

# ❖ The Thoroughfare ❖

Volume 1 Issue 3

*The Roque Island Quarterly Newsletter*

Summer 1993

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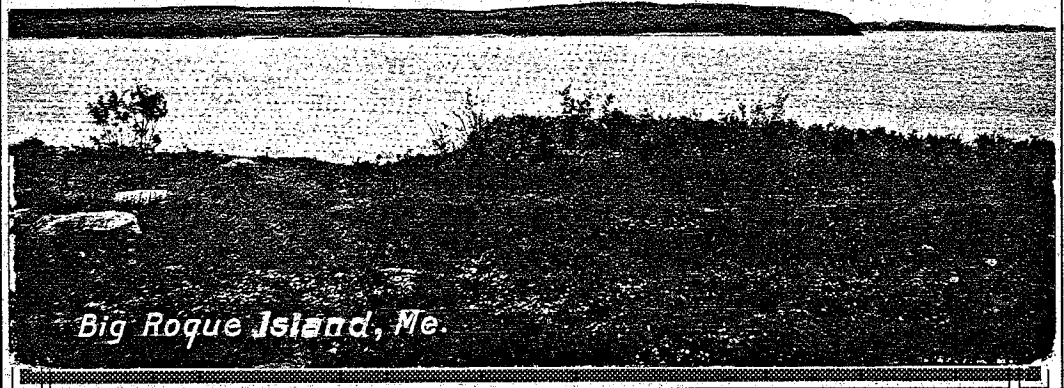
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point found by  
Jennifer Donaldson  
1990



*Postcard of Roque Island, without any trees, circa 1919.*

## ◆ CONSERVING OUR WATER RESOURCES

### *Squire's Point*

**U**nderstanding the finite nature of Roque Island's water resources is the first step to conserving them.

Fresh water resources on ocean islands are limited. The only source is precipitation, which recharges the bedrock aquifer through surficial sediments. The fundamental strategy for protecting the deep aquifer is to assure quantity and quality of recharge and avoid overdevelopment from overpumping which can lead to saltwater intrusion.

Roque is fortunate because it is relatively underdeveloped and has not suffered the problems of contamination and overuse of water resources experienced by some other Maine islands. And Roque is unusual among offshore islands in that a considerable portion is overlaid by thick surficial sediments.

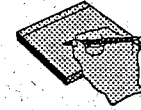
Who has not marveled at the geological gift, almost perfectly dividing the Island, of the glacial end moraine 500-1,000-foot wide running from Bonney Field to the Carlton Field sandbank at North Beach? At once the central road system, soil drainage for three fields and potential aquifer, the end moraine is a valuable resource as well as a vivid reminder of where the rate of ice melt defeated the glacial advance to the southeast in this area. It plays a role in purifying water and transmitting it to the aquifer. It accepts about 50% of annual precipitation.

Watersheds are another resource for they control quantity and direction of surface and near-surface waterflow and serve as important recharge areas. Construction and associated

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◆ SPRING UPDATE: IMPROVEMENTS

# Chairman's Notes



The second quarter at Roque has been extremely busy. The majority of the projects contemplated under our 1993 budget have been completed or are well under way. Chief among these are the Roque Bluffs dock (scheduled for completion mid-July); a new "used" steel landing craft to replace the leaking wooden barge; a new 75-HP engine for the Buzz Boat; a second-hand vehicle on the Island for family use only; a new yard tractor; new radar and depth sounder for the Peabody; a new mainland truck, and three entirely revamped bathrooms in the Monks' house; insulating the Red House, along with new cedar clapboards and trim, and repair of any structural rot found; plus on-going structural and exterior reconstruction of the Gardner House. These are in addition to a number of on-going improvements, such as fixing sills, replacing windows, reinstalling the gutter systems and levelling the barn; new electrical outlets and updating the heating system in the Farmhouse, etc.

us more time to devote to widening the trails as opposed to clearing them.

The Spring Membership Meeting was held in Maine on April 25th. A number of reports were heard from the respective committees. It was generally agreed that the Tier System would be put to a membership vote at the Annual Meeting in the Fall, for implementation in 1994. A pro forma budget will show projected costs for next year, with comparison to this year had the Tier System actually been in effect during 1993. A further report should be forthcoming to the Trustees on the trustee-selection process. The "Lakeman's Group" has made a preliminary proposal for possible use of Lakeman's Island; further information will be circulated as it becomes available. The next Trustees Meeting is scheduled for September 26th in Boston.

I hope everyone's Summer is enjoyable. I would welcome any questions or comments on what has been going on to date.

- John P. M. Higgins

Overall, through May we have spent approximately \$237,000, comprised of \$102,000 of capital items (68% of budget), \$81,000 of normal Island operating costs (40% of budget versus 42% budgeted for this time period), and \$54,000 of housing costs. Having recently returned from a weekend at the Island, I am pleased to report that it looks great, things work, and morale is high among the staff. My deep thanks to Tanya for her continued and devoted oversight to the operations of the Island.

The Natural Resources Committee has also been active during this period under the ministrations of George Herrick. A very informative study of the hydrological resources of the Island has been completed, and is available to anyone who might be interested. The Head Field has been finally cleared of trees (a project I became personally involved with 30 years ago); work by Norman Famous has commenced on cataloguing Great Spruce Island, and signs have been installed for the summer season on the beach. The trail system has weathered the winter well, permitting more time

◆ SQUIRE'S POINT, continued...

human activity in a watershed area could contaminate water supplies, divert precious resources to the sea or impair critical ecological habitats. Protection of our watersheds should receive conservation priority.

For recreational enjoyment and thirst-quenching necessity the water collection cistern at Beach Field is a model of sensible use. Others might be put in at modest cost at Clam Cove, Indian Landing, and Head Field. Since deer frequent, and pollute, every spring and water seep on the Island there is further reason to protect these resources.

Such thoughts are prompted by the June 6, 1993 report on Roque Island water resources by the geologist, Dr. Harold Nilsson, a copy of which will be available at the Island. He concludes that, in the absence of reliable data on deep island aquifer, it is prudent to plan development conservatively, institute cost-effective measures which can protect groundwater from contamination, reduce water use and maximize water recharge.

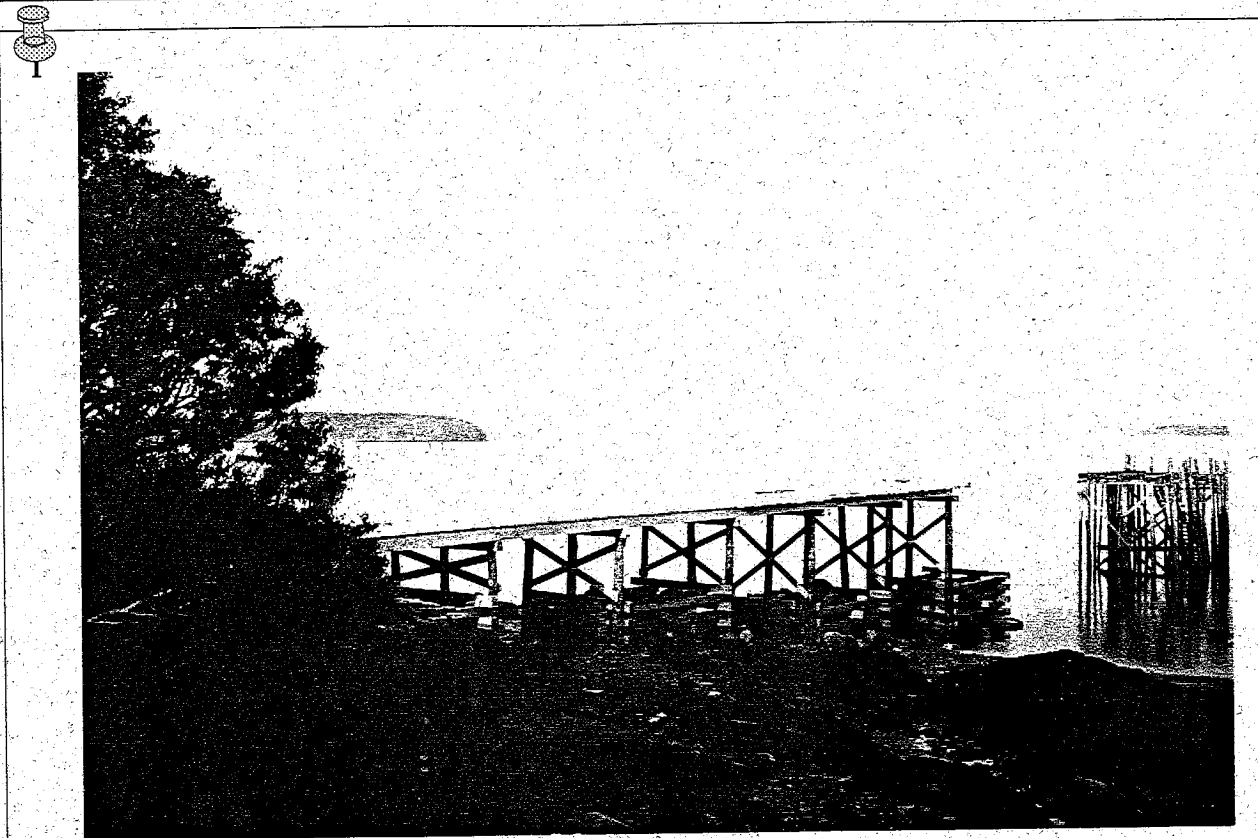
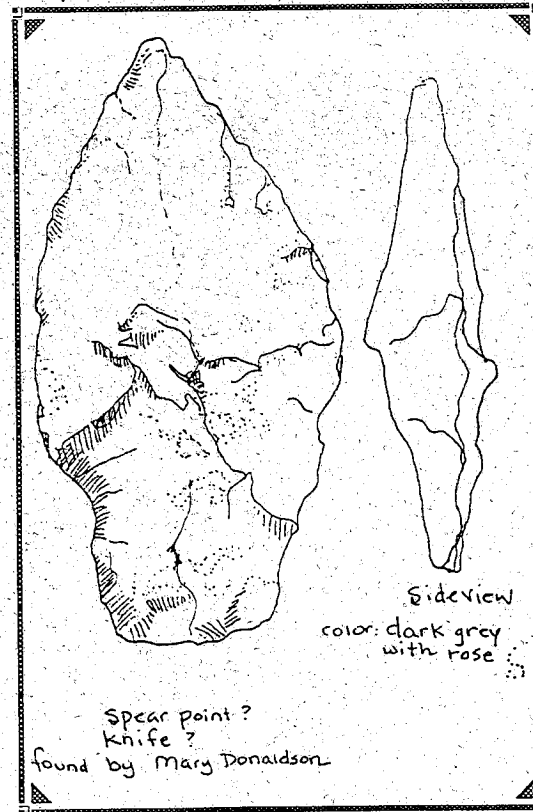
- G.G.H.

From The Archives  
From The Archives  
From The Archives

## Archaeological Pursuits

[This is one of a series of] photocopies of the first few pages of an inventory that I have begun. My brothers and I (and several spouses and children) have a keen interest in archaeology and have patiently searched and found several very interesting artifacts along the margins of the shores on Great Spruce Island and many areas on Roque. As the banks erode due to weather as

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Construction of the new Roque Bluffs dock (June 1993)

## Letter from the Editor

Hello cousins! This is the third issue of *The Thoroughfare* to be published, and all of my thanks goes to those people who have contributed. The difficulty with this newsletter is that without your input, experiences, and photographs it will never be able to accurately communicate what is happening at Roque or our relationship(s) to the Island. After this Summer's stay at Roque, I encourage and hope that you will submit any sort of trivia, tales, drawings, etc., for the Fall issue.

For this particular issue I would like to thank George Herrick, Barbie Bubar, John Higgins, and Jennifer Donaldson for their generous contributions to *The Thoroughfare*. Please contact me with questions or comments any time.

- Ariana Fischer

◆ BUSY SUMMER AHEAD

## News From Roque

Summer is finally here. Busy, busy, busy!!

For Summer help, Melissa Moffett of Jonesport is here through the middle of August, when she has to return to college. Mary Ellen Donaldson is helping out until the first week in August and Alex Higgins is here for 4 weeks before going to work at summer camp in July. We also have a new boatman, David Dickie. Bob Wall, our house painter, has come on fulltime also, helping Steve with the barn work and grounds.

The weather has been beautiful with a few minor exceptions. Everything is popping up in the garden. We've made a new delivery of a riding horse to the Island; she is a bay mare named "Victory Star" and we call her "Vicki" for short.

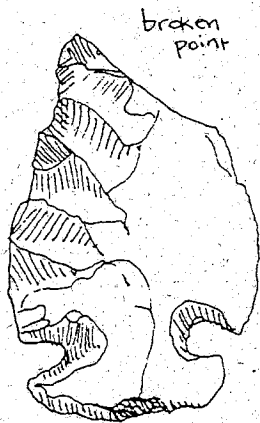
We are all getting very excited for our first wedding on Roque Island. Congratulations to the soon to be Mr. and Mrs. Constantin A. (Dino) Pertzoff!

Well, it's been great meeting the family members we haven't met in the past and seeing again those that we met last year. Hope to see you ALL soon. Have a wonderful Summer.

- Barbie Bubar



The deadline for submissions to the Fall issue of *The Thoroughfare* will be October 1, 1993.



broken point

Side-notched point

found by Rosa Higgins 1990

From the Archives  
From the Archives  
From the Archives

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PURSUITS continued...**

the years have gone by - flakes and other evidence of stone working have washed down into the rocks. In the last few years we've been finding potentially significant pieces. They have all been donated to the collection and are in the process of being catalogued and researched. We plan to meet with the archaeologist who did the digs at Roque several years ago, Dr. Sanger, to have our finds evaluated and compared to what their team found during their excavation.



found by John Donaldson on the beach 1991

Side-notched point

## Flotsam

**New additions this year to Roque's bird list:**

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Common Murre        | King Eider        |
| Fox Sparrow         | Lincoln's Sparrow |
| Glaucous Gull       | Water Pipit       |
| Grey-Cheeked Thrush | Western Sandpiper |
| Iceland Gull        | Whippoorwill      |

This brings the all time count to over 190. [ED. Alex Pertzoff asks is anyone knows the whereabouts of the original master list.]

**Bird Netting on Roque: The MAPS Program**

Roque Island is partaking in the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program is a cooperative effort amongst public agencies, private organizations, and birdlovers of North America to provide long-term data on productivity, survivorship, and population sizes of target land bird species through mist-netting, banding, and point counts during the breeding season. Please note that the netting on the Island is unobtrusive in order to be disguised from the birds, and is therefore delicate and provides ample reason for those unaware of the netting to stay from the wooded areas; but, it may be of some interest value to members to watch or even assist. This program is designed for a 5 to 10 year effort but we are able end it at anytime. There will be no netting or banding within the house compound area.

Those of us who are pursuing this topic feel strongly that anything found should be added to this collection (that is, not personally pocketed), and that "non-invasive" technique be followed, meaning no digging or disturbing archaeological layers, rather only picking up what has been washed out by rain or dropped/lost long ago by the original users of these stone implements.

In addition to the cataloging, we are planning to display the significant pieces in cases in the new family room, and eventually, when it is built and/or adapted, - the island "museum."

- Jennifer Donaldson

All arrowhead sketches were drawn by Jennifer of the originals pieces they have found.

## ▲ Quest for the Meaning

### Island of Three Wise Men

Ile des Rois Mages (Island of Three Wise Men): is that an improbable name for Roque?

Jacques Nicolas Bellin's 1755 map of the Canadian Maritime Provinces and the coast of New England uses the name for an island, or group of three islands, half way between Grand Manan and Petit Manan at about 44° 40' North in latitude. This island is opposite a river mouth (the Chandler River) and east of the only other island named, Ile Michibouchi (presumably Great Wass Island).

Bellin (1703-1772) was one of the most important and prolific French cartographers of the mid-18th century and acted as Official Hydrographer to the French King.

**Family Telephone Line Installed**

We have installed a new telephone line [207.255.5.3699] in our new Family Room in the Farmhouse. We ask that you please use this telephone for all calls. The Island phone [207.255.3005] is to be used only for Island-related business calls. This new telephone number has long-distance "blocks" - i.e. all long-distance calls must be charged to another number and no collect calls can be accepted. Note: to contact the Island staff please use the main number as always.