

Historical Unit Hears About Old Cars

Dr. Jay Rice Moody of the Veteran Motor Car Club of America spoke last night to the Portsmouth Historical Society at the museum. He related anecdotes about the first days of the automobile, when only the wealthy owned them, and noted that this area was the mecca of the finest selection of automobiles in the country.

Dr. Moody introduced his talk with two models in linen dusters and goggles, and explained the necessity for the costume. Models were Ernest F. Denomme, program chairman, and Mrs. Edward Hilliard. He showed films of the step-by-step restoration of a 1908 Overland which belonged to Dan Chase of Jepson Lane, and a film of the Vintage Sports Car Club of England.

Miss S. Alice Birkett conducted the meeting when new members were received.

The society by-laws were amended to include a corresponding secretary on the slate of

officers. Ernest F. Denomme will fill that office. It was voted to take steps to restore the Revolutionary War cannon. Lawrence Pelto will build a mount for it. Rules for use of the building submitted by Mrs. Howard J. Earle, Miss Kathleen Helgesen and William A. Chase were adopted. The museum will be open this weekend from 2 to 4 p. m. with Miss Helgesen as hostess today and Mrs. Thurston on Sunday.

Mrs. Oliver Cushman gave old fashioned clothing, including a pair of stockings that were being crocheted by Julia Ward Howe at the time she wrote "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Mrs. Duncan M. Wilkey gave the society a pair of children's button shoes and stockings which were on the shelves of the old Oscar Manchester store, now Bernie's Dry Good Store. Dresses dated back to 1829 were donated by Mrs. Lillian Phillips. Mrs. William A. Chase asked that the Society obtain wardrobes or

cases to display the priceless old clothing owned by the society.

Rhode Island Dedicates Memorial To John Clarke

The Newport Colonial statesman and clergyman who obtained from England's King Charles II the first charter in the world guaranteeing religious freedom was honored yesterday when a new science building at Rhode Island College in Providence was named in his honor. The dedication was on the 300th anniversary of his charter's issuance July 8, 1663.

Dr. John Clarke, the clergyman who headed the Baptist Church here, was praised by several speakers. They included U. S. Sen. Claiborne Pell and Mayor Hambly of Newport, Governor Chafee and Dr. William D. Metz, history professor at the University of Rhode Island and principal speaker.

Mayor Hambly presented the college library with an autographed copy of "Hero Of Aquidneck," written by the late Dr. Wilbur Nelson, a former pastor of the United Baptist Church. The book, about Dr. Clarke, was given by the author to Mayor Hambly's father some years ago.

The Rev. L. Edgar Stone, pastor of the United Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Others from the

local area attending were Sydney L. Wright, president of the Newport Historical Society, Miss Ruth Thomas, representing the Miantonomi Memorial Park Commission, and Leonard J. Panaggio of Newport, information chief for the Rhode Island Development Commission.

George W. Kelsey, chairman of the Board of Trustees of State Colleges, dedicated the building and received the keys from the construction company. He turned them over to Dr. William Gaige, RIC president, who was meeting chairman.

The new science building with its 300-seat auditorium is the first structure erected by Rhode Island tax payers in memory of the man who has been called the greatest statesman of his age in America.

Governor Chafee issued a proclamation in honor of the occasion.

Rainbow Girls Mark

A Blow to Some Romantic Rhode Island Legends

Discovery on a northern Newfoundland shore of incontrovertible proof that the Norsemen reached North America some 500 years before Columbus sailed into the Caribbean archipelago is a triumph of scholarly research, archeological skill and simple human perseverance.

It also is a blow to many Rhode Island legends, which have fostered the romantic notion—even conviction among some historians—that Aquidneck, the Mount Hope peninsula or perhaps Block Island were the Vinland of the Leif Erickson sagas.

But legends die hard, particularly those well constructed of circumstantial evidence and happy hypotheses.

Proof that the Vikings had a slightly developed settlement on Newfoundland does not disprove that they also may have sailed on farther to the southwest, past

Nova Scotia and Cape Cod, to find a Vinland on Narragansett Bay shores.

Indeed, the import of Dr. and Mrs. Helge Ingstad's discovery in Newfoundland could reinforce the legend. Certainly it does no damage to the late Hjalmar R. Holand's theory that Newport's Old Stone Tower was a baptistry erected by Paul Knutson and a band of Scandinavian missionary explorers following Leif Erickson's lead some time around 1355, or nearly 150 years before Columbus, and not a grain mill built by Benedict Arnold, first colonial governor of Rhode Island.

The legend also will endure in Bristol, until someone comes up with a better description of the origin of the name "Mount Hope" than that offered by Wilfred Harold Munro in his book *Tales of an Old Sea Port*, referring to Bristol.

Citing Scandinavian writers, the late Mr. Munro writing nearly 50 years ago says Mount Hope is a corruption of an Indian name, *Montop* or *Monthaup*, which he maintains the Indians picked up from the Norsemen and their word *hop*, meaning lagoon-like harbor.

But whether such ingenious explanations can stand the test of time and knowledge is of little moment. Rhode Islanders can rest confident that if Leif Erickson ever did reach the Narragansett shores, he would have named this land his primary Vinland to honor the bounty and beauty offered then—as it does today.



Nature Note

Human beings are often so concerned with their own problems that they haven't time to consider important matters like dogs and cats—and whooping cranes. But appar-

Bay State Notes Portsmouth Pact

The Massachusetts House of Representatives Thursday passed a resolution recognizing the 325th anniversary of the signing of the Portsmouth Compact, believed to have taken place in Boston.

The anniversary apparently was forgotten in Rhode Island, to which the 23 Portsmouth colonists fled from the rigors of religious severity in the Bay Colony.

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Museum To Open Two Weekends

Miss S. Alice Birkett, president of the Portsmouth Historical Society, has announced that the museum on East Main Road at the corner of Union Street will again be open this weekend and also on Sept. 21 and 22.

Mrs. Thurlow D. McCain will be hostess on Saturday and Mrs. Jethro H. Peckham on Sunday.

Anniversary Ball For Portsmouth

The 325th anniversary committee of the Portsmouth Cham-

More on the Portsmouth Grove:
When the people of Newport heard of the woe and suffering of the Portsmouth Grove patients, brought from the southern battlefields during the Civil War, their hearts were stirred. The afternoon steamer for Providence, the day after the arrival of the patients, landed a large number of Newport ladies laden with supplies, probably not the best for the sick, but better than hardtack and saltbeef. They brought soft, new home made bread with butter, wines, cordials, preserves, etc., which, it was later learned, was mostly appropriated by the officers for use at their own mess tables.

For weeks the whole camp was in a state of demoralization with no apparent head. The medical staff was brutal, a newspaper reporter inquiring as to whether any deaths had occurred during the previous 24 hours, receiving the reply: "there's one over there in that tent that ought to be dead, he's been long enough about it."

Then the War Department became cognizant of the situation; detailed an officer to the hospital to investigate; brought order out of chaos, built wooden barracks and a neat chapel. A branch of the Sanitary Commission was established.

Even so, a reporter was asked to check the new conditions at the hospital, and was shown through the wards, being particularly invited to notice the tables lavishly prepared for dinner. The reporter, who was from the Newport Daily News, later had his enthusiasm dampened when a mother told him her son wished the reporter would visit the hospital every day "as they have enough to eat when you come."

The hospital did, however, do good service in caring for several thousand sick and wounded soldiers during the war. After the war it was broken up, the buildings moved and no trace was left of the camp.

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Mar. 9 '63 Newport News
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The anniversary apparently was forgotten in Rhode Island, to which the 23 Portsmouth colonists fled from the rigors of religious severity in the Bay Colony.

The action of the Massachusetts house sets straight a record which had it that the Portsmouth Compact was signed at Founders Brook in Portsmouth. This was the version accepted at the July 1938 celebration of the Portsmouth tercentenary on the site where the colony was founded, and was unchallenged at the time.

Miss S. Alice Birkett, president of the Portsmouth Historical Society, has checked on the facts and concedes that the compact was signed in Boston probably at the home of William Coddington, about two weeks before the colony was founded in Portsmouth.

It was a Massachusetts legislator from Agawam, on a tip from a resident of nearby Granville, who reminded the Bay Staters of the anniversary.

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Newport News - 5/19/63
A group of Portsmouth citizens headed by Rep. William F. Gallagher attended a ceremony at the State House in Providence yesterday. They were presented with a copy of the King Charles Charter of 1663. Governor Chafee made the presentation on the occasion of the 325th anniversary of the founding of Portsmouth in 1638. In turn he was presented with the Portsmouth town insignia and a tercentenary coin issued in 1938 on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of Portsmouth.

Those who attended the ceremony with Gallagher were Miss S. Alice Birkett, president of the Portsmouth Historical Society; Mrs. William A. Chase, librarian of the society, Russell Smith and Ernest Denomme, directors; Leo McAloon, representing the Town Council; Alfred Richards, president of the Island Park Businessmen's Association, and Robert Hamilton, president of the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce.

Newport News - 13 Sept. '63

Museum To Open Two Weekends

Miss S. Alice Birkett, president of the Portsmouth Historical Society, has announced that the museum on East Main Road at the corner of Union Street will again be open this weekend and also on Sept. 21 and 22.

Mrs. Thurlow D. McCain will be hostess on Saturday and Mrs. Jethro H. Peckham on Sunday. Mrs. Gilbert Souza will be hostess on Sept. 21 and Miss Kathleen Helgesen on Sept. 22.

One of the exhibits which has caused a great deal of curiosity and interest is the Cummings' and Canfield piano which may be the only one of its kind in the area as the New York company was in business only two years, 1858 and 1859.

The piano is solid mahogany, has hand-carved legs, hand painted miniatures and mother-of-pearl keys and backboard. It was given to the society by Miss Ethel L. Boyd of Freeborn Street in Portsmouth and was in her family for many years.

Anniversary Ball For Portsmouth

The 325th anniversary committee of the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce and the Portsmouth Historical Society will meet on Thursday at 8 at the Historical Building on East Main Road.

Leo McAloon, co-chairman and ticket chairman, has distributed tickets for the anniversary ball to be held on Oct. 11. The souvenir tickets are \$1.

In the continuing research on the town's history it has been found in the county record of the General Court that Portsmouth and Newport were organized as a unit in 1641 and it was decreed on March 13, 1644, that the community name of Pocasset should be changed.

The decree reads, "It is ordered by this Court that that island commonly called Aquethneck (Aquidneck) shall be from henceforth called the Isle of Rhode, or Rhode Island."

Newport News - 17 Sept. '63

Newport News - 21 Sept. '63

Portsmouth Historical Society Draws Anniversary Program

Arrangements for the affair celebrating the 325th anniversary of the founding of Portsmouth which will be held at the Pocasset Country Club on Oct. 11 were continued by a Portsmouth Historical Society committee in the Historical Society Building.

Leo McAloon and Miss S. Alice Birkett conducted the committee meeting to draw up the program. Robert Hamilton will be in charge of souvenir programs which will outline pertinent facts about the early days of Portsmouth.

Miss Vivianne Ouellette of Fall River will be the soloist. She is

soloist at Blessed Sacrament Church of Fall River where her father, Roland Ouellette is organist.

Miss Ouellette is a senior at Jesus Mary Academy where she sings with the Cecilian Glee Club. She is a member of the Fall River Junior Music Club and the Allegro Glee Club.

The Newport Artillery Company will conduct a flag ceremony under Col. Harold St. John.

Miss Birkett, Robert Hamilton and John Pierce will serve as reception committee. Sen. and Mrs. Claiborne Pell and Governor and Mrs. Chafee have accepted invitations to attend.

The ticket committee, headed by McAloon, is comprised of Miss Birkett, Ernest F. Denomme, John Pierce, William A. Chase, Arthur A. Sherman, Henry J. Danis, Robert Hamilton, Russell Smith, Mrs. Howard J. Earle, Mrs. Gilbert Souza and Joseph Oliveria.

Prior to the anniversary committee meeting the board of directors of the Historical Society convened. Several historical gifts were received, including a Bible owned by Mabel D. Tallman given by Mrs. Edmund Chase, and a 100-year-old doll given by Mrs. Elizabeth Bone. Also received was a plaque of the campaign of the Battle of Rhode Island from Eric A. O'D. Taylor.

Applications for membership were received from Mrs. William Mueller, Mr. and Mrs. George Thurston, Dr. and Mrs. Stanley D. Hart, Mrs. Natalie Pearstielh, and Mrs. Peter Simmons.

Jethro H. Peckham was appointed custodian of the building. Permission was granted to the Portsmouth Red Cross to hold its Oct. 14 meeting in the Museum. The museum will be open again this weekend because of the continued interest shown and Miss Kathleen Helgesen and Mrs. Gilbert Souza will serve as hostesses.

It was noted that nearly 1,000 people have visited the museum since it was opened on Aug. 29. The hours are 2 to 4 p. m. Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Kathleen Helgesen, Mrs. Howard J. Earle and William A. Chase were named a committee to review policies regarding the building. This committee will

Daily News County news

Revamped Historical Building Opened On R.I. Battle Date

The Coggeshall Continentals opened the program at the Portsmouth Historical Society yesterday, commemorating the 185th anniversary of the Battle of Rhode Island. Thirty-nine children, costumed in Colonial era soldiers' uniforms with white pants, black knee boots, white shirts and red jackets and with black tricorn hats gave a concert of patriotic songs.

Cheryl Williams served as drum majorette leading the corps which is sponsored by the Coggeshall School PTA of Newport. John Lauth and William Weston are the adult directors.

Ernest F. Denomme, program chairman, introduced Miss S. Alice Birkett, president of the society, who gave a brief account of the Battle of Rhode Island. She commended members of the society, especially Jethro H. Peckham, William A. Chase and Henry W. Wilkey, of the building committee, for the work in repairing the building.

At present, only the first floor of the building has been reconstructed, but is hoped that by 1965, on the 100th anniversary of the structure, to have the auditorium on the second floor restored. When this is completed, the auditorium will be used as a meeting room and the first floor as a museum.

Denomme introduced officers of the society and called upon J. Fred Sherman, president emeritus, to speak. He recalled the history of the society building which was erected as the Union Christian Church, the second church to stand on that site. He opened the building to the public.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Open House. Nearly 400 persons visited during the six hours. Miss Birkett, Mrs. William A. Chase and Mrs. Henry W. Wilkey, who prepared the exhibits, were among the hostesses who explained the many treasures from the past on display. One room has been furnished as the Julia Ward Howe room, with much of her own furniture, including the desk on which she wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

On display for the Open House were relics owned by Portsmouth residents or made in Portsmouth. Julia Ward Howe, her daughter Maude Howe Elliot, authoress, and Mrs. Sarah Jane Eddy, artist and sculptor, were among the famous Portsmouth residents whose belongings have been given to the society.

Showcases were arranged with clothing, leather articles, tools and implements used a century ago and a table was set with old china and old fashioned knives and forks. The artifacts, unearthed by John Pierce recently near Founders Brook, were on display, as were several flags, the

Portsmouth

Newport News
5 Sept. '63

Ball Planned At Portsmouth

The program for the ball in observance of the 325th anniversary of the founding of Portsmouth, Oct. 11, was discussed by a joint committee of the Chamber of Commerce and Historical Society last night at the Pocasset Country Club where the ball will be held.

The Newport Artillery Company will take part in the ceremonies. The ball will begin at 8 p. m. with dancing and a receiving line and at 9 p. m. brief ceremonies will precede a short program of entertainment after which dancing will continue.

Miss S. Alice Birkett, Historical Society president who is cochairman of the ball committee with Leo McAloon of the Chamber of Commerce, reviewed some of the highlights of the history of Portsmouth. These will be printed in a souvenir booklet for the affair. McAloon reported on invitations sent to state officials. Russell Smith asked that an invitation be sent to Rep. Fernand St.

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Ernest F. Denomme, publicity chairman, reported the cooperation of newspapers and radio stations, and noted that members of the committee will address town organizations. The ticket committee, including William A. Chase, Robert Hamilton and Richard Carreiro, will meet this evening to plan the distribution of tickets next week. The committee will meet again on Sept. 19, at the Historical Society Building.

Oliveria. Prior to the anniversary committee meeting the board of directors of the Historical Society convened. Several historical gifts were received, including a Bible owned by Mabel D. Tallman given by Mrs. Edmund Chase, and a 100-year-old doll given by Mrs. Elizabeth Bone. Also received was a plaque of the campaign of the Battle of Rhode Island from Eric A. O'D. Taylor.

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It was noted that nearly 1,000 people have visited the museum since it was opened on Aug. 29. The hours are 2 to 4 p. m. Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Kathleen Helgesen, Mrs. Howard J. Earle and William A. Chase were named a committee to review policies regarding the building. This committee will meet on Sept. 26 at 2:30 p. m. at the Middle Road home of Mrs. Earle.

James

John Lauth and William Weston are the adult directors.

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history which was erected as the Union Christian Church, the second church to stand on that site. opened the building to the public. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Open House. Nearly 400 persons visited during the six hours. Miss Birkett, Mrs. William A. Chase and Mrs. Henry W. Wilkey, who prepared the exhibits, were among the hostesses who explained the many treasures from the past on display. One room has been furnished as the Julia Ward Howe room, with much of her own furniture, including the desk on which she wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

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Showcases were arranged with clothing, leather articles, tools and implements used a century ago and a table was set with old china and old fashioned knives and forks. The artifacts, unearthed by John Pierce recently near Founders Brook, were on display, as were several flags, the oldest with thirteen stars. Musical instruments, baby carriages and toys were among the exhibits.

Denomme expressed appreciation for assistance with arrangements to James Connors, who loaned chairs. Mrs. Alice Corridon, the Bluebird Troop Girl Scouts, Portsmouth Red Cross which loaned flags, Mrs. Denomme who made committee ribbons and decorated the building, Mrs. William A. Chase and Mrs. Howard J. Earle for floral arrangements, and all members who worked on the preparations.

Also the Portsmouth Police who assisted with traffic and the Coggeshall Continentals. Eric A. O'D. Taylor spoke to the group present during the afternoon, giving highlights of the Battle of Rhode Island which took place at that site.

The building will be open to the public during the holiday weekend, beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday, and continuing on Sunday and Labor Day.

Battle Of Rhode Island Recounted

1964

Torch Place Sat Aug 29

The Rev. Gordon J. Stenning, rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Portsmouth was the principal speaker at the Portsmouth Historical Society observance of the 186th anniversary of the Battle of Rhode Island on Saturday. He gave a brief but inspiring account of the campaign of General Sullivan who commanded the Continental Army here and said this was one of the great military operations of all times.

The British had occupied Newport Harbor since 1763, taking the ships which brought cargo and bottling up trade completely. This included all of New England and New York state, since they also held Long Island Sound. The French fleet came to the aid of the Americans, but at the critical time when the Continentals were about to drive out the British, a great storm raged for three days and caused much damage to the French fleet. General Sullivan's army was driving the British south toward Newport. When the French withdrew their ships to Boston, many of the volunteer militia deserted the army and went home, leaving only about 4,500 soldiers to fight off the 8,000 highly trained British. At the Battle of Rhode Island, as the engagement has been called, the Continental soldiers hid behind stone walls at the spot where the observance on Saturday took place. As the British marched across the island, the Continentals attacked, killing 1023 British and losing 211 men.

General Sullivan marched to Fort Butts where he directed his men to pitch camp. Tents were erected and fires lit, causing the British to prepare for another battle the following day.

But under cover of darkness General Sullivan withdrew his forces to Tiverton, saving them from the overwhelming numbers of the enemy and directing operations from there until the British were driven from the land.

This is our heritage, Mr. Stenning said. History is valid only as it gives direction to the future. Because these brave men were willing to lay down their lives for freedom, this freedom is ours today. Many of the people under British occupation

save themselves, but were very badly treated. Some sided with the British, thinking to be on the winning side. The brave men in the Continental Army fought and paid the price of freedom which is ours to preserve, he said.

Ernest F. Denomme was master of ceremonies for the program which opened out - of - doors with a colorful flag raising by the Newport Artillery Company. Col. Glen Humphrey directed the men in Continental red, white and blue uniforms. Musketeers Sgts. Jerry Morrison and James Brady fired a salute and colonial field music was played by Pvts. Leette Lynch Carolyn Aud, Corp. Kurt Lauth and Sgt. William Betty. Capt. Lawrence Pelto directed the firing of the cannon and the gun crew included Maj. Richard Waters, Maj. Edward Johnson, Maj. William Saltzer, Maj. John Lauth, and Lt. Frank Gauthier. Boy Scouts Arthur Napier, Colin Spero, Joseph Seliga and Michael Pierce presented the flag.

President emeritus J. Fred Sherman and President Miss S. Alice Birkett of the Historical Society were introduced and welcomed the large gathering. Miss Birkett invited all to attend the next meeting on Sept. 15 when Miss Alice Brayton will speak on "Recollections of a Portsmouth Native".

Mrs. William A. Chase was head of the refreshment committee and served homemade cookies and "Switchell", a Colonial punch (or a reasonable facsimile). She was assisted by women of the board of directors.

The museum remained open during the afternoon and on Sunday, when Mr. and Mrs. J. Fred Sherman were host and hostess.

Battle Observance Planned

Newport News 22 Aug-64

Final arrangements for the observance of the Battle of Rhode Island were made by the board of directors of the Portsmouth Historical Society last night at the museum. The Rev. Gordon J. Stenning, rector of St. Mary's Church, will be the speaker of the day at a program held at the Museum at 2 p. m.

The Newport Artillery Company with Col. Glen S. Humphrey in charge, will conduct the raising of the colors, complete with a fife and drum corps which appeared at the World's Fair earlier this year. Muske-

teers will be Sgt. Jerry Morrison and Sgt. James Brady, with cannoneer, Lt. Lawrence Pelto. Boy Scout Troop 50 under Scoutmaster Robert Silva will take part in the color ceremony.

Following the event the museum will be open to the public until 5 p. m. Field music and color activities will be held out of doors with the program inside the museum.

Mrs. William A. Chase will head the refreshment committee and ladies are asked to leave food donations at the museum by 1 p. m. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest F. Denomme will supervise the decorations.

Miss S. Alice Birkett conducted the meeting last night at which Mrs. George A. Thurston was named to the board of directors. She will replace Miss Kathleen Helgesen, whose resignation was accepted with regret.

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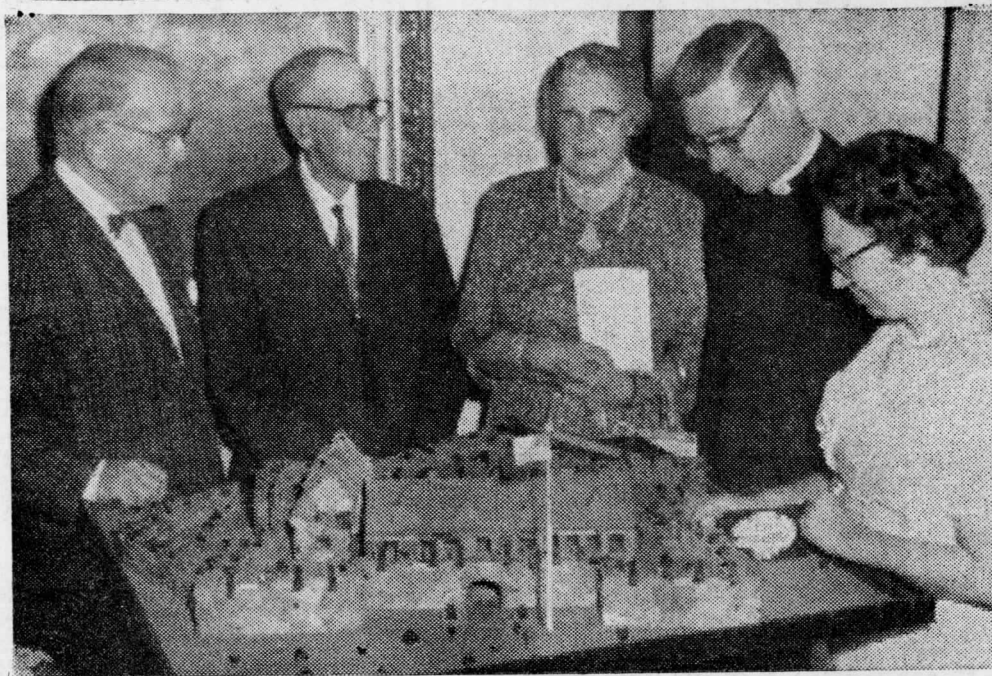
800 See Museum Over Weekend

Date?

Nearly 800 persons visited the museum of the Portsmouth Historical Society over the weekend. Special hours of operation were set up following the enthusiastic turnout at the opening of the museum on Thursday following recent renovations.

The open house was the first in four years in observance of the Battle of Rhode Island, the first skirmish of which took place on the site of the museum. John Pierce was host on Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hilliard on Sunday and Mrs. William A. Chase, yesterday.

The 325th anniversary committee of the Historical Society and the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce will meet tomorrow at 8 p. m. in the Pocasset Country Club to further plans for a ball to be held on Oct. 11 at the club.



VIEW FT. TICONDEROGA MODEL — Those attending the Battle of Rhode Island celebration held by the Portsmouth Historical Society at its Union Street home are shown viewing model of historic fort. In photo are, from left, Dr. Stanley D. Hart, J. Fred Sherman, first president of organization; Mrs. Noel Hammond, the Rev. Gordon J. Stenning, guest speaker, and Mrs. Gilbert T. Souza, a director. (Daily News Photo)

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Portsmouth Dedicates JFK Memorial

Mrs. Claiborne Pell represented her husband, Senator Pell, as principal speaker yesterday at the dedication of the John F. Kennedy Memorial 4-H Park in Portsmouth. She unveiled the plaque on the monument and, with the assistance of Miss Elaine Trout and Miss Cheryl Edmiston, placed a large wreath of yellow chrysanthemums at the monument. She was presented with a bouquet of red roses by 4-H girls Diane Nunes and Joanne Gorton.

Benjamin Roderiques, chairman of the 4-H Town Committee, acted as master of ceremonies and introduced Joseph H. O'Donnell Jr., administrative

director who represented Governor Chafee, Rep. Fernand J. St. Germaine, both of whom brought greetings from the state, and commended the local 4-H Clubs.

Also introduced were Kenneth Coombs, state 4-H director, William Barber, County 4-H agent, and Theodore Suddard, for many years County Agent here, now of the University of Rhode Island. John W. Lawrence, who is believed to be the senior 4-H Club member in town, recalled 4-H work in 1924, and Mrs. Clara Soares was introduced as the senior 4-H leader when the park first became a 4-H project.

Others recognized were Mr. and Mrs. Andrew C. Trout, Mrs. Russell P. Hedly, Frank Coelho, and Thomas H. Sandham, members of the committee which arranged the ceremony, John Kesson, Robert Wilder, William Gallagher, members of the Town Council, police, fire and school officials.

Taking part in the color ceremony were Paul McBride, leader of the Electronics Club, Victor Carr, junior leader, Kenneth McDonald and Tucker Kesson. The American flag, which was flown over the Capitol in Washington, the gift of Congressman St. Germain, the state flag the gift of Governor Chafee, and the 4-H flags were raised on the new flag pole. Portsmouth High School Band

played for the ceremony and Raymond Ainsworth, director, received commendations for his work with the young people.

The invocation was given by the Rev. Bart J. Buckley of St. Anthony's Church, and the benediction by the Rev. Frededick Yarger of the Community Methodist Church.

Roderiques expressed appreciation to the many people and business establishments who assisted with the preparation of the park, black topping the walk, donating the plants, shrubs, grass seed and fertilizer, and working on the project, all of which was done at no cost. Included in his acknowledgements were James Murray of Sherry Corp; Edward Ferreira, M. F. Construction Co., Salvo and Imbriglio, Clinton Pearson, Thomas Kelleher, Domingo Roderiques, Arthur A. Sherman, Mrs. Clara Soares, Cadlone Florist, Boyds Wayside Garden, Franklin Peyton, Arthur Arruda, Senior 4-H Club, the fire department and Town Council and many who asked not to be mentioned.

Recollections Of Town Told

Miss Alice Brayton of "Green Animals" on Cory's Lane in Portsmouth spoke before a capacity audience at the Portsmouth Historical Society last night. She recalled many of the early residents of the town and their homes and spoke of the town's changing landscape.

She was introduced by Ernest F. Denomme, program chairman.

Miss S. Alice Birkett conducted the meeting at which Mrs. Alice Peckham were received into membership. Several additional applications will be acted upon at the next meeting.

It was announced that the state has rebuilt the dam at Founders Brook and other work at the site being done by the state, is progressing. Last spring representatives of the Historical Society, Garden Club and Chamber of Commerce met with state officials and agreed on changes needed there due to the construction of the new road. Townspeople are to be urged to visit this site of the first settlement of Portsmouth.

The directors will meet in October and the next regular meeting will be held in November, the date and program to be announced.

Writes Prudence Island History

Continued From Page One becoming lost three times in the dense woods of Prudence Island while looking for old markers and at times being laid off from work.

"I found one stone marker dated 1714," he remarked with pride. "That was the biggest problem, finding the material, especially the family genealogy," he added.

In the colonial days most of Prudence Island was owned by people in Massachusetts, Mr. Maytum said. Consequently, he spent many hours looking through the probate records of Suffolk County in that state.

Many of the early Island residents subsequently went to live on the island of Barbados in the West Indies, thus necessitating the author's research there.

land on Prudence Island, and Maytum Cove on the eastern shore was named for him. Through his brother, Charles Maytum became interested in the island and now owns a summer cottage, Casa Mia, near Maytum Cove.

He was inspired to write a history of the island one day in 1957 when he found an arrowhead in a pine grove near his cottage and began wondering where it had come from.

Because of that arrowhead, Mr. Maytum dedicated "Paragraphs on Prudence Island" to "the first citizens of Prudence, the Indians."

He commenced his research at Roger Williams Park Museum, and in the months that followed he "visited practically every library in Rhode Island."

"When I really got into it,

The recent recommendation of the Middletown Town Government Study Committee, if adopted, may result in the abolition of the annual financial Town Meeting in Middletown, leaving Portsmouth the honor of having, not only the first Town Meeting (May 13, 1638) on Aquidneck Island, but also the last. Thirteen "freemen" were present at the first such meeting, probably a larger proportion of those eligible than we find at town meetings nowadays. The folks who will undoubtedly be up in arms at the thought of discontinuing town meetings might find some food for thought in that first town meeting. When the last one has been written into history, will we look like citizens of the same caliber as our forebears?

* * * *

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These are "Records of Sandy Point Lighthouse," "Land Boundaries on Prudence Island in Narragansett Bay," and "Memoirs of Halsey Chase."

All of these plus the long history, Mr. Maytum laboriously typed on his electric typewriter "mostly with one finger" after he had revised the original drafts four or five times.

"Sometimes I would be cooking a hamburger here (indicating an electric hot plate) and typing at the same time," he said.

Mr. Maytum's interest in Prudence Island hasn't diminished with the publication of his history. He now is working on "Notes on Prudence" and "Early Prudence

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The directors will meet in October and the next regular meeting will be held in November, the date and program to be announced.

Taking part in the color ceremony were Paul McBride, leader of the Electronics Club, Victor Carr, junior leader, Kenneth McDonald and Tucker Kesson. The American flag, which was flown over the Capitol in Washington, the gift of Congressman St. Germain, the state flag the gift of Governor Chaffee, and the 4-H flags were raised on the new flag pole. Portsmouth High School Band

Writes Prudence Island History

Continued From Page One
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Mr. Maytum himself was born and reared in Bristol where his brother, the late Joseph Maytum, was the first captain of the ferry Prudence. Joseph Maytum bought

land on Prudence Island, and Maytum Cove on the eastern shore was named for him. Through his brother, Charles Maytum became interested in the island and now owns a summer cottage, Casa Mia, near Maytum Cove.

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His research was so thorough that in the process of writing his history, Mr. Maytum collected enough materi-

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Mr. Maytum's interest in Prudence Island hasn't diminished with the publication of his history. He now is working on "Notes on Prudence" and "Early Prudence Island Tax Lists."

"A lot of the history is still hidden," he complained. "Unfortunately there were no recorders in pre-Colonial days."

Writes Prudence Island History

By RONALD D. SMITH

Utilizing almost every free moment for the past seven years, a 68-year-old rigger for the Brown & Sharpe Mfg. Co. has researched, written and published a 191-page history of Prudence Island.

"I wanted the honor of writing the first one," explained Charles G. Maytum last week in his small second floor apartment at 100 Wayne St. in Providence.

"Four or five other people

tried but gave up," Mr. Maytum added in a soft voice. "I was pessimistic that it would sell, but I sold all 40 copies and got orders for 100 more."

Mr. Maytum wasn't sure if he would print any more, but said that if he did he would have to raise the price. "I sold the first ones for \$6 apiece and took a terrific loss."

In addition to the expense of having the books printed

by offset, the costs included buying an electric typewriter, conducting a prolific research correspondence throughout the United States, England and the West Indies and traveling all over New England in search of records.

"But I never lost hope even when I was sick," the author said. "I was bound to finish regardless."

Besides sickness, Mr. Maytum's tribulations included

Continued on Page 16, Col. 1

Oct 11- 1964

19th Century Deed Helps to Prop An Old Schoolhouse

By DOUGLAS C. WILSON

Portsmouth is haunted by a schoolhouse. Town officials don't know what to do with a one-room frame building on Union Street near West Main Road.

Known as the Gibbs School, the schoolhouse was used continually from the 19th century until 1937. Then, when the building was as obsolete as its pot-bellied stove, and the old iron pump, the doors were closed.

Today the windows are boarded, litter covers the floors, and small trees are growing in the dooryard.

Occasionally there are inquiries from townspeople interested in buying the property. But town officials, who are vague about the whole matter, believe that their hands are tied by the deed to the land, written in 1845, which states that the property is "to be used and improved by School District No. 3 for school purposes only, forever."

This was the stipulation made by the property owner, Parker Lawton, when he sold the lot to the town for \$60.

One of Mr. Lawton's descendants, Mrs. Laurence A. Goffe of 1754 West Main Rd., has a 1939 newspaper clipping that indicates that town authorities once thought of appealing to the courts to unfetter the deed.

Apparently the plan was abandoned because the town was unwilling to pay the cost of an appeal.

Members of the local historical society said at the time that they would like to preserve the building as an example of an early rural school.

In spite of Mr. Lawton's original stipulation, the property today is not being "improved." And in spite of the historical society's concern nearly a century later, the building has not been preserved.

People who want to picture the old school house at the time of its heyday will learn more from a conversation with Mrs. George Monk, principal of the Ann Hutchinson School, than they can learn from a visit to the building.



Old Gibbs School on Union Street in Portsmouth.

—Journal-Bulletin Photo

discouraging shambles, unfurnished, unpainted, and sorely in need of repairs.

"We had a pot-bellied stove," Mrs. Monk recalled last week. "Howard Thurston used to come up in the morning and get the fire going. If it got too hot, we had to move the children out away from it."

Sections of stovepipe are all that remain in the building.

Although Grades 1 through 5 were taught in the single large room, "the discipline was very easy."

"We were all a family," Mrs. Monk said, "and I got to know all of the parents."

"The children always asked to ring the bell, and what a time I used to have, trying to remember who asked me first."

One beam is all that's left of the belfry.

"They didn't have to mow in those days," Mrs. Monk continued. "We played so much that the grass was worn down like a nest."

Today, however, trumpet vines, wild cherry trees,

Newport News - 17 Nov '64

Newport Shop to Inscribe Quotations on Monument

The John Stevens Shop in Newport has been chosen to design and execute inscriptions for the graveside monument to President John F. Kennedy, it was announced yesterday.

The shop will design and inscribe the slate slab that will mark the grave, quotations from President Kennedy's speeches that will appear on a wall bordering the grave site, and a stone presidential seal.

John E. Benson, co-manager of the shop, said he was "deeply honored" by the selection. He said John Carl Warnecke, the architect who designed the monument, asked him about a month ago to do the work.

Construction is expected to begin soon.

Mr. Benson, a 24-year-old graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, said the lettering already has been designed. He described it as a classical style of Roman capitals, "rather plain, strong lettering."

He said the slate gravemark-

lice to close a section of the highway.

The road was closed between Exits 55 and 56 while police conducted a search for the gunman.

He apparently fired on the cars from an embankment along the highway, which runs through a wooded area at that point.

Police said one person was hit in the shoulder and another in the leg by the sniper's bullets. One victim was treated at a hospital and released and the other was hospitalized.

Helps to stop An Old Schoolhouse

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People who want to picture the old school house at the time of its heyday will learn more from a conversation with Mrs. George Monk, principal of the Ann Hutchinson School, than they can learn from a visit to the building.

Mrs. Monk's memory is alive with the activities of 26 grade school children whom she taught there in 1935. In contrast to this, the schoolhouse itself is a



Old Gibbs School on Union Street in Portsmouth.

—Journal-Bulletin Photo

discouraging shambles, unfurnished, unpainted, and sorely in need of repairs.

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"They didn't have to mow in those days," Mrs. Monk continued. "We played so much that the grass was worn down like a nest."

Today, however, trumpet vines, wild cherry trees, and milkweed have captured the schoolyard—just as Parker Lawton trapped it 119 years ago.

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50 Years in Political Office And Still Going Strong

By Charles M. Moran Jr.

Four score and two years ago, Abby Amelia (Almy) Sherman, wife of Benjamin Clarke Sherman of Portsmouth, brought forth a son.

Today, his 83rd birthday less than three months away, Arthur Sherman is marking the end of 50 consecutive years in public and-or party office and the start of the 51st. At the same time, as the dean of Rhode Island's town clerks from the standpoint of age, he is beginning his 23rd successive year of superintending and augmenting the more than 325 years of municipal records in the Portsmouth Town Hall.

That Arthur Almy Sherman should become a town clerk in Portsmouth—or the oldest one in the state—is hardly surprising.

After all, the first clerk (1648-1656) of Rhode Island's second-oldest settlement was Philip Shearman (that's right, Shearman), a forebear whose original property is still the site of the family homestead. And it was Richard Sherman, an uncle or cousin, who held the office from 1822 to 1834 and again from 1844 to 1860. Moreover, both the Sherman and Almy family trees are well stocked with nonagenarians and octogenarians.

The surprising thing, perhaps, is that Mr. Sherman was not born in his present post. To most new visitors to town hall—and to many old ones—the job looks as though it were made for him, or as though he made it for himself.

Actually, he didn't even make a bid for the office until he was 60, an age at which most men

Speaker Cites French In Revolution

The importance of the history of Aquidneck Island and the contribution of the French people to the island was discussed by Patrick O'Neill Hayes, president of the Alliance Francaise and a councilman in Newport, last night at the Portsmouth Historical Society.

He said that there is only a relatively short space of time, 183 years, since the close of the Revolutionary War and while there is excellent work going in the preservation of buildings, landmark and other physical aspects of the island's history he feels more should be done to acquaint students with the people who developed the island's history.

Newport, which was the second largest port in the country before the Revolution was reduced to between 5,000 and 6,000 persons during the British occupation, as thousands left

the island and city with all their possessions. After two years of British domination there was, at first, reluctance to welcome the French in 1778, but when it was learned the well seasoned, well-equipped troops had come prepared to sustain themselves without dependence on the colonists, they were accepted as comrades.

Hayes said Rochambeau, who was about 55 years old, was met by the impatient Lafayette, only 19 years old, and Washington, both anxious to start the campaign against the British. He said there was much correspondence between them and many visits to Boston and Providence in development of the depicted Rochambeau as an "uncle" to the impetuous, adventuresome Lafayette.

Hayes said five aides of Rochambeau left diaries and accounts which recorded the calm,

cool, unruffled attitude of Washington whose presence left them with no indecision and yet no malice.

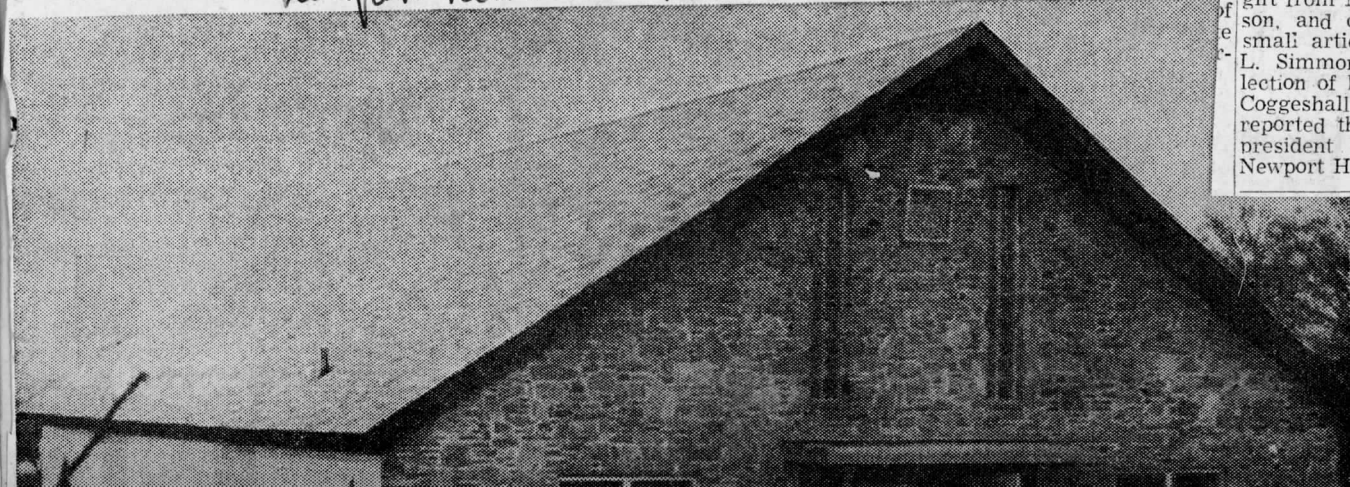
He said Rochambeau's visit to New York in 1794 was acclaimed as the greatest welcome ever accorded; and that he participated in the laying of the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill monument in 1824, ten years before his death.

Miss S. Alice Birkett, president, conducted the business meeting following the talk. It was voted to have the officers and directors appoint a committee to study the feasibility of a scholarship or award for a Portsmouth student essay contest on town history, and also to investigate the possibility of having Hessian Hole marked by a sign for the benefit of local residents and visitors. This site is where a number of German soldiers were killed in the Battle of Rhode Island. It is near Turkey Hill, West Main Road.

There was a discussion on the desirability of making Fort Butts a more attractive landmark, but it was agreed it would take a group of persons with considerable interest and time to promote such a program. It is the property of the Newport Historical Society, and must always be preserved as an historical and educational site according to a deed which conveyed the property to the Newport group.

Mrs. William A. Chase, librarian, presented several books, including schoolbooks, a gift from Mrs. Phoebe Edmundson, and clothing and several small articles donated by John L. Simmons Jr. from the collection of his mother, Elizabeth Coggeshall Simmons. It was reported that J. Fred Sherman, president emeritus, is ill at Newport Hospital.

Newport News - 31 Dec '64



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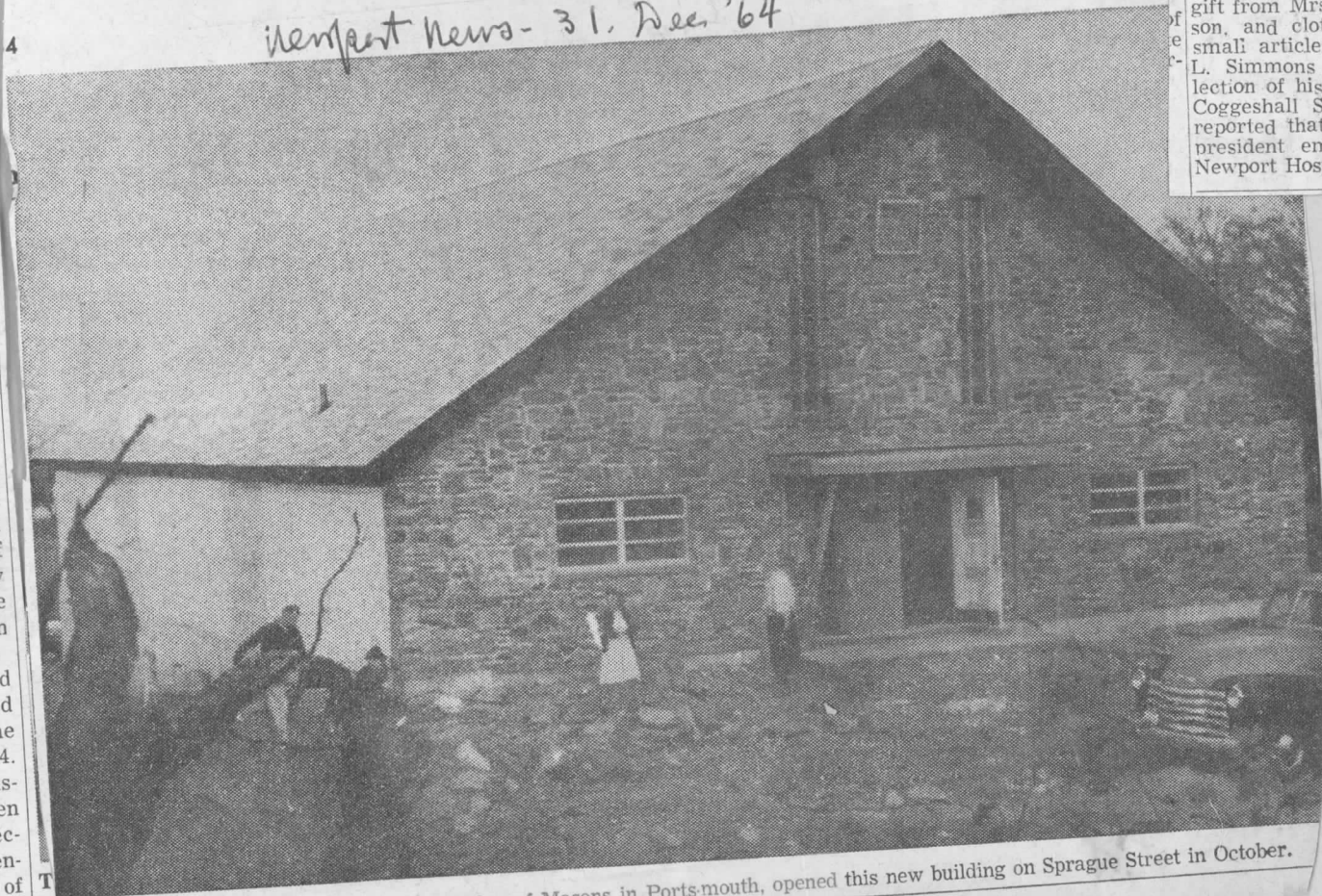
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Actually, he didn't even make a bid for the office until he was 60, an age at which most men are thinking about retirement if they're not already in it. Already behind him, however, was more than a quarter of a century on the political battlefield.

The world "battlefield" is used advisedly. For proof, one need only look up the story of the Rhode Island Senate of 1923-24. Those were the so-called filibuster years, and Mr. Sherman, then serving the fourth of five consecutive terms as Portsmouth's senator, was very much a part of that story.

Newport News - 31 Dec '64



NEW MASONIC HOME — Eureka Lodge of Masons in Portsmouth, opened this new building on Sprague Street in October.

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A Busy News Year For Portsmouth

By NANCY LANTZ

The prospect of an enlarged naval facility and new submarine base construction at Melville, the opening of a new express highway connecting the Sakonnet River Bridge with West Main Road, a high school in its first year of operation, island wide planning, and the perennial problem - water, made the news in Portsmouth during the year just past.

The town remained in the Democratic column after a lively campaign. The tax rate rose \$1.35 to \$32.25 which kept it among the lowest in the state.

Another of the highlights of the year's news was the announcement early this month that a 68 acre site in the south end of town had been recommended as a permanent site for the Newport jazz and folk festivals and as a cultural center where ballet, chamber music, poetry, and Broadway shows could be held weekends throughout the tourist season. The Town Council has announced a public meeting on the proposal when more details are available.

Just before Labor Day Governor Chaffee opened the expressway connecting West Main Road and the Sakonnet River Bridge approach road.

Route 138 Businessmen along East Main Road protested directional signs on the new road. After they were changed to more clearly indicate the business section of town, traffic nearly resumed its former proportions.

It was a year of definite prog-

ress in educational facilities in Portsmouth, the greatest single step was the dedication of the new Portsmouth High School in July.

In April Thomas Lavery, assistant principal at Pilgrim High School in Warwick, was named principal of Portsmouth High School and he assumed his duties on Aug. 1.

Grade 11 was started at the high school in September and elementary classes were organized in the Fort Butts wing there.

In May at a special financial town meeting \$500,000 was appropriated for the Melville school and the contract for the building was awarded on Dec. 9 to Almy & Chase, Portsmouth contractors, for \$425,680.

Estimates on the expected tax rate increase ranged from \$1.70 to \$4.10 after the annual budget hearing in February, but on May 2, the Board of Assessors announced a tax increase of \$1.35 to a rate of \$32.25. The assessed value of property had increased 14 per cent from \$27,567,191 to \$29,566,800.

Early in February the Navy announced that a Polaris submarine base would be constructed at Melville for mid-1967 operations and on Dec. 17 a New York firm was awarded the contract to construct a trestle pier and warehouse to cost \$1,137,620.

Grumann Allied Industries Inc. which bought the Pearson ship building company in Bristol, erected a new 50,000 square foot plant on the 70 acre West Shore property acquired in

1961. In October the Rotary Club was told a \$7 million business was anticipated by 1965.

A lively campaign led to a Democratic primary in September, with New Frontier Democrats filing a list of seven candidates to oppose the organization's candidates. All of the New Frontiersmen met defeat on Sept. 17, however.

Election events centered around an unusually active campaign resulting in Democrats being sworn in on Nov. 30 for all but two offices. Jethro H. Peckham, moderator, who was coendorsed and Arthur A. Sherman, town clerk who was opposed, were the only Republicans who had again survived the Democratic victory. Edward M. Dolbashian, Republican, had won the delegate post for the constitutional convention.

Increased interest was shown in civic beautification during 1964. The public works department planted more than 60 pine trees at the town dump. The garden Club, under its civic beautification program, planted trees at Hutchinson and Anthony Schools.

On Sept. 28 John F. Kennedy 4 - H Park dedicated at Turnpike Avenue and Dexter Street. On Oct. 21 the Town Council also memorialized the late president with the unveiling of his portrait in the Council Chambers.

The suspension of Patrolman Richard C. Borden for distributing tax leaflets caused controversy. On March 30, the council found him guilty of neglect of duty on an error in judgment, and the three weeks

suspension was ended.

The Volunteer Fire Department put a new rescue wagon into service.

The Planning Board adopted revisions which increased lot sizes to 12,500 and 25,000 square feet; the smaller area being in a district where water and sewage facilities exist.

Island - wide planning, with particular reference to an incinerator, was revived by a Newport representative and as the year progressed discussion of water supply and police control during the festivals took place. On Nov. 6 a newly organized area development and planning committee of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce cited the need for such planning also in relation to sewage, zoning, highway construction and redevelopment.

In August the Portsmouth Water Study Commission elected at financial town meeting in March, met with the Newport Council to learn whether water could be obtained from the city and in November the city manager told a public meeting sponsored by the Portsmouth Council of Real Estate Taxpayers that water is available. In mid - December a Newport hearing further emphasized the need for island - wide cooperation.

A Portsmouth Volunteer Association for Water was organized to work for a safe and adequate public water supply and distribution system and on Dec. 21 a survey was started to determine the present conditions of private wells in the town.

Newport News - 31 Dec 64

Island Given To Audubon Society

Newport News - 5 Jan '65

Newport County's "other he added, "to obtain the full cooperation of all residents in the area and all others who fish or boat in nearby waters in keeping the colony completely undisturbed during the nesting season, which extends from late April through mid-September." Signs will be placed on the island requesting that no landings be made there during those months.

The donor is Mrs. Wallace C. Hathaway of Highland Road, Tiverton. The five-acre island, which is part of Portsmouth, had been in the Hathaway family for just 100 years. It at one time was called Goulding Island for a Capt. Roger Gould.

The gift to the society was hailed by Alfred L. Hawkes, its executive director. He said that while the island should be preserved in its natural state for esthetic reasons alone, its particular value to the society now lies in the fact that it contains a unique colony of nesting herons. The rookery contains cattle egrets, American or great egrets, and probably snowy egrets, as well as black-crowned night herons, once common but increasingly rare in Rhode Island.

Hawkes said the colony represents the most northerly place in continental North America where cattle egrets are known to nest. It also is one of the most northerly locations and the only one in Rhode Island for great egrets and snowy egrets.

He said the colony on Gould Island has been there for only two or three years and could easily be driven out if disturbed in any way. "We hope,"

Gould Island in 1864 be-

longed to Daniel T. Church of Tiverton, whose descendants have owned it ever since. Mrs. Hathaway inherited the property from her mother, Mrs. Calista C. Lawton wife of George Lawton, who was an important figure in Tiverton politics for many years. It long has remained uninhabited. It has commonly been referred to by some as Snake Island, but it is doubtful if it contains snakes of any importance.

The news that Gould Island, sometimes called Snake Island, in the Sakonnet River near the Stone Bridge site, has been given by Mrs. Wallace C. Hathaway to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island is of particular interest to the many local people who have a growing interest in the habits and wel-

come nouncement that the island contains a rookery of nesting herons during the nesting season raises questions of how to identify these spectacular birds which seem to be frequenting our shores in increasing numbers.

From Alfred L. Hawkes, the society's executive director, we learn that the cattle egret, which arrived in this country from Africa via South America only within the last 15 years, appears pure white from a distance, but closer inspection will show a light red-brown tint on breast and back of head.

It derives its name from its habit of feeding around the feet of wild game or domestic cattle in Africa, picking up insects disturbed by the animals' feet. It is smaller than the snowy egret, and has pure white plumage like the American egret, from which it can be distinguished by its smaller size, its yellow feet, and the black bill, as contrasting with the American's yellow bill.

The black-crowned night heron stands about 24 inches high, larger than the snowy egret, has the typical long legs of the heron family, gray wings, white breast and belly, black back and black on top of its head.

Historical Society Story Told

The history of the Newport Historical Society and its growth since its organization in 1853 was related to the Newport Current Topics Club yesterday afternoon by Mrs. Peter Bolhouse, the society's research assistant. Begun by a group of citizens interested in preserving historical data and objects, it met at first in homes and halls, and maintained a collection in a cabinet at Redwood Library.

Outgrowing this, the group in 1884 purchased the old Sabbatarian Baptist Church on Barney Street and moved it to Touro Street, thus saving an architectural gem dating back to 1729 and representing the first effort to preserve and restore an 18th century building here. Pews were removed to make room for a mu-

seum, and their paneling was used to wainscot the walls; otherwise the interior was not changed.

The growth of the society and its collection resulted in an new building for a library, office and vault in 1902, when the church was moved back on the lot. Later, in 1915, it was moved again, and a middle section was erected for additional space.

Now the building is bulging at the seams again, Mrs. Bolhouse said. Collections have grown to cover many phases of Newport life, and researchers find manuscripts and articles on all subjects. There are collections of antique portraits, Townsend and Goddard furniture, fine silver and china and glass, and costumes from Revolutionary times to the Paris gowns made by Worth for members of the summer colony early this century, and many old photographs. The

common but increasingly rare Rhode Island. Hawkes said the colony represents the most northerly place in continental North America where cattle egrets are known to nest. It also is one of the most northerly locations and the only one in Rhode Island for great egrets and snowy egrets. He said the colony on Gould Island has been there for only two or three years and could easily be driven out if disturbed in any way. "We hope,"

look for them at the Seapower Marsh Wildlife Preserve, a state-owned property along the easterly edge of Seapower Avenue in Tiverton. Without getting out of the car, one may sometimes see as many as 100 or more of all three types of egrets, both black-crowned and the much rarer yellow-crowned night herons, the huge blue heron and several southern herons seen only rarely in the north. The refuge is a feeding area, not a nesting area, and observation will not disturb the birds, he said.

of Rhode Island is of particular interest to the many local people who have a growing interest in the habits and wel-

heron family, gray wings, white breast and belly, black back and black on top of its head.

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The society has cooperated with other groups to preserve other old buildings and relics of the early days, and still owns the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House, oldest house standing in Newport. In recent years it has undertaken the cataloguing of a great store of manuscripts to make them available to researchers. Bulletins are issued occasionally detailing various phases of Newport history, and exhibits are arranged from time to time, to bring back aspects of the city's past.

Miss Nellie M. Gleason, president, conducted the meeting. Mrs. Max Munro was welcomed as a new member. Mrs. Alfred L. Carry reported on current events. Hostesses were Mrs. John Howieson, and Mrs. Jack Van Hof.

Girl Scout Week

Newport County Girl Scouts join this week with almost three and a quarter million girls throughout the country to celebrate Girl Scout Week, Sunday through Saturday.

"A Promise in Action" is the theme of the week, and of the Girl Scouts' 53rd birthday which falls on March 12, marking the anniversary of the first meeting of the first troop organized in Savannah, Ga., by Juliette Low, founder of the movement in the U. S. A.

The first troop in Rhode Island was organized in Newport only two years later, and Girl Scouts have been living their code of loyalty, honesty, friendship, courtesy, cheerfulness, usefulness, kindness and thrift in the Newport area ever since. Their promise and laws provide Girl Scouts of all faiths with an easily understood ethical code which they can put into practise in their daily lives.

Many Girl Scout troops have a close bond with churches or synagogues that provide room for meetings and other helps. Some draw leadership from the congregation and many are sponsored by

church organizations which see in the Scout code a link with the teachings of religious faith, a means for helping girls to live what their faith teaches.

As they grow in Girl Scouting, from Brownie to Junior to Cadette to Senior level, girls are encouraged to learn the skills and attitudes that will help them become competent and happy homemakers and responsible citizens. They study money management, meal planning, child care. They practise using the tools and appliances that are becoming standard equipment in today's homes. They learn to improvise when these things are not available.

The girls demonstrate citizenship by putting up United Fund posters, baby sitting at the polls on election day, taking part in anti-litter drives and helping to beautify their neighborhoods.

Members of local troops started their week by going to church in uniform, and are continuing the observance with programs in their own troops, reflecting the theme "A Promise in Action."

R.I. Heritage Theme: 'Words And Music'

"Words and Music — Our Literary and Musical Heritage" will be the theme of the 10th annual Rhode Island Heritage Week to be observed May 1 to 9.

Exhibits of rare books, church chime concerts, musical presentations, and several house and garden tours will highlight the

will initiate the observance here with their spring concert, "A Tribute to American Words and Music," on April 30 and May 1 in Pringle Hall at the Naval War College.

Special concerts of church chimes will be given daily by Trinity Church at 5 p. m. and

Navy Gives Portsmouth School Site

The Navy has transferred to the Town of Portsmouth five acres of land on West Main Road, near Bradford Ave., north of the Capehart Housing, for an elementary school site.

The substitution for the earlier designated five-acre site on Stringham Road, south of the housing area was proposed

Girl Scout Leaders Plan To Help Friendship Fund

Contributions for the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, to "keep the magic thread of Girl Scouting and Guiding going around the world," will be taken in Newport Girl Scout troops during Girl Scout Week, March 7-13.

The fund, a memorial to the founder of Girl Scouting in America, helps to bring girls from all countries together in camps and Scout houses to advance world understanding and

friendship. It also provides Scouting materials in many countries, movies of American Scouting activities, Scout training, and in disaster areas, clothing, school supplies and money.

Plans for the collection, and for further collection of green trading stamps for a new car for the Rhode Island Council, were made at the meeting of the Newport Girl Scout Neighborhood Association last night at Sheffield School. Twenty of the city's 25 troops were represented.

Mrs. Thomas Lentz, neighborhood cookie chairman, reported 785 cases of cookies sold by Newport troops, an increase of 175 over last year. She praised the Scouts for good public relations work with their selling, and distributed camp credit certificates to leaders to be given to girls when they register for summer camp.

Mrs. Charles E. McDowell distributed materials and directions for making Camp Hoffman ties, a district project.

Mrs. Eugene P. Faerber, neighborhood campership chairman, described procedures for campership applications. Scouts desiring campership help should apply to their leaders before March 10, and applications should be returned to Mrs. Faerber by March 15.

A camp registration day is set for April 23 from 2 to 8 p. m. at Leys Century Store, local equipment agency.

Leaders prepared mailing labels for the 1965 camp information folders to be mailed to all Scouts. A training course for new leaders will start March 2 at the Middletown Town Hall.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Edward L. Bradley, leader of Junior Troop 887, and Mrs. Samuel Novick, leader of Junior Troop 691.

Girl Scouts To Display Flags

The flags of 65 nations of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts will be

displayed by 14 Portsmouth Girl Scout troops at the International Friendship rally Monday in Portsmouth High School. The rally at 1 p. m. marks "Thinking Day," observed annually on Feb. 22, the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, the late founder of Boy Scouting and chief world guide

respectively, to stress the international spread of the movement.

Songs and dances of many countries will be featured. Girl Guide uniforms of many of the countries will be modeled by Scouts. Donations to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, to enable Scouts and Guides all over the world to visit and camp with each other, will be presented by the troops.

Plans for the rally were completed by the Portsmouth Neighborhood Association last night in St. Paul's parish house.

Mrs. Ernest L. Briggs, chairman, who conducted the meeting, announced a training course for new leaders to start March 2 in Middletown Town Hall. She distributed material for making Girl Scout camp ties for Camp Hoffman.

Folders describing camping opportunities in Rhode Island will be mailed to all Scouts in a few weeks. Campership applications were distributed by Mrs. Leo R. McAloon Jr., who outlined procedures for giving financial aid through camperships.

Mrs. Howard J. Earle, Mrs. Andre Dupre and Mrs. Briggs led in a song session. Mrs. Billie Deitz and Mrs. John Harper served refreshments.

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The Newport Navy Choristers

will initiate the observance here with their spring concert, "A Tribute to American Words and Music," on April 30 and May 1 in Pringle Hall at the Naval War College.

Special concerts of church chimes will be given daily by Trinity Church at 5 p. m. and Channing Memorial Unitarian Church at noon.

A number of historic houses in Newport will be open for public inspection, as will historic treasures in Bristol, Wickford and Providence.

The First Baptist Church in Providence will conduct its annual "Forefathers' Service" May 2 at 4 p. m., featuring the 18th century Meeting House form of worship. A special exhibit honoring Roger Williams, one of Colonial America's first authors, will be open at the Rhode Island Historical Society library at 121 Hope St., Providence. On display will be an original edition of Williams' famous "A Key to the Language of America," published in 1643, the first book - dictionary used by the colonists in communicating with the local Indian tribes.

Navy Gives Portsmouth School Site

The Navy has transferred to the Town of Portsmouth five acres of land on West Main Road, near Bradford Ave.; north of the Capehart Housing, for an elementary school site.

The substitution for the earlier designated five-acre site on Stringham Road, south of the housing area, was proposed on Dec. 14 by Rear Adm. Arthur H. Taylor, commandant of the Naval Base, and was acceptable to the School Committee.

The transfer was made on Dec. 30 in the Boston office of the department of Health, Education and Welfare. Sen. Thomas H. Levesque, Lloyd R. Nelson, School committee chairman and Roland F. Shappy, superintendent of schools, were present at the signing.

The new site, near the water tower has direct access to the highway and eliminates the need for easements for electric and telephone services which would have been necessary at the Stringham Road site. Water and sewage service have been authorized from the Navy systems.

Oliver F. Selby, chairman of the Melville Building Committee, said last night that to night's committee meeting will be a closed session.