

Concepts Publishing flooded out

by Phil King

It is a tragic irony that a local publishing house, noted internationally for its beautiful books and magazines about boats, should have been flooded out in landlocked Waitsfield when the Mad River went berserk last week.

Concepts Publishing, owned by Jill Bobrow and Dana Jinkins, and Atwater Design, owned by Bonnie Atwater, have been doing business on or near Bridge Street in

Waitsfield for 11 years. Their red building on Route 100 backs onto the Bridge Street parking lot which flooded to a depth of about five feet last Saturday morning.

Bobrow and Atwater who live in Warren (Jinkins is out of town), were awakened by the sound of torrential rain early Saturday. Driving the last car over the Kingsbury bridge about 4:15 a.m., they arrived at their office to find state-of-the-art computer equipment, scanners, books, magazines,

portfolios and about 50,000 color slides floating in water or buried in two feet of mud.

Bobrow and Atwater, with the help of friends and passersby moved as much of their office and computer equipment as they could, handing computer monitors, and other things out the windows and doors to helpers who moved them across Route 100 to B'fer Roth's studio.

80 GOODSAMARITANS

Thanks to quick response by about 80 friends and acquaintances, 90 percent of their slides may have been saved. They are now slipped out of their sleeves, paper clipped and drying at Billy Brauer's studio in East Warren.

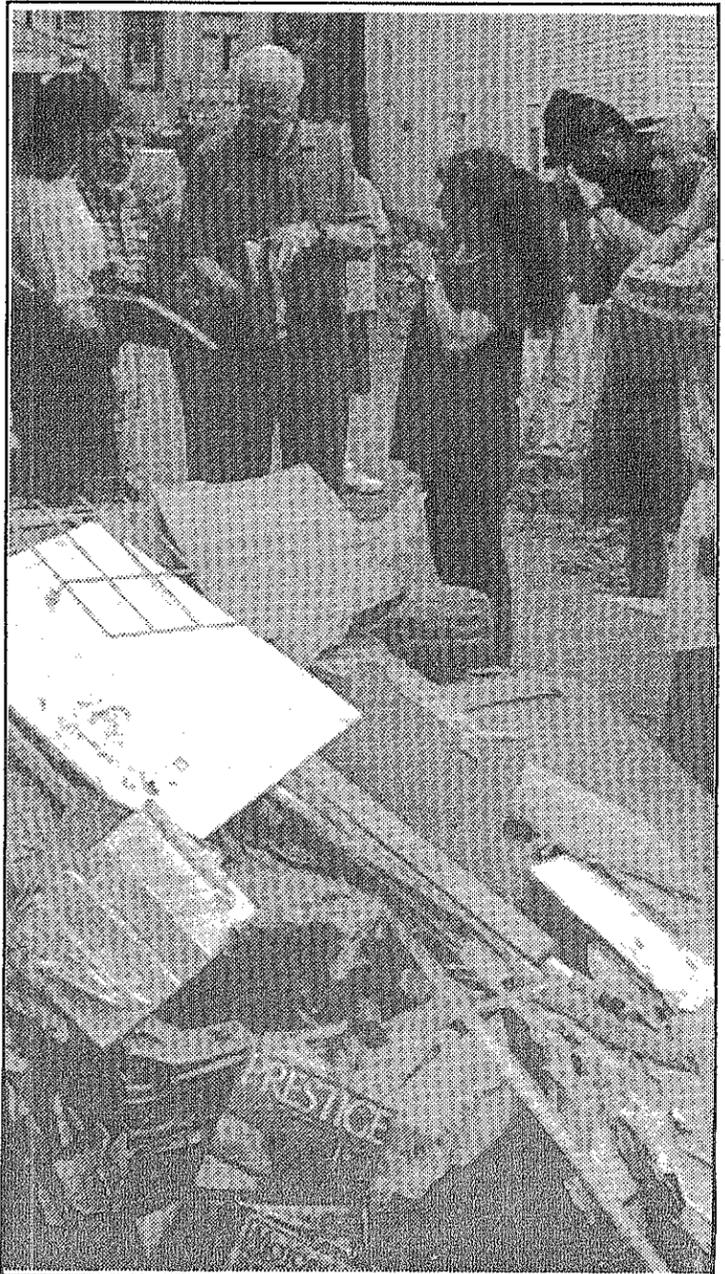
Chris Pierson of I-100 appealed for help via the Internet. Scientists Bill and Julie Parker obtained information from Eastman Kodak that helped save the slide collection.

Concepts Publishing's editorial offices remain a shambles. By Tuesday, U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, Vermont, a representative from FEMA and television crews from Boston, Burlington and Plattsburg were recording their story. They, of course, have no flood insurance. Damage estimates for the property were not available by press time.

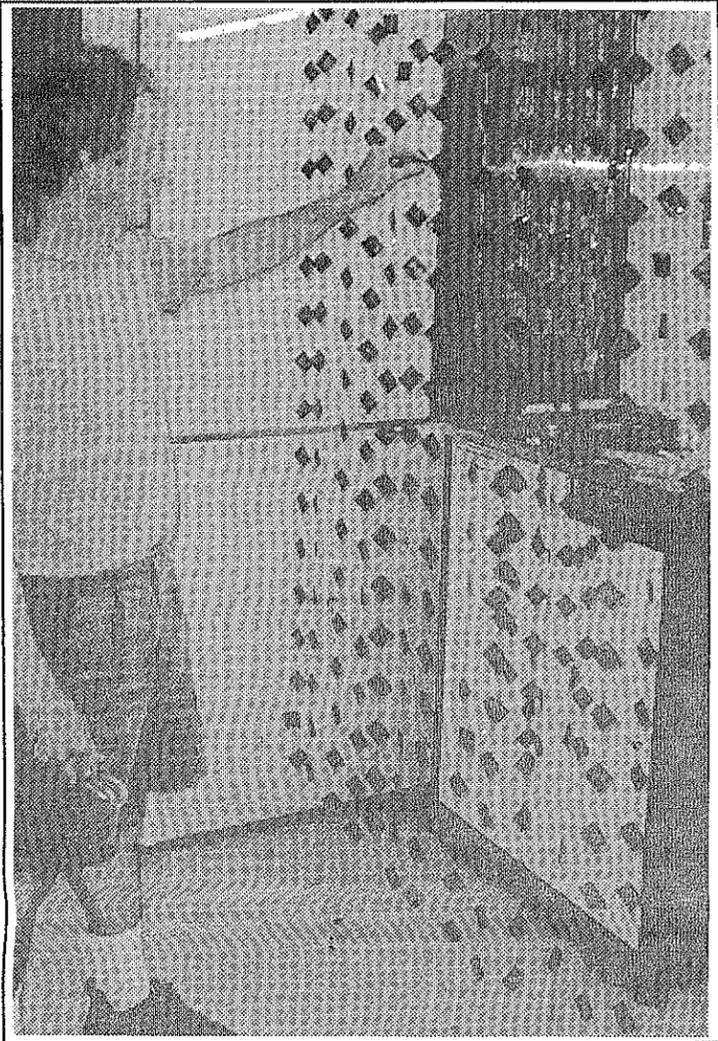
SENATOR LEAHY

"We have no idea what help to expect," Bobrow said. "Senator Leahy was gracious and sympathetic. State or federal aid would certainly make a difference. We are very grateful to the people who have come to help, many actually wading through mud to help us straighten out our lives."

Together, the talented de-



U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy examines flood damage in the Bridge Street Marketplace area in Waitsfield.



John Gallagher examines a group of photo negatives at Diffraction LTD in Waitsfield.

signers/publishers have turned out unusually beautiful books such as the recent "In the Spirit of Tradition: Old and New Classic Yachts." They recently spent time in the Caribbean photographing and writing a panoramic publication, "St.Barth's," recording the 8,3 square mile island's cul-

ture, history, stunning beaches, turquoise waters and verdant hills.

Partners Bobrow and Jinkins met while living and working in the Caribbean in 1975. The events of the past week have temporarily dampened their enthusiasm for water.

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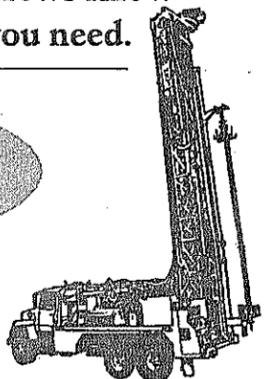
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