

Outspoken

Question: Do you think the annual raft race has gotten too big for Essex and other towns along the river?



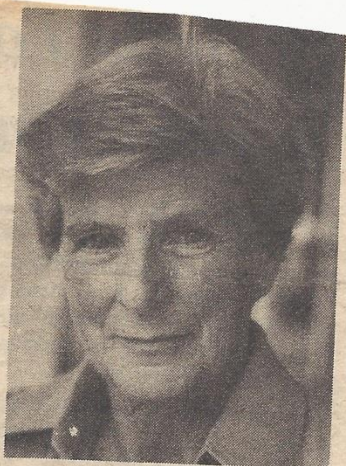
Thomas Dorman

Thomas Dorman, River Road, Essex: "I don't know about the other towns, but definitely Essex. Basically, it's interfered with the retail business--it's crowded the main street, particularly down by the water, scared the customers away. There was an awful lot of alcohol consumed, too."

Outspoken

Race Was Chaotic

(Continued From Page 5A)
the free-for-all afterward. It got carried away. The kids up the street have a good time making their raft. What (the racers) do afterwards is out of hand. It stopped business for three hours last year. If people have their own shop, it upsets Saturday business. You hate to down things, but when it upsets the momentum of a good business Saturday, then it's unhealthy."



Barbara Spring

Barbara Spring, Main Street, Essex: "Yes. It started out as fun a couple of years ago. A few people had fun building the rafts and not turning it into a free-for-all like it was last year. Let's make it a raft race without the bands and
(Continued on Page 20A)



Cindy Barber

Cindy Barber, 25 Fourth Avenue, Old Saybrook: "I think the raft race is a good idea. It seemed like it got a little out of hand last year, but people should have a good time once in awhile."