
The Thoroughfare

WINTER 2000

VOLUME VII, ISSUE III

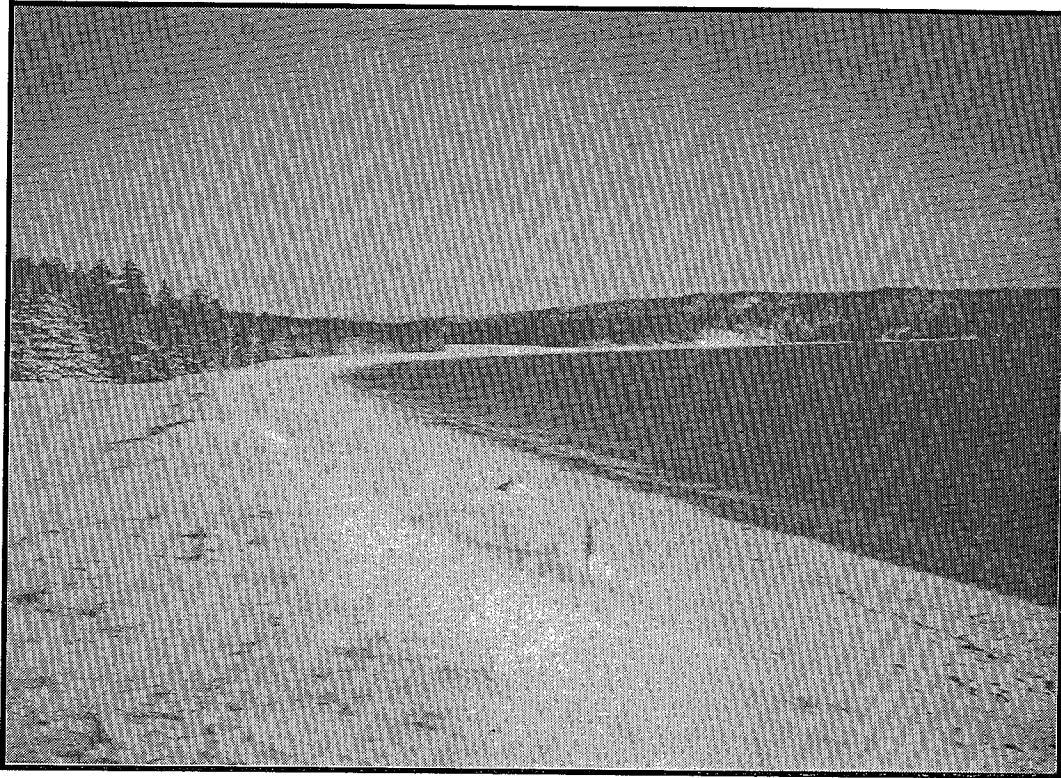


Photo courtesy of
Capt. Dodge

NEWS FROM ROQUE

Spring 2000 seems to be nearly here at Roque Island—at least mud season has arrived! This has slowed progress in the woodlot and at the Woodmizer, and on the dock at Patten Cove.

A good supply of dry firewood is split, stacked, and ready for fireplaces and furnaces this year, and probably for part of 2001. Forty blocks of ice are in the ice house. A second planned harvest was rained out, and the water probably will not re-freeze this season.

Some of you may not have met Brad Goodwin, our new Farm Manager, and Brad's wife, Dee, who is the new Farm House Cook. They look forward to meeting all of the family this year.

Hey-Boy and Reebok are still with us and doing well. We plan to add an additional riding/driving horse to our stable this Spring.

Last years' lambs are in the freezer, along with the summer

pigs, and a good supply of beef, turkeys, and broilers. We are expecting new lambs any time now, and we hope to purchase 12 additional ewe lambs to upgrade our capacity to produce both meat and wool.

The first flock of broiler chicks has been ordered and should be here at the end of April.

Currently we have 7 Belted Galloways—3 cows, 3 heifers, and a bull. We also have a purebred Jersey milk cow and a cross-bred heifer that is 1/2 Guernsey and 1/2 Galloway. Both of these are expected to calve in April and should supply adequate milk and butter for family use this summer.

A new water-proof and small animal-proof roof was constructed over the spring during the fall and should add to our water quality control this year.

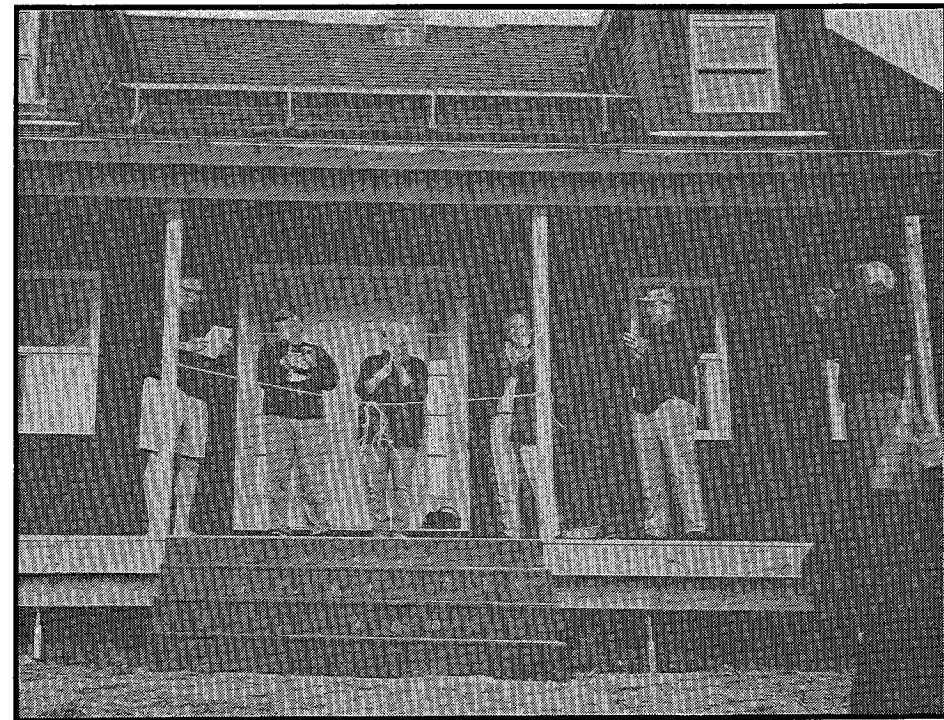
Overview, the new manager's house, is complete and very comfortable. Gloria and I were able to move in during Christmas

Continued, Page 5...

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

All members of the Board of Trustees, along with Observer Milo Ryan, met for their annual Trustees' Weekend on Roque during the first weekend of October. The weather was springlike, the meals hearty, the company fantastic - and, most importantly, the Island running better than ever. Outlined below are some of the more salient points made at the meeting.

- Almost all of the wood used to build the Manager's House, Overview, was milled out of Island spruce by our staff - a fantastic effort and great achievement! Overview was 'christened' by our Chairman while we were there and the Harriman's have been settled since the holidays.
- We are planning to develop the sheep herd (i.e. introduce another breed and increase the flock so that it properly yields what is consumed) and to enhance quality of wool.
- We have been granted more Stewardship Incentive Program monies and will be using this money initially to thin areas along the West Shore (encourages health of stand as well as improving aesthetics)
- A strategic land purchase was made during the summer - we were able to purchase the house just before the Roque Bluffs dock on the left. This is the only piece of private property



Ribbon cutting at Overview during the Trustees Weekend at the Island. (October 1999)
LR: George Herrick, Ed & Gloria Harriman, Tanya Fischer, Chris Cutler & Randy

that abuts ours on the Bluffs. A committee has been formed to develop potential uses of this property.

- A "ferry" system has been adopted for 2000. There will be four scheduled boats a day and the workmen, staff, family and guests will be required to meet the pre-scheduled boat trips. The primary impetus for this change is greater efficiency in managing the Island. You will find that

the scheduled times are friendly to both the long distance driver and people traveling by air. The Peabody and Loon will be available for private trips at an additional cost.

- The telephone system at Roque does not meet all of our needs and the family is strongly encouraged to use their private mobile phones to make phone calls off the Island. The main number, 255.3005, was used too much this last year - making it both difficult to conduct business as well as prohibiting family from getting

through when arriving. There is an active effort underway to find a better phone system for the Island so that we may have more than the one line (the family line does not operate).

- There much discussion over the use and abuse of the vehicles, especially with the Gator. A new vehicle use policy was voted upon: "Vehicle use is limited to Members Only and people over the age of 18."

- The gun policy has been revised. There is a two gun limit per person (one shotgun/one rifle not to exceed .22 calibre unless hunting. See the Policy Book for times and use of firearms.

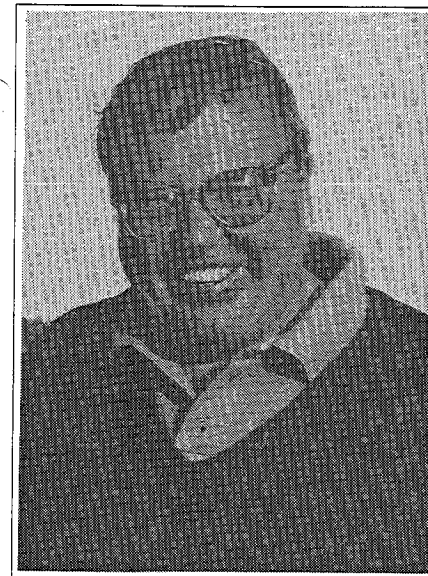
- There continue to be vacancies in the Red House during the height of the season (July and August). Be sure to give your name if you are interested in being notified about availabil-

ities.

- All communication regarding use of boats/vehicles/horses, whereabouts of staff and trail clearers, and activities at the Island will posted on the CENTRAL BOARD outside the Farm House. It is up to you to coordinate with others on the Island.

Best wishes to you all!

The Board of Trustees



REMARKS FROM THE OUT-GOING CHAIRMAN

GEORGE G. HERRICK

AS DELIVERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING
DECEMBER 1999

I rise for the fifth and last time to welcome you to an Annual Meeting. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in this office. The interests of each and everyone of you have been on my mind everyday for the last five years. The Chairman does not have any particular power or even a clearly defined role, but he does worry. From the onset I have endeavored to spread responsibility, devolve decisions and encourage a younger generation to come on. The result is that the affairs of Roque Island are principally run, as I believe they should be, by a committee. We have some strong committees: Finance, Operations, Farm, Natural Resources, Rusticators.

And, of Course, we have some very talented people in the family who are capable of making a major contribution. Rather in indulging in the redundancy of over managing, I have sought to concentrate my focus on a few areas where I thought I could make a small addition. These have been Long Term Planning, the Natural Resources Committee, External Relations and building the history and collections of Roque Island. I use the word "history" advisedly. Roque Island represents many things and indeed something different for each member. I have come to see Roque as an historic site part of the extraordinary legacy of the Maine coast. For well over a century we have mustered the energy and wherewithal to preserve the land, our 19th century houses and an unusual set of records which tell the story. More recently we have embarked on a considered conservation program that has won the admiration of many professionals in the field. Our long term planning documents are seen as models of their kind. Now we have established viable links with institutions on the mainland which affirm our credibility. Preserving the past and ensuring the future are, alike, a race against time. It is also a costly business. The property requires upkeep and maintenance. But we have come a long way to organizing ourselves for the new century. The task at hand is to build an exceptional future upon a remarkable past. We are at a stage where we are beginning to spend as investment rather than spending as an expense. In short we are creating new assets for Roque Island. Is it not Overview, acrest the hill, symbolic of our purpose?

As a last word Goethe said, "Let there be light." Lady Mary Wortley Montagu said, "It has all been very interesting." Oscar Wilde, staring at the wall paper in the little hotel off the Rue de Seine, said, "One of us has to go."

I should say, simply, "Thank You."

Changes to the Directory

Alexander, Benjamin M.

Address: 226 East 53rd Str/Apt. 4C
New York 10022

Barry, Ann M.

Zip code: 02493

Gardner, John L. (Jack)

Mailing Address: Eaton Vance, 255 State Street,
Boston, MA 02109; TEL 617.598.8269; FAX
617.598.8969

Gardner, Jr., John L. (Jody)

Address: 375 Bridge Str, S. Hamilton, MA 01982

Lagutaine, Sarah (Alexander)

Address: 4808 25th Street, San Francisco, CA
94114. Her email address is no longer active.

Monks, Robert A.G.

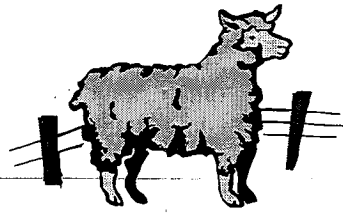
E-mail: ragmonks@lens-inc.com

Pertzoff-Wells, Tatiana A.

E-mail: pertzoff@dellnet.com

Ryan, Milo

Facsimile: (011) 852 2520-6733



SITING THE FAMILY BURIAL GROUND

NEWS FROM ROQUE, CONTINUED...

week. We invite the family to come and tour the house while on the island this summer.

An additional bathroom has been constructed on the second floor in the Farm House, enabling us to have 3 two-room suites on that level. Doug & Amy have one, Brad & Dee have one. We are currently accepting résumés for a new Housekeeper and Handyman.

As a result of foresight on the part

of family leadership, we have a detailed Woodlot Management Plan for Roque Island. This made us eligible for \$10,000 worth of Forest Stewardship Incentive funds to improve the health, appearance, and productivity of our woodland. Thirty acres have been identified for pruning and thinning, plus construction of 1,000 feet of woodlot management trails. This work is currently on-going and should be complete when you visit the Island this summer.

We all continue to enjoy the beauty of Roque Island. Snow-covered Great Beach, contrasting with the deep blue of the sea, and the beautiful green of the spruce forest, is awe-

inspiring. The various sea birds, observed while on a bird-count cruise with Norm Famous, added to the enjoyment of our time here on Roque. In addition to the usual Old Squaws, loons, purple sandpipers, sea gulls, eiders, coots, grebes, hooded mergansers, buffle heads, and

golden-eyes, we observed two Harlequin ducks, which are a rarity, according to Norm. A number of

Great Cormorants were seen at Pulpit Rock. While walking Great Beach one day, Brad and Dee enjoyed watching 5 eagles soaring over the forest and beach.

We look forward to family visits this summer, when you also will have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty here.

Ed Harriman
Island Manager

Late breaking news: EJ & Carl Hanson have just been hired as the new Housekeeper and Handyman (respectively). A number of you may be familiar with EJ, she has worked at Roque part-time and for individual families for a number of years.

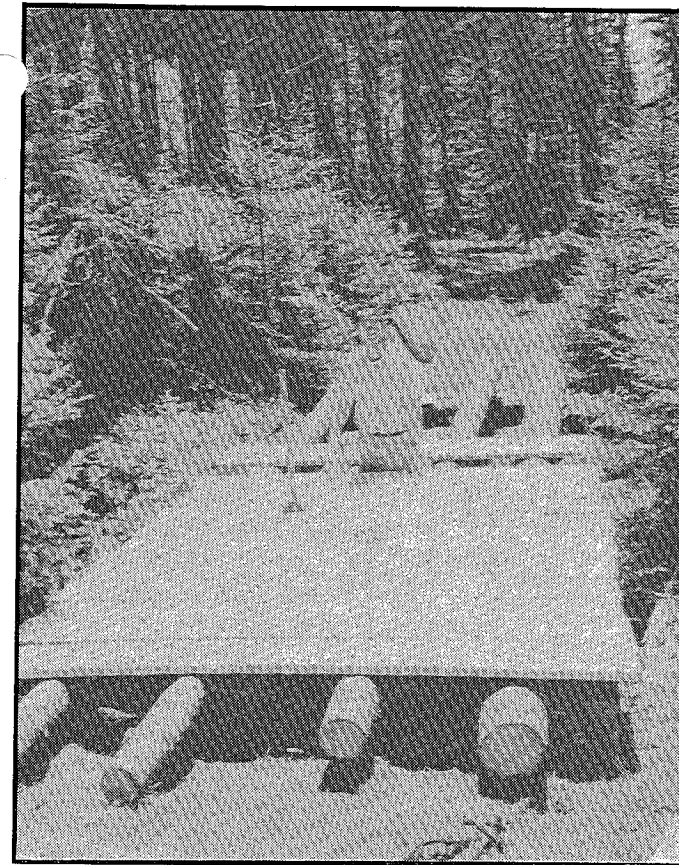
On Sunday June 6, 1999, with Ellen Higgins, George and Nannette Herrick, and others present, Hardwood stakes were driven at the edge of the field and woods near the existing burying ground and two approach paths. Yellow ribbons were attached to the stakes with labels identifying each stake's position in the scheme. The stakes depict the compass points and center of a 60-foot circular burying ground. The intention is to lay up a circular fieldstone wall similar to the existing one within the staked area, if approved by family members. The stakes also indicate the routes of two access paths from existing woods roads approaching from the south and east. The proposed path routes are sinuous to allow existing spruce seedlings to develop. From the south the spruce will serve as screens to the nearby pump house. In the case of both paths, the developing trees will provide the area with a handsome edge.

The proposed site was favored because it:

- ✍ Is on a ridge, the highest area.
- ✍ Lies close to the existing burial area without infringing on it.
- ✍ Is relatively level.
- ✍ Occurs within a natural opening in the woods. A mature spruce and a maple will immediately edge the wall.
- ✍ Provides views out to the homestead and water and undeveloped shore areas.
- ✍ Provides ready access for people and machinery.
- ✍ Does not encroach on the existing field.
- ✍ Felt right and good to those present.

Peter Monro, principal of Monro Associates
Maine Registered Landscape Architect.

CORRECTION: IT WAS ELLEN HIGGINS WHO GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA IN JUNE, NOT HER SISTER, ALEXANDRA, AS REPORTED IN OUR LAST ISSUE. (APOLOGIES FROM THE EDITORS)



Project Week—June '99
Nick Higgins working on the bridge at Patten Cove

PROJECT WEEK 2000

Project Week is scheduled for June 9-18. John Higgins, Jr. has agreed to be in charge of the effort. He can be reached by e-mail at jhiggins@mac.com. Do get in touch with him about ideas or questions. Nina Herrick will help coordinate the schedule. In return for your efforts, you get to stay for free in the Red House, and meals are provided.

Proposed projects for this year...

Rebuilding a bridge
in the vicinity of the ice-pond

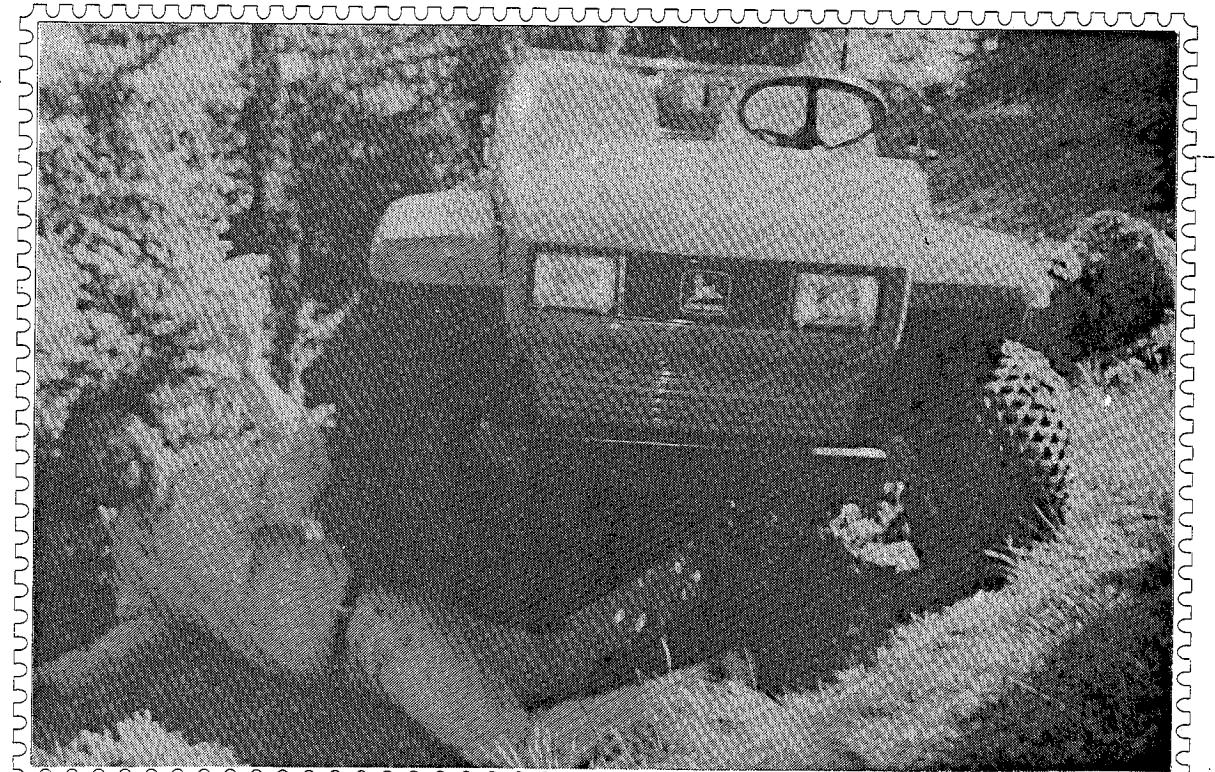
Planting trees

Landscaping the burial ground

Clearing Head Field

Words of
Wisdom from
our new
Chairman:

*"If you
abuse it,
it'll bite
back!"*





ISLAND—MANDALA—SELF

DISSERTATION OF NICHOLAS H.S. HIGGINS

Over the millennia, islands have held the fascination of cultures the world over, from the Muslims and Greeks, who located paradise on an island, to the Aztecs who believed the world began with an island rising from the primordial sea, to the Celts and Irish who located the "other world" on islands. The power of the symbolic expression carried by islands makes understandable their magnetism: islands are symbolic expressions of the self.

The symbolic information is conveyed to us through our feelings. Our experience of the island, (its perceived roundness, separation from the mainland by a body of water, its coastline, spruce forests, and sand beach) is felt to be qualitatively different than say, an experience of a mountain, or a canyon. This level of feeling quality can be understood as island soul. To state it differently, the island is unique in its connection to nature and its environment, and this relationship stimulates and evokes a particular feeling quality which informs us psychologically. Importantly, the intensity of the affective response (the level of feeling, as it were) indicates not only that a particular psychological need is being met, but that new psychological structure is being built. This effect is known in self psychological theory as a self-object experience, and can be understood as any experience which helps keep one feeling "glued together." So, in this respect, the intensity of islandness (itself a feeling quality) signals that the island is providing what is missing from the self, helping to restore a sense of cohesion, and signaling the embodiment of new psychological structure.

Jungian psychology provides an avenue to take this concept deeper. The experience of an island can be compared to a Mandala experience. The Sanskrit word mandala refers to all those symbolic expressions of a circular nature. It is part of an age old tradition of the "charmed circle" and includes such cultural representations as Buddhist drawings and temples, Hopi sand paintings, Western alchemical drawings, and indeed, our own ritual of circumambulation, the Circum Island Transit (CIT.)

The effect of the mandala is achieved two ways. The first is as a spontaneous symbolic expression, a "snapshot" of the psyche, presenting for its maker the state of the self, and aiding in healing and individuation. The second type of mandala experience acts as a guide for re-creation of that initial experience through narrowing down the field of psychic vision and focusing it on the center. The CIT, a circumambulation around the circum-

ference of the island, is an example of the latter. In this regard, an island can be imagined as a natural mandala, producing its effect (partly) through circumambulation, intimating both the boundedness of the self and a center to the personality, and suggesting a direction for further individuation. This experience can be healing.

The healing effect of the mandala appears to stem from several sources. Symbolically, the circle both protects the innermost sanctum from "flowing out" and from the influences from the outside forcing their way in. In this way, the mandala, much like the island, is experienced as a refuge, providing a place for inner order, reconciliation and wholeness. Psychologically this responds to a core sense of safety. Second, a mandala is thought to contain and organize archetypal energies from the unconscious in a form that can be assimilated by consciousness. This would help explain the appeal of the microcosmic nature of islands, and underlies Lord Tweedsmuir's remark that what gives an island "its special charm for the heart of man [is that] an island has clear physical limits, and the mind is able to grasp it and make a picture of it as a whole" ¹.

Mandalas also appear in connection with "chaotic psychic states of disorientation and panic. They have the purpose of reducing confusion to order, and expressing balance and wholeness." Apparently the affective intensity of the experience reorders the psyche by induction, resulting in a "rearranging of the personality...a new kind of centering." ² In this respect, the greater the sense of personal chaos, of feeling "un-glued," the greater the re-balancing and healing effect of the island. Finally, if one stops to consider the identity of the "maker" of the island mandala, one can appreciate the island's transpersonal nature, as an embodiment of one strand of the objective psyche, intimating wholeness, which provides meaning, and reduces a sense of alienation.

In sum, a felt experience of an island, in its symbolic guise of natural mandala, can be thought of as providing several degrees of "centering," relating to an increasingly focused notion of self. The first degree of centering concerns the island as a physical expression of the boundary of the self, providing psychological and physical refuge, resulting in a sense of greater personal cohesion and safety. The second aspect relates to the

order, and expressing balance and wholeness." Apparently the affective intensity of the experience reorders the psyche by induction, resulting in a "rearranging of the personality...a new kind of centering." ² In this respect, the greater the sense of personal chaos, of feeling "un-glued," the greater the re-balancing and healing effect of the island. Finally, if one stops to consider the identity of the "maker" of the island mandala, one can appreciate the island's transpersonal nature, as an embodiment of one strand of the objective psyche, intimating wholeness, which provides meaning, and reduces a sense of alienation.

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Continued on Page 8...

*"It celebrates a cold country,
not always in bloom;
yet to a child the looks and
life were endless flowers."*

Lura Bean
A Maine Hamlet

AN EXCERPT FROM ROQUE ISLAND RAMBLINGS BY BERTHA HANSCOM

apie or box supper was the height of their social activity in Roque Bluffs. It was held in the schoolhouse. The name of the owner of box or pie was concealed as it was put up and bid on, highest bidder taking it and eating it with the owner. There was a box supper one Saturday night. So all that week Joe Schoppee tormented Edgar Watts his cousin predicting that he would get Mrs. Joe Miller's box. She was an older person, a great talker, who knew or thought she knew, everyone's business, and she was also "nosey." So the younger blades shunned her.

Joe thought he was smart. He waited to bid until Mrs. Miller's box was sold. Then he settled down to bid on one for himself. With plenty of cash, sure of himself, he bid on

a box. Yes, you guessed it, Mrs. Miller had two boxes and he had drawn her second box. He took a tough rubbing the following week as he had given Edgar the week before. The whole crew working on the Island pitched in and didn't give him a moment to collect his thoughts, if by chance he had any thoughts.

Roque Island Ramblings, Echoes of the Past
by Bertha C. Hanscom has been privately published by George G. Herrick and is available for \$40. The book consists of reminiscences of the author's life on the island as a young girl. She was the daughter of Herbert Long, caretaker of the island from 1880-1904.

You are certainly correct when you say, "Bertha's memoirs have a charm all their own and may be read over and over again for echoes and glimpses of a world gone by". Her writings easily transport the reader back in time to a different life, while we realize such people, their way of life and their values, served as a cornerstone of our heritage here in downeast Maine. Being a native of this area, I am respectful of how difficult, how simple, and yet how complex, their lives were and how their everyday challenges to survive - sometimes at great odds - have made a strength of spirit and pride prevail today in this area. We have Bertha Hanscom, and Lura Bean, and others to thank for sharing their thoughts, experiences and observations of a bygone time of a place we love to call 'home'. Further, we have George Herrick to thank for preserving the thoughts of Bertha Hanscom in such an attractive volume and sharing it with the people in the area. Your efforts are certainly appreciated."

Susan L. Palmer
Director of Development
University of Maine at Machias.

FLOTSAM

Bill & Sue Monks, their daughter, Sandy, her husband Phil Bowers with their children, Landyn & Dylan, were in residence in the Mansion House for ten days over Christmas & New Year's. Sandy was very enthusiastic about the visit. Admittedly, the weather was relatively mild but she stressed how warm and cozy the house was, even on the windiest of days.

We have two family members in far-flung and exotic locales: Milo Ryan in Hong Kong, and Nick Kearns in St. Petersburg (Russia). Keep them in mind if you are planning a visit to those parts.

Milo Ryan has donated his sea kayak to the island. Many thanks, Milo! We have bought two more second-hand, a single and a double. So plan to explore the Thoroughfare this summer!

Nick & Rosa Higgins have recently become the proprietors of *The West End Inn* (a b&b in Portland, ME). The Victorian house is situated in the historic Western Promenade district. Family rates will be available to members of R.I.G.H.C.: (t) 207. 772.1377

Support the local economy of Washington County by ordering NutriSea's sea cucumber products: Arthri-Sea (for humans) , & Sea Jerky (for dogs) - they are said to be good for arthritis & joint stiffness. May be ordered by calling (t) 800. 732.8072

We are currently looking for donations of items with which to furnish the Bluffs House: furniture, linens, lamps, kitchenware and dishes. Contact Ellen Higgins: (t) 207.799.0023 (e) ellen@ramtrust.com



The Bluffs House

The Bluffs House is available for weekly rental to members for \$300 off-season, \$500 in season (mid-June to mid-September). The house has two bedrooms, one bath. To inquire, please call

Nina Herrick
(t) 202.337.6699
(e) agherrick@msn.com

Ellen Higgins
(t) 207.799.0023
(e) ellen@ramtrust.com



Sandy, Phil, Landyn & Dylan Bowers with Bill & Sue Monks while vacationing at Roque over Christmas.

"ISLAND-MANDALA-SELF" CONTINUED...

island as primordial center, drawing one deeper and downward, and suggesting a path for further individuation of self. The third degree of centering relates to the island as a nexus point with the objective psyche, an archetypal experience of self, which provides a sense of meaning. The overall effect is suggestive of a spiraling motion, implicating cohesion of self as necessary for the more arduous task of further personal individuation, of finding the "treasure hard to attain," one's true self and center.

1. C.G Jung, (1959) *Concerning Mandala Symbolism*. In *The archetypes and the collective unconscious*, Vol. 9, Part 1, *Collected Works of C.G. Jung*, pp. 360-361.

2. Cited in Weale, (1991) *Islandness*. *The Island Journal*, 8, pp. 81-82