

1990 ANNUAL REPORT

FRIENDS OF RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST

Our big effort this year was one of fund-raising, to assist in the purchase of the keystone parcel which straddles Rattlesnake Gutter road through the most spectacular part of the Gutter. Our goal was \$30,000. As contributions were received, we watched the "snake's blood line" rise on the handsome goal board made by Margaret Nutting. We came very close to meeting that goal, thanks to the hard work of our T.E.A.M. and the generosity of our many Friends. The attached blue sheet, prepared for the Harvest Festival, details our effort and recognizes the many contributors.

Our second preservation project was working with Sidney Poritz on his plans for preserving forever 140 acres on his Laurel Hill development. This involved much learning on our part of the many factors to be considered in accepting this form of preservation. We are grateful to Sidney for his concern and patience and are pleased to have a part in this alternative method of preserving land at no cost to the town.

We sponsored three events open to the public. On May 18, John Reid led a Gutter hike from Moores Corner to Montague Road, followed by a slide-talk in which he discussed the origins and the mysteries of the Gutter to an overflow meeting of the Leverett Historical Society. On July 23, Eva Gibavic led a hike to view the Brushy Mountain cellar holes. And at the Harvest Festival, the annual bus tour featured Leverett's public lands, with those who wished hiking from the top of the Gutter to Montague Road, again with John Reid.

Our fundraising efforts took several directions. The direct appeal to Leverett citizens by the T.E.A.M. was enhanced by a handsome brochure, for which we are indebted to Lou Bannister and Gail Alt. Headed by Evelyn Weiss, T.E.A.M. members included Perky Greeley, Gordon Fretwell, Brooke Thomas, Ed Hartouni and Annette Gibavic. Our life memberships rose substantially through this drive. At the town landfill, Gordon King and Dave Field, assisted by David Young and Bob Schuyler, created a refundable area which has become an impressive source of income and has not yet reached its potential. Rattlesnake Gutter T-shirts continue to be hot items at the Village Co-op and now are also available also through the Bradford Field Library.

Communication with our membership continues to be primarily through the Town Newsletter, at the Harvest Festival and Annual Town Meeting. Postcards of the annual meeting are sent to Life Members. We urge members to upgrade their status to life membership (\$100 contribution).

Respectfully submitted,
Annette N. Gibavic, Secretary