



STAR ISLAND NEWSLETTER

VOL. XIX #1

Bringing Some Star to the Mainland

Fall 1993

President's Letter

Looking back at the recently past summer, there is one thing that particularly stands out for many Board members - the new TENNIS COURTS! At last, after years of wrestling with repairs upon repairs and treacherous, unpredictable surfaces, we finally have new (gloriously green) tennis courts. Not being a tennis player myself, I have had to rely on others who have tested them - but the pronouncement seems to be that they allow for a fair and satisfactory game of tennis. Hooray! Thanks for the many hours of research and labor put in by Al Doolittle.

Wastewater Treatment Update - Our pilot plant was up and functioning for the majority of the summer, although we encountered some start-up difficulties. The engineers have the results and are working on their final report to us with system designs to follow that. We are working with the State of New Hampshire engineers to determine if we can realistically meet all the deadlines and at the same time come up with the best possible solution to our wastewater problems. In the meantime, we have been preparing for some of the installations that we know will definitely be required. With invaluable assistance from Bob Hatch, a pit was prepared for one of the main pumps in the rocks by the truck trestle, and an old cistern was excavated north of the Kiddie Barn with a backhoe.

I'd like to thank some familiar faces again: Dick Soule and his crew came out at the end of the season and worked on several projects, including the Dining Room roof; Ron Cordes continued surveying and redesigning our electrical system and uncovered some potential hot spots, fortunately, before a mishap occurred, and Win Southworth and his crew removed about ten tons of scrap metal and unneeded material from the Island. Thanks to all of you who provide these valuable services for the Island.

Also, I want to thank all of you who participated in our "envisioning" process during most of the conferences this summer. It is vital for us to make sure that those of us who have the responsibility for making decisions about the future of Star check-in with everyone else to make sure we are on the right track. All your ideas and feedback are being reviewed by the Long Range Focus groups.

During our August Board meeting on the Island, it was announced that Dave and Edith Pierson will be cutting back their responsibilities. It will be a difficult adjustment for all of us to have them around less but it will be a gradual one. I hope that these new arrangements will allow Dave and Edith to see more of their family and friends and at the same time allow us to find and train new people to assume their many responsibilities.

Lindy Anderson
President, Star Island Corporation

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the Star Island Corporation will be held on Saturday, April 23, 1994, 2:00 P.M. at the First Parish Church, 349 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA.
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW.

STAR ISLAND NEWSLETTER

HOWARD LIGHTFOOT, Editor
ANTHONY S. CODDING, General Manager
TERRY DELANEY, Office Manager
SARAH M. CODDING, Editorial Assistant

P.O. Box 127, Contoocook, NH 03229
110 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116

**CHARLES S. BOLSTER
1894-1993**

Judge Charles S. Bolster, who served the Star Island Corporation for more than fifty years as Director, Treasurer, and Clerk, died on June 17, 1993 in his 99th year.

Fred McGill writes, "Charlie was my friend. I am saddened by his passing, although I know that life had no more to offer him. During each of the past five summers I have visited him - three times at his beloved summer home on Boothbay Harbor, and twice at his retirement community in Lexington, MA. As old folks are expected to do, Charlie and I spent most of our days together in a nostalgic world of reminiscence. He recalled the painful year of 1916, when the new Star Island Corporation was celebrating its ownership of Star Island while suffering the ownership of an ancient steamboat that brought with it scores of legal and navigational problems. Charlie and I both recalled the FAT MAN'S race, a regular event of the Fourth of July from 1924 through the later twenties. The contest, on the lawn west of the Oceanic, followed an imaginary track from the sea wall to the wellhouse, was always between Charlie Bolster and Carl Wetherell. No record exists of wins and losses. Those who knew Charlie will miss his booming laugh and twinkle."

Judge Bolster graduated from Roxbury Latin School in 1911 and from Harvard College in 1915. After serving in the First World War, he graduated from Harvard Law School in 1920. He was a partner in the firm of Bingham, Dana, and Gould, specializing in admiralty law. This was followed by an appointment to the Massachusetts Superior Court, from which he retired in 1975. Charles and his wife, the former Elizabeth Munroe, were active in many Unitarian organizations, including the First Church in Boston and the First Parish in Cambridge. They took part in many Star Island conferences, and "Liz" was especially active in the Women's Alliance Conferences at Star.

He is survived by two daughters, Sally Bobbitt of Lincoln, MA and the Rev. Katharine (Kitsy) Winthrop, minister of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Springfield, VT and a son, Stephen Bolster.

Warren F. Witherell

ROBERT WHAREM

We regret to announce the death of Robert (Bobby) Wharem on May 15, 1993, at the age of 63. Bobby was well known to many Old Shoalers as the Island Engineer and Winter Keeper preceding the Piersons. While on Star Island he was awarded a medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for the sea rescue of a 17 year old youth who had been swept out to sea. He had also rescued a minister from drowning. He is survived by his wife, Priscilla, of Epping, NH, and a son, Robert E. Wharem, Jr., of Stratham, NH.

STAR BOARDER - DEBBIE WEINER SOULE

Debbie has had a long-standing love affair with Star Island. It was love at first sight, or so it seems, when at the age of twenty months she first viewed her surroundings during the All Star Family Conference. Scarcely a summer has been missed since then and this year will celebrate her 38th year as a Shoaler.

She has attended All Star I and II conferences, Life on a Star and Pelican Reunions. She has chaired a Pelican Reunion and served on its Steering Committee. She worked as a Pelican during the summers of 1969, 1970 and 1971 and has been an "end of the season" Pelican for over 12 years. Debbie and Ben were married in April 1992 and they with daughter Emily look forward to being at Star during the Memorial Day weekend and any other occasion when they can work on a project that will improve the real estate at Star.

Debbie was elected to SIC in 1974 and has been a member of its Personnel and Development Committees. In recent years she has produced the Annual Maintenance Appeal material that is mailed to all members and friends of Star.

She is a member of the First Parish (Unitarian-Universalist) Church of Lexington, MA where she is co-director of the Children's Choir. She was formerly a member of the Unitarian Society of New Haven, located in Hamden, Ct. There, she was a teacher in the Religious Education program and was a member of many committees.

She received a B.A. degree from Russell Sage College and an M.A. degree in Dramatic Arts from Emerson College. This educational preparation led to employment with several Connecticut theaters doing marketing and public relations work. Debbie was Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs for the city of New Haven and hosted a telephone talk interview program on WELI Radio.

In preparing for the 1989 UUA General Assembly held in New Haven, Debbie was asked to



(Photo courtesy of the UUA)

serve as the Local (Arrangements) Chairperson. In that capacity she participated in the work of the Planning Committee. She was subsequently elected to the Planning Committee during the General Assembly. In November 1989 she joined the UUA staff as Director of Public Information and Marketing.

How she does so many things and does them very well (family, church, work, cooking, recreation, friends) seem to be just modest achievements to her. But no matter what occupies her interest at the moment, the love she feels for Star is never far from her heart.

Debbie had a baby girl, Abigail Constance, on October 5, 1993. Weight 7 lbs. 11 oz. Length 20 inches.

Oscar D. Weiner

1994 SUMMER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

CONFERENCE	DATES	CHAIRS
Young Adults	June 14-June 17 June 17-June 20	David & Jody Brown
Conference on the Arts	June 18-June 25	Elizabeth Davison
Natural History	June 25-July 2	John Chagnon
YRUU	June 25-July 2	Catherine V. Gaw
All Star I Family	July 2-July 9	Bill & Chris Gimpel
All Star II Family	July 9-July 16	Lydia Spitzer & John Levine
Religious Education	July 16-July 23	Laurel Amabile
International Affairs	July 23-July 30	Ken Cummiskey
IRAS	July 30-Aug. 6	Rodney Holmes & Barbara Whittaker-Johns
UCC I Family & Youth	Aug. 6-Aug. 13	Pat Hollingsworth & Dennis McGuire
UCC II Family & Youth	Aug. 13-Aug. 19	Peter & Bonnie Meek
Laity Weekend	Aug. 19-Aug. 21	Ethel Center
LOAS I Family	Aug. 22-Aug. 28	Lynn & John Kelly
LOAS II Family	Aug. 28-Sept. 3	Peter & Roni Phipps
Pelican Reunion Weekend	Sept. 3-Sept. 5	Marc & Jane Soule
Mid-Week Retreat	Sept. 6-Sept. 9	Abby Waldron
Elderhostel I	Sept. 12-Sept 18	Ken & Joan Cummiskey
Elderhostel II	Sept 19-Sept 25	Ken & Joan Cummiskey

The 1993 Conference Season: General Manager's Perspective

Preparations for the 1993 season included another productive Memorial Day Weekend volunteer work party, members of which made improvements to the Children's Barn, poured a slab of concrete at the south end of the pier, installed new table tops in the Dining Room, replaced the Cottage B porch roof, painted, cleaned, and did whatever else was necessary to open on schedule.

Early in the season, many members of the staff found themselves hauling sand and gravel and mixing cement to help finish the pier repair work. Then, with barely a pause, they began unloading eighty-one tons of stone dust, thirty tons of sand, rolls of tennis turf, and related equipment for resurfacing the tennis courts, a project which was completed by a contractor on July 17, only two days after the target date. Much credit is due members of the 1993 summer staff, who not only worked very hard without complaint but also helped save the Corporation a fair amount of money through their efforts.

While the season was one of the driest in recent memory, giving the Island a brownish hue, the absence of rain provided an opportunity to renew the roof over the kitchen, the Dining Room, and Elliott Hall. This work would not have been possible without the help of Dick Soule, Don Morrison, Peter Kolbjornsen, Pelican Reunion participants, and staff members. The rewiring work, a Star Fund project, progressed on schedule and, by September, all aluminum wiring in the main building complex had been replaced with new copper feeders.

Overall conference attendance equalled that of the 1992 season, thanks, in part, to the efforts of Cathy Cordes, who was recruited to organize and run what turned out to be a delightful Mid-Summer Retreat. Without this effort and the work of Island Registrar Ed Rutledge in making the best possible use of guest space during September, the feared short fall in attendance could have had a serious adverse effect on the 1993 budget. (Continued on p. 7)

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE APPEAL UPDATE

As of September 30th, a total of \$36,828 has been contributed to the Annual Maintenance Fund Appeal. This is within 2% of last year's total contributions and is closing in on this year's goal of \$40,000. Thanks are extended to our generous Shoaler family who have contributed. If you have delayed, it's not too late to support the upkeep of Star's fragile physical plant with a year-end, tax deductible gift made payable to the Star Island Corporation, 110 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Steve Whitney, Treasurer

"FLUSH FUND" A SUCCESS

SIC Treasurer Steve Whitney reports that the 1993 summer season scored another success for the wastewater treatment "flush fund." Island guests were asked to consider making a contribution equal to 4% of their room and board bills as a voluntary surcharge in order to help defray the costs of SIC's state mandated wastewater treatment project. For a second consecutive season, 3.4% of total room and board charges was voluntarily donated, for a total of \$24,158.

Additionally \$6,117 was raised by conference art auctions and other fundraisers. Special thanks

go to the Natural History Conference (\$3,180) and All Star I (\$2,800) for their outstanding efforts. The SIC thanks the hundreds of Shoaler families that responded so generously to the voluntary surcharge program. The total cost of the wastewater treatment project is projected at \$400,000, and it will largely be funded through a continuing surcharge program.



(Photo courtesy of Dave Pierson)

PIERSONS TO RETIRE

Dave and Edith Pierson will continue to serve as winterkeepers for the 1993-1994 season, but Dave has expressed a desire to serve only part time next year. To quote from the Board's Minutes: "It will be a daunting challenge to fill the vacuum created by Mr. Pierson's retirement." We all express our deepest appreciation to the Piersons for their many years of service to the Island.

POTPOURRI

This past summer marked the 65th anniversary of Fred McGill's first year on Star Island. We hope he will have many more.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has approved expansion plans for the Port of New Hampshire. A wetlands protection plan has been included in the \$16 million project. Bob Whittaker says the initial part of the project will be upriver from the Isles of Shoals Steamship Co. dock, and he has been assured that future work will not interfere with their docking facilities.

Larry Harris, a Professor of Zoology at UNH, has applied for an aquaculture license in order to farm sea urchins in two places just off the Island to the southwest and west.

Bob Whittaker's long awaited book Land of Lost Content is now available. It is a collection of stories about the Isles of Shoals, the result of his lifetime exposure to the islands and extensive research into the mystique we call the "Spirit of the Shoals."

EDITH'S JOURNAL

Elderhostel II. Boat with BIG yellow tractor with back hoe on it arrived after supper. Early morning, about two AM the unloading began. I didn't watch, but by sunrise the deed was done. Now we have a BIG hole down behind Star Loft. (This is for the waste water treatment facility.) The big tractor is gone, accompanied by one old truck. The Loons have arrived. The grass is green. The float is out, and Smutty Toes and Gingersnap are home.

CORPORATION MEMBERSHIP

Proposals for Corporation Membership: Our by-laws state that any member of the Corporation may propose to the Membership Committee the nomination of a person whose election would promote the purposes of the Corporation. Proposal forms may be obtained from the Star Island Corporation. A separate proposal for each nominee should be received at 110 Arlington St., Boston, MA 02116-5320 by 15 January 1994.

CHARLES W. CLOSE

We are very sorry to announce the sudden death of Charles W. Close of Pittsboro, NC, on September 15, 1993, at the age of 70. He is survived by his wife, Betsy, his mother, Reba, daughters, Elizabeth Barb and Joy Close, and son, the Rev. Charles C. Close. Charlie and Betsy were Co-chairs of All Star I in 1983. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Betsy and the family.

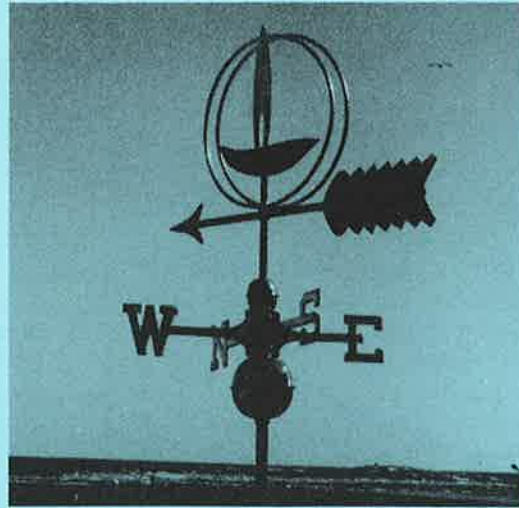
CATHERINE NASHAN

We report with sadness that Catherine Nashan died on October 2 after a long illness. Cathy was a member of the Star Island Board of Directors from 1984 to 1987. During her tenure on the Board, she helped to form the Improved Access Committee, and was its first Chair. Cathy leaves her husband Rudolph, her son, Georges, daughter Rebecca, and six grandchildren. The family requests that contributions in her memory be made to The Star Island Corporation

GENERAL MANAGER (Continued from p. 4)

The season clearly ended on a high note when Star Island hosted the Council of Unitarian Universalist Camps and Conferences (CU2C2). With Board members Lindy Anderson, Nancy Palmer, George Brandenburg, and Wanda Wood in attendance, the annual meeting concluded with the presentation to the Island during a moving candle light service of a beautiful weather vane. How appropriate for a season of good weather, good conferences, and a superior staff effort.

Tony Codding



(Photo courtesy of Dave Pierson)

1994 PELICAN APPLICATIONS

Be a Star Island Pelican in 1994. Application forms for the 1994 summer season will be available by early December. Write to the Star Island office, 110 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116. Indicate "Pel Application Request" on the envelope and be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Applications will also be available at the Pelican Reunion gathering in late December. The forms (including reference forms for new Pelicans) need to be returned to Tony Codding by January 31. Applicants should be high school graduates.

ARTWORK NEEDED

All types of artwork are needed (i.e., drawings, paintings, photographs, etc.) for this year's publications. Specifically, artwork is needed for: Newsletter banner - artwork needs to be 2" by 7.5" or slightly smaller (ongoing submittal). Other conference publications - any size artwork (ongoing submittal). Please mail your artwork to: The Star Island Corporation, 110 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116-5320, Attn: Terry Delaney.

ASNH BIRDING EXTRAVAGANZA

The Audubon Society of NH made another field trip to Star Island on September 26th, and in spite of rainy weather, reported a very successful day. Some of the unusual sightings were a Clay-colored sparrow, a Peregrine falcon, 14 Greater shearwaters, a Cory's shearwater, 12 different kinds of warblers, a Brown thrasher, 8 different kinds of sparrows, and several gannets.

Let the Light Shine

Shoalers who are residential customers of Boston Edison can purchase up to four Panasonic 27 watt energy-saving light bulbs for only 99 cents each. Anyone who is eligible is encouraged to purchase the bulbs and bring them to Star Island next summer. The price will be right for the Island, where energy-saving bulbs are being used wherever possible. Boston Edison's offer ends December 31, 1993.

Hanging Out

Contributions of standard three-sided plastic hangers would be welcome to replace all of the metal hangers that have been collecting over time on the Island. Most, if not all, of the old metal hangers were removed from the Island, along with other scrap, during Close-up. Please bring your donation of hangers when you return next summer.

Cover letters and resumes can be sent to Anthony S. Coddling, General Manager, Star Island Conference Center, P.O. Box 447, Stratham, NH 03885.

Dining Room Supervisor - A mature person to train and lead a Dining Room crew of nineteen college-age people on Star Island from about June 1 until Labor Day Weekend. Residency on Star Island during the summer is required; previous food service experience is desirable but not essential.

Island Engineer - sad to say, but Dave Pierson will be stepping down from the position he has ably held for many years. Candidates for the position should have technical training and experience in maintaining diesel engines and an assortment of pumps; some knowledge of refrigeration would also be helpful. Physical plant maintenance and supervision of an assistant and three crews consisting of about fifteen college-age people are also responsibilities. Residency on Star Island from early April until October 31 (seven months) is required; ability to operate a power boat is desirable but not essential.

SUMMER OPENINGS

STAR ISLAND CORPORATION
110 Arlington Street
Boston, MA 02116-5320

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
Boston, MA Permit #58236
Third Class