
The Thoroughfare

Winter 1999

Volume VII, Issue I

AUSTIN HIGGINS - AN APPRECIATION



Austin Higgins first visited Roque Island at the end of his honeymoon in the late summer of 1947. There was something about the time of arrival and the tides, magnified by his young bride's obvious enthusiasm for the place, that impressed itself on Austin's consciousness. His abiding joy would be in the remarkable and calming peace which pervaded the Island. While his love for the place was immediate and enduring, he conjured up the notion of a Roque for the in-laws which evinced an experience different from that available only to the blood of the prophet. Austin expanded the enjoyment of others by reflecting on the coincidence of in-law disinvolvement in matters pertaining to the soul of the place.

Austin was a great believer in exercise, but as one who fulfilled the Greek ideal, he believed that there could be too much of a good thing. His elegance embellished the island trails, but flora were usually undisturbed by any civilizing initiatives on his part. It was only with the arrival of the croquet court, of which he was a spiritual and financial benefactor, that Austin found the precise juxtaposition of wilderness and civilization that delighted his nature. Assuming the splendid postures required by the game on what must be the farthest east regulation (almost) court on the north American continent, Austin pursued his bliss in the sublime contact between mallet and regulation hardwood ball.

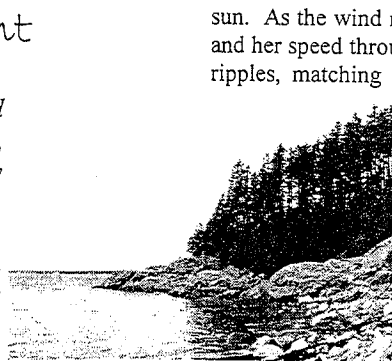
It will always be a special joy for me to know that Austin chose that Roque Island would possess his remains.

R.A.G. Monks

Enchantment

This lovely excerpt is from our beloved book A History of Roque Island, Maine, written by John Peabody Monks in 1956, the year of his death.

...everyone who has visited or lived on Roque carries away his own set of sensations or incidents which most appeal to him. For one it will be the clarity of a brilliant day when the water and sky are blue, clouds white, woods green, and the sand a sunny yellow-white. The sharp tang of a wind from the northwest cools the windward face, and each ripple on the water catches and reflects the

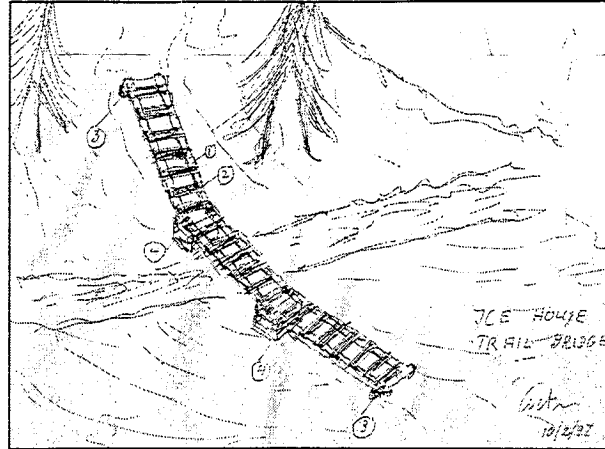


sun. As the wind makes up, and the sailboat increases her list and her speed through the water, little waves are born from the ripples, matching in the perfect whiteness of their breaking crests the underbody of the gull that with harsh cry wings by overhead.

For another it will be the complete freedom from the noise and bustle of urban civilization as he stretches, limbs still wet and tingling from a dip in the cold water, onto the white sun-warmed sand and gazes at the Great Beach, cumulus clouds floating overhead. And for another, it will be the satisfaction of clearing with sharp-edged axe a path through a thicket of spruce so dense that a few years can hide a trail from

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WORK WEEK 1998



A Preliminary Sketch of the New Bridge

this bridge was unique in the fact that it was entirely built with Roque Island lumber. The new "Woodmiser", a portable saw mill acquired this past year, was put through its paces: 15 full-sized (80 feet tall) trees were cut down behind Barn field, twitched out of the woods, and then turned into timbers and planks. The actual construction went smoothly and an impressive bridge was built in about four days. It is supported by cribs, and should be able to defy the elements for years to come. - Bryan Monks

Note: Not too soon to start thinking about this year's Project Week! We need some people to spearhead the enterprise. Remember, you get free room and board, and the chance to make a real contribution to Roque Island. - Nina Herrick

For more pictures of the bridge, see page 6 ...



Dylan C. Bowers, son of Sandy and Phil, was christened in Chapel Grove on August 9. Also on hand were his big sister Landyn and proud grandparents Bill and Sue Monks and Mary and Bill Bowers.

challenge of G.A.G.'s 113 days on Roque in 1913 at 84 years of age...



Nick Higgins is publishing his thesis: "Islands: Language of the Psyche, ecosystem of the self," (based in large measure from his observations on Roque!?!). The thesis is toward his MA in Counseling Psychology.

During the second week of June the second annual Work Week, led by Bryan Monks and Nick Higgins, went off like a hit. In addition to them came Nick Higgins, Jr., Nate (a friend of Nick Jr.), Karl Smith (friend of Bryan), John Higgins, Jr. and Adam Herrick - a good mix of ages and talents. The main goal was to construct a bridge to span the gap over the head of Paradise Cove. The recent bridge was swept away two years ago during an especially high tide, combined with a storm surge from a hurricane. The construction of

FLOTSAM



Tatiana Papanicolaou celebrated her graduation from Harvard with a large house party which included a number of her classmates.

Cauley and John Lukens celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on the island. They were joined by 3 classmates of John's and their wives after their 40th Harvard Medical School reunion.



Unusual sightings from the Fall migration: Pectoral Sandpiper, Gray Jay, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, hooded Warbler (a first!). Also A Peregrine Falcon was observed attacking a Merlin on Anguilla.

George Herrick is on schedule to log 1000 days on Roque Island before the millennium. Now on 966 days, G.G.H. is moving comfortably ahead of George A. Gardner's record by 18 years. Ahead is the awesome



Notes From the Board ...

Over the last few months the Trustees have tackled a number of issues, as well as there being some operational/governance changes. We have listed the most salient points/topics below.

- In light of the Drumgools leaving, we discussed the complicated nature of the Island Manager's role and that of his/her family.
- Ed Harriman has been hired as Island Manager.
- Ariana S.F. Gregg and Francis A. Goodhue were elected as Trustees.
- The Trustees voted to re-appoint the slate of officers, with Tatiana Pertzoff Wells taking over the position of Secretary (Ariana Gregg stepped down).
- The hardwood supply on the Island is extremely low; all firewood for the next few years will have to be spruce.
- The annual dues structure has been thoroughly reviewed. It is necessary and appropriate for the dues to be increased this year. A 1.5% monthly finance charge to those bills in arrears more than 60 days unless contact had been made with the Treasurer and a payment plan agreed upon.
- Tier III membership blossomed in 1998; it went from the original 14 members to 35!
- Sandy Bowers, after doing a fantastic job leading, has stepped down from running Tier III and the Farm Committee. The Operations Committee will absorb the Farm Committee but those who are interested in farm projects are encouraged to contact people on the Operations Committee. Tier III will still need to be funded by special subscription (i.e. the "clubs") as in the past.
- After years of dedication, Nina Herrick has stepped down from running the Red House and doing the reservations. Rosa Higgins has taken over the "house mother" role of the Red House (with the help of Molly Cutler).
- Jennifer Donaldson has stepped down from the Monks



Trustees' Weekend. From left to right: Chris Cutler, Ari Gregg, Tanya Fischer, Randy Goodhue, Charlotte Alexander, Nick Higgins, Tanya Pertzoff Wells, Ann Barry, Jennifer Donaldson, Phil Bowers, Sandy Bowers, Bryan Monks, Nannette and George Herrick. (Missing from the photo: Nina Herrick and Rosa Higgins)

Then there is the tension between daring and caution in confronting change. Here I say we must always press for innovation with the best achievers we have whatever the risks."

George Herrick
(From remarks delivered at dinner, October 3)

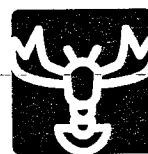
- House Tier to take over the reservations of the Red House.
- Work Week, renamed Project Week, is open to all ages for it is a fantastic experience for anyone!
- A Cemetery Committee has been formed to work on expanding the cemetery - leaving the existing one intact - so as to

be able to accommodate those family members who wish to have a marker there.

• We continue to have the problem of the vehicles, boats and animals being misused by the family; which unfortunately effects everyone. We replaced clutches in the two Island trucks three times last year! Guidelines of use will be posted in the appropriate areas. Sign-up sheets for vehicle, boats and horses will also be

- posted. The Trustees are working on a campaign to encourage the members and their guest to use alternative means of transportation: i.e. walking, horseback riding or mountain biking. In order to cut down on the use of the Island vehicles, a "trolley" system will utilized this summer: i.e. 2-3 times a day (at prescribed times) a staff member will drive around the island and either pick up those who wish to ride and/or their gear (be it tools or picnic supplies). The purchase of a Mule for family use has been approved. The Mule is a far less destructive, more energy efficient and easier to repair than the trucks. A top speed governor will be installed.
- In order for us to guard from overwhelming the staff, it is crucial that we follow the lines of communication. If you should have questions or concerns about something, notify a

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Let's Talk Lobsters:

From A Cure For Lobster Disease to
How To Cook Them
By Georgia Goodhue

The following information was derived from Nancy Griffin's article "Lobster Institute wrestles with the industry's problems" in the May, 1998 issue of the Working Waterfront/Inter-Island Newspaper.

At the University of Maine in Orono, lives the ten year old Lobster Institute. The small organization performs research, education, surveys as well as provides information about the single most valuable species in New England for people ranging from Long Island to Atlantic Canada. Need a cure for lobster disease? Concerned about whale's interaction with lobster gear? Interested in Maine trap styles? Ever wonder if lobsters feel pain when you throw them in the pot? Need a lobster cookbook or workbook? The Lobster Institute can help.

Lobster health issues are a big concern at the Institute. Robert C. Bayer, executive director of the Institute says "we devised a cure for gaffkemia or red tail disease of lobsters that occurs in pounds." Bayer believes that it is discoveries such as these that should promote greater support and recognition from the state. Health issues of marine life in general are a concern at the Institute. For example, stiff new federal regulations were threatened when a concern that lobster gear was endangering whales developed. In response, the Institute tested the breaking strength of the lobster gear. Their results proved that whales are much stronger than most lines used in lobstering. The experiment allowed for regulations to be softened. The Institute made sure this was done without altering the protection of whales.

One of the Institute's greatest achievements under



FROM THE RECORDS: Distances (as recorded in the guest book).

- Roque Island dock to Roque Bluffs dock - 2 3/4 miles
- Circumference of archipelago (not including Anguilla and Double Shot) - 9 1/2 miles
- Old Farmhouse to ice pond - 5/8 mile
- Old Farmhouse to Cold Spring Corner - 1 1/2 miles
- Old Farmhouse to Great Beach corner - 2 miles
- Old Farmhouse to Patten Cove via West Shore - 1 3/4 miles
- Great Beach from easterly end to ledge at end of beach - 1 1/4 miles

the director, David Dow, was when it sponsored two International Lobster Congresses. This attracted lobstermen internationally. As a result, a relationship was formed between Maine and Irish lobstermen that lead to Ireland's adoption of Maine's trap styles. Some examples of these techniques are the V-notching of egg-bearing female lobsters and banning the landing or sale of lobsters with a body shell more than five inches long. Both these techniques have been heavily evaluated by the Institute.

In addition to dealing with health issues and advancing Maine trap styles internationally, the Institute is also faced with the opposition towards trapping lobsters for food. According to Griffin, one of the most public controversies is that of an "advertising campaign by an animal rights group, featuring a movie star, claiming lobsters are social animals who walk 'claw in claw' across the ocean floor and suffer terrible pain when boiled alive in pots." According to Bayer, "lobsters don't feel pain. The can't process pain." Aside from not feeling pain, it is also important to note that lobsters are cannibalistic and are far from creatures who walk 'claw in claw.'

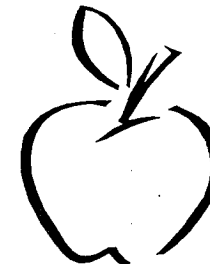
If you need some tips on how to cook a lobster or a mean lobster salad, the Institute helped publish the cookbook, "A Lobster In Every Pot" where recipes of all sorts are available. The book can be ordered for \$10.50 on the Institute's web site: <<http://inferno.asap.um.maine.edu/lobster/index.html>>.

In addition to publishing a cookbook, the Institute is also hard at work in publishing a workbook for grammar school children. "Education can never start too early," states Griffin. The regulations governing the lobster fishery now permit a residential license, which allows one to set 5 traps (which would in no way compete with professional fishermen). Roque Island staff are considering applying for one or several licenses for next season. Perhaps we can put some of the Institute's research into practice?

Recipe: Washington Apple Cake

Produced by E. J. Hampson for one of the delicious meals served up during the Trustees' Weekend

Cake:
 3 eggs
 1 C sugar
 1 C vegetable oil
 2 C flour
 2 tsps. cinnamon
 1 tsp. Baking soda
 1/4 tsp. Salt
 1 tsp. vanilla
 1 C chopped walnuts
 4 C thinly sliced, pared apples



bine sugar and oil. Beat into eggs.
 2) Stir together flour, cinnamon, baking soda and salt. Add to egg mixture with vanilla. Stir in walnuts.
 3) Spread apples in buttered 13 x 9 x 2 inch pan. Pour batter over apples to cover.
 4) Bake at 350 for one hour, or until golden.
 5) Cool. Spread with icing.

Icing:
 Beat 2 packages of cream cheese until fluffy. Beat in 1/4 cup melted butter. Stir in 1 3/4 cups of powdered sugar and 1 tsp. lemon juice.

1) Beat eggs at high speed until thick and light-colored. Com-

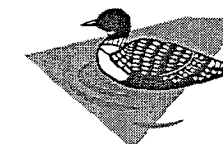


VISITORS

It is appropriate to deny public access to Roque Island (except with written permission) for reasons of privacy, security and the integrity of our scientific program. But it is also sensible to maintain a record of special visitors who come to the island for a specific purpose. There is a visitors' book in the family room for recording such visits. Some of 1998's entries include:

- During the course of several months this summer, graduate students Amy Bleckinger and Kelly Cueman operated the bird banding station in a program conducted under the aegis of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- In June, John Brokaw (Nannette Herrick's son), Mary Burke (his fiancée), and Norm Famous (our naturalist) conducted a survey of the Brothers for the U.S.F.&W.S.
- July saw three visits by Outward Bound crews.
- In September, a lichenology class from the Humboldt Research Service in Steuben spent a day on the island, during which they identified 99 species of lichen, including a European specimen (*Pertusaria Flavida*) never before found in North America.
- A very thoughtful commentary was recorded in our book on October 2nd by Eleanor Ames, founder of the Maine Olmsted Alliance for Parks and Landscapes, who made note of our efforts to preserve and enhance the landscape of the island.
- On October, Bernard Thompson came aboard to construct an eagle's nest above Clam Cove to replace the one on the shore that fell down. It had been there since 1983. The hope is that the same eagle pair will like their new quarters...
- Also in October, Forester Teresa Davis visited to advise

on winter wood cutting, timber stand improvements, and the regeneration of the beech forest.



(Continued from page 3)

- member of the appropriate committee who will in turn notify the Operations Committee who works directly with the Manager.
- The Monks House is still under renovation and is slated to be open by Memorial Day weekend.
- The Gardner House is in need of foundation work and will be repaired in the spring.
- There is a new engine in the Peabody (again!) - Captain Dodge has assured us that the new engine is higher quality and is running very well. The last one was defective and had to be replaced.
- Tanya Pertzoff Wells is now formatting The Thoroughfare and Nina Herrick has become the editor. Ariana Gregg stepped down from this role.
- The current Island staff are: Ed Harriman - Manager (and interim Farmer), Capt. Doug Dodge - Boatman & Assistant Manager, Amy Hilchey - Cook & Gardener, Melissa Rines - Housekeeper, and Wes Rines - Handyman. Gloria Harriman, Heather and Misty Rines are on-island as well as helpers.
- As our Chairman so succinctly said, "The more we know, the better stewards we are." - This continues to be the modus operandi for the Board and the motivation for all of our efforts in fundamentally understanding the Island operations, responsible management of our natural resources and participating in the community.



The Library Corner . . .

The Roque Island library has some good reading for every season of the year. Here are some suggestions for the winter months that lie ahead:

Boyer, Elizabeth: *A Colony of One* (1983).
Marguerite de la Roque cast away on a cold Labrador island.

Heinrich, Berndt: *Ravens in Winter* (1989).
Enthralling account of a scientific study of the most intelligent and social bird conducted during a Maine winter.

Kirk, Ruth: *Snow* (1978) and Mergen, Bernard: *Snow in America* (1997).
All there is to know about snow.

Ogburn, Charlton: *The Winter Beach* (1966).
Nature classic.

G.G.H.

. . . and some recent additions to the Library:

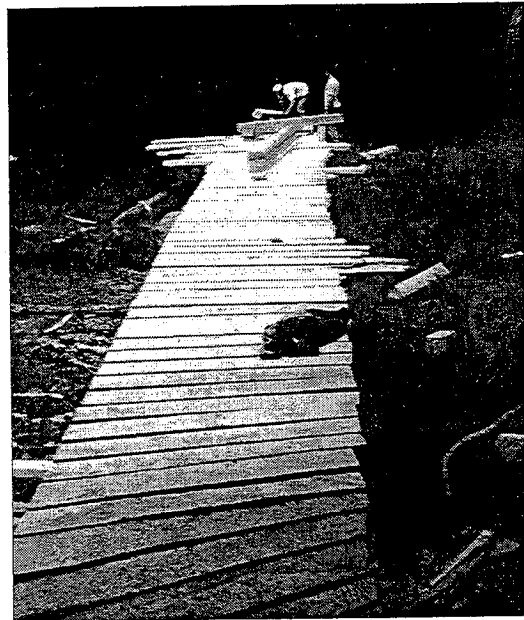
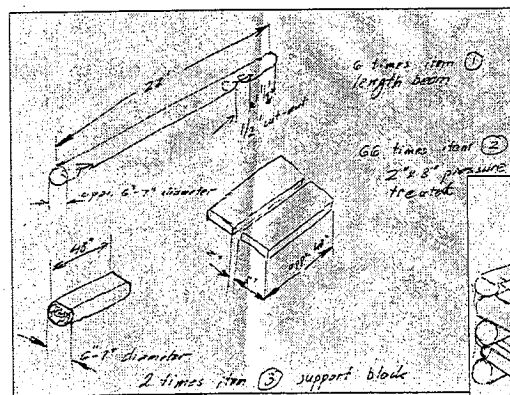
Prudden, T.M., *About Lobsters*, 1962

Putnam, George Granville, *Salem Vessels and Their Voyages*, 3 vols., 1924-1925

Niall, Ian, *The New Poacher's Handbook*, 1960

Foster, Elizabeth, *The Islanders*, 1946

(Continued from Work Week, page 2)



Many, many thanks to Ari Gregg for creating the *Thoroughfare* so many years ago and producing it for us ever since. Her creativity and hard work have been appreciated by all who eagerly read each issue. Ari has stepped down from the role of actively formatting and producing the *Thoroughfare* (see Notes from the Board). Thankfully, she has agreed to continue in a consulting role, so her inspiration will remain . . .

Left: Additional sketches from the design phase. All sketches courtesy of N. H. S. Higgins.

Above: The new bridge under construction during work week.

SQUIRE'S POINT



Tomboys

The modern world is placing huge demands on American girls who have already mastered ice hockey and lacrosse. Today they must go on safari, camp out on glaciers or penetrate the Amazonian jungle. Pushing the limits out of doors is taking the fitness game to new levels. Not for them the dance floors and swimming pools which showed their mothers to advantage. Christmas presents come from Outfitters rather than Armani. Capilene rather than silken underwear is *de rigueur*.

Yet, in an earlier day, tomboys also held their own. The expression itself originated in the 18th century just in time for Jane Austen to write *Northanger Abbey*. The heroine, Catherine Morland, created the model which exists to this day. She rolled on the grass and played bounders, a predecessor of baseball, even while dancing at Bath and giving young men a run for their money. Jo March of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* (1868) and Anne Shirley of L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* continued the literary tradition to become the *vade me cum* for tomboys ever since. Both girls climbed trees, boated on the river and dreamed of daring exploits.

Tomboys of my youth were out of doors with the boys all day except when they were reading adventure books. Every daring game appealed to them. Ice hockey, outboard motors, capture the flag and climbing trees were all part of the routine along with bicycle tag, snowball fights and tug of war. Only at dancing class would they deign to dress and admit to appetites of a worldlier kind. It was a wonderful breed, every bit as good as today's high tech, streamlined model.

Our Roque Island tomboys are no exception: Tanya Fischer used to sneak down to Patten's Cove to go fish-



June 1998: Jack and Susan Gardner

ing at dawn with the Beal boys and Rebecca Campbell is an "Outward Bound" graduate. Still today, Nina Herrick hauls brush like a lumberjack, Posy Dana cruises the ocean blue, Nannette Herrick zooms in outboards and chain saws the forest. The next generation is following in their footsteps: Mary Donaldson walks like the wind, Ari Gregg mucks out the barn and twitches out logs in the depth of winter, Hilary Gardner mountain bikes along the trails. Christina Brokaw (GGH's step-daughter) and Rebecca Barry, aspiring environmentalists, take your breath away in kayak, on cliff face or rugged trail. Long may it be so.

G. G. Herrick

We are sad to announce that Loretta Drumgool died of cancer January 22. Dana will be staying with her godparents in the Bar Harbor area, while Owen looks for a job. If you care to send a note, her address is:

P.O. Box 55
Salisbury Cove, ME 04672
Tel.: (207) 288-2356

(Continued from page 1)

all but those who first cut it. Or, it may be watching the ever-present lobsterman from Lakeman's hauling his traps attached to glass bottle floats and brilliantly painted wooden buoys. Or it may be the crackle as someone throws a green spruce branch on the hot evening picnic fire of guttering birchwood, while all around recline those whose stomachs are heavy with lobster meat. It may be threading the tree-encircled Thoroughfare, or Great Head at sunset, or a glimpse of a white-tailed deer in the depths of the woods; half-a-dozen seals basking on a tidal rock, or the clang-clang-clonk as the cows are brought in for milking. It may be the warning note booming every fifteen seconds from the lighthouse diaphone on Libby Island through the pall of graying fog that has crept in from the Nova Scotia shore, blotting out the moon and sending all indoors to crackling fire. It could be any of these, or a hundred other sensations.

Rare indeed has been the visitor who did not completely succumb to the charms and beauties of Roque and its islands. As he steps onto the mainland, though he realizes he is no longer an islander, he will never forget Roque, and will always want to return. Those who have been able to do so year after year are fortunate. All of them know that Roque has become a part of them, and besides the pleasure it gives has had an influence on their lives for good. Nature, its beauties unspoiled – quiet, not absolute, but mixed with sounds of work and of pure

joy – a return, if only partial, to more simple and uncomplicated life – all these are priceless island heritages to be cherished.



Rachel and Jacob Wells, ages 4 and 2, find enchantment at Bonnie Beach in October of 1998.

The Thoroughfare

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