Shippingport A.R.D.M.4; helped in many ways; some came costumed and full of the Halloween spirit. Many Preston Plains students helped with decorating, set-up, trick or treating and adding a little more haunting to the haunted hayride. The

haunted hayride this year was the best ever, thanks to Hidden Acres Campground. Complete with special effects and assorted ghouls, it seemed to be everyone's favorite event. Indoors there were plenty of refreshments thanks to all the terrific parents who always donate when called upon. A craft table was set up thanks to the time and effort of Marie Perrin. Artwork from Preston students and resident artists adorned the walls as decorations. The Fire Police and Rescue Squads from both of our volunteer Fire Departments were on hand to make sure it remained a safe event. Trooper Robbins was in attendance and kept an eye out for any would be tricksters. He also donated Trick or Treat bags courtesy of D.A.R.E., for the event. Entertainment this year was provided by Keith Michael Johnson, whose style of family comedy was highlighted by juggling green SLIME. on behalf of the Parks and Rec committee, I would like to say **THANK YOU** to all who volunteered and/or attended that night. To anyone who thinks volunteerism is

dead; I invite you to attend this event next year and see first hand what can be accomplished when we all work together. Approximately 200 of Preston's children were in attendance this year, plus their accompanying adults, some in costumes. That's a lot of smiling faces! One volunteer has been in attendance at every townwide party thus far--and Halloween is her Birthday! Now that's a commitment!



ADS

If you would like to advertise in the Preston Pipeline, and we would certainly like to have you, call either: 887-0272, or the Parks and Rec. Office, 889-2482. The Pipeline is mailed to every residence and business in Preston. It is run strictly by volunteers so that all money from ads goes towards printing and postage.




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Above picture submitted by Ernest Abrahamson-1936 Brown School Rd. Teacher- Mrs. Anna Hero- Pictured are: Back from Right to left: Frank Niewiarowski, Ernest Abrahamson, Sr., Alice Steyens, James Fallet, Eva Fallet, Donald Young, Front: From right to left: Robert Bates, Irene Fallet, Doris Armstrong, Robert Winniger, Elsbeth Dowdell, Lois Young, Lawrence Armstrong.



Pictured at the left had very little information except that: Mary Peckham is listed as the teacher- the school is the old "Arc Center" on Rt. 117, and this is probably the graduating class of 1948.



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BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Board of Selectmen

by Chris Schmidt

October 3, 1996

New Business

1. Internet.

Gary LaComb appointed to design a town web page on the Internet. So voted

2. Public Safety Fund for extra State Police coverage.

The board discussed using Public Safety Fund moneys to provide extra police coverage for speeding motorists. The BOS decided that PSF money should be used for capital expenditures. T. Maurer suggested asking both tribes to provide funding for additional road patrols by police. The BOS suggested that the resident trooper spend some regular hours on radar patrol.

3. Tri-Town Police Force

Resident Mike Clancy came before the BOS to suggest that towns surrounding the casinos might need a regional police force.

Mr. Clancy volunteered to serve on a commission to investigate a regional police force serving; Preston, Ledyard and N.

Stonington. The First Selectman will contact Ledyard and N.Stonington to see if there is interest. It was suggested that the town planner could start looking for grant money to fund this project.

The BOS held a Work Session on Property Reevaluation.

Appointments/Resignations:

Having received no other letters of interest the BOS appointed Larry LePage to serve on the School Building Committee.

October 10, 1996

Unfinished Business

1. The BOS discussed Trust Acquisition and Tribal Sovereignty Immunity testimony prior to the towns appearing before the Indian Affairs Subcommittee.

New Business

1. Parks and Rec.

Len Johnson spoke to the BOS on reconstruction of Green Memorial Field. A culvert system of 55 gal drums had become exposed. Parks and Rec.

requested \$4,000 from the Public Safety Fund to install a new culvert. The BOS recommended to the BOF that \$3,100 be appropriated from the PSF for replacement of this system. So voted.

Reports

1. Fire Marshal-Issuance of permits was discussed in executive session.

October 17, 1996

Unfinished Business

1. Septage Lagoons

Pit at the septage lagoon was breached.

Awaiting response from Bob Abrahamson.

Reports

1. Bates Fountain

Coliform contamination was discovered at Bates Fountain. The water was turned off until corrective action could be taken.

2. Computer System

The BOS voted to require monthly status reports on the new computer system from the First Selectman, Treasurer's office and Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen.

3. Tub Grinder

The town received a check for \$30,000 for the sale of the tub grinder.

Appointments/Resignations

Jury Committee

P.Crary, L. Fuller and P. Tunucci were re-appointed to one year terms. So voted

October 30, 1996

1. Bids for Preston City Fire Exhaust System
Bids ranging from \$7,500 to \$27,250 were received. Tabled for recommendation from PCFD.

Unfinished Business

1. Parks and Rec.

Parks and Rec. came back to the BOS with another estimate of culvert repairs for Green Memorial Field. (see 10/10 minutes) The BOS recommended that the BOF appropriate \$4,500 for repairs. So voted

2. Septage Lagoons

Meeting was held with N.Stonington officials to discuss N.Stonington leaving Onderdonk's lagoon. Tentatively N.Stonington will stop using Preston lagoons by December 1, 1996.

All meetings are open to the public=check with the Town Clerk's Office for dates and times of meetings.

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NORWICH NEPTUNES

by Gail Rigney

Looking for some family entertainment this winter? The Norwich Neptunes, an ABA Basketball team, will launch their inaugural season on December 28th at the Thames Campus of Three Rivers Community College. They plan to provide an exciting level of basketball as well as quality family entertainment. Activities will include special game day events, contests and giveaways, pre-game clinics and half-time youth games. Tickets for most games are \$8.00 per person. For more information or tickets call the Neptune Office @ 889-3865.

Call Kelly (887-6030) for tickets to our Preston Community Park fundraiser at the Neptunes'

Oanaco of Preston Knights of Columbus to Sponsor Youth Free Throw Championship

by Rob Harris

All boys and girls, ages 10 to 14 years, are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 1997 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held Saturday afternoon, January 4, at Preston Plains School. While the exact time has not been determined, it will be in the early afternoon. Keep an eye out for posters around town.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through local, district and state competition. International champions are announced by the K of C International headquarters, based on state level scores. Last year, nearly 211,000 boys and girls participated in 3400 local competitions.

The Knights of Columbus, an international Catholic family fraternal service organization, has nearly 1.6 million members in over 10,000 councils. Last year, the Knights donated 50 million volunteer hours and \$105 million to charitable and benevolent causes.

Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms or additional information contact: Rob Harris at 889-6143.

Holiday Benefit Tea

by Judy Gasparino

The public is invited to the second Annual Tea held at Roseledge Farm Bed & Breakfast, 418 Rte. 164, Preston, to benefit the TVCCA Shelter for Homeless Families, here in southeastern Connecticut. For a donation of \$ 3.95 (\$ 1.50 children), you can enjoy a delicious assortment of home-made goodies, plus beverage of your choice, served by the warm fireside of the keeping room. The tea will be held from 1 to 4 PM, Sunday, Dec. 15.

This year we will again feature an authentic winter Colonial reenactment and the barnyard will be open for animal viewing. Christmas trees will also be for sale.

Each room will be beautifully decorated with a different theme tree. Local artisans and crafters will display their unique hand-made treasures.

Anyone who would like to help; decorate, bake, or display their crafts, please call Judy Gasparino, 889-6825 or Gail Rogers, at Roseledge, 892-4739.

Above picture: Benefit Tea -1995 L-R-Brittany, Taylor, Robin Gasparino enjoying goodies.

PRESTON CITY BIBLE CHURCH

by Louise Thivierge

The Preston City Bible Church Harvest Party was a big success. There were egg races, face painting, pumpkin painting, scavenger hunts and donut eating for 53 children who joined in the fun. Adults were treated to lots of sandwiches and goodies. Ahearty thanks to all who participated.

ART EXHIBIT

by Deborah Grabarek

The Preston Public Library is currently exhibiting the works of three hometown artists, Susan Quinn, Mark O'Neill, and Alan Rosiene.

Sue Quinn is exhibiting some of her watercolor painting and a beautiful quilt that she designed and sewed. Sue graduated from Mohegan community College and is attending the University of Connecticut. She works at Maple Farms in Preston.

Mark O'Neill is exhibiting his pencil and pen and ink drawings. Mark, the cartoonist for the *Preston Pipeline* enjoys cartooning saying "its more fun to do cartoons." He recently completed a children's book that he both wrote and illustrated. The book "in the Dr. Seus vein" is awaiting a publisher. Mark graduated from the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio with a degree in communications. He also works as a librarian at the Preston Library.

Alan Rosiese, a retired art teacher who resides on Rte. 164, is exhibiting numerous and varied examples of his paintings. Mr. Rosiese works in mixed media including oils, watercolors, printing and drawings. He has exhibited widely over the years winning many awards. Mr. Rosiene's latest work included the illustrating of Dante's book "*Vita Nuova*" translated by Frank Salvidio. These illustrations are on exhibit at the Library. Mr. Rosiene graduated from Tufts University and taught at Ledyard High School for over thirty years retiring nine years ago. He has since

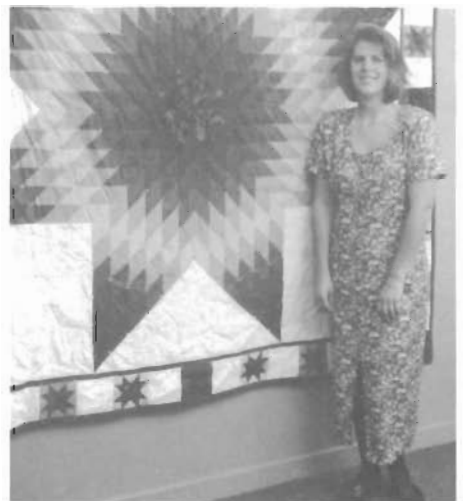
devoted his time to his art work and composing and playing the piano and cello for the Southeastern Connecticut Piano Quintet and the National Senior Symphony.



above- Alan Rosiene
picture by Deborah Grabarek



above-Mark O'Neill
picture by Deborah Grabarek



above- Sue Quinn
picture by Deborah Grabarek

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Above Picture is school year 1995- School- the old "Arc Center" on Rt. 117-Preston
 (picture submitted by Russell Green)



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