

The
Thoroughfare

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July 2002

The Roque Island Golf Course

Last August, on our way up to Roque Island, we were trapped in what my family deemed "the mother of all traffic jams". Although the trip was extended from seven hours to more like nine, it gave my father (Randy Goodhue) sufficient time to explain to his family why he had packed three sets of golf clubs in our trunk: he intended to create a nine-hole golf course during his week stay on the island. "He is crazy", I thought to myself, "wouldn't he rather spend his vacation relaxing on Great Beach or picnicking on Brothers?" Not a chance.

The next morning I settled down on the day bed in the living room of the Old Farm House with a cup of coffee and a novel, and breathed a sigh of relief: "we had finally made it." "Where are dad and the boys?" I asked my mother (Lyn Goodhue).



"Look outside," she responded. And there was my father, atop of the John Deere lawn mower, making circles in the front lawn of the Red House with my two brothers (Sam and Willy Goodhue) looking on nearby.

"What are they doing?" I exclaimed.

"Why, they are making the first green," my mother responded.

And so I realized that my father's dream of creating a nine-hole golf course on Roque Island was not just a fantasy that had swelled in his mind due to the fumes of the traffic jam, but in fact was to become a reality.

By lunchtime, all nine greens had been cut and nine coffee cans had been planted in the middle of them. The next task was the flags. Nine dead pine trees were carefully

selected and recovered. The trees were taken from the forest floor down to the boat shop, where they were trimmed, sanded and shellacked.

After the soon-to-become flagpoles were laid out to dry, I expected my father and brothers to come in for a late lunch, but discovered that they would not stop until the completion of the course. The next task was to find nine pairs of rocks that would mark the tees of each hole.

Before long, my mother and I

decided we had to take some part in the creation of the first golf course on Roque Island. Thus we rummaged through the around, until we found an old white sheet, which we cut into nine squares. Next we found a permanent marker and with the help of our entire family, we named and drew a symbol for each hole. The final step was to staple the flags to the newly shellacked sticks and to deposit them into their specified locations.

By dinnertime, the Roque Island Golf Course (a.k.a. R.I.G.C.) was completed. The nine holes are as follows: the Red House (par 4), the Mallet (par 3), the Orchard (par 3), the Birdhouse (par 4), the Graveyard (par 4), the Pumphouse (par 5), the Cables (par 5), the Woods (par 5) and the Barnyard (par 3).

That night the Goodhue family fell fast asleep, anticipating a morning of golf with the backdrop of Roque Island: could there be anything better? We discovered the course takes about an hour and half to complete and that golf balls are not easy to keep when playing the R.I.G.C.. We asked Doug to pick up a few balls on his next trip to the mainland, but he had no luck. The few golf balls we had left became extremely valuable. We made a note to bring plenty of boxes next summer.

By coincidence, Bill Monks who was staying in the Monks House, had invited a couple to the island from England, who happened to have brought their clubs and a basket of balls. Thus not only was the Goodhue family able to enjoy the course, but the Monks' party soon took advantage of the R.I.G.C.. We too had

guests on the course: Harry and Jody Wilmerding from Long Island, NY, who reported that the R.I.G.C. was as fun as the National.

Our final afternoon was spent putting away the course, but if you too would like to play the R.I.G.C., you can find the flags in the basement of the Old Farm House. Ed, Doug or Tom could help you place them in the correct places. Make a note of the 36 par and hopefully by the summer season, we will have formal scorecards on the island.

Georgia Goodhue

Post Script:

Please check with the farmhouse before setting up the golf course as a couple of the holes are in haying areas and will need to be relocated for the season.

News From the Island

Lawn mowing and fence building time has returned to Roque Island, along with lots and lots of songbirds. We have two new Beltie calves, many lambs, two baby pigs, fifty baby chicks, and 14 baby ducks.

The hens have a new yard made from the chain link dog fence, which Tom and Jesse brought over from the house at Roque Bluffs. All the animals, except Gus, the gander, have come through the winter in good condition. Gus is quite lame and finds it difficult to travel around nowadays, let alone

chase anyone. It seems strange not to need to locate Gus before you wander through the farmyard. Doug and others have constructed a new float at Patten Cove which will make use of the kayaks much more enjoyable this year.

We have a new cook, Lynne Smith, from Norway, Maine, who started on April 6; and a new handy man, Don Parker, who started with us on April 8. Both Lynne and Don look forward to meeting you as you visit this summer.

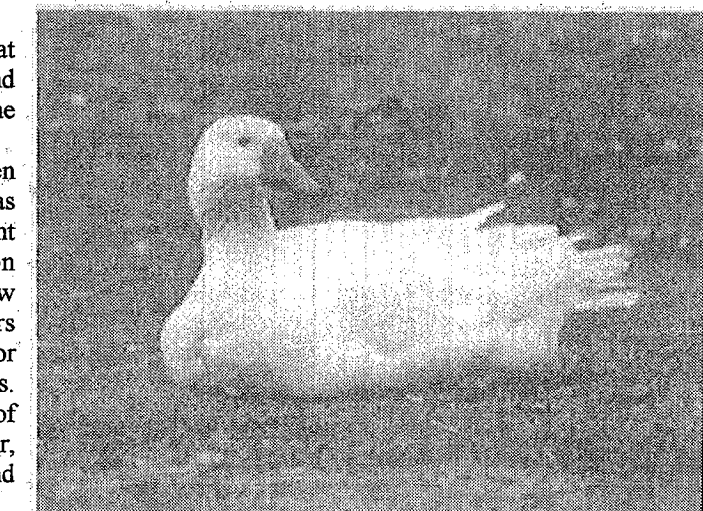
Amy and Lynne have been hard at work getting the garden planted and the houses ready for you to come and enjoy the island.

The Gardner House roof has been re-shingled; and a new floor has been constructed in the basement recreation room of the Mansion House. The Red House has a new tile "surround" in the downstairs shower/bath, and a new refrigerator at the foot of the basement stairs. The Farm House has a new pair of dormer windows on the 3rd floor, which add greatly to the light and



ventilation in those rooms. That floor was also insulated and sheet-rocked and, with a bathroom on that level, has become very livable. Chris McCormick, the carpenter who did the Red House kitchen, was able to duplicate the style and trim of the rest of the house so that the dormers look like they really belong there.

It doesn't seem possible, but we expect that some of you will al-



ready have had an opportunity to visit before you have even had a chance to read this issue of the *Thoroughfare!*
Ed Harriman,
Island Manager

Post Script:

Sadly, Gus passed away during the second week of May.

Chairmen's Notes

The Trustees recently met for their annual spring meeting in Portland on April 21st. The Island weathered an uneventful, quiet winter and is now a-buzz with spring work and annual preparations for the summer season. Brief highlights from the meeting are listed below:

- Tanya Pertzoff Wells has regrettably resigned from her post as Family Trustee. The Trustees have decided not to fill her position as the term was expiring this year and will be open to election in the late fall.
- Nominations and Elections Committee is in the process of reviewing the current electoral system- they are looking at issues of continuity, management of elections, and potential energy among the family, etc. We hope that they will have a recommendation by Labor Day.
- By-Laws for the Burying Ground were ratified. The committee will be developing guidelines for the burying ground. Many thanks and congratulations to Ellen Higgins along with a number of others, for bringing this worthy and handsome project to fruition.
- For the last few years, the Trustees and Rusticators Committee have been discussing ways in which to fully initiate and educate young member's as to the protocols of RIGHC and being at the Island. Currently there are three venues to work through: creating (and distributing) a New Member's Packet, formally inviting all new member's to his/her 1st Annual Meeting, and strongly encouraging those new member's to participate in Work Week. The Trustees will also propose that the age of membership be changed from 18 to 21 years old (starting in 2003).
- Continue to monitor and research the local aqua culture situation.
- Reviewing the parameters of our policy on visiting groups.
- Developing guidelines for hosting weddings (and/or larger events) at the Island.
- Currently awaiting bids from two local lumber companies for possible wood harvesting this coming winter ('02-'03).
- Research is underway as to how to repair/replace the buildings on the waterfront. They are in dire need of attention.

Have an excellent summer and if you are planning a visit to the Island, we hope you have a great time!

Cheers,

Ari Gregg and Chris Cutler (CO-CHAIRMEN)

The Annual Meeting has been set for November 24th,
2002 at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts.

SQUIRE'S POINT—Consider the Lawn

George G. Herrick

By happy coincidence the lawn mower came along just in time for croquet, lawn parties and modern landscaping. The Edenic green of our croquet lawn at Roque Island is emblematic of the value we place on the leisure that follows work. After all, all play aspires to the condition of paradise, as A. Bartlett Giamatti wrote in *Take Time For Paradise, Americans and Their Games* (1989).

Lawns total more than 25 million acres in the United States, according to the Professional Lawn Care Association of America. Americans spend more than \$14 billion a year on their lawns. Nature did not create these green lawns, how did they happen?

Tom Fort's *The Grass is Greener, Our Love Affair with the Lawn* (2000) outlines the history. The first gardening book, by a Dominican friar appeared in 1260. Gardening became something of a pursuit in 15th century England. The word *lawn* ("a place voyde of trees, as in a parke") first appears in Thomas Elyot's Dictionary in 1548. By the late 16th century the game of bowls was popular among the English elite, although it was banned at times by British monarchs, who preferred that men practice archery instead.

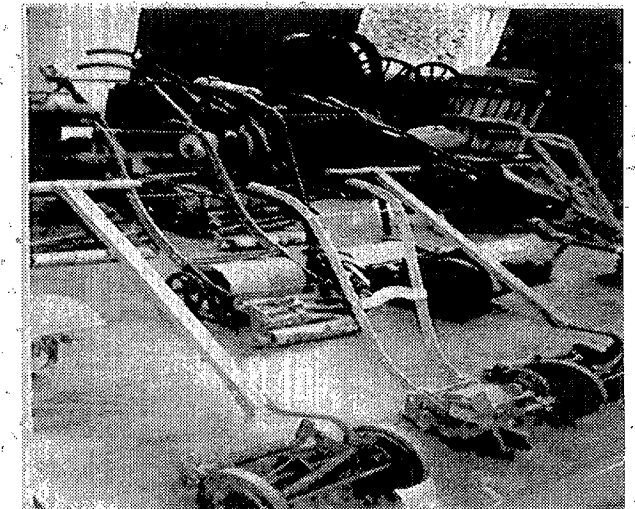
Grass, its texture, variety, color and convenience, became an indispensable element of the Georgian garden, but this was confined to the few. The Rev. William Gilpin, prophet of the picturesque, extolled the grandeur and variety of untamed nature in the late 18th century. It was a period, Fort writes, when "the Georgian garden was funded by a handful of enlightened aristocrats, executed by a few artists of taste and education who had a living to earn and publicized by a crew of poets and prose writers infected by the passion."

The 18th century dream of landscape gardening dissolved when the fiscal burdens of the long war with France led to a changing climate of opinion in a new generation where the balance of power had shifted from the landed elite to an emergent class of the industrial revolution. The true father of modern gardening was John Claudius Loudon, prolific editor, designer, architect and planner, who understood the suburban residences of the new class. Loudon endorsed the shorn, animal free lawn. He saw the satisfaction of walking in a garden planted by oneself as higher in the scale of satisfaction than amusing oneself at bowls. The lawn was one of the absolutes of what he called the moral garden.

Just at this time John Lewis, at Brinscombe Mill in

Gloucestershire, registered a patent in 1815 for a horizontal shearing machine for napping cloth. In 1830, at nearby Thrupp Mill, John Ferrabee and Edwin Budding, factory owners and mechanical geniuses, obtained a patent for a machine to crop and shear a vegetable surface. By 1858, 7,000 mowers had been sold in England and, about that time, an American import, the Archimedean, was competing for the market. These reel mowers were constructed of twisted blades between two wheels. In their time they would be powered by horses, elephants, steam, gasoline, electricity, and that old standby, personal perspiration. By 1890 the lawnmower had become widespread, eclipsing the time-honored scythe. It was not until the 1890's that the steam powered mower was launched. And then came the gasoline powered rotary mower in the 1930's which became widespread in the 1950's. Yet, according to Fort, they still mow the lawn at St. John's College, Oxford in the old-fashioned way, which requires pushing a heavy mower for seven and a half miles.

There must once have been 50 to 75 American mower manufacturers, according to James Ricci, a collector of reel mowers in Haydenville, Mass. Old brand names such as Ideal, Peerless, Excelsior and Easy breathe a nostalgic past. The most prolific remaining survivor is the American Lawnmower Company/Great States Corp., founded in 1895, which still sells 200,000 reel lawn mowers today. The whirring and clicking of steel on blade defined summer mornings of one's youth. Vladimir Nabokov transliterated the sound as, "I'm so clever, I'm so clever."



From The Archives

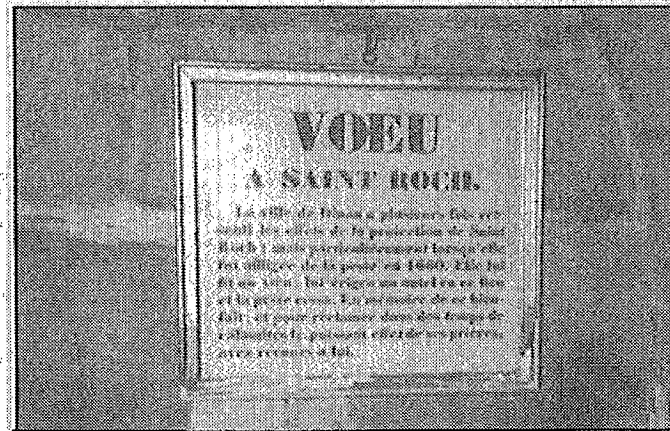
As we start making our packing lists for our summer destinations, it is interesting to consider the following list of items being sent to the island by John L. Gardner, from a letter to his brother George A. Gardner, dated September 4, 1884:

"I hope to send tomorrow by Express to E.L. Plummer Jonesport to wait until called for the following articles, viz.:

- 2 sets shovel & tongs
- 240 two cent postage stamps, rec'd in exchange for threes
- 1 Rubber blanket to be used under bath or otherwise
- 1 tin water pail
- 1 tin hot water pail
- 1 Duplex lamp with extra chimneys & wicks
- 1 Kerosene cooking lamp, kettle & wicks for tea on picnics: Will also serve as a lantern
- 1 Traveling clock for parlor. I could not get a decent looking 8 day clock, so I got this one, which I suppose must be wound daily when in use. (Cost \$11). It shuts up tight against dirt and damp, but Mr. Long had better take it into use or at least keep it in a dry place when we are not at the island
- 2 dozen brass closet hooks, screws and gimlet
- 1 lantern, bought last year for Joe to use on the *Scorpion* on his cruise (as well as I can find out). At any rate it is suited for a boat and was probably paid for by Roque Island
- 3 lunch baskets
- 1 pair dividers
- 1 Barometer (cost \$10)
- Bags belonging to Mr. Long"

Our thanks to George Herrick for digging this item out of the Gardner family papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society. - *The editors.*

Following up on Jessica Kearns's article about the church of Saint Roque in Portugal, here is an historical reference that Nina Herrick found in a church in Dinan, Brittany.



The Text Reads:

The town of Dinan has several times benefited from the protection of Saint Roque, but especially the time when it was infected with the plague in 1660. The town made a vow and erected this chapel, and the plague disappeared. Pray to him in memory of this miracle, and to ask for his intercession in times of calamity.

Shoreline Trash

It is useful sometimes to bring a plastic garbage bag, which one can stuff in one's pocket and use to remove bits of trash, when going on walks or for a picnic on the island. So much detritus floats in, and frequently does not float out on the next high tide. As you will see by the figures below, published by the National Park Service, these items are not going to disappear any time soon!

DECOMPOSITION TIMES

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Glass bottle | 1 million years |
| Monofilament fishing line | 600 years |
| Plastic beverage bottle | 450 years |
| Disposable diapers | 450 years |
| Aluminum can | 80-200 years |
| Foamed plastic buoy | 80 years |
| Foamed plastic cup | 50 years |
| Plastic film container | 20-30 years |
| Plastic bag | 10-20 years |
| Cigarette butt | 1-5 years |
| Wool sock | 1-5 years |
| Waxed milk carton | 3 months |
| Newspaper | 6 weeks |
| Orange or banana peel | 2-5 weeks |
| Paper towel | 2-4 weeks |

Flotsam

- Ellen Higgins and a group of family members (John Sr., Joe and Ellen J. Higgins, Charlotte Alexander, Jennifer Donaldson, Nick, Rosa and Phil Higgins, Kate, Kate (jr.) Gonzales and boyfriend, Vinny, and George, Charlie and Maria Monks) spent the weekend of May 11 visiting Peabody family haunts in Salem. We look forward to a full account in our next issue from Ellen J. Higgins.
- Tanya and Judd Fischer will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary July 28th. Congratulations!
- The New York Yacht Club Cruise will spend two nights in island waters, August 13-14. If you are on the island, you may want to view some of the lovely boats by water. Also, check with Posy Dana or Nina Herrick, who will be on the cruise, to see if there might be any races scheduled that would be interesting to watch.
- The Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System has set up a web-site: www.GOMOOS.org where one can view current and historical information on visibility, temperature, wind speed, and sea conditions in the Gulf of Maine. The information is provided by ten computerized buoys.
- Project Weekend takes place June 21-24. Anyone interested should contact Ed Harriman directly. Also, please contact Ed for details on projects taking place this year.

THE LIBRARY CORNER

THE SHORE

Ackerman, Jennifer. Notes from the Shore (1995)

Bascom, Willard. Waves and Beaches (1964)

Berrill, N.J.. The Living Tide (1951)

Hay, John. The Great Beach (1963)

Hay, John and Faris, Peter. The Atlantic Shore (1966)

Kopper, Philip. The Wild Edge. Life and Lore of the Great Atlantic Beaches (1979/1991)

Ogburn, Charlton. The Winter Beach (197?)

Sebold, Kimberly Ruth. The Low Green Pastures of the Sea (1998)

Townsend, Charles. Beach Grass (1923)

Wylie, Francis. Tides and the Pull of Man (1979)

This reading list was compiled by George Herrick from amongst the book collection at Roque Island.

Halma (reprint)

Due to an editorial error in the last newsletter the Editors have decided to reprint the accurate version. Sincere apologies!

The purpose of this report is to set the records straight, providing an account of the true origins of *Halma*... and to expound upon the link between *Halma* and *Chinese Checkers*... writes Bruce Whitehill about his research on the game. Whitehill discovers information about some variations by Parker Brothers, Milton Bradley and Selchow & Righter (the creators of *Scrabble*) that evolved from George Howard Monks' immensely popular *Halma*. G.H. Monks, husband of Olga Gardner Monks, was a thoracic surgeon affiliated with Harvard Medical School, an inventor, and a sculptor when he invented the game. It was Thomas Hill, father-in-law of Robert Monks and president of Harvard, who helped George in the development of the game and who came up with the name *Halma*, which is Greek for jump.

During a trip to England in 1883 or 1884, Robert Monks, brother of G.H. Monks, discovered the game of *Hoppity*. After George learned about this game from his brother, he became inspired to create a new game, *Halma*, taking suggestions from *Hoppity* in such a way so as not to infringe on its copyright. In G.H. Monks' version, two or four players, each starting in the corners, move 10 wooden playing pieces across a flat board using the positioning of opponents to enhance one's move in order to make it as quickly as possible into the opponent's starting position.

My Grandmother, Ellen Monks Higgins, remembers playing with her Grandmother, Olga Gardner

Monks. Sometime between tea and supper the two could be found in the living room of the Monks' Boston home overlooking Commonwealth Avenue or perhaps they'd play on leisurely summer afternoons in the Cape. Ellen's parents played often as well: "...your Greatpa loved it!" she tells me.

Whitehill points out two factors that make *Halma* unique: "1) the number of pieces at the start of the game depends on the number of players; and 2) although players may move their pieces by jumping over opponents' pieces, the jumped pieces are never captured nor removed from the board." Whitehill also notes that "Halma is one of the earliest examples of a category of games in which players can use the positioning of opponent's pieces to enhance one's move... The game has been classified as a configuration game and a positioning game, but it is basically a race game." On the other hand Ellen argues that "it's a strategy game."

Halma was introduced to the US market by E.I. Horseman Company, then "The Halma Company". G.H. Monks allegedly sold his patent for the game to Parker Bros., which continued to make the game through 1961. Meanwhile, in England, Spears Co. was producing *Halma* games by July 1893 for which George would not receive royalties since the game was only copyrighted in the United States. In Germany in 1892, Ravensberger (Otto Maier) introduced a variation, *Stern-Halma*. It is played the same way as *Halma*, except the board is changed into a star-shaped pattern;

allowing up to six players to play at the same time. This is the first known example of a *Chinese Checkers* board.

Brothers Bill and Jack Pressman of J. Pressman and Company came up with the name *Chinese Checkers*, capitalizing on the craze during the 1920's for all things Oriental started by the 1922 discovery of King Tut's tomb and the Mah Jongg rage that swept the country. They introduced *Chinese Checkers* into the US in 1928. The game quickly gained in popularity and many versions were sold. Since then, many companies have produced it, though it is unclear how they received the right to use the name invented by the Pressman brothers. My great grandfather, in his biography on his own father, *Beginnings*, recounts that after the death of his father, his brother John "...took great delight in correcting the Encyclopedia Britannica's blatant error as to the origin of Chinese Checkers." Thus, *Halma* ultimately became *Chinese Checkers* in spite of steps taken by G.H. Monks to protect his interests, including the hire of the Boston legal firm of Goodwin, Proctor & Hoar. But George Howard Monks was "too much of a gentleman to press his clear rights" according to a grandson.

Variations of *Halma* rules and subsequent game boards by toy and game makers throughout the late 1800's to mid 1900's point to an interesting question about the

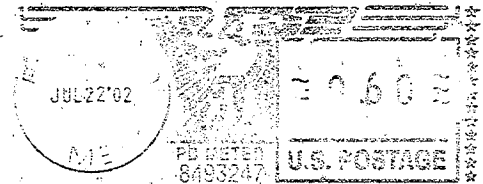
cultural context in which a game is both understood and appreciated. As noted by Whitehill:

"And the question that tells us more about the culture in which the games are played than about the games themselves: Why is HALMA still favored in many countries while it has virtually disappeared in others, like the United States, replaced by CHINESE CHECKERS? To me, the most interesting fact about these two classic games is that more than a century after being introduced, the games have not changed, and one or the other is still played avidly by so many adults and children in so many countries of the world."

- Ellen Johann Higgins

The Thoroughfare

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Deadline for next issue: September 23, 2002.
Please contact Nina Herrick with any questions or ideas for contributions.