

PUBLIC OCCURRENCE

GOALS

In 1690 an exiled English printer, named Benjamin Harris, published the 1st newspaper in the American colonies. It was called Publick Occurrences. Despite Harris' idealistic intentions, the colonial governor suppressed the paper.

It has moved to Vermont, and is now called Public Occurrence.

In January of 1976, the following goals were set by The Frayed Page Collective for the coming year:

TO DEVELOP A COMMUNICATION NETWORK IN VERMONT INVOLVING SOCIAL CHANGE GROUPS

TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO NEWS AND IDEAS WHICH ARE IGNORED AND DISTORTED BY LARGE MEDIA SYSTEMS

TO OFFER AN OUTLET FOR DIVERSE FORMS OF EXPRESSION AND PUBLIC TESTIMONY

TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS

TO SHOW THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CULTURAL AND POLITICAL CHANGE

May 24, 1976
Volume 2, Number 6
Editor: Eugene Scribner
Feature Editor: Louise Lindner

STAFF: Stephen Cram, Greg Guma, Peg Kazda, Jo Schneiderman, John Potthast, Rick Simpson, Ken Ross, Dennis Haseley, Maggie Boone, Wendy Cram, Bob Mueller, Jim Nolfi, Carlo Wolff, Marty Freid, Phil Milgrom, Beth Dingman, Holly Ladd, Faye Speed, Jane Day, Peg O'Donnell, Peggy Luhrs, Abby Hale, and many anonymous sisters.

ART: Peg Kazda, Jo Schneiderman, Jane Day

PRINTING: Vantage Press.

INSIGHTS

A Bi-Weekly News Review

Lake Champlain: Quality Or Expediency

The mountains dropped sheerly into the water. They were olive, and rounded by the sunset. The sky was a reflection of the land for a change... shocks of rose and gold outlined dark clouds that aped the mountains. And the lake was a funnel for my vision, directing it downward and outward. The horizon had never seemed so much like the edge of a planet.

Lake Champlain is a special body of water. It is the lake of all lakes in a state that has no coastline. Vermonters depend on it for the sight of land against water that so refreshes, entertains and inspires. The state and the city of Burlington depend on the lake as a tourist — drawing attraction. And since it runs almost the entire length of the state, Lake Champlain is a throughway for boats and barges carrying petroleum and building materials.

For any and all of these reasons, the lake has traditionally been the source of bitter conflict — a battleground where environmentalists and free enterprizers meet head on.

The war officially began in 1963, when Senator George Aiken introduced a bill to the International Joint Commission, a three person board which oversees the shared waters of the U.S. and Canada. The bill proposed a "Champlain Seaway", a deep-water canal system that would link the Hudson River and the Saint Lawrence Seaway, and allow ocean-going vessels to frequent the lake. More than a thousand citizens from Vermont,

New York and Canada joined forces to lobby against the pollution, despoilment of wildlife, and the waste of tax payers' money which they felt the Aiken bill represented.

The International Joint Commission refused all proposals for the Seaway, stating that a larger waterway would endanger the water quality of the lake. Encouraged by their initial success, the citizens' lobby group resolved to remain in being and pursue wider objectives of resource conservation in the Lake Champlain Valley.

Thus, the LCC (Lake Champlain Committee), a private environmental agency devoted to watchdogging the lake, came into being. Since its formation, the LCC has gone to bat for Vermont's "lake of all lakes" at countless public hearings and conferences, helped draft legislation and regulations, and distributed information about the lake via newsletters and bulletins. Among its campaign fought and won, the LCC can count the defeat of the proposed Charlotte Nuclear Power Plant and the U.S. Supreme Court case of Vermont State vs. the International Paper Company.

Last fall, the State Water Resources Department recommended in its Water Quality Management Plan that Champlain municipalities which are now discharging into Class "B" waters petition for reclassification of those waters as Class "C". That means that waters which are presently deemed "suitable for bathing, irrigation, fishing and public water supply with filtration" will be reclassified as

The coming out of this issue of Public Occurrence has terminated our relationship with the Catholic Tribune. We had enjoyed our liason with the people who work for the Tribune; this issue, however was considered offensive by the staff and management, and they have decided not to work with us in the future.