

Island Opinion

• From the Publisher •

Saying goodbye to one of our own

It is with sadness this week that we note the passing of Frank Caswell.

For many years Frank was the cartoonist for the Jamestown Press. I first met Frank when he appeared at the Press office one day with samples of his cartoons in hand. Every good newspaper needs a good cartoonist, he said.

I agreed and the Opinion page in the Jamestown Press took on new depth.

Frank's weekly depictions of islanders and Jamestown politics brought more than a few chuckles to all of us. As with any good cartoonist, Frank had a different perspective on life. His wit and good-natured humor ranged from local topics to the national scene. Sometimes his efforts would strike a nerve and generate a flurry of letters.

I remember one cartoon in particular that spoofed a new village festival called Ferry Days. The festival was organized to celebrate Jamestown's pre-bridge heritage when ferryboats provided transportation to and from Conanicut Island. It was 1995 and political correctness was still rampant. Frank's simple but funny Tinkerbell lampoon played on the homonyms "ferry" and "fairy." The cartoon, published again on this page, brought a howl from those who thought we were gay bashing.

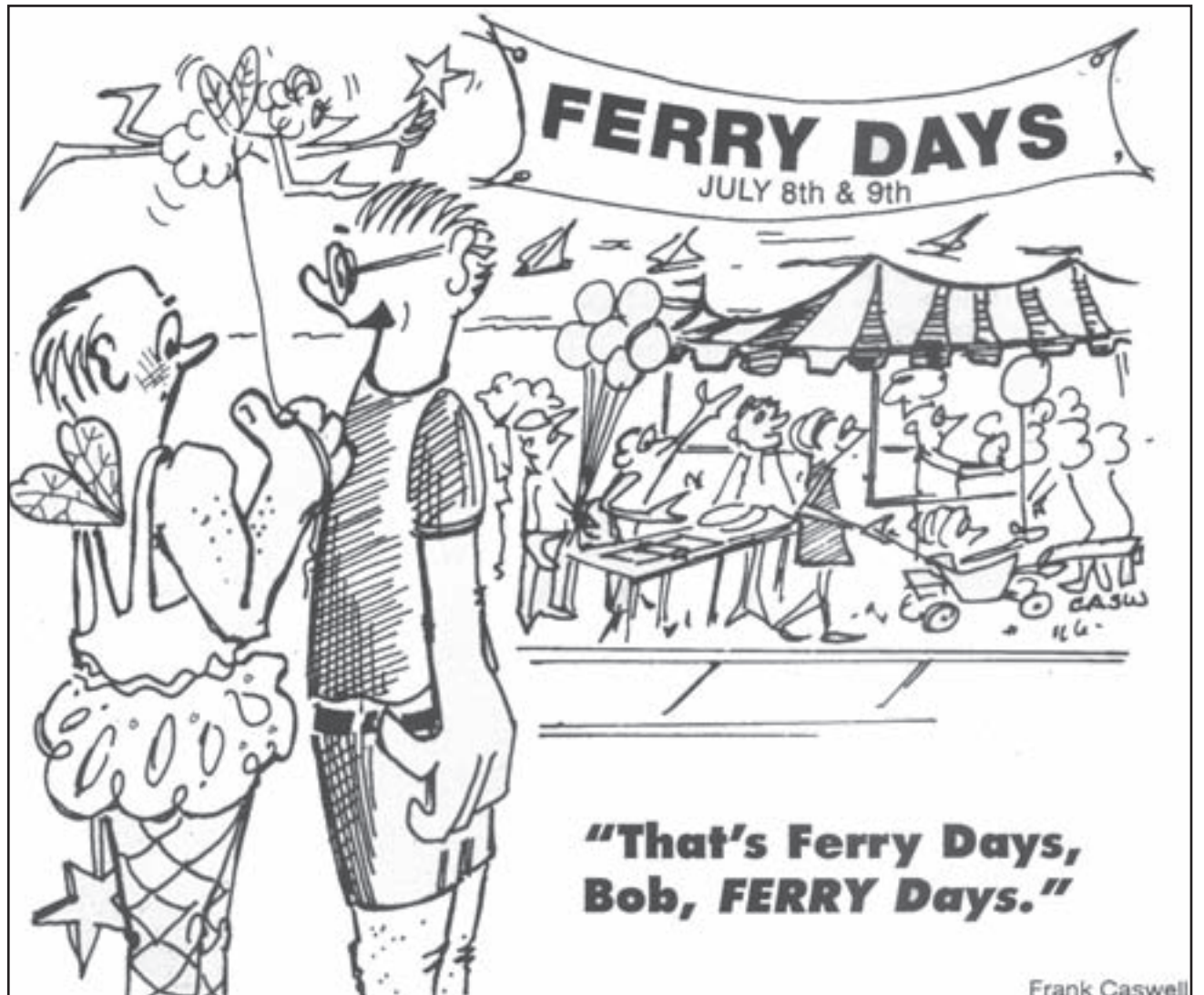
Frank was shocked by the reaction and so were we. Frank later remarked that he was sometimes surprised when people read more into his cartoons than he had intended.

Frank rarely missed an issue of the Press. If his cartoon for the week did not meet with my approval, Frank, a veteran newspaperman himself, would say, don't worry ... he'd have another one done by deadline. And he always did.

Frank's cartooning continued for a number of years until his illness overtook him and he could no longer work. I didn't have the heart to remove his name from the staff roster in the Press masthead until this week.

We are proud to have worked with Frank. We will miss him.

— Jeff McDonough



"That's Ferry Days, Bob, FERRY Days."

Frank Caswell

• LETTERS •

A huge thanks to a generous community

As the Captain of Team "Just Wings," I want to extend a huge thank-you to a very generous community.

We all participated in the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk on Sept. 17. Our team of 22 walkers has collected close to \$12,000. The money goes to research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. Ten team members were

from Jamestown.

Besides myself, they included Joanne Phillips, Mary Lovegreen, Eileen Tiexiera, Maryanne England, Wendy Rafferty, Lauren Marsh, and Blakeley, Ben and Deken Schmidt. We all completed our registered distances, nine the full 26.2 miles, and one teammate 13.1 miles. Although it was a long way, our part was easy. All we had to do was

put one foot in front of the other. Much more difficult is what people diagnosed with cancer, young and old, have to go through on a daily basis. Your donations will help ease the road ahead of them. Thank you so much for being the biggest part of our team.

There is still time to be involved. Log on to JimmyFundWalk.org and scroll down to "Just

Wings." Donations will be accepted till Nov. 1. The walk was such a heartwarming and extraordinarily well organized event that we're all in for next year! Please consider joining us. With sincere gratitude,

**Vicki Schmidt,
captain, team
"Just Wings"**

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The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 25, 50, 75, and 100 years ago from the Newport Daily News comes from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 8, 1906:

Steamer Beaver Tail of the Jamestown and Newport Ferry Company was taken off the line last evening, and the service between Jamestown and Saunterstown was discontinued for the winter.

From the Newport Daily News, October 9, 1906:

The strong southeast wind this morning broke off the top of one of the locust trees on Walcott avenue, in front of the Gardner House.

From the Newport Daily News, October 11, 1906:

Politics now holds the attention of the townspeople and affords the principle topic of conversation. As the town is Republican by a large majority, the nominees of the Republican caucus are sure of an election.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 8, 1931:

In order to avoid overtaxing the school bus, the school board, at a special meeting, voted to accommodate the children living two miles from the village with taxi service.

From the Newport Daily News, October 15, 1931:

The local post of the American Legion and Drum Corps covered itself with glory last evening when it presented the comedy of the American rookie, "Corporal Egan," at the Palace Theatre, which was packed to the doors, and the show was pronounced the best ever put on here by a local cast.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 9, 1956:

Prompt action by the state to acquire and operate



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of October 12

the Jamestown-Saunterstown Bridge in the same manner as the Mt. Hope Bridge was urged by Dean J. Lewis of Newport, Republican candidate for state senator. . . Lewis said the outstanding bonds on the Jamestown Bridge are the "callable" type which can be taken over immediately by the state.

The Navy property at Beavertail, which has been open to the public since June 18, will be closed Oct. 28 because the town has insufficient funds to maintain a guard to patrol it during the winter months.

From the Newport Daily news, October 10, 1956:

Adult classes in typing will start within two weeks in the Jamestown School.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 7, 1981:

Town Administrator Robert W. Sutton Jr. reviewed water levels of both town reservoirs for the Town Council. He reported that the water level in the North reservoir was 11 feet below the spillway, Sutton said the level is approximately 10 inches lower than last Nov. 6. On Sept. 29, the water level in the South reservoir was about three feet below the spillway, he said. The water in the South reservoir is poorly colored and a poorer quality than the North reservoir.

From the Newport Daily News, October 8, 1981:

Foot dragging by the (federal) Environmental Protection

Agency is costing town taxpayers more money. When the sewage treatment plant was completed in December 1979, a balance of \$250,000 was due from the federal share of costs. To date, this money has not been paid by the EPA.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, October 10, 1991:

The Town Council in an emergency session last Wednesday outlined an alternative plan to the state Department of Transportation's proposed cross-island highway, which it has opposed practically since taking office in May. In a unanimous vote, following just over two hours of debate during which most residents spoke in favor of a two-lane road, the council passed a resolution calling for a four-lane road that would be narrower and have lower speed limits than the 100-foot-wide highway DOT wants to build.

Narrowing the proposed cross-island highway's 30-foot grass median, as town officials would like, could mean delaying construction for at least six to eight months, according to state Department of Transportation Chief of Design Ed Parker.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, October 10, 1996:

Next week you can hear the soulful sound of bagpipes, see fellow islanders wearing Scottish kilts and witness a traditional Highlands sword dance — and you won't have to journey further than the Community Center. That is where the Jamestown Community Theatre is staging "Brigadoon."

The town may purchase two acres of land currently leased privately by golf-course operator Joseph Mistowski to make up the fourth and seventh tees of the town-owned course. (It was anticipated that the earliest date that a special financial town meeting could be held was Dec. 2.)