



STAR ISLAND NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXI #2

Bringing Some Star to the Mainland

Winter 1995

WINTER CARETAKERS

Anne and Charlie Waterman and Pete Brown are alternating as caretakers this winter. Charlie is a retired Air Force Colonel and Pete is a retired Merchant Marine Ship's Master. They alternate being on the Island about every two weeks or so, depending on the weather, starting December 3rd. The Island Engineer, Glenn Young, was in residence until December 3rd.



A Landmark Event - At the November 7, 1995, Board meeting, Star Island Corporation President Dick Howe (left) signed a new ten-year lease with Cornell University for the use of Appledore Island by the Shoals Marine Laboratory. Paul Lietar, Clerk (right), witnessed the document while General Manager Tony Coddling looked on. These three people, plus Vice President Merrillyn Holcomb, Treasurer Steve Whitney, and past President Lindy Anderson, formed the lease renewal team.

Photograph by Debbie Weiner Soule

INCINERATOR

The New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services (Air Pollution Control and Waste Management Compliance Bureau) has informed the Corporation that "open burning" will not be permitted on the Island after the 1995 season. A consultant from the NHDES staff provided free technical assistance, and it was determined that an incinerator with a cover and a stack is needed. Resource Technology Corp. of Dedham, MA, was retained to search for a suitable unit not to exceed \$12,500 including installation and training of the operating personnel.

PROJECTS FOR 1996

Bruce Parsons, Chair of the Technical Committee, has submitted a list of proposed projects for 1996. Special projects include two major items: Cottage E renovations at \$40,000 and the incinerator (see above). Other Special Projects, including powerhouse repairs, contract painting, pier work, etc., bring the Special Projects budget up to \$86,000. Maintenance Projects cover a wide range of repairs and improvements to a total of \$34,050. The total budget for 1996 is \$1,039,900 and includes all of the above items. The third segment of the projects list includes replacement of the fire detection panel at \$11,500 and replacement of the front porch roof at \$11,500. Other Star Fund Projects bring this part of the proposed budget up to \$27,500. The budget was approved by the Board of Directors at its December 1995 meeting.

STAR ISLAND NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER: ARE WE ASKING FOR TOO MUCH SUPPORT?

As I read the letter, I could see that the writer was obviously upset. He had received our October "purge" letter, asking if he wished to continue to receive newsletters, brochures, and other materials from Star Island. This letter is sent to those who have not attended a conference or made a contribution to Star Island in the past three years. But for this "old Shoaler," it clearly hit a sensitive nerve.

"I find it interesting that all Star Island is interested in, at the present time, is the donation of money," he wrote us. "Thank you for removing my name from your mailing list."

My first reaction was to take another look at the October letter written by our office manager, Brooke Thompson-Mills. The letter seemed perfectly straightforward, explaining our procedure clearly: "We want to help all interested Shoalers stay in touch, but it is not an effective use of our resources to send materials to those who no longer benefit from them," Brooke's letter said.

Star Island has followed this "purging" practice for more than 10 years, and with a mailing list of more than 4,000, it seems reasonable to try to weed out those whose interest has waned over the years. It costs us about \$5 per person each year to mail newsletters, brochures, and other materials, and even a few hundred unnecessary names can take funds away from more important uses.

But the larger question is at least as important: Is the Star Island Corporation becoming too money-oriented? We have been seeking annual contributions much more aggressively in recent years, and the results have been gratifying. As annual Fund Chair George Easter reported in the last newsletter, nearly \$80,000 was raised in 1995, more than double the amount raised just two years previously. Being part of the Star Island community carries with it a responsibility to contribute to its support, and more than 800 Shoalers responded.

When I met with the conference chairs and registrars last month, I pointed out that the other key factor in our finances is conference attendance. When even a few conferences do not fill their allotted number of spaces, Star Island revenues suffer. This can also hinder our efforts to keep room and board rate increases at or below the rate of inflation. This year, for example, we had to raise rates by three percent, after three years of keeping them at 2.5%.

A large part of the Board's attention has been focused on financial matters, but this is understandable in light of recent issues we have faced. Designing and constructing a sewage treatment plant at a cost of more than \$500,000 has been a major challenge, and addressing major structural and preservation needs (especially in our older buildings) will cost nearly as much spread over the next few years. At the same time, as Tony Coddington notes elsewhere in this newsletter, we are trying to take a few steps each year to improve living conditions for conferees and to upgrade the overall appearance of Star Island.

In keeping with our mission to preserve Star Island as a religious and educational conference center, therefore, it is the Board's responsibility to keep an eye on the Corporation's finances. We must be careful, though, not to lose sight of the larger purposes of our conferences, of the important reflective and spiritual role this Island plays for many of us, and of the critical needs of our individual conference "neighborhoods" in our larger Star Island community. As members of the Board, we're continually working at it, and though we know we can't always please everyone, we do welcome your reactions and suggestions.

Richard Howe, President
Star Island Corporation

STAR BOARDER - DOUG HATFIELD

Douglas S. Hatfield was born in Plainfield, New Jersey and moved to Peterborough, New Hampshire in 1946. He was educated in the Peterborough school system and went on to Colby College where he graduated in 1958. He received his LLB degree from Boston University, graduating in 1961 and after practicing for one year in Peterborough, moved to Hillsborough, New Hampshire to assume an existing law practice. Doug has practiced law in Hillsborough since 1962 and currently serves as President of Hatfield, Moran & Barry, a four-attorney law firm. The firm practices general law with special emphasis in representing school districts, probate and trust law, and litigation.

Doug has been very active with his local church and the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ. He has also served on the Executive Council of the national United Church of Christ and recently participated in a special committee that studied and made proposals for the restructuring of the national Church. In Hillsborough, his community activities have ranged from participation in Boy Scouts to Chamber of Commerce and Hillsborough's Men's Chorus. He's also been active in the New Hampshire Bar Association, serving on its Board of Governors. In addition to his legal work, Doug serves as Justice of the Hillsborough District Court and has served the New Hampshire Judges Association, as its President and a member of the Board of Directors.

Doug is married to Judy Ingram, formerly of Cohasset, Massachusetts, also a Colby College graduate. They have 3 grown children: David serves as Director of Information Services for the Merrimack County Telephone Company, is married and lives in Warner, New Hampshire. Daughter Janet, a minister in the United Church of Christ, is currently the Associate Minister at Memorial Church at Harvard University, and is married and



the mother of Doug and Judy's granddaughter, Madeline. Janet, Jeff and Madeline were "green dots" this past summer when they attended UCC I. Their youngest son, Steven, recently graduated from Harvard Graduate School of Design and is anticipating architectural work and currently living on Long Island. Steven, an "old" shoaler, started going to Star with his parents when he was in junior high and then attended UCC I Youth Conferences throughout high school, serving two summers as a youth member of the leadership team. Doug and Judy have been attending UCC I Family Conferences since 1980 and served as Co-Directors with Don and Merrilyn Holcomb in 1988. Doug was elected to the Star Island Corporation Board of Directors in 1995 and serves on the Investment Committee.

In addition to his regular work and judicial duties, Doug serves on the Board of Directors of CFX Corporation, a regional bank holding company, Traulsen & Co., Inc., a manufacturer of commercial refrigerators, MCT, Inc., a privately held independent telephone company, and Havenwood/Heritage Heights, a UCC-related multi-level retirement community. He enjoys playing bridge and tennis and reading investment material. Doug and Judy live in Hillsborough, New Hampshire.

FAYE A. BENNETT

We are very sorry to announce the death of Faye Anderson Bennett on 24 November 1995, in Cambridge, MA, at the age of 73. She is survived by her husband, John, a former President of the Star Island Corporation, a daughter, Deborah Ninios, of Athens, Greece, a son, Peter, of Reading, Vermont, a grandson, Andreas, of Athens, a granddaughter, Elizabeth, of Vermont, and a sister, Jeanne. For many years Faye was the Functions Director of the Harvard Law School. She and John were long-time conferees at All Star and Natural History Conferences, and were Co-chairs of All Star in 1967. Faye also worked as an "End-of-Season Pel," and was very pleased to stand up at the Friday night banquets when "Former Pelicans" were called upon. Faye will be sorely missed by a wide circle of loving friends. A Memorial Service was held at the First Parish Church (Unitarian Universalist) in Cambridge on 20 January 1996. Donations may be made in her memory to The Star Island Corporation, 110 Arlington St., Boston, MA 02116.

1996 MEMORIAL DAY TRIPS TO STAR

Interested Shoalers are invited to visit Star for a day-trip on Memorial Day weekend. Round-trip boat fare from the Isles of Shoals Steamship Company dock in Portsmouth to Star Island will be \$5.00; \$2.00 for those under 12 and over 65. We'll leave Portsmouth at 10:55 a.m. each day (please be there by 10:30 a.m.). The return boat leaves Star at approximately 3:00 p.m. Open-up will be under way, and all buildings will be closed, except for the Chapel and rest rooms in Brookfield. No food will be available on Island, so plan to bring lunch and enjoy the peace and beauty of the Island just before another season begins.

Return the form below by April 15 with a check for payment in full (payment must accompany your application) and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Star Island Corporation, 110 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116-5320, Attention: Memorial Day Trips. Space is limited, and applications postmarked on or before April 15 will be given first consideration. If any dates are oversubscribed, a lottery will be used. No stopover tickets will be sold at the dock. All reservations must be made on the form below.

If no space is available we will return your check, unless you indicate on the application that you would like to be put on a waiting list, in which case we will notify you if space opens up. If you do not hear from us, assume that all days are full, and your check will be returned shortly after Memorial Day. The cancellation deadline is May 15, after which no tickets will be refunded, unless the entire trip is canceled due to weather or other circumstances beyond our control.

Church groups of up to 40 people are welcome to apply. We will accept one or two groups a day, as space allows. Use the same application form, and indicate the name of your church. Also include the name and address of a contact person to whom we should either send tickets, or call if the trip is canceled.

Please fill out this form completely. Be sure to enclose a check for payment in full and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (Number in order of preference: First, second, and third choice)

Saturday: May 25 _____ Sunday, May 26 _____ Monday, May 27 _____

Contact person's name and address _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Number in group at \$5.00: _____ at \$2.00 (under 12 or over 65): _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ (make checks payable to: THE STAR ISLAND CORPORATION)

_____ Check here if you would like to remain on the waiting list should all trips be full; otherwise, your check will be returned promptly.

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

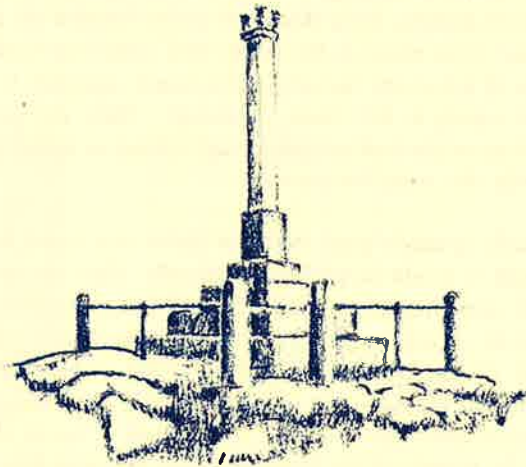
"I have not tried to analyze the fascination of this island wilderness. It might not prove an easy or profitable task. But some of the elements of it must be apparent to the least observant eye. After having stayed here for a few days the towns and cities of the continent become a dream, a myth, to you. Going back to Boston, you are surprised to find both the State Houses still standing. One's experience here begets a feeling that our ordinary world is too large. . . . And I said in my heart, I have enjoyed so much that I must tell my joy to others, if haply they may enter into it, and perchance follow my example."

Sound familiar? This is the conclusion of a fourteen page article on the Isles of Shoals that appeared in the Harper's New Monthly Magazine of October 1874. It was written by John W. Chadwick, who first visited the Isles in August 1873, and as so many others have done, was captivated by them. He describes each island in great detail, having been ferried from one to the other by Jorje Edvart Ingebirtsen, an "old Norse Viking," who lived on Appledore. "He it was who first saw poor Marin Hontvet standing like a spectre on the half tide rocks of Malaga the morning after Louis Wagner's butchery of Karen and Anethe Christensen. He it was who first went to her and back with her to the house where hell had been let loose." This was only five months after the murders had taken place.

Mr. Chadwick goes on to describe John Poor's new hotel, the Oceanic, on Star Island. "Though it accommodates nearly, if not quite as many, guests as the tripartite house at Appledore, it was filled to overflowing. . . . The few Star Islanders who were left in 1873 have sold their cottages to the proprietor of the great house. The worst of them have been pulled down, others have been fitted up as cottages for guests. They were not beautiful, they were not sweet or clean, but seen from a safe distance, they were very picturesque. . . . It is said that the Shoalers do not like to give up their rude homes, though ever so well paid for them. One of them on Haley's (Smuttynose), who had migrated from Star, said to me, 'We want to keep together, some of us, as long as we can.' The proprietor of the Oceanic is building wharves and pavilions and making paths and lawns, and doing everything he can to deserve success." (This first Oceanic burned in 1875, but in 1876 Mr. Poor constructed a new Oceanic Hotel incorporating three old buildings in the main structure).

He describes the John Smith monument, erected in 1814 to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of Smith's visit to the Shoals. "It is a triangular marble prism set upon the landing of a three-cornered flight of steps. The sides of the prism are covered with long and tedious inscriptions. The top was originally surmounted by three Turks' heads in token of those lopped off by Capt. Smith before the town of Regall, in Hungary, when the Christians were besieging it. . . . One of the three Turks' heads upon the monument is still in good condition; a second much the worse for wear; the third has been destroyed by stress of weather, or been carried off by vandal hordes." (This was replaced in 1914 by the one we are familiar with).

"I had driven through the pretty village of Newcastle . . . to a point of land at the extreme mouth of the river, and directly facing the Shoals. . . . I strolled down to the last extremity of the land, and looked out over the flashing sea to the group of islands two or three leagues away. . . I had been reading Celia Thaxter's little book about them. How strange it seemed, so looking at them, that they should have inspired so much enthusiasm, so much poetry - that they should have been the scene of so much comedy and tragedy and eventful life!"



Picture of John Smith monument in 1814 - From The Isles of Shoals in Lore and Legend by Lyman Rutledge

POTPOURRI

SAFETY PLAN - Under new legislation passed by the State of New Hampshire, Star Island is now required to file a written Safety Plan with the State Department of Labor.

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE - Allen Armstrong has agreed to succeed George Easter as Chair of the Star Island Annual Fund. Mr. Easter will step down as Chair at the conclusion of the FY 1996 campaign. He has done a great job of fund raising the past two years and we thank him for all of the time and expertise he has devoted to this generally thankless task. In 1995, 834 families and individuals donated almost \$80,000 with an average gift of \$92, up from \$85 in 1994.

On a related note, our apologies to Carol Weisman and Frank Robbins, whose names did not appear on the final list of contributors to the 1995 Annual Appeal.

ROOM AND BOARD RATES - There will be a 3% increase in the 1996 Room and Board rates, along with a 3% increase in summer staff salaries. The current voluntary 4% surcharge for waste treatment will continue on a voluntary basis.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND PROJECTS - The following work projects are proposed for the Memorial Day Weekend work crews: Lindquist Deck access ramp, widen and rebuild Sprague Deck, remove Lobby Store cement shingles, clapboard Lobby Store, replace two shack doors, and fill gabians off clothesline area of stone wall. (What is a gabian? "A hollow wickerwork or iron cylinder filled with earth and used especially in building field works or in mining" - Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary.)

Wouldn't you like to be part of this Work Party? Volunteers who have carpentry, painting, housekeeping, grounds, electrical or kitchen skills should contact Tony Codding at P.O. Box 447, Stratham, NH 03885 to be put on the list. No telephone calls please. The deadline is May 1, 1996.

A MIDWINTER NIGHT'S DREAM

Why would an old fighter pilot with a comfortable retirement choose to forego his annual six weeks' trek to the golf links of Arizona for a chance to isolate himself on an otherwise uninhabited island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean? Even more to the point, why would his reasonably intelligent wife of over 35 years - one whose finely tuned sense of adventure includes occasionally agreeing to stay at a strange Sheraton Hotel - why would she allow herself to be a party to this insane adventure? These are questions friends have been asking themselves ever since they heard the Watermans had accepted employment as winter caretakers at Star Island. And "classic lapse of sanity" doesn't provide the complete answer.

Actually it was a good friend of theirs who found the ad in one of the seacoast region's alternative newspapers and thought it would be perfect for Charlie. That was in July and, as you might imagine, at that time of year the idea was really appealing. C. carried it around in his wallet for nearly six weeks before he wadded it up and threw it away. Then on an unseasonably hot day in early September, Anne's visiting brother suggested they go for an Isles of Shoals cruise on the "Thomas Lughton." It was on his Star Island "Walkabout" tour that Captain Bob Whittaker casually mentioned management was still looking for winter caretakers and somewhat "tongue-in-cheek" asked if any might be interested. Anne twitched. C. mistook it for an affirmative nod, quickly departed the tour group and disappeared into the bowels of the Oceanic where he found General Manager Tony Codding.

After surviving the vetting process, they entered into a series of negotiations which satisfactorily resolved such pressing issues as Christmas leave and curtain color. In truth, C. is loving every minute of this stimulating exercise in self-reliance. Weather alone can provide enormous challenges as well as absolutely awesome vistas. He's been painting the interior of the EMB as well as providing oversight and damage control for a physical plant of nearly 30 buildings including the historic Oceanic. Emergency repairs can be as complex as moving the bucket under the latest roof leak or removing snow blown in on the crest of 90 mph winds. During the "Storm of the Century," the bucketfuls amounted to over 2000 gallons.

Anne's time is split almost equally between reading "bodice rippers," making curtains, cooking mussels, cleaning everything in sight and waxing ugly about all the deprivation in her life. (*continued on p. 7*)

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Although there were a few more conferees on the Island this past summer (3,167 compared to 3,152 in 1994), the occupancy rate dropped from 97.7% to 96.7%. This may seem like a small amount, but the Corporation operates on such a tight budget that a 1% drop in income looms fairly large. Problems exist mostly with YRUU (86.1%), Natural History (83%), UCC I (89.6%), UCC II (90.8) and Laity Weekend (70%). In distinct contrast to these figures are those of All Star I and II, RE, and LOAS I and II. All of these weeks were full and had waiting lists of 14 to 74 hopeful but, needless to say, unhappy applicants.

The Board has contacted the leadership of the first group of conferences, calling attention to the urgency of filling their respective conferences in 1996. The conferences with long waiting lists, meanwhile, are struggling with their different problem, attempting to achieve a situation where fewer people are turned away. These are continuing problems which are difficult to solve to everyone's satisfaction.

For two attempts to ease the waiting list problem, please notice the additional information that is requested in the "Registration Information" section of All Star I and RE in this year's "Blue Brochure," and on the back of the Application Form.

A MIDWINTER NIGHT'S DREAM (from p. 6)

Hardship #1 - only about eight hours a day of generator time (AC power), so no soap operas or Martha Stewart. Hardship #2 - in the shower with head full of shampoo and no more water.

Hardship #3 - discomfort on the boat ride back to the mainland in seas surging to 15 feet with breakers 3-5 feet on top of that. C. takes the more philosophical "Slim Pickens" approach. You know, just hang on with both hands and yell "Yahoo!"

At any rate, the jury is still out on two key questions. Will Anne, with her consuming fear of the water, return to Star Island for her third stint and, if she does, what will be the instrument of C's demise? To the first question, only time and the log of the "Pamela J" will tell (Glenn Young's been sworn to secrecy). As to the latter, friends have started a "weapon of choice" pool. Blades, projectiles, explosives and most of the blunt instruments have already been taken but the most creative choice is "ladder." It's also the one that's come closest so far having attacked four times in the course of just two months.

MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Contributions would be welcome to purchase three new Memorial Books at a cost of \$100 each, payable to the Star Island Corporation.



Making it Happen - 1996
Conference Chairs and Registrars met at 110 Arlington Street on February 3 to receive a briefing on procedures for running a conference. This annual Boston meeting brings together the volunteers who work so hard during the year to make the next conference season happen.

Photograph courtesy of Tony Codding

The Annual Meeting of The Star Island Corporation will be held on Saturday, April 27, 1996, at 2:00 pm at the First Parish Church of Lexington, 7 Harrington Road (on the green), Lexington, Massachusetts.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Star Island Corporation
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Boston, Massachusetts 02116-5320

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