

N A R R O W R I V E R N O T E S  
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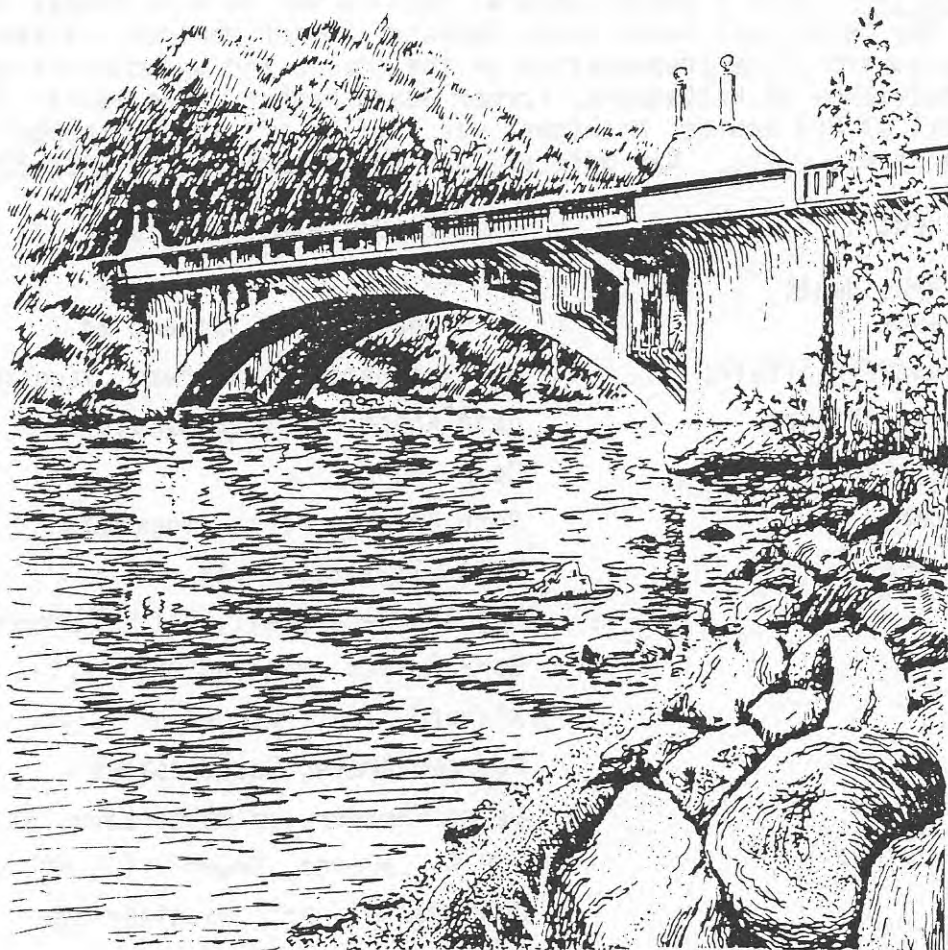
Newsletter of the Narrow River Preservation Association

Vol. III, No. 3

Fall, 1982

P.O. Box 8, Saunderstown, R.I. 02874

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*SPRAGUE BRIDGE*

*Narragansett, Rhode Island*

The original Sprague Bridge (demolished in 1981), sketched from the southwestern bank of the Pettaquamscutt River Narrows by Narragansett artist Marge Vogel, is included in the 1983 Calendar of Rhode Island Historic Places that NRPA is offering this fall to the first 50 members who contribute \$25 and request a calendar. Our membership year is September-August - renew or join now! (See enclosed envelope) And secure your calendar (approximately 8x15", suitable for wall hanging), a unique collection of original drawings of Rhode Island landmarks.

NRPA BROCHURE: With this Newsletter we enclose our NRPA brochure, undertaken with Rhode Island Foundation funds, written by W.E.R. LaFarge and produced by Dick Grant, which sums up our origins, goals, activities and achievements over the past decade. While there have been some disappointments, the overall docket has been positive, in uniting friends of the river, alerting state and local officials to water quality problems, monitoring waterfront development, and forming a Tritown Watershed Council and a Narrow River Land Trust, among other accomplishments. Read the brochure and see what your membership dollars can do.

ANNUAL MEETING: NRPA's Annual General Meeting was held on Monday evening, August 23rd, at the Mettatuxet Yacht Club, despite a minor monsoon. Attending members enjoyed a superb slide presentation on the common and uncommon birds of Narrow River by Bill McEaney of Mettatuxet, former Board member. The 16-ft. Viking Canoe from Michi-Craft of Big Rapids, Michigan, was raffled off and the happy winner was Mike Cavanaugh of Rio Vista. New officers and Board members for 1982-83 were elected:

President	Paul E. Bassett, Rio Vista	434-3176 789-3261 (summer)
Vice-Presidents:		
Finance	Ed Grove, Gilbert Stuart Rd.	294-3512
Scientific Affairs	Marilyn Harlin, Waterway, Saunstrn.	294-4206
Public Affairs	Jean Knapp, Pettaquamscutt Terr.	783-0742
Legal Affairs	Open	
Secretary	Ruth Briggs, North Kingstown	294-9371
Directors:	* Doug Almy, Rio Vista	789-7784
	*Peg Brady-Campbell, Pett. Terrace	789-3103
	Gary Galkin, Hammond Hill	294-9664
	Richard Grant, Kingston	783-3653
	Maureen Grove, Saunderstown	294-3512
	George Hehner, Walmsley Lane, SK	783-1720
	W.E.R. LaFarge, Tower Hill, NK	294-2516
	John Maciel, Jr. Middlebridge	521-6985 789-7585 (summer)
	Michael McCormick, Forest Lakes	294-4405
	*David Pearson, Mettatuxet	789-9541
	Bruce Smith, Mettatuxet	789-0362
	Linda Steere, West Kingston	539-2530
	* New Board members	

Our thanks to ex-secretary Alberta Falvey and Board Member Jack Falvey, who have resigned to winter in Florida, for their dedicated efforts for NRPA. We expect to see them at Forest Lakes next summer. Ruth Briggs will replace Alberta as Secretary.

WATER QUALITY: The State Department of Environmental Management continues to sample and test the water at 4 river stations (Sprague Bridge, Middle Bridge, Mettatuxet and Lacey Bridge) and provided NRPA with their figures for total and fecal coliforms per 100 mls of water sample, measured since January 1981. Total coliforms were unexpectedly high on December 17, 1981 (possibly connected with the intensive Sprague Bridge landscaping at that time), leveled off in February '82, and ranged from 9 to 43, well below pollution standards, in April '82. In July the Mettatuxet station showed the highest total coliforms of the year (250), as it did in July '81 (450). Tidal conditions and recent rainfall must be taken into consideration in interpreting sampling results or comparing seasonal readings. DEM also did a series of samples by boat at 13 stations, including runoff pipe sites, in July and November '81 and July '82, with widely fluctuating results. A comprehensive report on the quality of Narrow River water has been prepared by Robert Richardson, Senior Biologist at the Division of Water Resources and an ex-officio member of the Tri-Town Watershed Advisory Commission, for the latter group's consideration.

COASTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE: This Committee continues to monitor applications to the state Coastal Resources Management Council which affect the riverfront. Under "old business," our legal representative contacted CRMC concerning the ongoing violations, namely a 20-foot deck over the marsh and construction of a house larger than that approved in the site assent, at the Middlebridge Road property formerly known as Terre Mar. In reply John Lyons, CRMC Chairman, confirmed that the Council is actively involved and concerned about the discrepancies found between the actual construction found at this location and the approved plans which received CRMC's permit in 1980. The property is now vacant and for sale, and CRMC has initiated court action against the present owner.

The Coastal Resources Committee also represented NRPA at a Narragansett Planning Board hearing on October 12 concerning revised development plans for River Front Estates, a 142-acre property between Middle Bridge and Sprague Bridge with 90-100 houses proposed in a modified cluster development. This area will be tied in to the next phase of the Narragansett Sewer system, so will not require individual septic systems, but concerns remain about the storm water drainage system, road and fertilizer runoff, given the high water table in this area. The Planning Board will consider this subdivision plan again in November.

TRI-TOWN WATERSHED COUNCIL: This Advisory Council met regularly over the past year under the chairmanship of Dr. Gaethe Langlois and has gathered a data base and extensive maps of the watershed for study and recommendations.

NARROW RIVER CANOE RACE: Dick Grant reports a successful "against the river" Canoe Race held on August 7 at Forest Lakes Beach, with the cooperation of the Forest Lakes Association who contributed their beach facility and arranged the refreshment concession. Some 30 canoes participated and newly designed Narrow River T-shirts were distributed to all contestants. A similar River Fun Day---possibly with a "Canoe Rodeo"---is in the works for Summer '83. NRPA thanks the Forest Lakes people for their contribution to the day's success.

MEMBERSHIP: Last year NRPA had a goal of 350 memberships. We fell short of our goal with only 217 membership renewals. This year's goal is an even more ambitious 500. Our membership year is September-August, but 1982-83 membership renewal is off to a slow start. At this time we have only 61 paid memberships; 17 of these were repeat donations which are being carried over as paid members for 1982-83 (a complete list of you generous two-time givers appears below). Eighteen of these 61 members are Life members. Our membership goal of 500 is ambitious but we have 10 months to achieve it. Enclosed is a membership renewal envelope and our new brochure. We hope you will use the envelope and read our brochure and perhaps pass it on to a friend or neighbor who would be interested in joining NRPA.

Your renewal is important to NRPA not only because it helps us fund our programs and activities, including the newsletter, but as a membership organization it will enable us to speak with the strongest possible voice on behalf of Narrow River. We appreciate your support and with your help we will reach our goal.

NOTE the Calendar of historic and nostalgic scenes (see page one) offered this year with each \$25 membership contribution to the first 50 members who request it. We also have a few remaining 8x10 color photographs of a Narrow River scene offered last year, and even fewer (4) of the lovely silkscreen print by Shirley Sheldon. Please specify if you would prefer one of these with your \$25 contribution...we will try to fill your requests, while they last.

The 17 members who contributed twice in 1981-82 and have been enrolled for 82-83: J. & A. Brooke, K. Burg, W. Campbell, J. Cavanaugh, G. Davis, M. Dillon, R. Duce, J. Evans, Mrs. T.G. Hazard, C.F. James, P.B. Nalle, P.J. Pell, H.C. Pitts, Mrs. M. Reinhardt, G. Taft, J. Saunders, W.D. Watkins.

Ruth Briggs  
Secretary

NARROW RIVER NOTES

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Saunderstown, R.I. 02874

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