Environmental Report

Digital: Everyone · · · Almost · · · Wants It

No Controversy

Hardly anyone in South Burlington, a city of 10,000 people, has a harsh word to say about the Digital Corporation or the \$4 million computer assembly plant that is rising on 180 acres of an abandoned farmer's field between Interstate 89 and the Williston Road.

This absence of controversy is hardly surprising. Digital is a gilt-edged, world-wide, computer corporation with 17 manufacturing plants throughout the world. Digital's total operating revenues in fiscal 1976 were \$736.3 million, up a healthy 38 percent from \$538.8 million in 1975. Digital employs over 25,000 people worldwide. And it eventually plans to employ as many as 1400 people at its plant in South Burlington, most of whom, Corporation officials claim, will come from the local ranks of Vermont's unemployed.

Industrial Park

Back eight or nine years ago the city fathers of South Burlington decided to develop a parcel of land as an industrial site. The original idea was an industrial park with as many as eight tenants. The City of South Burlington was willing to do its part in attracting development. In the early 1970's the City of South Burlington proposed and the people approved by a 3--1 margin a bond issue that provided an access road to the industrial site along with sewer lines into the property. When Digital came along and proposed to take the entire site, officials in South Burlington were delighted.

"We wanted to provide jobs for kids who were getting out of high school," says second-term Selectman, Mike Flaherty. And, he continues, "We wanted to broaden the tax base."

C. Harry Behney, Executive Director of the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC). has played a key role in cooperation with South Burlington officials as a broker in showing the 180-acre industrial site to prospective tenants. Behney remembers what it was like in Chittenden County in 1952 when GBIC was formed.

Jobs

The American Woolen Mills had closed down putting 2500 people out of work. Young people were leaving the state in droves. The Ethan Allen Air Force Base closed in 1961. "Chittenden County was lower than a snake's belly," says Behney. Then in the 60's, the downward trend was reversed, particularly in the later 60's. Then came the economic doldrums of the early 70's. GE cut back its workforce. A lot of smaller shops were cut back. A lot of subcontract work dried up. At the same time, Behney notes, young people had decided to stay in Vermont, even if that meant that a lot of overqualified young people were driving trucks. "We are still not back to the number of manufacturing jobs we had in 1970, not even today," Behney remarks.

Then Behney goes on to ask what for him is the crucial question. "Do we spend millions of dollars to make the environment in Vermont pure, and educate these kids, and then see them go out of state. In Chittenden County we need 1,000 new jobs just for the kids who are here who are coming through our school system this

Digital...

year. You have to decide whether you want the κids to stay here and enjoy it. If you don't want to, then we can go back to the way it was."

South Burlington Selectman Paul Farrar reiterates the same theme. "The recreational industry does not provide the type of jobs that we need," he says. "I think this area needs a better mix of jobs than it has. Unemployment is one of the most serious social problems that we have in this country."

Taxes

Farrar is also convinced that the presence of a computer assembly plant will be a good thing for South Burlington's tax situation. He notes that taxable wealth in South Burlington is 50 percent non-residential. "I think that type of relationship is healthy," he says. "It provides a reasonable basis for providing services." Farrar says that three out of every four tax dollars spent in South Burlington goes to support the cost of education. "Our non-residential tax base provides one out of every two dollars that we spend on education."

Arthur Hogan

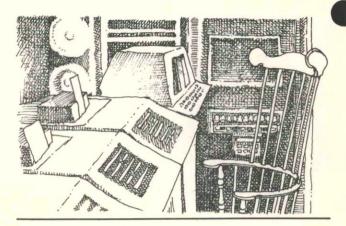
The subject of "Jobs for Vermonters" is very much on the mind of Arthur Hogan, Executive Director of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.

Hogan concedes that there are other parts of the State, such as St. Johnsbury, where the percentage of unemployment is higher than Burlington. "If you take percentages," Hogan says, "yes, unemployment is more serious (elsewhere). We just have to deal with larger numbers of people looking for work." Hogan says that if you draw a 40-mile radius around Burlington, there are 7600 people who are out of work, and that's better than 40 percent of the State's unemployed.

"But if these demands for work, and therefore development are satisfied, won't this lead to growth?"

Hogan is not afraid of growth. A regional plan adopted by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission in April, 1976, recognizes that growth will occur and that it is better to channel growth than to prevent it. Present plans call for the development of 28 growth centers throughout the County. "If it is channelled in the proper fashion, this region," declares Hogan, "could handle 200,000 people by the next century."

The attractiveness of the Burlington area is obvious to Hogan. There is the airport. There is the financial center, the colleges and the university. And you have the service industries that support development. Hogan sums it up by saying, "You have the cumulative package here."



But the key to the Digital proposal, Hogan says, is the assurance that of the 1400, perhaps even eventually 1800 people that will be employed at the end of five years, 95 percent of these will come from the pool of existing unemployed persons who already live in Chittenden County.

Apparently Digital has made this point persuasively. District Environmental Coordinator, Curtis Carter, says, "There were no big issues with the Digital project. The feeling was that they would employ local people because it was an assembly operation."

Impacts

And if local people are in fact to be employed, one can expect that the secondary impacts of industrial development may well be reduced. You will not see large numbers of people moving into the small communities that surround Burlington, building homes, enlarging the urban sprawl, and feeding strip development.

The National Chamber of Commerce says that the addition of one new job in industry will lead to 6.5 additional jobs in other sectors of the economy. But officials like Carter don't see it that way in the case of Digital. "It's hard for me to understand how this kind of situation could have that kind of multiplier," Carter says. If Digital was a manufacturing operation that was purchasing parts and materials locally and subcontracting work locally, Carter could see how the 6.5 figure might stand up. But that's not the case with the Digital assembly plant. They have their parts shipped into the plant from outside and they ship these finished components to somewhere else."

Regardless of the exact degree of secondary impacts from the opening of a Digital assembly plant, everyone, including the most enthusiastic local officials, admits that some kind of impact will be felt.

Behney says that the infrastructure is there to support a larger industrial community in the Burlington area already. He points to school systems where school rooms are empty.

Digital...

Selectman Mike Flaherty says that people are fooling themselves if they think there is not going to be a discernible impact. He does not see an impact on traffic as great as in the case of Pyramid Mall because traffic to and from the plant will be concentrated at certain periods of the day. But the impact will be there. Flaherty is philosophical. If he could spin the clock back he would. "I have been here 19 years and I would like to go back 12," he says, with some regret. "I don't think you are going to stop a lot of this stuff, just perhaps slow it down."

Misgivings

One man whose misgiving about Digital stands quite apart from the enthusiasm of planners, developers and local officials, is Dr. "Hub" Vogelmann, a Professor of Botany at UVM.

Vogelmann lives in the small community of Jericho, a town of 2,343 people, about ten miles east of Burlington, and he has witnessed the rising tide of development that is engulfing the small, outlying towns. A State Planning Office study, published in 1976 projects a population in Jericho of 4,794 by 1990. Vogelmann isn't interested in singling out any one development for special attention. "Each thing is not terribly bad," he says. It all happens like erosion, slowly. "You have more homes, street lights, paved roads, garbage collection, more demand for services. When you add them all up you have lost a special quality of life in Vermont."

Vogelmann is skeptical about the claim that industrial development leads to reductions in the property tax. He

cites figures from a recently-published study by UVM Extension Economist, Malcolm I. Bevins, in a book entitled, Community Facts & Figures: People - Income - Taxes (Chittenden County). According to this study, the four towns with the lowest property taxes measured on what an individual would pay on a home worth \$30,000 were Charlotte (\$577), St. George (\$638), Underhill (\$643) and Milton (\$667). Those communities with the highest property taxes on a \$30,000 home were Essex Junction (\$808), Richmond (\$830), South Burlington (\$810) and Winooski (\$825). All in all, Vogelmann notes that it is the towns that have made the choice for industrial development that have the highest property taxes.

Nor is Vogelmann convinced that the Digital assembly plant will necessarily employ local people. "Are these people going to be within easy commuting distance?" he asks. "I would like to see those figures analyzed and broken down."

Looking at the Burlington he knows, and the Burlington he once knew, Vogelmann says, "What I can say about Digital is just that we have experienced the same kind of thing with IBM, GE and any of these South Burlington industries. You have this spillover with these people and problems: schools, housing, -- the impact is on small communities that have already grown beyond their limits." Vogelmann is concerned with the effect of this development on people. He has begun to notice the glassy look in the eyes of people in Burlington. People are not as friendly in the shops. These are signs of social disintegration. "Try to get into Burlington," he says, "traffic light after traffic light. We've got a crummy, dirty New Jersey city on our hands, and there it goes."

VRNC Seeks Coordinator of Volunteer Projects

The Vermont Natural Resources Council believes that there may be members who have the time, the energy and the desire to take on an active volunteer role in addressing substantive environmental issues or in assisting the Council with its day-to-day administrative work.

The problem is finding these members and offering them a constructive opportunity to participate in the work of the Council.

The task of identifying members interested in assisting the Council may best be accomplished by finding a volunteer with promotional and managerial abilities willing to coordinate a volunteer program.

Such a program would involve at least the following elements:

(1) Identifying and describing projects that are consistent with VNRC objectives;

- (2) Recruiting volunteers;
- (3) Providing orientation and administrative supervision to volunteers;
- (4) Matching VNRC volunteers with appropriate projects.

While the coordinator would not be directly responsible for supervising volunteer activities, or evaluating a volunteer's work, the coordinator would be involved in these processes and would have to work cooperatively with staff members in these areas.

Any VNRC member who would like to discuss the possibility of becoming the Council's "Coordinator of Volunteer Projects" should get in touch with Seward Weber by writing VNRC, 26 State Street, Montpelier, VT, 05602, or by calling (802) 223-2328.

This Side of the Mountain

On October 14, the Vermont Natural Resources Council inaugurated a series of biweekly environmental columns in weekly newspapers throughout Vermont. The new column is entitled, This Side of the Mountain, and is written by VER Editor, Nat Frothingham.

This is how Frothingham described the thinking that gave birth to the new VNRC column.

The purpose of these columns is to reach out and communicate with a whole new audience of Vermonters from all walks of life. We are making one basic assumption, that what happens in Arlington, or Bellows Falls, or Island Pond, may be a useful example to Vermonters right across the State.

Frothingham continued.

We are saying that there is a shared community of concern, and that community embraces the whole State of Vermont. What happens in one town or region, may be happening somewhere else, or may have already happened. The problem is to identify the key issues, whether they be forest management, or energy conservation, or shopping center development, identify them, dig into the problems, and write an intelligent and fair report. That's what I'm trying to do.

The VER is reprinting the second column in the This Side of the Mountain series that describes the growing fears of land-owners in Central Vermont over the fate of the Appalachian Trail.

Appalachian Trail Federal Ambitions Clash With Landowners

(Along the Appalachian Trail as it crosses Vermont) Since its founding in 1933, the Appalachian Trail, a 2000-mile footpath through the wilderness from Maine to Georgia, has had the character of a river -- fluid, always changing its course, constantly re-negotiating its right-of-way across public and private lands.

Now all this is changing.

As recently as October 25, the U.S. House of Representatives in a lopsided vote of 409-12 gave added steam to the federal effort not only to protect the Trail but to purchase a permanent, fixed, right-of-way along its entire length.

Federal efforts to protect the Trail began in 1968 with passage of the National Trails System Act. In the past nine years, use of the Appalachian Trail has increased dramatically. There are now some 4 million hikers on the Trail each year. There are other pressures as well. There is development. There are places along the Trail where its continuity is threatened. And there are as many as 175 miles where the Trail has been forced onto paved roads.

The question is no longer whether the Trail should be protected, but how. And the bill that passed the House on October 25 is strong medicine.

Look at the difference between the 1968 Act and the new legislation. The 1968 bill authorized \$5 million for Trail acquisition. The new bill authorizes \$90 million over the next three years for the same purpose. The old bill gave the National Park Service the power of eminent domain to take a corridor as wide as 200 feet along the Trail. The new bill permits the Park Service to take a corridor of up to 1000 feet, or as much as 125 acres per mile of Trail.

In Vermont, a federal survey team is winding up its preacquisition studies on the ground. If pending legislation in Congress passes, negotiations between representatives of the Park Service and individual landowners could begin as early as 1978.

David Richie, Manager of the Appalachian Trail Project for the Park Service in Harpers Ferry, Virginia, sees compelling reasons for acquiring land in Vermont over which the Trail passes.

Richie is particularly concerned about the Trail eastwards of Sherburne Pass, a segment between Route 12 and the Connecticut River. This is an area that Richie describes as "dynamic." He means that the towns of Pomfret, Hartford, and Norwich over which the Trail passes have had a recent history of rising land prices and growing numbers of land transactions. These are signs,

Trail...

says Richie, of impending subdivision and development that could sever the Trail. Nor is this all. Richie contends that the Trail corridor from Route 12 to the Connecticut River follows too many roads. And this is a contradiction of the "wilderness hiking experience."

Richie wants to be flexible with landowners, wants to encourage sympathetic land uses such as agriculture along the Trail. But the federal determination to protect the Trail, through acquisition or perpetual easement, this is the bottom line, and this is non-negotiable.

Last spring, in May, the Vermont Agency of Environmental Conservation commissioned a survey of landowners along the Trail by Putnam W. Blodgett, an experienced hiker and Director of the Challenge Wilderness Camp in Bradford.

After walking the Trail from the Connecticut River to East Wallingford south of Rutland, after talking to local landowners and corresponding with others, Blodgett concluded the following: "The majority of the people contacted wished to keep the Trail on the present basis and are opposed to governmental acquiring of easements or rights-of-way."

One part of Blodgett's assignment was to have been the negotiation of voluntary, informal, written cooperative agreements between the Green Mountain Club and as many landowners as possible. These cooperative agreements have been signed with a number of landowners along Vermont's Long Trail. But this part of Blodgett's work was cancelled when the new federal intentions became clear.

Blodgett says, "They are going full steam ahead on acquiring the Trail. There's no doubt about that." And he adds sharply, "They want to get it over with and lock it up and go on to something else."

Blodgett sees a positive value in continuing the stewardship of landowners along the Trail. When the Trail was proposed years ago, landowners voluntarily accepted its passage across their lands. They have put up with the nuisances: vandalism, fires, litter. They have tolerated the very, very small number of hikers who have broken into sheds, stuffed rubbish into mailboxes and bathed naked in roadside streams. And yet, surprisingly, there is a reservoir of good will on the part of landowners toward hikers. Owners of land have fixed fences, moved shelters to better locations at their own expense, and picked up trash.

Blodgett would protect the Trail, yes, even with eminent domain in places where it is in danger of being severed. He is challenging the method of the Park Service, not the objective. His own suggestion? Approach the landowner who wants to sell but negotiate agreements with the rest. Sure it's a hassle. It's not tidy and quick. But it will permit the Trail to be relocated. It will sustain landowner incentive. And it will reassure landowners along other trails.

Gerry Hawkes, 27, a consulting forester who owns 55 acres of land along the Trail in Woodstock, echoes Blodgett's sentiments. He says, "I would not mind signing an agreement that I would keep my land in agriculture under good management." A corridor of 200 feet, says Hawkes, would cripple his operation; a corridor of 1000 feet would wipe him out.

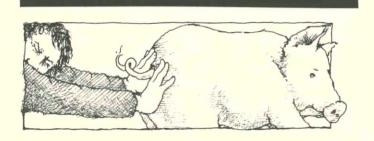
Hawkes thinks the federal plan will be bad for hikers, bad for landowners. The Trail will cut right through a person's land, dividing it in pieces. The owner will eventually have to sell out to the highest bidder. This could lead to development, and Hawkes remarks, "You could end up with a green strip between two housing tracts." The sensible alternative would be to help the farmer, the forester, stay in business.

"My whole future is tied up in this piece of land,"
Hawkes says. "I hope to have a sugarbush up there. I could have made a lot of money." Instead, Hawkes has been improving his woodlot, thinning trees, planning for the future. "This is a beautiful unit," he says, looking up toward the meadow in the October sun. "I am perfectly willing to share it."

BUSHNELL BINOCULARS STILL AVAILABLE

VNRC still has a limited supply of "Bushnell Custom" 7 X 35 binoculars available to members at a special discount price. The "7 X 35" is an excellent all-around birding binocular. It focuses down to I4 feet and weighs 29 ounces. The manufacturer's list price for the Bushnell Custom is \$169.50. The VNRC membership price is \$117.00. These binoculars are available for inspection at the Council offices. If you wish to reserve a pair, please call or write the VNRC office, 26 State Street, Montpelier, VT., 05602, or (802) 223-2328. Mail orders will be accepted with an additional charge of \$3,00 for handling and insurance.

MOVING? Please stay in touch. Let VNRC know your change of address, and please enclose an old VER label. This helps the Council save postal return expenses.



Opponents Square Off Against Dickey - Lincoln

At a public hearing on Monday, November 14 in St. Johnsbury, members of the public and representatives of conservation groups in Vermont registered strong opposition to the proposed Dickey-Lincoln hydroelectric project in Maine.

Plans for the Dickey-Lincoln project call for the construction of two dams on the St. John River in northern Maine. The first dam, at Dickey, is the larger structure and would supply 874 megawatts of peaking power for an average of 3.6 hours per day. The second dam at the Lincoln School site, would supply 70 megawatts of intermediate power for about 10.3 hours per day. Both dams together would flood some 86,000 acres of Maine timberland, and the entire project, including transmission lines, would be constructed at a cost of \$757 million.

Warner Shedd, Regional Executive for the National Wildlife Federation in New England, who spoke against Dickey-Lincoln at the November 14 hearing, is sharply critical of the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement" prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Shedd is particularly unhappy about that section of the "Impact Statement" that deals with possible energy alternatives to Dickey-Lincoln. Shedd feels that this section was "flatly inadequate." He says that if you add up all the comments that the Corps makes about alternatives what they are saying is that the only choice is to build Dickey-Lincoln. And Shedd feels that a lot of perfectly good alternatives have been discounted just because they couldn't do all the things that Dickey-Lincoln can do.

Shedd reports that the idea of building or rehabilitating small hydro sites throughout New England was rejected by the Corps because small hydro sites don't have sufficient "reserve capacity." (Reserve capacity is a measure of a site's ability to respond to an emergency demand for power, as in a region-wide blackout.) Proposals for pumped storage facilities, Shedd contends, were rejected by the Corps for the same reason. Shedd claims that careful load management and energy conservation could save New England three times the amount of power that Dickey-Lincoln could produce. But load management and energy conservation were also rejected by the Corps. Shedd says that the attitude of the Corps can be broadly described by this remark, "We're going to need it, so let's build it."

Seward Weber, Executive Director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council, testified in opposition to the Dickey-Lincoln project at the November 14 hearing. Weber said, "There will always be a need for peaking power capacity. It appears, however, that this need can be reduced by reducing baseload and intermediate load demand through permanent conservation measures.

Peaking demand can be reduced directly through load management."

Gordon Stensrud, Chief Engineer at the Vermont Public Service Board in Montpelier, explained the difference between energy conservation and load management. "In conservation," Stensrud said, "you try to cut down on your use of killowatt hours." Load management is different. "The principle thing is not to cut down on the killowatt hours you are using, but to change the timing of your use so that it does not occur at periods of highest consumer demand." Stensrud supplied a clear example. A consumer would be using the principle of load management if he was heating hot water between 8:00 p.m. in the evening and 8:00 a.m. the next morning. He would be using the same amount of electrical energy. but he would be using it in "off-peak" hours. It was both a reduction in the amount of energy used (energy conservation) and a change in the timing of how energy is used (load management) that Weber was calling for in his testimony.

Public opinion, Shedd believes, is stiffening against the Dickey-Lincoln project. No major daily newspaper in Maine now supports the project. Public hearings at two locations in Maine have demonstrated solid opposition to Dickey-Lincoln. Even the one community in the State that had most to gain from the construction of the dams appears to be swinging against the project. Shedd reports that the Fort Kent, Maine Chamber of Commerce in an astonishing vote came down against Dickey-Lincoln. Fort Kent is a town of between 5,000 and 10,000 people in size and it stands to gain financially by large-scale construction activity in northwestern Maine.

But for all of these gains in the public sphere, Shedd is not declaring an early victory in the fight against Dickey-Lincoln. Maine's two U.S. Senators, Edmund Muskie and William Hathaway, both support the project. A Citizens' Study Committee appointed by Gov. Longley to examine the project is scheduled to make its recommendations in December.

Here in Vermont, the timetable moves into 1978. In February the Department of the Interior will release its own separate "Draft Environmental Impact Statement" on the transmission line corridor that will be constructed as part of the project. Hearings on the transmission line corridor will be held in Vermont sometime after the release of the "Impact Statement" in February. Then, finally, in August, 1978, the combined Environmental Impact Statements, both for the dams and the transmission corridor, will be forwarded to the Council on Environmental Quality in Washington, D.C. From there the fate of the \$757 million project will be decided by the Carter Administration and the U.S. Congress.





Pure Maple Syrup, packed in Vermont-made ceramic jugs commemorating the Bicentennial of Vermont's independence. This limited edition available filled with Grade A syrup: half-gallon \$19.25 ppd., quart \$12.50 ppd. (Please add \$1.00 west of the Mississippi.) Write for comlete mail order price list. Butternut Mountain Farm, Johnson, Vermont, 05656.

UVM Publishes
Tax Booklet

The UVM Extension Service and the UVM Environmental Program have published a new booklet by public affairs consultant, Benjamin Huffman, entitled, Farm and Forest Property Tax Stabilization and State Aid to Education: A Guide for Vermont Cities and Towns.

The 38-page booklet has four purposes: first, to list the State requirements for local farm and forest tax stabilization programs; second, to guide local officials in drafting tax stabilization contracts; third, to explain how tax stabilization agreements will affect state aid to education payments; and fourth, to indicate where local officials can find technical help.

Huffman himself is available as a consultant to advise cities and towns that may need help in developing tax stabilization contracts. To contact him, write, Benjamin Huffman, 21 Cliff Street, Montpelier, VT., 05602, or call, 802) 223-6564. Copies of Huffman's booklet are availle from the UVM Extension Service, UVM, Burlington, VT., 05401.

Backpacking, Canoeing, Nature Study, X-C...Backpacker Books has just released its new Catalog Number 4, listing over 750 trail guides, climbing guides, and titles related to wilderness travel and nature study. Price is \$1.00, refundable with the first purchase. Or stop in, 9 - 4, Monday through Friday. Backpacker Books, Dept CL42, Main Street, Orwell, Vt. 05760.

Sides of Yearling Beef, natural feed, state inspected, wrapped and frozen, approximately 200 pounds. @ .75 pound. H. Carse, Hinesburg, Vermont. 482-2294.

VNRC Ponders Alert Network

VNRC is considering the establishment of an "Action Alert Network" that would mobilize informed public opinion at key moments on critical state and national environmental issues.

Here is how the Network would operate. Whenever there is a key vote, or a key decision that needs a grassroots response, VNRC will get out a background paper to generate letters, wires and telephone calls in a timely manner.

VNRC is seeking volunteers from its members who would be willing to be contacted for the Network no more than three or four times a year. Members interested in participating in the "Action Alert Network" should write Seward Weber, VNRC, 26 State Street, Montpelier, VT., 05602, or call, (802) 223 2328.

At a meeting on Friday, November 11, environmental groups throughout Vermont decided once again to join hands in publishing a Weekly Legislative Alert. Letters will soon be going out to members of statewide environmental organizations inviting them to subscribe to a 1978 Alert.

UVM PUBLISHES REPORT ON SNOWMOBILING

The Recreation Management Program of the School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont has published a research report entitled Snowmobiling in Vermont, 1975.

These are three of the major findings of the study.

- (1) There has been a 76 percent increase in the number of snowmobiles registered in Vermont, going from 18,905 in 1970 to 33,178 in 1975.
- (2) The number of days the average snowmobiler spends riding in Vermont has decreased by 41 percent from 54 days in 1970 to 32 days in 1975.
- (3) Snowmobile club membership has shown a significant increase of 157 percent, going from 28 percent belonging in 1970 to 72 percent belonging in 1975. In addition, the snowmobile club has become a significant instrument in gaining permission to ride on private land in Vermont.

VNRC members who are interested in reading the entire 22-page report may request copies by writing the

Recreation Management Program, School of Natural Resources, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt. 05401.

EPA Merit Awards

The Region I Environmental Protection Agency Office in Boston has announced that two Vermonters will receive the EPA Merit Awards.

To be honored are Arthur Stone of Williamstown and C. Frank Velkas of Bennington.

Stone has been active in a wide range of conservation education activities and successfully manages a large woodlot.

Velkas played a large role in bringing the problems of lead poisoning in Bennington to the attention of State officials and pressuring State Government to correct these problems.

VNRC

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Montpelier, VT. Permit No. 285

THIS ISSUE NOVEMBER 1977 No. 69

Contents:

- Everyone (Almost) Wants Digital
- VNRC Column: This Side of the Mountain
- Opponents Square Off Against Dickey-Lincoln

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED