

THE ARROWSIC ARROW

Volume 8, Number 3

Arrowsic, Maine 04530

April 1993

Dear Reader,

Lots to read in this edition, please don't give up until the end- it's all important

Reunion of the Old Arrowsic School, Sunday, May 16, 1993 at 2:00 PM at the Town Hall. Everyone invited, former students, teachers, parents, and friends, those interested in education past and present! Please tell friends and family who live off-island, and bring photographs! If you can bring photos to the Town Hall in an envelope with your name and address, we will copy them and display them for the reunion.

Attention graduating Seniors! Each year the Town awards \$1000.00 in scholarship money to Arrowsic residents going on to post-secondary education. Now is the time to get your letters of request in. Please indicate where you will be going on to school (you must have been already accepted) and tell us something of your high school career and future plans. Letters can be addressed to the Chair of the Arrowsic School Committee.

From the tax collector: I will not have regular hours on April 28th and the 30th. (in the last Arrow I mistakenly said the 21st & 23rd. I will be at the Town Hall on those dates) I will also be gone May 26th and 28th. Please do your registrations of Autos and Boats early in the month. Ann will be here those weeks to cover emergency situations. Thank you for your cooperation. Yours in taxes, Nancy Brown Stump.

From the Town Clerk, Ann Carlton: Please plan ahead. The Town Clerk will not have hours on May 5,7 and 12, 1993. Also, she will not be running for Town Clerk this year. If anyone is interested in the position, I will be glad to show them what the job involves.

From the Treasurer: There is a \$10.00 fee on all bounced checks written to the Town of Arrowsic. If you paid for a permit with a check that bounces, your permit is null and void. If you are notified that your check has bounced, please make good on it IN CASH with either Nancy Brown Stump, or myself, Patty Olds 442-8270. I will not be running again for treasurer this year. If anyone is interested in doing some apolitical work for the town, here's your chance. If it's any extra incentive, I will be rallying for a \$ raise for the position at town meeting. Call me if you're interested and I'll tell you about the job.

Many people (including George, the mailman) have called or written asking for a **HUGE THANKS** to Charlie Collins and his crew for the great work on the roads this winter.

The Road Commission will be meeting Saturday mornings instead of Thursday evenings.

Al Miller will offer a class for 4-7 graders in Arrowsic 10-noon July 12-16 and 19-23 if there is sufficient demand. The class will focus on developing Nancy Brown Stump's folk tale about Arrowsic into a theater piece. The fee for the first week is \$35, for both weeks \$70. I'll need ten paying participants to do the class, and I'll offer 2 complete scholarships. If others want to help with scholarships, let me know. Contact Al Miller 442-8270 if you're interested. I WILL get back to you this time. Thanks.

ROADSIDE LITTER PATROL this weekend, Saturday, April 24 beginning at 8:30am. We'll do like we did last year, have everything set up for self-service. Just grab a bag and write down on the list where you're going to clean (so thast others don't do the same stretch of road). The full bags can be left on the roadside and someone will pick them up, or brought back to the Town Hall. Rain date is May 1.

Time to think about the Town Report. Bring in pictures of life in Arrowsic, past and present. Include your name, address and phone number. Photos will be returned (we'll copy them so that they don't leave town). We'll publish as many as we can. Also, if you have anything they think ought to go in the report, call me, or write it up and leave it at the Town Hall. Thanks, Patty Olds 442-8270.

The Fiddler's Reach Morris Team will do their annual Spring dance at the Town Hall May 8 at 11AM

Plan ahead: Town meeting will be Wednesday, June 23 this year.

I've gotten several requests to print a list of businesses and professional people in town, so that folks in Arrowsic can send business to their neighbors. If you'd like to be included in this listing, send me your name, business name, and anything you want people to know about your business. (if you have a card, send it along, if there's room, I'll shrink them down and print them.)

Congratulations to Ken Textor who has just published a book, *Innocents Afloat* (Sheridan House of Dobbs Ferry, NY) It's true stories about ordinary people whose lives have taken extraordinary turns as a result of boating. Each chapter is illustrated with a New Yorker-like sketch drawn by Camden artist Chris Van Dusen. It's a book meant for anyone who likes people, boats, or just a good story. Ken has been writing for newspapers and magazines for nearly 20 years, both as a freelancer or full time staffer. He runs Seguin Navigation Co. (a sailboat excursion business) here in Arrowsic. You can pick up his book at most local bookstores for \$16.50

From the Arrowsic School Committee, Eloise Vitelli (Chair)

Back in January, the school committee, with the support of our Superintendent, Laura Hickey, invited David Wallace, Superintendent of the Bath Schools to meet with us. As we indicated in our invitation to Mr Wallace, "Many members of our community, while enjoying the degree of choice allowed us by not having our own school, do feel distanced from the decision-making that affects so many of our school children." We wanted to find a way to be more informed and to better understand what is happening in the schools the majority of the Arrowsic children attend.

Mr Wallace readily agreed and at our March 10 monthly committee meeting we met for about two hours in Laura's office. David indicated that while administratively the two systems (Bath and Union 47) are separate, the educational policies and practices are not dissimilar. He and Laura Hickey communicate regularly and often.

We were pleased to hear more about the future directions for Bath schools. As many of you may be aware, the process has begun leading to the creation of a middle school, grades 6-8, with an expanded high school, 9-12 grades, and 3 neighborhood K-5 schools. Both the town and state have to play their part, but if all goes forward as planned, the new arrangements could be available Fall 95.

We specifically asked about the junior high, as that seems to cause concern on the part of parents. David was forthright in acknowledging that there had been problems as well as letting us know the specific steps he and others were taking to turn things around. As a next step in continuing our dialogue we agreed to pursue a meeting with Mr. Brigham, the principal of the junior high. (He has been asked to meet with us at our April meeting on the 28.)

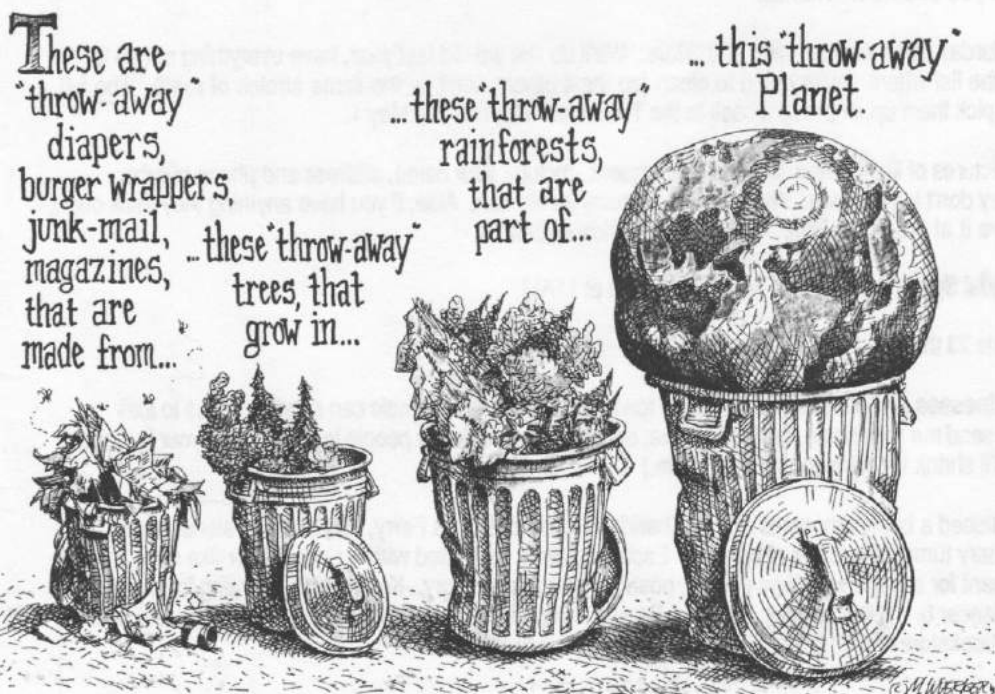
We were pleased with our initial conversation with Mr. Wallace, his willingness and openness to work with us, and we will continue to strengthen the lines of communication. If anyone would like us to give voice to a concern or question at these meetings, please let us know.

Another significant meeting was held March 17 at the Georgetown School between the Selectmen and the School Committee members of Arrowsic and Georgetown. This meeting represents a first step towards exploring the possibilities of Arrowsic joining with Georgetown in providing K-8 education for the children of both towns. As a starting point, we discussed some of the reasons we might like to join forces: Georgetown is interested in expanding to 8th grade, but could use more space; Arrowsic might like a school of its own; the towns are neighbors geographically; some Arrowsic kids are already going to Georgetown, etc.

None of these issues is definitive. We all realized we need much more information on the implications of such a move, even as we consider the desirability.

We did decide that there was enough interest to take the issue to the Townspeople. We agreed that each town would place on the warrant this year a question asking if the Town wishes the school committees and selectmen to look into an educational merger. Should the Town decide to pursue the matter, we will seek broad input. In the meantime, we'd be happy to hear any preliminary thoughts or reactions you may have to the idea.

From the Recycling Committee: remember to recycle your newspapers, cans plastic, glass, cardboard, quality paper, & egg cartons at the Town Hall



For Eyes

LensCrafters, a national chain of opticians, is leading a massive drive to reuse and recycle Americans' used eyeglasses. According to a recent company survey, nearly a third of eyeglass wearers throw away their old glasses; another 40 percent toss them into a drawer. LensCrafters, along with Lions Clubs International, hopes to give the used eyeglasses to needy individuals in developing countries. (Legal constraints generally prohibit dispensing used eyeglasses in the U.S.)

Glasses are given out on annual optical missions. In Panama in May 1992, for example, the program Give the Gift of Sight, provided free eye care and 6,000 pairs of glasses to the needy.

Collection boxes are set up at all the 460 LensCrafters stores throughout the U.S. and Canada. 🌲🌲

Contact: LensCrafters, 8650 Governor's Hill Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45249, (800) 522-LENS to locate the store nearest you.

THE ARROWSIC SCHOOL *Former Students and Teachers Reminisce...*

In the process of planning a new school for Arrowsic, we have become interested in the schools that used to be here. Through conversations with Millie Stafford and many Arrowsic residents and former residents the following picture has emerged.

The two most recent schools on the island were the South School and the North School. The South End School closed its doors in 1922, at which point the few remaining students were transferred to the North School, probably by horse and buggy. The last teacher at the South School was Mrs. Esther Steen. The South End School building was bought by Ralph Steen in 1933, and has since been added on to several times.

The North School sat on the triangle of land across the parking lot from the Town Hall. It was built in 1861, and appears to have replaced an older building at that time. The Town paid the builder \$173.28; clapboards cost \$7.20. The building consisted of one large room with a woodshed and a pair of privies, one for boys and one for girls. There was a wood furnace, which in the last years was replaced by an oil furnace. Water pitchers served in place of a tap since there was no running water. James Steen remembers that it was cold in the school in the winter. "I took my turn stoking up the wood stove in the mornings" he says. Just getting up to the North School was a trek for students from the south end of the island. Mr. Steen walked a mile to Route 127 where he caught the school bus, which was a 1932 Buick touring car driven by Mrs. Campbell.

The school served children in grades 1 through 8, after which time students went up to Bath to High School. During the war the school was divided into two sessions, with half the students attending in the morning, and half in the afternoon. Enrollment seems to have hovered around 30 children, but in the late 1950s the numbers declined until the decision to close the school was made in 1959. Some of the teachers were Frances White, Maxine Walker, Georgie M. Reed Walker, Jessie Spaulding, Maude Hayward Leeman, Beryle Dorr, Eleanor Mahan and John Drayton.

John Drayton of Georgetown was the last teacher at the Arrowsic School. He looks back on those years as the most fun he had teaching. The small size of the school meant that he could be flexible with lesson plans, and take advantage of good weather when it occurred. He feels that multi-age groupings make a lot of sense because it doesn't hurt the younger students to hear what the older students are doing, and the older ones are able to help with the teaching of the younger ones. This is helpful to the older children, because one doesn't really know something until one has to teach it. Mr. Drayton believes that a teacher can achieve great success as a coach for his or her students; more so than in a more traditional role, especially in a setting such as a one-room school.

Many former students whom I have talked with have spoken of the advantages of having children working at different levels in the same space. Beverly Kingsbury says she liked being in the one-room-school. When she had whooping cough one year and missed a substantial amount of school she was able to do two grades in one year because she was always able to listen to what the grades above her were studying. Students moved from their one-piece desks up to a table to do their reading. John Doyle also feels there was much to gain. "Certainly you knew everybody. You could sit and listen to all the classes going on so you could get a lot of knowledge." Gladys Coffin remembers that because everyone knew everyone else there was a sheltered feeling at the school. The teachers knew all the parents by name. She missed this closeness once she went up to the Junior High in Bath.

There were many plays produced at the Arrowsic School, and several people have mentioned that they may have photographs of some of these. There was a piano in the school, and a band. Everyone played an instrument; James Steen played the triangle. Less fond memories were of punishments in the woodshed, of having one's hand held and hit with a ruler. Discipline practices have certainly changed over the years, but this type of thing seems to have been pretty standard before the 1950s. Mr. Steen remembers going to Woolwich for an all-day test that was mandatory to go on to Morse High.

The Arrowsic North School building was bought by Wilbur Loveitt after the school closed. Mr. Loveitt dismantled it and used the lumber to build his garage, which still stands today.

With thanks to John Doyle, John Drayton, Howard Carlton, Gladys Coffin, Andrew Gowen, Lillian Gowen, Beverly Kingsbury, Roy Lawrence, Fran Lyden, Millie Stafford, James Steen and Gloria Yeaton.

...While Plans for a New School Evolve

The new school we are proposing for Arrowsic will have much in common with the school Arrowsic enjoyed in former years. Students of different ages and abilities will work in close proximity with each other and have many opportunities to teach each other. As Karen Robinson (who will be the new school's head teacher) has said, nothing we are planning to do is very new, but with a small school we will have time to give each student individual attention, and we will be able to be flexible with schedules and curriculum. We believe this will enable us to provide a very high quality of education for our children.

For more information please contact Lucy Hull at 443-4908.

For The Arrowsic Arrow:

I am writing because I am concerned about the continued use of town funds to pay for private education. The potential start-up of an Arrowsic private school using town monies only adds to my concern. I have wrestled with myself over this issue and I can only say that I don't think it's right to use public money for private education outside of certain narrowly defined circumstances. This letter is my appeal to the town to put our energy into one school system and sign a school contract with Georgetown, Bath, or Woolwich.

I am not up on the finer points of these matters and I hope that you will consider this letter as an appeal and not something to be dismissed because I am ignorant of, or have not dealt with, details. It is an appeal for the idea that we, as a society, have undertaken the burdens of educating all our children even at the cost of some lessening of the quality of that education for a few. It is an appeal to focus our efforts and help to improve our children's educational experience. It is an appeal to abandon "choice" in favor of commitment.

The two concerns that I hear from people about public education are quality and parental input. My son has had a wonderful education in the Bath schools. In fact, many of our friends from other states envy the education he has received. He may have had some luck with teachers, but I think it has more to do with the commitment of the principals and teachers there. These teachers need our support. They need better pay and they need a better environment in which to teach. Our involvement can be invaluable. I feel guilty that I have not done more volunteering because I have always been welcome and encouraged. If we want to be involved, we need to organize and we need to contract with the schools that our children will be attending. Choice has fragmented our town, weakened our efforts, and done nothing to improve the quality of our school systems. The schools can respond to our needs. Drug and sex education, guidance counselors, and gifted and talented programs are just a few examples. All these things take money however and as the budgets shrink many of these programs are in danger. Our support is needed.

If we did contract with another town, like-minded people from both towns could work on encouraging the kind of education proposed by the sponsors of the Arrowsic school. Arrowsic parents could form something akin to a PTA to discuss problems and seek solutions. I'm sure that I have not dealt with some issues, perhaps some issues that are important to you, but I ask that you not dismiss this appeal out of hand and consider the larger questions and our responsibilities not just to our children, or to our town, but to the children of the area and the generations of children to come.

Sincerely, Jeff Mann

The following registrations are due in these months:

April

BASSETT, DEBORAH M
BERTSCHY, MELANE M
BROOKS, DAVID M
BROWN, MICHAEL P
BROWN STUMP, NANCY E
CAREY, ANTONIO
CARLTON, HOWARD
COTE, CANDACE
EWING, JOSEPHINE W
GILL, DEBORAH S
GOFORTH, JANET
GOWELL, MARY
HOLLEY, LISA A
JONES, JUDITH
KINGSBURY, RICHARD C
KNOWLES, ROBERT L JR
LAWRENCE, RACHEL W
MCDONALD, FRANKLIN SR
MORRISON, HOWARD
MORRISON, HOWARD
NELSON, BONNIE R
OLEARY, ROBERT
SAFFORD, LILLIAN A
WARNER, LINDA M
WILLOUGHBY, STEPHEN

May

ANDERSON, DAVID K
ATER, ROBERT
BRETT, CHRISTOPHER
BRETT, JOHN C
BROOKS, DAVID
BROWN STUMP, NANCY
BURNHAM, BRETT D
CAREY, MATTHEW S
CHANDLER, PAMELA J
DRESSER, ARTHUR E
FRAHM, SHIRLEY D
GATES, CHESTER M
GILLIS, JAMES R
GRILL, MARIA M
KENNERSON, REBECCA
KNOWLES, EUGENIE H
LEVESQUE, CLARENCE R
MOODY, BARBARA M
MOSHER, HARRIET A
MYERS, ERIC R
ORR, EDWARD
PACKARD, PHILIP E
ROBBINS, KAREN M
ROLLINS, ELIZABETH
ROLLINS, ELIZABETH J
ROSSIGNOL, TIMOTHY
SAFFORD, LILLIAN
SHUFELT, ERNEST F
STINSON, LUCY
STOEBE, JEFFREY A
STORIN, KEIKO T
STUART, KENNETH N
SWEARINGEN, RICHARD T
WEISS, DAVID R
WISEMAN, ELIZABETH M

1943

Report of Public Health Nurse

Your public health nurse, through the Division of Nursing of the Bureau of Health, has given nursing supervision to mothers, infants, preschool and school children, to give help in meeting the health needs of the family through advice and demonstration of methods in the home. The work is carried largely through home and school visits. Since we are at war, it is more necessary than ever that the mothers be advised in the proper care of those under her supervision, and in planning and choosing the foods that she buys so that adequate provision is made for the normal growth, development and protection of the children.

The protection of children with communicable diseases, the protection of others from those who are ill, and immunization against certain diseases have been stressed.

The school has been visited and help given to the teacher in any of her problems and home visits made to discuss these problems with the parents.

The nurse is always alert to any crippling condition in children and with consent of family physician, the services of crippled children clinics are available.

Special services are given in relation to communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and venereal diseases and patients are directed to family physician or clinics for care and treatment and to have contacts checked.

ELSIE A. ANDERSON,

Public Health Nurse.