



VOL. 3 NO. 1 STAR ISLAND NEWSLETTER FALL 1977

EULOGY FOR LYMAN V. RUTLEDGE
By Dr. Dana McLean Greeley
Memorial Service, Portsmouth, N.H., October 8, 1977

In a very real sense we identify Lyman with the Shoals, with Star Island, more than with Iowa, or Dedham even, or Dublin, or Kittery. When he was there, he embodied the Star Island spirit; and when he was not there, his heart was "yearning for the Isles of Shoals." But as much as he dreamed in a place of dreams, he likewise worked to make those dreams come true.

It was an extremely important day for liberal religion when he left the plains states of the middle west and came east to the Harvard Divinity School. He had studied journalism in Kansas, and he could have been a journalist or a writer professionally. He could have been a teacher, or a scientist, or an historian, or a social worker, or a naturalist. He was all of these, avocationally, or even together with his ministry. But he became a minister of religion, a pastor to people, a witness to truth, a spokesman for righteousness, a poet and a civic servant, and a catalyst for ideas and conferences and causes. In Emersonian phraseology it would be hard to measure today the movements and institutions that constitute the lengthened shadow of his life.

He ministered to Unitarian Churches in Pembroke, Billerica, Cambridge, Dorchester, and Dedham, Massachusetts, and to the Community Church in Dublin, New Hampshire, as well as to a countless or unnumbered congregation symbolized by a simple chapel on the top of an island set in a silver sea. But always he was ministering also to the universal church, beyond all parochial and sectarian boundaries.

No man is an island. He cherished an "island," and parishes, and a denomination, but he was "part of the main."

He spent many years, and a generous portion of his energy, in Boy Scout work. He was a leader in the fields of temperance and of correctional institutions for juvenile offenders. He pioneered with colleagues for the deepening of the missionary character of a free faith. As a Rotarian and a Mason, he seemed born to serve and to celebrate.

For young people, and others, at Star Island, think of it, 50 years ago, he gathered a group to greet the dawn on the eastern point of the island, and the sacred silence of those vigils was matched by the understanding communication that bound heart and heart together. And the miracle was that, even as the decades passed, he remained as young in spirit as those young people with whom he had shared his inspiration. And he testified, as Celia Thaxter wrote, "The sunrise never failed us yet."

I remember him as vividly and as thankfully from those days as from any later times. He was a fine companion to the young people, and very human — warm and wise — with children. But I think that I knew him best when the Star Island Office was at the Arlington Street Church in Boston, and he was in it. He was it. His extraordinary strength and his modest income were spent for Star Island. His hands laid the foundation and labored on the superstructure of the parsonage, and his mind's eye envisaged ever new possibilities of physical improvement and expansion.

He was the principal founder, though in partnership with three or four others, of the Coming Greater Church Conference at the Shoals, a genuine ecumenical venture; and he was one of the nucleus of key people who developed out of the Conference the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science. And for nearly a quarter of a century that Institute represented a kind of maturation of his own thought, or consummation of his earlier hopes and dreams. Ralph Burhoe and Sol Katz affirm that the intellectual and spiritual ideals that he stood for will live on in that Institute, and in other forms. His heart and his mind comprehended together. He was a prophet of the important progressive partnership or common cause of religion and science.

It can be said that he walked with kings, nor lost the common touch. In spite of a relatively rich educational background, I always felt that he was a self-educated man; but perhaps that was partly because he never terminated his education. He was still reading books, and thinking originally (and most creatively), into his eighties, and why shouldn't we say, his nineties?

At Star Island his imagination on the one hand, and his scientific knowledge on the other, his poetry and his wisdom, made him the friend and the equal of any of the scholars. He was an expert at analysis and synthesis; and he seemed to be, as well as a mystic lover of life, an horticulturist, an ornithologist, maybe an astronomer, and an oceanographer, and a cosmic philosopher, all at once.

He was devoted to his family and friends. His breast beat with love and compassion. But his modesty, and even simplicity in a sense, were as evident as his manifold talents. He loved the frontiers of learning; he was a good Samaritan; and he patiently and perseveringly planned and labored for a better world, even for the kingdom of righteousness and peace. He was optimistic by nature and resolution, and in all his pursuits and relations was equally firm and gentle. His children, and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and all of us, rise up and call him blessed. May his example lead us on, in the years that lie ahead.

LYMAN V. RUTLEDGE (1884-1977)

Lyman V. Rutledge, the patriarch of the Shoals, died in Portsmouth on October 4. He was 92 years old.

Mr. Rutledge was professionally a clergyman. Performing his ministry in a variety of settings, he reached the minds and hearts of thousands who seldom or never heard him in the pulpit. Old Shoalers will remember him as an abiding presence at Star Island during some sixty years, beginning with his first visit in 1911. Throughout his long pastorates, notably in Dedham, Mass. and Dublin, N.H., the Isles of Shoals were his unofficial summer parish. For five years in the 1920's and 1930's he owned the Cedric Lighton cottage on Appledore, and during the difficult period following World War II he served as Executive Director of the Star Island Corporation — a responsibility that required his continued presence at Star through the summer months. In more recent years, when failing strength reduced his physical activity, he made his home at Kittery Point, Me., where from his study he could watch the *Vikings* on their runs to and from the Island.

He leaves three children, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. His wife, Louise, who was his quiet helper on dozens of Shoals-related projects, died in 1972.

We shall remember Lyman Rutledge as one of the principal builders of our Conference Center, to which he devoted his muscle as well as his mind. From 1927 to 1929 he headed the group of ministers who financed the construction of the Tucke Parsonage, some of them helping manually as well. Mr. Rutledge himself assisted the masons with the stonework and did much of the carpentry. After the war years, during which our buildings had been ravaged by time and weather, it was Lyman Rutledge, acting for the Corporation, who more than any other individual raised the necessary money, plugged the leaks, and restored the schedule of conferences.

We shall remember him as the definitive historian of the Shoals as well as of the Conference Center itself. His guide book, *Ten Miles Out*, now in its fifth edition, and *The Isles of Shoals in Lore and Legend* continue year after year among the Island's best sellers. In addition, scholars will thank him for the "Omnibus Edition" of *Lore and Legend* — a six volume work in typescript, in which he attempted to record all the usable facts that he had amassed, only a fraction of which would fit in a marketable book. Another major gift to scholarship was the Isles of Shoals Room at the Portsmouth Public Library, which was set up to house his personal collection of Shoalsiana.

We shall remember him as a philosopher speaking through his published essays and meditations, his volume of poetry (*Earth Music*), and even a novel (*Adam's Crusade*), written late in life, fantasizing on the future of the human race.

We shall remember him for his devotion to the study of natural history. It is appropriate that our Marine Science Laboratory bears his name. Everywhere he saw the divine in the natural. *Ten Miles Out* is a guide not only to the geography and history of the Shoals, but also to the rocks, the plants, the birds, and the fish. He was a founder of the *Institute on Religion in an Age of Science*, which aims to reconcile and synthesize these two vast fields of human inquiry. For many of us, just to watch the sunrise with him was an experience not to be forgotten.

We shall remember him as a delightful storyteller, whether describing the wonders of nature to little children, as in the familiar photograph on the wall of Elliott Hall, or at a bonfire on the rocks, detailing to their parents and grandparents the unraveling of the Smuttynose murders.

One of Mr. Rutledge's avocations was painting in oils; and about the time the Parsonage was completed, he asked Oscar Leighton, then entering his nineties, to sit for a portrait in the new living room. The painter worked on this project over many weeks; but after nearly completing it, he put the portrait aside reluctantly as unfinished business. Something was missing, and he had been unable to supply it. Almost a half-century later, he returned to Uncle Oscar's portrait and tackled the problem again. This time, working from memory, he succeeded in capturing the

elusive element — the twinkle in Uncle Oscar's eye. A copy of the painting now hangs on the wall of the Parsonage living room, where the subject first sat for it.

Lyman Rutledge himself had eyes that sparkled with a very special light. Perhaps he was born with it. If so, it was perpetually recharged by his lifelong habit of responding to sparkle — in the sea at sunrise, in scintillating conversation, and in the eyes of others.

Frederick T. McGill, Jr.

**TO PRESERVE FOREVER
Our Dedication to
RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL AND
KINDRED PURPOSES**

The Corporation has received word that the following Shoalers will continue to give living support to Star Island today, and for many days to come. The Corporation will receive:

From the estate of Elsie Turner of Plymouth, Mass., the sum of \$7,500, and a residue amount of approximately \$2,400.

From the estate of Rev. Lester Lewis of Washington, D.C., the sum of \$5,000.

From the relatives and friends of Rev. William R. Moors, former minister of the Unitarian church in Rockville, Md., the sum of \$1,000 to be used in the restoration of the Chapel interior.

From Robert T. Doremus of Madison, Wisconsin, in memory of his wife, Betty, the sum of \$1,000.

Grateful acknowledgment has been made to the proper persons for these gifts, but the Board of Directors wishes to express here our gratitude, and appreciation of these examples of devotion to the "religious, educational and kindred purposes" of Star Island.

THANK YOU!

The Corporation extends its thanks to all who have sent gifts to the Maintenance Fund, and reminds those generous Shoalers that their cancelled checks will serve as receipts for their contributions.

A NEW APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS

Leaving behind the world of crime and destruction 106 adults came to Star Island longing to experience and to create works of beauty and grace.

Lectures and studio sessions devoted to Art, Music, and Literature satisfied their desires and brought to success the new Star Island Conference of the Arts held June 18 - 25.

Among the features that made the conference outstanding were the morning chapel services led by Dr. Dorothy Spoerl, who reminded us that living a life of service and integrity is the greatest of the arts; the informative lectures; the opportunities to create one's own works of art; the outstanding exhibit of studio work; the concert presented by the Strawberry Banke Chamber Music Festival; and the friendships formed among the conferees and their leaders.

Some of the conference statistics are interesting: 40% were new Shoalers.

Religious affiliations included 76 UU's, 4 UCC's, and members of the Jewish, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Christian, Swedenborgian, Methodist, and Quaker fellowships.

The states represented included:

Oregon	1
California	2
Michigan	5
Illinois	2
Ohio	5
North Carolina	1
Virginia	1
Maryland	2
Delaware	1
Pennsylvania	8
New Jersey	9
New York	12
Connecticut	6
Rhode Island	7
Massachusetts	26
Vermont	5
New Hampshire	11
Maine	2
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	106

SHE SAYS IT'S WORTH IT!

The following message came from a loyal Shoaler with her contribution to the Maintenance Fund:

\$25 I pledged *that I could do and not hurt.*
 \$25 more – *the reassurance of smoke alarms is worth hurting a bit!*

OUR QUARTERS DID IT!

Do you remember how, "in the old days" we restored the gas in our stoves or lamps when it stopped burning? We put a quarter in the slot, the gas came back on, and we said, "Our quarter did it!"

This summer our quarters (plus some greenbacks!) did it! With our contributions to the Maintenance Fund we were able to meet the following needs:

We Made the Following Repairs

- Replaced the north wall in the caretaker's cottage.
- Replaced the north wall in the engineer's cottage.
- Reconstructed the men's room and installed new showers.
- Painted the trim on the infirmary.
- Repaired and painted cottages B, C, E.
- Reshingled dormers of cottage C.
- Installed new window in Pel Hall.
- Rebuilt the stone steps at south door of Newton Centre.
- Built several new beds.
- Reconditioned 24 bedrooms.
- Built new incinerator.

We Bought the Following New Equipment

- Oven
- Washing machine
- Adding machine
- Slide projectors

ARE YOU WHERE WE THINK YOU ARE?

Be sure we have your latest correct address. Your Blue Brochure with registration form for the 1978 conferences will be mailed next winter to the same address as is on this Newsletter. Check it now. Send corrections to 110 Arlington St., Boston, MA 02116.

AT LAST – CONCRETE RESULTS!

For years we have been hearing about and talking about doing something with “The Underworld” of the old hotel. This summer all this talk finally started to show *concrete* results.

What did it take to make this happen? People and ideas – sketches of various layouts by Roland Greeley, Harry Lent, Tom Mansfield, Mark Adams – out of all these suggestions the Technical Committee evolved a two-stage plan, part to be done this past summer, and the rest next summer.

Tom Mansfield then made more “field measurements” and drew up the revised plan and made separate drawings to show the contractor the work to be done this past summer – locating the concrete footings (using round fiber forms called “Sonotubes”), figuring the extent and thickness of the concrete slab, pipe sleeves in the floor, and location of concrete block partitions.

Stage One consists of the construction of new men’s toilets, washroom and showers in the area of the former paper storage room.

Stage Two includes tearing out the existing women’s showers, men’s toilets, washroom and showers and building new women’s toilets, showers and wash room, and a new paper storage room.

Stage One started early in June during open-up activities with Pelicans removing partitions and setting pipe sleeves. The four-man crew of our Contractor, Rouleau, placed the concrete floor on June 16.

A week later a mason with Pelican assistance put up the concrete block walls. This sounds simple, but it would take a full issue of the *Newsletter* to describe the process of getting sand, cement and blocks to the Island via trucks, hand-shovelling sand into the steel barrels, Dave Pierson towing a barge to the Island, etc.

During the summer, along with their regular work, Pelicans dug the trench for the pipes in the back, framed and installed the doors, built the toilet stalls, washroom counters and benches, put in new ceiling and walls of sheet rock, ran the wiring and installed the lights, switches, and fans, installed the piping and fixtures, painted the floors, walls and ceilings.

Tom Mansfield set up a drafting table in his room and made drawings of details as needed during the summer. There were many conferences on “how do we get around *that* problem?” Larry Garland spent many hours under the floor, working out the piping plan, cutting, fitting, hanging, leveling and glueing the plastic piping. Eddie Donahue spent many weekends planning and installing the pipes, valves and insulation for the hot and cold water lines.

This work continued all summer and many stayed until the end of September to finish Stage One.

What about Stage Two plans? At its August meeting our Board of Directors authorized the purchase of sand, gravel, and blocks to be used for an early start next June.

So much had been done, however, it seemed wise to start the work on Stage Two this fall.

So the GOOD NEWS is that the concrete floor in the ladies’ area was placed late in September and the block walls in early October!!

With that work done we hope to have the new ladies’ showers in use by the first conference in June, 1978.

Albert W. Doolittle, President

AND WE EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE

To Al Doolittle: With characteristic modesty our President makes no mention of the time, the thought, and the labor he has given to the work on the “underworld.” But those of us who saw the results will remember.

To Bob Jorgensen: We had many problems with the “underworld”, but do you know our manager’s biggest disappointment? Having to leave the island before it was ALL DONE! “Just one more day – just one more partition – just ONE MORE BLOCK!”

To ALL: Those of us who watched these two men and the Pelicans at work will not forget, and we know that we speak for all Shoalers everywhere when we say that we extend our gratitude and appreciation of their dedication to Star Island.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETINGS OF
THE STAR ISLAND CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President and Vice President

Albert W. Doolittle was unanimously reelected President of the Star Island Corporation by the Board of Directors at the May 3, 1977 meeting.

Charles Case was elected Vice President.

Conferences Filled to Capacity

All conferences were filled to available capacity. The clerk was instructed to write letters to the Isles of Shoals Congregational Corporation, and to Mrs. Sylvia Wilson, Chairman of the Writers' Conference, for their efforts in the rejuvenation of those conferences.

New Extinguishers and Smoke Detectors

Charles Case reported for the Health and Safety Committee that 20 new fire extinguishers have been placed at strategic locations and the old extinguishers have been recharged and positioned.

As a partial solution of meeting the necessity of a smoke-detection system, \$600 has been spent for detectors which have been placed in the halls of the main buildings and in cottages A, B, C, D, and E.

Committee on Memorials

Fred McGill, Chairman, reported that the primary function of the Committee is to screen memorial gifts. The Committee has listed appropriate objects as suggestions to be offered to future donors. Many things are needed — e.g., an overhead projector and rocking chairs.

Report of the Chapel Committee

The Committee has reaffirmed its conviction that restoration and preservation of the Chapel should be accomplished gradually, over a period of years.

Toward that end we propose a four-year plan for preservation:

- 1977 Restore the plaque over the door; refurbish the door; repair the bell-tower floor.
- 1978 Restore interior walls and ceiling; restore the windows; reglaze and re-finish.
- 1979 Repoint exterior masonry; restore pews; refinish interior woodwork.
- 1980 Floor: repoint and replace missing bricks; wire-brush flora and fauna off; seal to prevent further growth.

Susy Kolbjornsen
Frederick T. McGill
C. Blanchard Robbins

**DAVID DICKERMAN ELECTED
PRESIDENT OF ISLES OF SHOALS
CONGREGATIONAL CORPORATION**

At the annual meeting held on Tuesday, October 18, at the UCC Conference Center in Framingham, Mass., Rev. David L. Dickerman was unanimously elected President of the Isles of Shoals Congregational Corporation. He will now serve as ex-officio member of the Corporation Board of Directors.

Mr. Dickerman has very recently assumed the pastorate of the Mittineague Congregational Church in West Springfield, Mass. Together with his wife, Susan, they have been very active in promoting the UCC conferences at Star Island. His efforts in working with youth, and in increasing attendance at the adult conferences have been particularly outstanding.

TO SERVE AND YET TO YIELD

The Star Island Book Shop is an arm of the Star Island Corporation, operated by a Book Shop Committee appointed by the Corporation.

The Shop functions primarily for the convenience and enrichment of all who go to the Island, with profit-making a desirable but lesser goal. Profits may be turned over to the Corporation but occasionally the funds are invested in new books or in the reprinting of old favorites. For example, last year several thousand dollars were spent in reprinting *Isles of Shoals in Lore and Legend* and *Ninety Years at the Isles of Shoals*.

Because the Corporation is classified as a non-profit organization the books offered by the Book Shop must bear some relationship to our "religious, educational and kindred purposes." We may carry any publications related to the subjects and purposes of the several conferences or the people attending them.

For example, the offering of children's books is not only legitimate but a source of enrichment for our attendants. We have available the books requested by the conference committees and a variety of other good books, new ones as well as the classics.

The out-of-print *Geology of the Isles of Shoals* is again available and will be on our shelves next summer. Also, we expect to have a reprint of Celia Thaxter's *An Island Garden*, with at least four of the Hassam pictures reproduced in color, thanks to the energetic interest of Dr. John Kingsbury.

To fulfill our purposes and to be sure that the Book Shop will be well stocked with books needed and desired, the Committee would appreciate suggestions from *Newsletter* readers.

We have real space and budget limits, but our success is the result of the assistance we receive from Shoalers.

Suggestions should be sent to Mrs. Elizabeth Lockwood, 50 Cape Codder Road, Falmouth, Mass. 02540.

\$7,000 FROM THE GIFT SHOP

When we go to the Gift Show in the spring we always wonder whether people will approve of our choices of merchandise. Apparently many people did approve this year.

Our total sales for 1977 amounted to \$14,378. After all expenses were paid \$7,000 was turned over to the Isles of Shoals Association, Unitarian Universalist which group is responsible for the operation of the shop. This amount will be donated to the Star Island Corporation for the Maintenance Fund.

Marjorie Millet did a fine job in managing the shop with the assistance of volunteers including Ray Hardin, Ann Nardone, Harriet Kerr, Alma Smith, Agnes Hirtle, and members of the Committee Bea Miller, Meg Brown, Ruth Koe and Edith Doolittle.

We want to thank all the churches and individuals who contributed articles for sale. We want, particularly, to express our appreciation to the members of the UUC Conferences who brought many fine articles. One ten-year-old girl made two lovely window hangings while attending a nature camp.

All summer we featured a silent auction of a beautiful needlepoint pillow bearing a picture of the chapel. It was designed and made by Beatrice Miller of Wellesley Hills, Mass., and required countless hours of work. It went to Mr. William House, of Candia, New Hampshire, for \$55.15.

The Gift Shop Fair, held last fall at the Wellesley Hills Unitarian Society, will be an every-other-year event. It's not too early to start creating your "fair share" for November 1978!

THE STAR ISLAND CORP.
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THIRD CLASS

Page 8

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR CONTRIBUTION

The news of the Maintenance Fund is that we are doing a little better than last year. However, we have many goals before us.

The Long Range and Technical Committees report that we must:

Construct new staff quarters and a new caretaker's house; complete the smoke detectors; renovate Oceanic and Gosport; complete the sewage treatment plans; complete stage two of the underworld.

To meet these pressing needs the Corporation hopes that all Shoalers will show their support by contributing to the Maintenance Fund.

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES FOR 1978

June 17-24 Conference on the Arts
June 24-30 LRY
June 24-July 1 Star Island Institute
July 1-8 All Star I
July 8-15 All Star II
July 15-22 Religious Education
July 22-29 International Affairs
July 29-August 5 Institute on Religion in an
Age of Science
August 5-12 United Church of Christ I
August 12-18 United Church of Christ II
August 5-18 Writers'
August 18-20 Laity Weekend
August 21-27 Life on a Star I
August 27-Sept. 2 Life on a Star II