

LETTERS

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Ben Buglio, Prudy Sellers, Isabel Coyle, Barbara Ritter, Judy Knight, Pat Tuff, Helna Babcock, Betty Kinder, Paula Florentino, Susie Matthews, and Mimi Sharpe. With great sadness, we thank Louise Brendlinger's family for continuing her work. For years, Louise had provided lovely refreshments for our opening nights.

Beautiful flower arrangements were provided by members of the Jamestown and Quononoquott Garden Clubs: Betty Ann Taylor, Gail Bolger, Gwenda Bellion, Judy Lexow, Susan Little, Prim Bullock (who apparently donated much of her garden,) Alena Caldarone, Jillian Barber, Rita Antine, Carol Jennings, and Martha Tournas.

Volunteers who manned the sales table from opening night and throughout the show included: Eileen Muldoon, Becky Andreozzi, Gail Bolger, Martha Tournas, Rose Karentz, Carol Gates, Isabel Coyle, Kevin Somerville, Eleanor Gravdahl, Lee Capobianco, Don Gillis, Ed Roche, Silvia Quinn, Al Matukaitis, Barbara Whitford, Don Miller, Dwight Smith, Barbara Marom-Pollack, and Jane Wright.

Finally, a big thank you goes to Melissa Minto and the teens for giving up their temporary lobby space for a week, and to William Piva and the Jamestown Recreation Department staff for their generous assistance.

Karen Krider
President, CIAA

Why the beach plums are dying

When the state resurfaced the connecting road between Conanicut Island's main part and the Beavertail peninsula a few years ago, they made a grievous mistake.

This mistake was the planting of some two-dozen beach plum trees (*Prunus maritima*) in the rocks at the extreme western edge of the Mackerel Cove beach. The plants' native habitat requires them to be planted in the sand. *Prunus maritima* is an exceptional species of a very, very specialized growth, a natural growth largely overlooked by the general populace. As a life member of the Nature Conservancy, I have known of the existence of this tree species for over 50 years. Due in part to experiments with them in the early 1950s, when I worked for the Jones Beach State

Park Authority in New York and had free access while working in various seasonal jobs.

The world renowned white sand beaches and adjacent areas of Point Lookout, Jones Beach itself, Tobay Beach, Fire Island National Park and the Hamptons beaches, including the very special "Sunken Forest," all owe their existence in large part to *Prunus maritima*. This is a tree that has adapted itself in a most unique manner appearing as large, clumpy bushes in between growths of salt grasses, liverworts, beach tomatoes, poison ivy and bull rushes in various locations that hold the great sand dunes in place even in the most fearsome wind storms. Hence, the existence of many barrier beaches along the south coast of Long Island and the most northern parts of the New Jersey coastline. In many cases the clumpy bushes are part and parcel of the same root system. Some trees have been recorded over 50-feet in circumference. The beach plum tree, as it is popularly known in this area, grows where the water supply is brackish.

When I tried raising them inland in regular soil they did not thrive, but just sat there until transplanted back to their native habitat. The fruit or berries are about 1/2-inch in diameter, of a very dark red, tinged with purple when fully ripe, tasting of a cross between a plum and a cranberry. The berries are a good source of vitamin C that can be used in jams or jellies mixed with other seasonal fruit.

Some six or more years ago I had written two detailed letters to the governor of Rhode Island and the state's Department of Transportation about these trees, but received no real satisfactory reply. Since the severe nor'easter late last winter, the whole area of Mackerel Cove has been devastated and the last of these trees are already dead or dying. Such a sad commentary to some exceptional plants that could have made a much better solution for the drifting and shifting sands of the Mackerel Cove isthmus, but the lack of forethought bordering on idiocy seems to be all too prevalent in today's population.

W.G.Boll
Jamestown

Wood graduates from Dartmouth

Todd Helicopter Wood, of Jamestown, graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College in May with a degree in economics.

He is the son of Alexander and Barbara Wood of Jamestown.

Claim prizes for summer reading program

Children who have completed the summer reading program, "Get a Clue @ Your Library," at Jamestown library are invited to come to see the children's librarian with their reading records/journals to pick up their prizes, reading incentives, and reading certificates.

There is a wide selection of

books for prizes made available by McDonald's Restaurants of Rhode Island. The reading incentives are coupons for free entrance to many area attractions including the Audubon Society of Rhode Island's Environmental Education Center, Butterfly Zoo, Carousel at Easton's Beach, Casey Farm, Green Animals To-

piary Garden, Museum of Natural History & Planetarium, Museum of Work and Culture, Providence Children's Museum, Quonset Air Museum, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Save the Bay Exploration Center, South County Museum, and Watson Farm.

For more information, call the library at 423-7280.

Island history

Continued from page 6

Jamestown according to deeds filed for record in the town clerk's office. The total land cost \$502,500. The last of the options, the Carr homestead property on the north side of Carr's Lane, was picked up yesterday afternoon. The exact acreage was not spelled out in the deed.

Jamestown opens its 300th celebration of the purchase of Conanicut Island from the Indians tomorrow. ... In addition to a tennis tournament, ferry rides in the afternoon and evening and dancing, there will be a program of water sports at the east ferry landing.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, August 7, 1982

The long weekend has started out as a dry one for some residents living in Beavertail. ... Some of the residents have been without water periodically since Memorial Day weekend. ... The Town Council has discussed replacing the water line in the area. It would cost about \$360,000.

From the Newport Daily News, August 11, 1982

The board of directors of Jamestown Theatre, faced with foreclosure notices from the banks, may

have to sell the building to try to recoup some of the initial investment.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, August 6, 1992

An official groundbreaking ceremony last Friday kicked off construction of the Jamestown Philomelanian Library's \$1.4 million addition and renovation.

School officials last week did not know how they were going to run a school department faced with nearly a \$58,000 loss in state aid and projections of higher operating costs.

Gov. Bruce Sundlun recently signed into law a bill that officially names the (Newport) bridge after 73-year old (Claiborne) Pell, a Newport resident who has served in the U.S. Senate since 1960, and has also had the Pell Grants in education named after him.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, August 7, 1997

Narragansett Avenue may receive a \$50,000 make-over as part of a \$500,000 grant the town applied for in 1993 for streetscape improvements.

The 23rd annual Conanicut Island Art Association show last weekend featured the works of 110 artists, all from Jamestown.

Yoga

at Heart Center of Narragansett

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