
The Thoroughfare

SPRING 2001

VOLUME IX, ISSUE II



A TRIBUTE TO PHILIP (PIP) CUTLER

1917 - 2001

Roque Island recently lost a great friend. The ever-growing number of family members should know that he was a person who surely left his mark on the island for good and forever.

Pip was tapped for leadership at a somewhat awkward time, following the death of G. Peabody Gardner who had taken such an active role in island affairs for so long. There were changes afoot and a need for some transitional guidance. The island needed someone who was even-handed and liked by all hands. Pip's balance, fairness, sense of humor, love of natural things, respect for the environment and leadership qualities were all brought to bear on Roque as he encouraged wider participation in island affairs.

Pip was an avid bird lover (who thoroughly hunted the woods during the Fall season and knew by heart the songs and dances of woodcock, quail and snipe.) He was devoted to the seas and the coasts (and cruised them with gusto and daring.) He proved himself a leader in the U.S. Navy as a young commander (and won the everlasting affection and respect of his crew.)

Pip parlayed his reciprocated interest in young people and his confidence in them by an enviable record of coaching and teaching.

This lifetime commitment culminated in his founding of Brookwood School (which he and his Rosie brought to a successful institution, which to this date stands as a vital enterprise.)


No one who ever played against Pip in any sport will forget, that when he made contact, **he made contact!** Pip was his own man, always direct, never devious. His ever-present pipe (usually a corncob) was clenched firmly as his eyes sparkled and who can ever forget his chortle.


Pip was brought down altogether too early, but he left his mark on Roque. In his own mind the love of family was totally consistent with the very existence and purpose of Roque. So he served well and happily.


As a young boy I must have watched the film, *Beau Geste*, at least four times. You may remember the hero was referred to as a "stout fella". To me that always stuck in my mind, always conjured up a special bravery of heart and purpose. Pip exemplified both - therefore I think of him as "*stout fella*".


George P. Gardner


FLOTSAM


 Hunter Aleksandr Peabody Gregg was born on February 25th 2001 to James & Ariana (Fischer) Gregg.

 Nikaya Elizabeth Pertzoff was born on April 14th 2001 to Constantin (Dino) & Tanya Pertzoff.

 Augustus (Gus) Gardner married Elizabeth (Liz) O'Brien on May 12th 2001 in Boston. They will be residing in San Francisco.

 Isabella Dana will be graduating from St. George's in June.

 Sam Goodhue will be graduating from the Master's School in Dobbs Ferry in June.

 Nicholas Papanicolaou graduated from Harvard in May.

YOUNG MEMBERS' PARTY IN NEW YORK

Tatiana Papanicolaou hosted a party in New York for young R.I.G.H.C. members. Here is her report:

On April 21st, Jason and Adam Herrick, Ellen Higgins, and I gathered at my apartment in New York City for a few drinks to discuss the next generation of Roque Island members. The original purpose of the meeting was to introduce the "Under 30" age group to each other and ask any questions about the state of the Island. Unfortunately, Hilary Gardner and Nick Papanicolaou could not make it at the last minute, leaving Jason, Adam, Ellen, and I to share our greatest memories and voice our enthusiasm for upcoming trips over (numerous) bottles of wine. Fortunately, however, it was the first time, Adam, Ellen, and I had met, and, I think they would agree, that we all have lots in common from summers in Greece to summers on Roque. In the coming months, we hope to get more of all of you together. Specifically, we would like to schedule another event during the weekend of the Annual Meeting, which is usually held in Boston in the beginning of December. The Annual meeting is a great place to meet your long-lost cousins and learn a bit about the operations of the island. We'll confirm the date this fall, but, in the meantime, please keep December in mind and come alone or with your parents for what promises to be a weekend of family fun.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

In a switch from usual reporting, information generated at the trustee's level relating to the work of the various committees will be reported directly now by those committees. I would like to use this column, therefore, to touch upon slightly broader issues. The first issue is our need for responsiveness to the change in the financial markets. Simply put, our assumptions last fall as we were preparing the budget for the island were for a flat (no or low growth) market. Instead, we have witnessed a fairly powerful downturn in the market, which affects not only our endowment, and its capacity to generate income, but also the resources of the individual members to support the island. While the markets have rebounded somewhat from their depths, we still feel it is prudent to look for ways to save costs, and reduce our outflow. We have met together, and with management, to come up with specific ways to achieve these cost reductions. It has been our aim to sensitize island management to the need to be frugal, while also making clear our desire to preserve members' experience of the island in terms of services and products.

Second, in a related vein, one of the biggest challenges our manager faces is the ability to attract and retain experienced and committed employees. In short, staff turnover is unacceptably high, leading to the manager expending precious energy in the continual cycle of advertising, selecting, and training staff. It is the board's desire to support the manager in understanding this problem in depth. We feel there are a number of dimensions to this problem, (including the fact this seems to have been a constant state of affairs) and that any solution will have to take into account this problem's multi-dimensional nature. We invite any family members with ideas relating to staffing to talk directly with board members (not staff, please!) regarding your thoughts.



NEWS FROM ROQUE

Spring is finally here and most of our snow has gone, except for the drifts and in the shaded areas.

Lambs are being born daily, and the current count is nine; three sets of twins and three singles. We also have two new heifer calves. Two new pigs were purchased a week ago, and baby chicks will be here on May 1st. We were able to obtain a driving harness and Parker is being exercised in the gig.

Projects are underway in several buildings. High winds made new shingles necessary on the north side of the big barn. Deep frost made some leveling necessary at the Mansion House. Moisture damage over the years made some repairs necessary on all 3rd floor rooms in the Old Farmhouse; the Red House kitchen is getting a major "face-lift" and a new bathroom is being installed on the 3rd floor of the farmhouse.

Tom Nelson is our new Farm and Natural Resources Manager, and Ann Milano is our new cook. Amy Hilchey/Dodge will be back with us for the summer, Doug is in charge of the waterfront, and Jesse is the farm hand. Gloria is helping out with the housecleaning.

Currently Doug is readying all the watercraft for summer use. Tom & Jesse are repairing fences and spreading fertilizer. Gloria is getting houses ready for summer use, and Amy is getting the greenhouse and garden up and running while she is here on weekends.

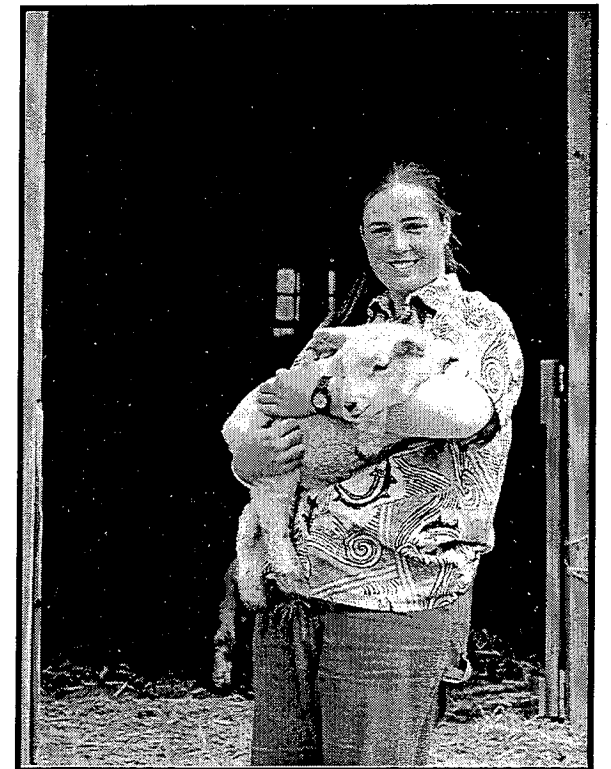
The grass starts turning green within days after the snow uncovers it, and many of the wild birds are visiting us as they return from the south. We have even had a few days when a sweatshirt was not needed while outside.

We look forward to your visit here on Roque Island this summer, and we are saving the best weather for when you join us!

Ed Harriman

IMPORTANT!

If you or any of your guests have recently been traveling in Europe, please take precautions so as not to spread foot and mouth disease: wash clothes and shoes with bleach before arrival.



JESSE WITH ROCCO, AN ORPHANED LAMB, THIS MAY.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE A NUMBER OF EXCAVATION PROJECTS WILL BE TAKING PLACE (E.G. CLOSING OF SAND PIT, ROAD WORK, CEMETERY SITE PREPARATION, ETC.).

THE RED HOUSE KITCHEN HAS BEEN RENOVATED: NEW CABINETRY, SINK, RANGE AND FLOORING HAVE ALL BEEN INSTALLED. OUR HOPE WAS TO DESIGN AND PROVIDE A MORE ORGANIZED AND USER-FRIENDLY SPACE THAT IS FITTING TO THE CHARACTER OF THE RED HOUSE. MARMOLEUM WAS USED ON THE FLOOR (A "GREEN" PRODUCT MADE OF LINSEED OIL, PRESSED CORK AND CRUSHED STONE); DEER ISLE GRANITE WAS USED FOR THE COUNTER TOPS AROUND THE RANGE AS IT IS AN INDIGENOUS PRODUCT; AND, THE WOOD COUNTER TOPS ARE RECYCLED FROM THE OLD KITCHEN. THANKS TO THE RED HOUSE KITCHEN COMMITTEE (MOLLY CUTLER, ELLEN HIGGINS AND ROSA HIGGINS!).

TWO WEEKLY RUNS WILL BE MADE TO JONESPORT TO PURCHASE CLAMS AND LOBSTERS. PLEASE PUT YOUR ORDERS IN WITH THIS SCHEDULING IN MIND (SEE STAFF UPON ARRIVAL FOR DETAILS.)

DUE TO TIGHT SCHEDULING, THE CLEANING DAYS HAVE BEEN SHORTENED IN THE RED & MANSION HOUSES PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THOSE COMMITTEES. PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF THIS WHEN SCHEDULING YOUR STAY AND FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES THAT ARE POSTED IN EACH HOUSE.



RESTAURANTS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

LE DOMAINE, Hancock [tel 207.422.3395]
Double room: \$200 - includes breakfast. \$285 with dinner and breakfast.
Open June 7-October 18

BLUEBERRY PATCH MOTEL, Jonesboro [tel 207.434.5411]
Double room: High season (June 15 - September 15) \$55
Low season (May 1- June 15, September 15 - October 15) \$38
Opens May 1

MACHIAS MOTOR INN [tel 207.255.4861]
Double room: \$66 June 1-September 15
Double room: \$60 off-season

MICMAC FARM, Machias [tel 207.255.3008]
Cabin, with kitchenette: \$65 June 15 - September 30

THE RED BARN RESTAURANT AND MOTEL, Milbridge [tel 207.546.7721]
Double Room: \$65 Memorial Day through Columbus Day, \$55 Off-season
Dinner until 9 p.m.

WHITE HOUSE RESTAURANT, Jonesboro [tel 207.434.2792]
Dinner until 8 p.m.

HELEN'S RESTAURANT, Machias [tel 207.255.8423]
Dinner until 8 p.m.

EXCURSIONS

Captain Barna Norton [tel 207.497.5933]
Has a boat that will accommodate 30 people for outings to Machias Seal Island to see the puffins, June-August (\$50-60 a person for the day). Available for charter for other trips including duck shooting.

Dave Kelso [tel 207.546.7052]
Bass fishing in Washington and Hancock counties. Full day for two people is \$175, a half day is \$100. Will do overnight excursions too. Season: April-October; best time: June (black fly season, natch!). Also does bird hunting in the fall for partridge and woodcock.

Bobby Beal [207.483.2110]
Canoeing, fishing (brook trout and bass), duck hunting. Will arrange overnight excursions as well. Can also do in-shore fishing for stripers and mackerel, and off-shore fishing for tuna and shark. AGH went with him on a canoeing expedition (5-6 hours) through the Great Heath of the Pleasant River - great fun. Price was \$250 for 9 people (this was in 1999).

Dwayne Shaw & Bahia Yaczan [h 207.483.2992 or w 207.483.4336]
Canoeing, duck hunting, fishing for both brook trout and bass, and stripers. Will do overnight excursions. Rates vary.

F.Y.I.
Sunday N.Y. Times available at White House restaurant (see above)

Old Records Tell a Story... Two 12" by 7 1/2 "ledgers dating from 1940-1955 emerged from a recent purge of the Farm House files. In telling what story they can, they remind us that good records today will mean good history tomorrow.

There seem to have been more people on the payroll then, working at low wages only a few years after the Depression. The names of some of the people who worked on the island were John Roberts, Russell Hanscom, Guy Woodman, Delia Houghton, Leo Kneeland, James Huntley, Herbert Weller, Clarence Pennell, Perry Cox, Lindell Cox, Everett McLain, George Williams and Freda Fenno. The manager, Sewall Smith, was earning \$1800 per annum in 1940. The main hands earned \$30 a week. The young hands, Melvin "Duke" Roberts and John Gray, whom many of us remember, earned \$14.80 per week. Until well into the 1950's Lucy Gray was doing laundry at \$.75 per hour. Woodsmen were paid \$5.50 a day. The minimum wage was established in 1938.

It was a simpler time. The farm was largely self-sustaining. Throughout the year, cream, butter and eggs were shipped by train to the Gardners, Monkses and Pertzoffs in Boston, providing a steady source of income, "Slips" from L.W. Longfellow & Co., grocer in Machias, were few and far between. Marketing in town did not much occupy the staff. Communication with the outside world was chiefly by mail and the occasional telegram.

Transportation by overnight train from Boston cost \$3.85 for an upper berth, \$5 for a lower berth; however, taxis were expensive: \$3 from Machias, and \$25 from Bangor. Here are some other consumer prices in Machias from those days:

Can of soup	.16
Pack of cigarettes	.18
Pilot crackers	.25
Lobster	.30/lb.
Toothpaste	.50

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WHAT'S GOING ON... COMMITTEE UPDATES

CEMETERY - Ellen Higgins, Chair

The stone walls will be finished by the end of June, with Project Week volunteers helping the two stone masons. After this part is finished, we will need to work on landscaping and planting. No trees are to be planted inside the perimeter, but the site needs to be incorporated into its surrounds, especially as there were a lot of trees lost in the area during last December's terrible wind storm.

BLUFFS HOUSE - Ellen Higgins, chair

The house is almost fully booked during the summer months. To check on availability, please call Barbara Chamberlin at Due East Realty (207) 733-5511. Rent for Members is \$600 a week during the high season. Improvements to the house this year include: removal of chain-link fence, addition of picnic table, and re-roofing of the house.

FARM - Nannette Herrick, chair

The Farm Committee is pleased to report that the farm has come through the winter in fine form. Spring is finally upon us bringing all good things. The greenhouse is growing a new crop of vegetables and flowers, we have a new calf, a lot of new lambs, the horses are in good form and the laying chickens, with a rooster finally in attendance, are now more than happy. If you haven't already signed up for Tier III membership, please do so now to signify your appreciation for the fruits of all these labors.

FORESTRY - Chris Cutler, chair

The Forestry Committee is presently waiting to hear from our contact Dale Covey at Georgia Pacific, as to possible terms and pricing for a contract to log at Roque for the 2001-2002 season. Though current lumber prices are low due to cheap Canadian lumber and do not bode well for Roque lumber, an offer from Georgia Pacific will reflect their desire for a long-term relationship with Roque.

MASTER-SITING PLAN - Tanya Fischer, Chair

The Master Site Plan Committee has been working with Stephen Mohr (of the Portland-based landscaping firm of Mohr & Seredin) to develop maps detailing potential site locations for possible future new buildings such as equipment sheds, workshops, family housing and a museum. When completed this Master Site Plan will become part of RIGHC's Long Range Plan.

NATURAL RESOURCES - George Herrick, chair

Norman Famous will continue his ecological monitoring and assessment of Roque Island. He will devote about ten days' work to an initial survey of Great Spruce, both to assist in planning forestry projects there and to increase our understanding of ecological resources on that island. In time we hope to open a trail system, following up on the work of the Goodhue family. This will make the island more accessible and enjoyable to family members.

OPERATIONS - Ariana Gregg, Chair (SEE PAGE 3)

RUSTICATORS - Nina Herrick, chair

There is only one phone line at the Farm House and it must be reserved for island business - so bring a cell-phone, if you have one; if not there is one that can loaned to you. The House reservations are all in order, and I want to thank Sandy Bowers, Lyn Goodhue, and Tanya Smith for their diligence in working out the schedules.

Both Camp Chewonki and Outward Bound will have students visiting during the season. Good news: the Mansion House has a web-site (www.righc.org/), and the one for the island is in the process of being set up.

NOMINATIONS - Nina Herrick & John Higgins, co-chairs

We would like to remind you that there will be an election for two trustees next fall, as Ann Barry and Nina Herrick will be going off the board. Please start thinking of possible candidates.

Squire's Point continued...

Fruit	.60 doz.
White wine	1.65 a bottle
Whiskey	3.50 a bottle

Taste was no less refined in 1940 than today, but expectations then were limited by the meager supply of goods in Machias. With the vast expansion of the American economy, the revolution in transportation and the ever increasing demand for better food products, Roque Island shopping lists today have entered a sort of heaven of choice - even though the Farm still offers the best of the best. The accessories of modern life have fueled necessities undreamt by our grandparents while commanding needs that will be the wonder of our grandchildren. Convenience, comfort and the right blend of simplicity and refinement are the goals but the right equation awaits a second Einstein.

- George G. Herrick

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Needed is someone with an architectural bent to measure all the houses and collate historical information about them. Stephen Mohr, the consultant who is working on the Master Siting Plan, has found some interesting information on some of the farm buildings. As we plan for the future, it would be useful to pull all these stray bits together.

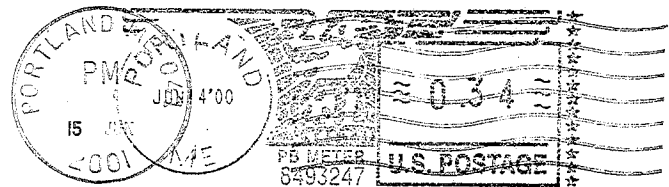
Recently acquired: the complete run of Guillemot, the newsletter of the Sorrento Scientific Society (of Sorrento, Maine) from the editor, Bill Townsend. It covers 30 years of local natural observations.

Copies of George Herrick's Ten Years on Roque Island, 1988-1997, which was privately printed, will be in each of the houses this summer. (A handsome volume to boot! - your editor.)

John Higgins is transcribing some of John P. Monks' notes of conversations with Sewell Smith, island manager in the 1930's.

The Thoroughfare

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*Deadline for the next issue: September 23, 2001.
Please contact Nina Herrick with any questions.*