



FIELD TRIP... studying the ecology of the area, a group at last weekend's Sharon Audubon Festival are led on a two hour field trip by Hal Flanders.

Here they observe a snake sunning itself on a pond bank.

— Bill Binzen, Jr. photo.

A Record Crowd Attends Sharon Audubon Festival

By John Parker
Eleven hundred forty-six persons attended the Sharon Audubon Festival sponsored by the Housatonic Audubon Society Saturday and Sunday. This year's attendance was the largest on record at the Sharon Audubon Center.

Visitors were treated to a unique "overview" of the ecosystems which support all life. Groups of 15 to 20 took to the trails of the center on ecological field trips, examining evidence of the development of plant and animal life, and the effects of Man on the area.

Charles H. Callison, executive vice president of the National Audubon Society, was guest speaker at the festival on Saturday. Mr. Callison explored the relationship between Man and the creatures which share his environment. He stressed the need for public involvement in resolving the environmental crisis.

Ecological field trips were led by noted locals — naturalists, including John Anderson, director of sanctuaries and research for the National Audubon Society, Phyllis Busch, educator, author and naturalist; Martha Sykes, naturalist-director for the Sharon Center; Hal Flanders, Audubon member and assistant to the Environmental Affairs Department of A.T.&T.; and Richard Pough, National Audubon Society Staff member and author of the Audubon Bird Guides.

Under the skilled direction of their guides, visitors were able to perceive many evidences of the change and growth in the environment of the Sharon Center area: a leaf-covered mound where, nearly a century ago, trees were burned into charcoal for the iron furnace on Mt. Riga; a lightning scar on a dead hemlock, and the bare ground beneath it where undergrowth had not yet reclaimed the earth; a beaver lodge on Bog Meadow Pond, near a clearly marked trail along which the animals drag

limbs and small trees to build dams and dwellings.

A family of Canada geese swam near the banks of the pond, and the bare branches of a spruce tree, according to John Anderson, indicating a rising deer population.

Specific relationships in the environment were brought out in field trips dealing with mam-

mals, bird identification, geology, plants and insects, wildflowers, herbs and pond studies.

Demonstrations, ranging from frogs and toads to nature photography, ferns and herbs were well attended. Games with an ecological slant were enjoyed by the many young visitors, and

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HVTA Urges Governor To Act on RR Service

With the future of remaining area passenger service in doubt, the Harlem Valley Transportation Association has appealed to New York State Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller to take executive action to keep trains running on the Upper Harlem Division of the Penn Central.

In a strongly worded letter, HVTA officers last week urged the Governor to use existing legislation and funds to keep the line operative. New York Assembly Bill A-7731, according to the transportation group spokesmen, authorizes the New York State Department of Transportation to operate certain rail passenger lines in New York State.

The HVTA letter further states that nearly 85 percent of the funds allocated for mass transportation in the 1967 bond issue are still unspent."

The letter was signed by HVTA President Willis K. Wing of Canaan, Vice President Mrs. Gerald Carson of Millerton and attorney Herman Gray, director and counsel for the HVTA.

Criticize Veto
The HVTA officers criticized Governor Rockefeller's recent veto of legislation to give control of the Upper Harlem Division to the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority. Challenging statements in the Governor's veto memorandum, they quoted from a policy statement of the Rockefeller administration made Dec. 31, 1970, which states that trails on the line are "used by large segments of the public... essential since the territory served lacks alternate transportation facilities."

The HVTA letter further states: "The cost of keeping the Upper Harlem trains running is not great. We are in touch with the unions. They are cooperative and

and will keep costs to a minimum for the run north of Dover Plains."

"Back of the Hand"
HVTA officers were sharply critical of recent action by the

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Permit Issued For The Sharon Condominium

Building Inspector William Conrad on Tuesday issued a building permit to Fairfield builders Yovan and Desmond for construction of a much-discussed 18-unit condominium behind the Hotchkiss Library in Sharon.

The permit allows complete construction of the project, for which foundations had been excavated early this spring. Local objections to the condominium have focused on "inappropriateness" of the structure to the surrounding Sharon Green with its colonial style buildings, impact on population density, and the small acreage involved.

The structure will consist of nine, two-family dwellings, or 18 living units, with 19 enclosed parking spaces in four garages and 16 outdoor parking spaces. The two-story, cedar-shingled building will be built on an irregular lot of 1.45 acres, at an estimated cost of \$350,000. Total land area is 62,190 square feet, with floor area of 21,376 square feet. Garage space will be 5,278 square feet, as planned by the project's architect, Frank C. Chapman of New Haven.

The family dwellings are in two sections of the building, connected by a bridge. Each unit will have a private entrance, air conditioning and outside sitting area or deck.

All units will have two bedrooms and two baths, living room, dining or family room, kitchen, utility room and storage space. Units will be one level, and prospective buyers can choose from two different floor plans. The parking area and garage will be in the front of the main building.

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Senior Housing Plans Advance; 97 Apply For 'Noble Horizons'

By Ann Hoskins

The natural fears and insecurities which so often accompany advancing years will soon be tackled head-on in Salisbury at Noble Horizons, a new kind of housing for senior citizens for which architects' drawings have been released this week.

The project is funded by the bequest of the late Mrs. John Noble of Sharon who, for many years made her home at Blue Horizons, her estate on Route 41 in Sharon. Mrs. Noble left a fund of \$8 1/2 million for moderate-priced rental housing for people over 65.

The interest from this fund was to be used to construct attractive cottages or apartments to be rented at prices within reach of retired, middle-income people... "that they may be able to live out their lives in comfort and dignity."

Thomas R. Wagner, local attorney and an executor of Mrs. Noble's estate, was charged with carrying out her wishes.

Help from Church Homes
After considerable study of existing housing developments for the elderly, Mr. Wagner and his wife found Church Homes Inc. in Hartford; a dedicated organization which had already realized in Avery Hills ma... of the goals Mrs. Noble had envisioned.

A local committee headed by Mrs. Wagner, chairman, working with Lowell Davis, president of Church Homes, Inc. and the Avery Hills architects, Jeter & Cook, have chosen a site and have formulated the preliminary plans for the first units and community buildings of Noble Horizons.

The Site Chosen
The site selected is a tract of land on Lower Cobble Road in Salisbury, lying on the north side of the road between Routes 44 and 41. Purchased from John Rand, the land seemed especially desirable to the architects because of its even terrain, its proximity to the village, and its landscaping potential (ponds, walks, trees and shrub cultures, etc.).

The initial construction will include 20 cottage-apartments in cluster form; a building for congregate living and a community house. Site preparation is expected to start in August with Oct. 1 a target date tentatively set for a cornerstone ceremony.

97 Applications Received
Mrs. Wagner reports that 97 applications have already been received. Of these only four have opted for rooms in the congregate living house. The rest desire apartments. Among the applicants there are two single men, 14 couples and the remainder are single women.

The Planned Unit
Each cottage-cluster will contain two or three single-story apartments. Of these, four will have two bedrooms, living room, kitchen and bath. The rest will have a single bedroom, living room, bath and kitchen. Separate car-ports will be available to those having cars.

The Noble Horizons will have a minibus to take non-driving residents to and from the village and on special excursions to area

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Vandalism At Central School Over Weekend

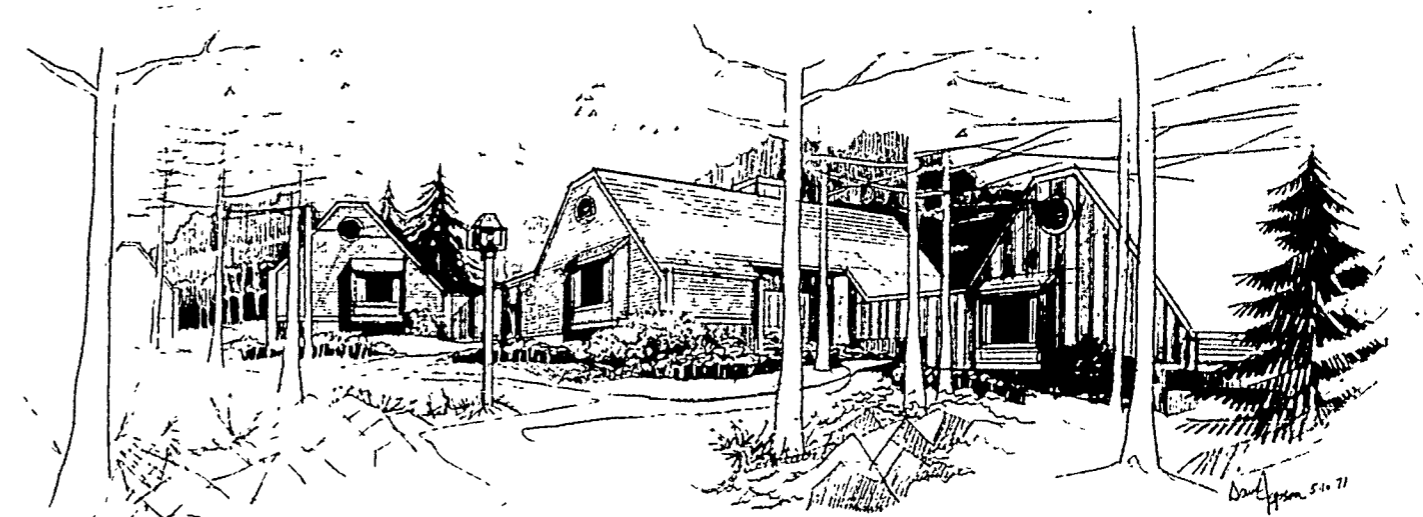
Four youths were arrested Wednesday afternoon after a series of break-ins that resulted in widespread vandalism at the Salisbury Central School last weekend.

Three were identified as Nancy Marcon, 16, of Flat Rock, Mich.; Paul Marcon, 17, of Flat Rock, Mich.; and James Britt, 16, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., who were visiting relatives in the area. The fourth was an unidentified 15-year-old juvenile.

According to State Police, the upper building of the school was entered several times over the weekend, with vandals making their entrance through a side window. Damage, estimated at \$500, included damage to a public address system, flooding of classrooms with water, overturning a fire extinguisher and splattering of paint on classroom walls. The youngsters have agreed to clean up a portion of the damage.

Circuit Court warrants were served on charges of breaking

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ARCHITECTS' DRAWING... of the proposed Noble Horizons cottages. Clusters will be comprised of two or three cottage-apartments. — Jeter and Cook drawing

Maine Site "Best":

FPC Grants Northeast Initial Canaan Pump Storage Permit; New Study Lauds Potential

By Robert Estabrook

Northeast Utilities was granted a three-year preliminary permit by the Federal Power Commission Monday to proceed with studies of the Canaan Mountain pumped-storage project.

Issuance of the FPC permit in Washington formalizes a procedure already under way but does not authorize any construction. Its principal effect, apart from sanctioning the present inquiry, is to give Northeast priority over any other potential applicants if and when the utility seeks a license.

Although the FPC acknowledged receiving numerous protests against the Canaan Mountain project along with some letters of support from private individuals, groups and organizations, the Commission denied a request by some petitioners for a formal hearing at this time.

No justification for the holding of a formal hearing at the preliminary permit stage had been shown, the Commission stated, adding that no competing application had been filed and there had been no showing that the Northeast application was deficient.

The permit as granted listed five technical restrictions, but a Northeast spokesman said they are all routine on every permit and do not affect the study. They require the utility to cooperate with Federal agencies in arranging fish, wildlife and recreational resource exhibits and also to provide for archaeological and historical surveys and any necessary salvage operations before flooding takes place.

SCAF Plans Aug. 3 Theater Supper For First Nighters

First-nighters at Sharon Playhouse and SCAF Gallery on Aug 3 can enjoy an international buffet supper with Champagne on the Playhouse grounds.

The caterer will be the Mt. Everett Country Club of South Egremont, Mass. George Chin of the Club will be on hand himself to help diners choose their fare from among Chinese, Italian and American dishes.

Supper will be spread from 7 p.m. until the curtain rises on *Rope*, the tense melodrama which will fill the stage next week.

Also available to diners will be the opening of the university art teachers' exhibit at SCAF Gallery.

Reservations for dinner and theater may be made at the Playhouse box office: 364-5536.

Officials of the three-company Northeast combine have said that they hope to decide by mid or late 1972 whether to ask approval to go ahead with the Canaan Mountain project, which would be the largest of its type in the world so far.

Two reservoirs are envisaged, one of 720 acres of water area atop Canaan Mountain and the other of 750 acres in the valley of Wangum Lake Brook east of

Falls Village. Water from the upper reservoir would be drawn down, approximately 900 feet through turbines in the base of the mountain to provide for peak electricity needs. It would be pumped back at night or on weekends when demand was lower.

Weekly fluctuations of from 40 to a maximum of 68 feet in the water level would prevent recreational use of the reservoirs.

According to the FPC, Northeast predicted a capacity of from 1000 to 2000 megawatts of electric power, to be confirmed by study.

One of Five Sites
Apart from the issuance of the preliminary FPC permit, selection of the Canaan site has received a strong boost from a draft report of the New England River Basins Commission listing

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Appeals Board Vote Quashes Zoning Decision on Car Wash

The Salisbury Zoning Board of Appeals voted 4-1 in executive session Monday night to forbid construction of a car wash on Depot Plaza in Lakeville. Richard Barton had applied to build the facility on the old Stuart Theater property which he owns.

In upholding an appeal by Fred Harper, who owns an adjacent residence, the Board reversed the decision of the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission. The Commission had voted on June 18 to authorize construction of the car wash.

Mr. Barton told The Lakeville Journal Tuesday that he plans to take the issue to court.

Both the Zoning Commission's decision and that of the Board of Appeals hinged on whether or not a car wash is a "permitted use."

Both used section 431.2 as their guide in the decision. This section describes as a permitted use in a CG-20 zone: "automotive sales and service including filling stations."

'automotive (sales and) service.' "Regardless of the above, it was felt by the board that the use of this lot for a car wash would be detrimental to the area, and therefore to the town, with respect to the public welfare,

traffic safety and property values." Present and voicing at the meeting of the Board Monday were Mr. Rand, John Dufour, Paul Rebillard, Abbott Hamilton

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Speaker Claims Policies Increase Drug Menace

Efforts to control illicit drug use will not work until a distinction is made between marijuana and far more dangerous substances, writer Edward M. Brecher told members of the Salisbury Rotary Club Tuesday.

Citing the "mainlining" of heroin and amphetamines, or "speed" — injection directly into the arteries — as the most dangerous practice, Mr. Brecher said unless adults are willing to regard this as different from smoking marijuana young people will be unable to make the distinction.

part by mistaken publicity "on the part of extremely well-meaning legislators,

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Playhouse Will Aid Libraries

The Sharon Playhouse is holding its annual Library Week through July 31. Any patron who chooses to designate his hometown library at the box office will have 50 cents of his ticket price forwarded to that library by the Playhouse. This week was chosen by the Playhouse because two of the great literary figures of our time are the authors of the two plays on the stage, Christopher Fry being responsible for the high style comedy, *A Phoenix Too Frequent* and Sean O'Casey authoring *Bedtime Story*. The Playhouse hopes to foster the close link between reading and playing.

The Playhouse, hoping to reach out to the young audience in the area, has also inaugurated a Family Night on Wednesday evenings. All seats on Wednesday nights will be priced at a figure comparable to the average cost of a visit to the movies.

Bloodmobile Visit

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Sharon Congregational Church tomorrow, Friday, July 30, from noon until 5:30 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome and persons with Rh-negative type blood are particularly urged to attend. Donors who gave at the May visit are eligible to donate again.



RATTLE... four feet of lethal snake coiled on the Lime Rock lawn of Herbert Bergdahl. Caught live by Mr. Bergdahl, the snake will be kept until more of his kind can be found and then will be shipped to Hartford for study. Last year Mr. Bergdahl caught 18 rattlers. — Bill Binzen, Jr. photo.