

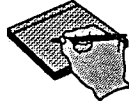
* The Thoroughfare *

Volume 2 Issue 1

A Roque Island Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 1994

- THE YEAR IN REVIEW -



Chairman's Notes

'93's close capped a year of continued maintenance and reconstruction at the Island, as well as operating within budgeted limits. Highlights included a new dock at Roque Bluffs, commencement of a new Patten's Cove dock, acquisition of a steel landing craft, and significant renovations at the three family houses. Operating costs were actually under budget, and overall expenditures, including capital items, were well reduced from the year before. Savings would have been greater without both the new tax act's increase on trust rates and the final for 1992's facilitation Retreat.

1994's operating budget has been approved at a scant 2.75% increase over actuals of 1993. The capital budget, excluding final work on the Homestead, has been limited to \$75,000 one-third of which will not be spent, but added to a capital reserve. The Trustees voted at their January meeting to segregate \$100,000 from the endowment to fund the capital reserve with an initial "boost" to provide for any emergency contingencies in the future.

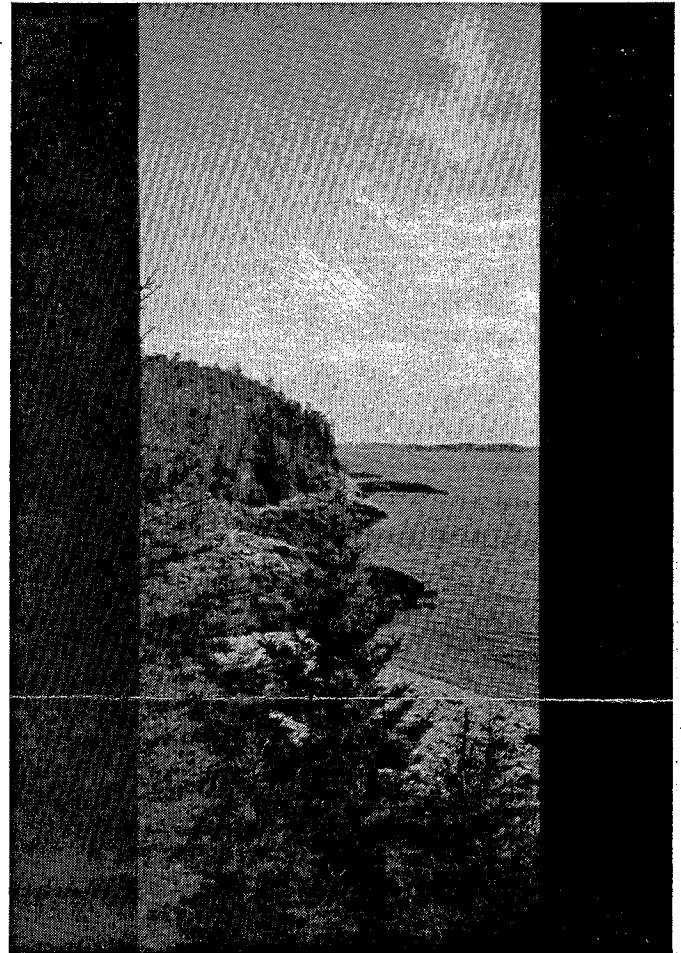
This year will also be the first that RIGHC will operate under the Tier System. Recent response from the membership was very good. Based on a number of queries, the Trustees voted to modify membership in Tier 1 as follows: (1) Juniors (18-25) would be charged at a rate of two-thirds the regular Tier 1 rate, and (2) Non-users, or those who would visit the Island only one year in three, could remain in good standing with an annual payment of \$500, subject to normal payment in any year the Island was actually visited. The Trustees also agreed to abolish the traditional distinction between families in terms of sharing the deficit on a 50/50 basis. Henceforth, members would all share Tier 1 costs on a "per capita" basis. In conjunction with this, the Trustee selection process would be made more universal as well. More will be spoken of this at the Spring Meeting in May.

In addition to the excellent continuing work on Natural Resources, the committees are active in areas such as examination of recent changes in Maine's Tree Growth law (which we are under), finalizing the Mission Statement, and framing a Land Use Plan for future generations.

Reservation cards have gone out for the summer and we look forward to an excellent season led by the same staff as last year. Steve and Barbie will be returning shortly from vacation, and will begin to map out the improvements which will commence in early spring. Our special thanks to Tanya Fischer for her continued and invaluable oversight of Operations.

On a final note, I wish to welcome four new members to the Island, who either have or will have reached their majority during this year: Jesse Donaldson, Hilary Gardner, John Patrick Higgins, and Tatiana Papanicolau.

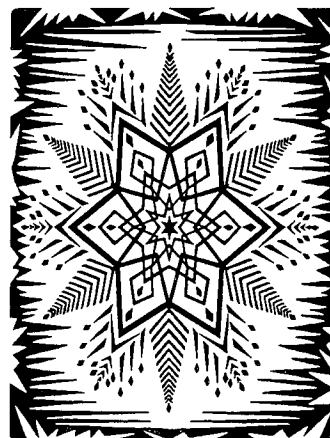
- JPM Higgins



Summer is not so far away...

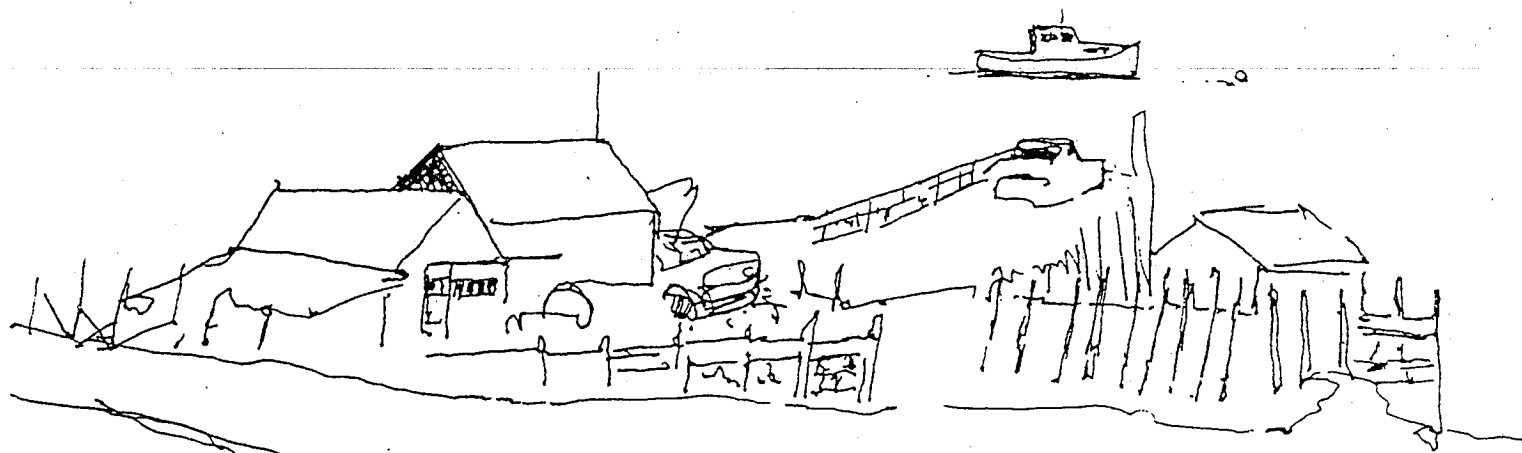
View of Bonney Beach

[Taken early summer 1993]



In this issue...

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- SQUIRE'S POINT - Need for a Private Conservation Plan
- EXCERPTS - From 1993's *Jottings*
- A STORY: "Roque Island's Shorey Cove" by Mary Donaldson
- FLOTSAM



Roque Island's Shorey Cove

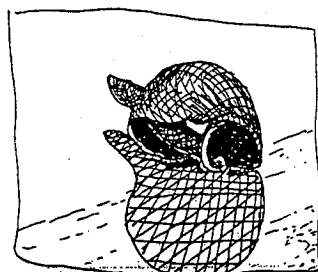
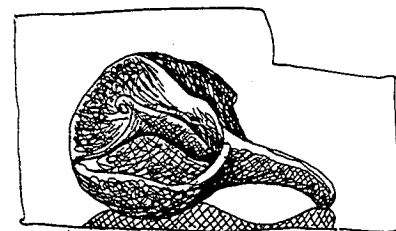
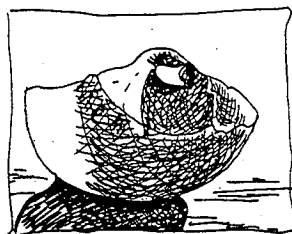
by Mary Donaldson

I guess my first memory of the ocean was when I was about six years old or so. I woke up early one morning on Roque Island and sat up in bed. I had that soft cozy feeling all over, the kind I only get when there's a chill in the air and the soft blankets keep persuading me not to get out of bed. When I finally opened my sleepy eyes I was instantly blinded by the glare of the sun-mopped gleaming water that calmly gave the sea to pebbled shore, then stole it away again. Shorey Cove was always that brassy golden color in the morning, deep fish blue in the afternoon, and by dusk the sea rusted over like an old tricycle that's crammed up in the back of the garage.

The little cove's wild waters are only tamed by the cold screaming winds of winter. At first the sea fights the ice, but later, in deep winter, the ocean surrenders to the cold, and is frozen all the way across from dock to dock.

The rain that fell on that cove always seemed to me a different color than the rest of the rain I've seen. The gray haze that smoked up from the ocean made the sea the color of a wet cat that's just come in from a thunderstorm. On those day, Shorey's corduroy white caps were so tall that if I dared go across the cove to the mainland, the roaring gurgling sea would hurl me up and down its splintery wooden washboard; that foaming angry cove would spit its salty froth in my hair, so that I'd be dripping when I reached the other side; that mischievous little sea would crash and pound in my throbbing ears as if I'd walked by room 202 when the bell rang for seventh period.

But it wasn't like that the day I left last summer. In fact, Shorey Cove was colored wine bottle green and it carried me sweetly across its smiling waters when I threw my penny in to insure that I'd return to Roque and gaze at the cove's infinite colors and ever changing tides again. That old mossy sea waved to me, like the old friend that it is, as I got off the boat to go home after a two month stay. That's how I remember Shorey's waters, and all its pennies. That's how I know Shorey Cove.



All drawings by Jennifer Donaldson



PRIVATE CONSERVATION PLANS

Squire's Point

Not to have a private conservation plan would be to foreclose our options.

A new approach to the concept of conservation assessments in Maine was introduced last September when the Land Use Regulation Commission approved the Maine Conservation Rights Institute as the holder of 2,140 acre easement near Jackman. The action recognized an organization oriented toward landowners as opposed to preservationists and government-oriented organizations which have held almost exclusive sway in recent times.

The Natural Resources Council of Maine, joined by Maine Audubon Society and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, opposed the plan, arguing that there was "no evidence of any type of regular environmental monitoring or record keeping or any experience of managing land."

Those are the same arguments Roque Island could anticipate were the growing environmental movement seek greater control over Maine's coastal islands. Even if the Nature Conservancy or some other government-oriented organization represented a final solution for Roque Island the future, not to have a private conservation plan in the present would be to foreclose our options and leave us an inviting target for those who would wish to extend the reach of public ownership at the expense of private property owners interested in conserving their land.

Through development of our land use plan, which builds upon our natural resources study and forestry plan, we are now in a position to demonstrate that we are managing our land according to sound conservation practices. Our naturalists are among the most respected in their field in Eastern Maine. We have good working relationships with the leading scientific organizations in the area, The Eagle Hill Wildlife Research Station and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge. We took the leadership role in promoting the Neotropical Migrant Survey which involves all the leading players in the conservation field in our area. The Island Institute invited Roque Island to present a seminar on private property conservation in coastal Maine. We have built a list of credits with various organizations which have visited the island or conducted studies on it. We have made our collections and information available to the appropriate institutions in Maine. And we have initiated a quite systematic effort AR scientific data collection. Some of our records indeed go back many years.

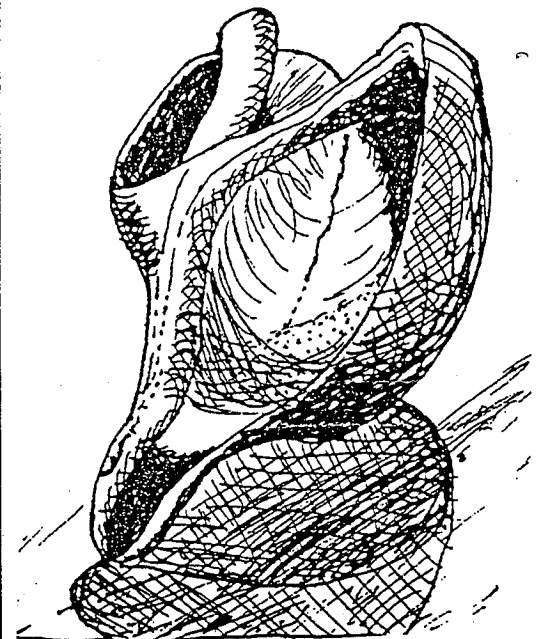
- G.G. Herrick



Excerpts

Average temperature for the month a thought-numbing 16.8 degrees. Iced in for a week at mid-month, the ice extending all the way from dock to dock, although thinner 200 yards off Great Head. Wind chill factor of minus 50 degrees for several days. The Joseph Peabody spent most of the month at Patten Cove. Fuel and supplies pucked up at Jonesport.

Taken from the 1993 Jottings - Doesn't sound much different from what they are experiencing in 1994!



Flotsam

LANDYN BARTOW BOWERS

was born on November 29, 1993 to Sandy Monks Bowers and Phil Bowers. Landyn is the 104th living member of the Roque Island family.

GEORGE HERRICK AND NANETTE CAVANAUGH

were married in November of 1993 in Washington, D.C.

JACK GARDNER

stepped down as Secretary on the Board of Trustees - he had held the position for nearly ten consecutive years.

LYNN GOODHUE

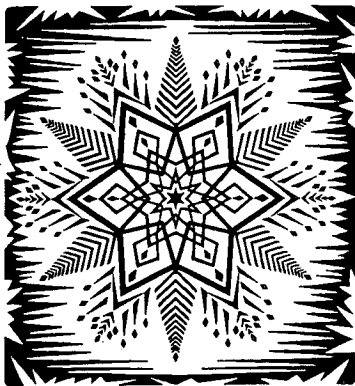
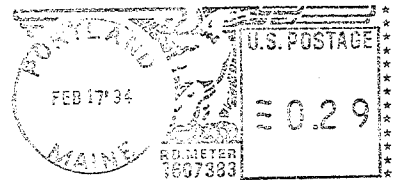
has replaced Jack Gardner as Secretary of the Board of Trustees.



Duke and Jack Gardner
[Taken in 1968]

The Thoroughfare

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