A WALK AROUND
THE POINT OF
THOMPSON'S POINT,
VERMONT
INTRODUCTION

This small booklet is not meant to be a history of Thompson's Point, Vermont, and even the title should alert readers that these materials do not lend themselves to such a standard or easy classification. Before we utterly confuse potential readers, some background information about the origin of this booklet seems to be necessary. This effort began last summer (1981) after your guest author, Morris F. Glenn, telephoned Mrs. Katherine Teetor, a Point resident, to request a tour of Thompson's Point for background material on his new book, Lake Champlain Album, Volume 3. A cheerful invitation to come over and take "a walk around the Point of Thompson's Point" thus proved to be the beginning of this effort. The essence of that walk is now very effectively presented as Chapter One. As you will find in that Chapter, the insights and comments are presented with an obvious love of the Point which could have only been provided by someone intimately associated with the Point.

We decided to limit this small booklet to the Point of Thompson's Point which allowed us to restrict our coverage to 31 camps out of a total of approximately 116 camps which are located on Thompson's Point proper. This was a difficult, but realistic, decision which was dictated by both time available and research opportunity. We realized when we began this project that the correspondence and research which would be required to document our short walk around the Point was in itself a mammoth undertaking. Just think of the added burden of contacting even a representative cross-section of 116 camp owners instead of limiting the number to 31. Many of these other old camps are just as architecturally significant and their owners are as interesting as those mentioned; however, they must await another future research effort. Subsequent paragraphs attempt to provide readers with a quick tour and some appreciation for the other Point camps.

A close look at our map, the compilation of which was a very time consuming task, reveals another promontory to the south running almost parallel to the Point of the Point, and this more southerly promontory is known locally as "Cedar Point." Over there we find rustic camps sitting atop wooded cliffs looking across the bright waters of Lake Champlain into Adirondack splendors. These camps are in close proximity to boating and swimming pleasures, and this part of the Point in covered by cedar trees (as the name suggests). Full-length porches at Mitchell's and Marvin's appear to be tree-top houses for the young at play and the increasingly less young at leisure.

Cartmell's holds down the marine corner of Thompson's Point where Cedar Point ends and the Flat Rock sector of Thompson's Point begins. At various angles, from Cartmell's broad lawn, the view encompasses Watteau-like land and marine landscapes of the opposite shores, revealing pastoral
splendors of the northernmost portions of North Ferrisburgh. On clear, crisp lake days, the well populated Point across Town Farm Bay to the south, Long Point, seems to extend a figurative hand in greeting and here boaters are more likely to complete that communication because most water traffic, in and out of the Bay must pass Cartmell's. The waterline is perfectly defined by a lengthy and impressive seawall, one of the few which have withstood the successive assaults of changing water levels, storms and ice. Sailors coming out of the smaller bays along the Point or power boats using Point Bay Marina are very familiar with the details of Cartmell's wall. In fact, it is a landmark known to almost all Lake Champlain boaters. Maneuvering around Cartmell's Point in a strong south (common) or southeast (unusual) wind, with the seawall fast approaching, can be a "capsizing" experience. For years, the Cartmell launch was part of Standard Rescue Procedure to aid Point boaters and others who dared the lake during stormy times.

As we proceed around Thompson's Point, the Flat Rock expanse of the Point has a near-Mediterranean quality when compared with other nearby environments. The many fissured rock looks like a running platform, sloping gently into the lake and it provides a natural playground for swimmers and sunbathers. Heavenly morning sunshine, unimpeded by trees, falls on this water-smoothed stone and the effect is best seen and appreciated from the lake. At one particularly lovely place, the Shaw camp rises high up, lifting its rectangular-shaped glass walls toward the sky; however, the building itself blends into a forested backdrop. It is a comparatively modern house, designed by the late Gil Shaw, to produce a testimony of the beauteous light of Vermont summer days.

The grand sweeping portion of Lake Champlain from here is to the west and south. The lake begins to narrow here and as one goes further south, the lake takes on the appearance of a large river. Town Farm Bay, formerly called Poor Farm Bay after the Town's Poor Farm which was once located on Thompson's Point, is a very busy place. Viewers will see Gardiner's Island, south of Long Point, also known as Admiral's Island, and two islands deep in the bay which belonged to the Dean family (formerly to the Bixby's). A house now occupies the larger of the Dean Islands. It was formerly a duck hunting camp and was of very modest proportions. Thorp Brook and Kimball Brook meet to form a fresh water marsh at the head of Town Farm Bay. When mentioning the existence of a nearby swamp, one is reminded of a story told by an early Thompson's Point guest. He recollected that he only saw one mosquito during his visit and that it was not on the Point but far out in the middle of the lake, and as a favor to present and future Point guests, he killed it!

Town Farm Bay is a protected haven for boaters and location of the busy, modern Point Bay Marina. It is a running ground for boaters in all kinds of craft from many points of origin, who seek a safe marina haven and varied scenery. Low-lying meadows across the Bay attest to the mouth of the Little
Otter and its large marshland. Barn silos on the horizon speak of the everyday working world but do not interrupt the enchantment of this recreational paradise. Charlotte's Mt. Philo and the greater peaks in the distant horizon present verdant variations of the green that provided the name of this mountain range.

Along the North Shore Road, there are many noteworthy camps. For example, the Baker camp, located about half way along the North Shore Road, occupies a lot covered with ferns, moss and cedars in a park-like combination. The topography is something out of a miniature Saikai landscape. There are rocky promontories extending out over the lake shore like flying buttresses and some adjacent crevasses which plunge down to the beach. The beach is covered by large, angular rocks; boulders of ancient vintage; small, wave rounded pebbles and freshly fallen slabs of shale from nearby cliffs. As these slabs become broken and eroded, they form skipping stones, so popular with young people. The overall lake view suffers from the denseness of vegetation but the park-like atmosphere along here fully compensates. This part of the Point has the appearance of one of Bruce Mitchell's window paintings which portray a new and different landscape in each pane. Here, all one has to do is to turn 360 degrees and achieve the same effect. The islands on Converse Bay are photogenic from almost any angle, and the surrounding camps with their subdued brown and green exteriors could grace a hundred commercial postcards. Readers are now appropriately warned that there many important beautiful locations on the Point which we will have to omit from our coverage.

Our walk around the Point of the Point also brought up for discussion the names of many influential and important camp owners, former guests and/or renters. This then began the research which provided the basis for Chapter Two, "Authors, Artists and Others at Thompson's Point." It was prepared with the help of a number of other people. Every attempt was made to insure the accuracy of facts and to verify spellings; but, inevitably some small oversight will creep into any volunteer effort such as this (and even into some professional ones). This entire booklet was a winter's project and at times, the work required seemed greatly out of proportion to the end product. As strange as it may sound, cold winter winds, ice and snow have helped to promote thoughts of summer days which are necessary to motivate an effort such as this one. The Winter of 1982 has cooperated with you, the readers, because each new snowstorm has provided us with the time and incentive to produce some new verbiage or another revision to improve the final manuscript.

MORRIS F. GLENN
KATHERINE A. TEETOR
DRAWING OF CARTMELL'S POINT AND WALL
(With the waters of Converse Bay shown behind T. P. proper.)
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Note: There are various photographs and illustrations included as unnumbered pages where appropriate. Photographs arranged to follow the course of our walk are included in Appendix II.
CHAPTER 1
A WALK AROUND THE POINT OF THOMPSON'S POINT

This is a Point for all seasons. All resident life forms—arboreal, aquatic, mammalian—know the extremes of autumn, spring and a near-Arctic winter. But the "summer people" (let no one say 'some are people') select the best of all seasons—summer—to inhabit the Point! So, let's stick to the summery Point and take a walk, choosing an afternoon in July. July, with its long days, is a romance promising that the season will go on forever. We also perceive that greens are greener and the blues of Vermont skies are bluer; clouds are more colorful and all of these natural elements reflect on Lake Champlain's surface in unforgettable combinations. August portends the end, days shorten and, for us, early September is Nature saying "Time to go home."

Our walk starts at the old "Ti" steamboat landing. The dock, itself, once respectful of the weather with its sharp-gabled, wood roof building, has now fallen victim to weather, winds and waves. Its broken, angled chunks are footings for casual fishermen and for hearty swimmers who prefer going into the lake head-first. Our old dock reaches a communal zenith each Independence Day when the annual parade ends here with speeches and echoes of "Ring, Grandpa, Ring."

Up from the landing, a real sidewalk, done in a city-style, good enough for Sunday strollers, leads east, ...just behind the Drye's, right in front of Opie's porch, past Williams', Ward's and Paul's. Diamond Island to the south, the main lake, some small bays opposite the Point, Snake Mountain towering over the distant shore, Mount Philo in Charlotte to the east all provide walkers with splendid landscapes. From the air, Thompson's Point has the shape of a huge lobster; but, from this southern shore, the coves and bays formed by Lake Champlain are multi-shaped and exhibit no definite overall pattern. Each camp has its own view and nobody else's is a twin.

"Camps" today perpetuate the activities of the earliest Anglo residents who originally chose the Point for hunting and frolic while erecting a tent suitable for camping. This first summer shelter, built in 1870, was a broad tent with a slanting roof, board walls and bunks for eight. Today's camps are more permanent but they also know the seasons all too well as our caretakers can attest. Repairs run from tiny (stubborn locks and the ever scarce keys) to medium (painting! All camps are of wood frame construction which predictably needs paint every five years but cosmetic patching is now the vogue) to colossal (leveling floors and raising foundations as every man-made structure here seems to rest on stilts). These are camps of many colors and hues of yellow, green, grey, cream and white. We will see that one has cedar shingle siding and that another camp is blue, thus providing us with some variety. Several camps, redolent in woody settings, keep the dark browns and greens of the early builders who wanted their structures to blend into the natural setting.
The sidewalk ends but the path continues, providing a full view of Hicks', with flowered borders, and Crane's, with a trim landing and stairs leading down to the water. At most points along the walk, pedestrians get a close look at the front porches and porch-sitters get a good look at passers-by. News and views are exchanged (here, a gentle affirmation that the word "gossip" derives from "Gospel," meaning good news). Voices reach us now from the Club float anchored in this first small bay. "You want to water-ski this afternoon?" "You really have the boat? This afternoon?" Teenage dolphins, able to talk in or out of water, hold down float space in all kinds of weather. The water-ski offer is a winner because sufficiently sized power boats are few at the Point. This small embayment could also be termed "The Bay of Vessels" (as is the larger bay to the south which has been so called since the Revolutionary War) because our small bay has moorings for boats and the shores are lined with canoes, Sunfish, dinghys, aluminum row boats, Squalls and a variety of family fishing boats.

The path is worn into the edge of lots as it wends its course around the lakeside, the banks get steeper, and we see some steps going down to the water (and a few docks). As the bay rounds out, where the Gibbs' place sets squarely facing south, the lawns will widen into green carpets. The Gibbs' camp, described as "carpenter Gothic" by its owner, is a red, white and blue (porch ceiling) landmark also evincing a very smart flag pole. Gibbs' beach is one of Lake Champlain's few real sand beaches and is popular with swimmers. McCormack's Point, the first of three sharp mini-points on this part of the shore, is the site of the first house at the Point, now owned by the McCormacks and it has been totally remodeled.

Path walkers will next enjoy a complete side and front view of the Nicholson's bright yellow camp. Its old name, "Water Witch," is somehow suggestive of its enchanting exterior which features a high balcony, made (and used!) for courting. In this oldest part of the Point, the next easterly neighbor belongs to the Fuller girls (now all wed) and their families. They have a dark green boat house on the water which is the only one on the Point. Here, the shore edge changes abruptly at Colby's, from a rock edged and ledged mini-point into a wide and flat kind of rock, yielding a perfect playground. Just across that small bay is the bright yellow "LaCasita," the Simpson's camp on Simpson's Point.

A very large white structure and newly redone yellow house with an open deck, belongs to the Rutters, one of our Point families who will sometimes have up to four generations in residence. Next, the Bedford's and the Carroll's camps nestle among giant trees and groves of cedars. Although most of the thirty-one camps at the Point no longer have distinctive names, just around the third mini-point are elegant exceptions as we find Kuennes' "Genequill," Outwater's "Pebble Beach" and Hall's "Osharenon." The path takes a turn at Braun's and goes to Price's where there is a "gazebo" or possibly a "tsingsa" as the Illicks on the North shore call theirs. The Association waterline runs all through here, which is really the modern day tie that binds the Thompson's Point Association. The waterline goes on to Mascott's, Palmer's, and Bicknell's camps where it ends.
The Association grew out of the old ice-cutting "company" that served Pointers and dissolved when electric refrigeration came to the Point. The Association presently employs the caretaker, provides the precious water service to each camp, maintains the lighting system and "umbrellas" many Point problems. Officers Ward Bedford, Rowland Illick, Bill Hall and Margaret Openshaw presently hold down the vital elective posts of the Association. Opie composes inimitable minutes which will be aired during the annual meeting held on the second Saturday in July, an immovable date on the season's calendar.

If we now turn and reverse our direction, a path leads to a road which, in turn, leads to the Thompson's Point road. This is the main artery and has the distinction of being the only State road on the Point and it goes right down the middle of the Point. The caretaker's house is on the left as one enters the Point on the main road and the present day occupants, Robert and Ramona Divino, have a mandate to tend and guard the houses in all seasons. In the summertime, the caretakers similarly assist the residents, just as their predecessors, the Pete LaBerge family, did for almost thirty years. The caretaker keeps a vigil on the waterworks whose mysterious (to most) chlorination, intake and pumping systems function despite antique equipment and a somewhat "unusual" design.

Running along the lakefront and down the main road are street lights which make "walking-the-Point" a hedonistic evening experience. Late night bridge players, revelers, moonlight bathers and romantic canoe couples, all appreciate some lighted help in finding their way back home. This mechanism, including a timing device, along with the waterworks, owe much of their vitality to the skills of John Outwater and Bill Hall who are (praises be) engineers.

On the right side of the road is "The Thompson's Point Country Club." The clubhouse and grounds are now the Point's watering hole and it serves as a modern replacement for the old "T" dock which was once the Point's most popular gathering place. The clubhouse porch with its "M&M" colored rocking chairs, holds something for everyone; sports talk and sports rest-up are its chief functions. There is iced water for pooped tennis players, running space for kids and dogs, room for bridge parties, wedding receptions, anniversary celebrations, film-slide shows, and crafts classes. Thanks to Norman Ansley, there is a Club library.

The structure itself—one large room closed to the weather, a back storage room, a lavatory and sink, and a three-sided porch—has been many colors in its sixty years of life. It is currently a bright yellow, attesting to the skill and energy of an all volunteer crew. It holds a ping-pong table complete with night lighting which serves to provide a place for "some" night life. The entire thing is as multi-purposes as any metro "civic" structure. There are two clay tennis courts, fading luxuries elsewhere, here made possible by the help of many (especially Hank Hagar and Mike Moore). There is also an all-weather court, built in 1973, which stretches the playing days which can otherwise fall victim to Vermont rains. A club "pro", currently Byron Mitchell, sees to the daily maintenance and instructs
youngsters and adults in the intricacies of the game. The ladies have a weekly tennis round robin which lends a sense of competition to the long summer days. The grounds have a shuffleboard and a kiddie playground for "all ages" sports.

However, Club suppers are the big, all-ages events on the Point. Social chairmen plan and serve, assigning dishes to the legion of talented resident cooks. Jane Barton, Barbara Colby, Kay Teetor and Annie May Hicks have taken their turn as chairman of these events. All participants deserve some honorable mention but of special note are Virginia Rutter's Texas specialties, Helene Moore's vegetable wonders, and Peg Reid's fruit pies. Annie May, super competent in dealing with large numbers, planned the 60th Anniversary party held at the Old Lantern in Charlotte. Her memorable suppers have included wine and entertainment along with a fixed menu for many memorable events (i.e. ham, potato salad, cole slaw, apple pie especially made for a Vermont night, complete with an auction; turkey salad and all the other necessaries for a Hawaiian evening; food and decor for "Christmas in July"). These events have provided memories of companionship and festive times for the young of all ages.

Just across the north shore, behind the clubhouse, is the Hammond's camp which is located high atop Buckwheat Bay, itself on Converse Bay, enjoying a cameo view of the New York shore and of the long reaches of Lake Champlain to the west. A spirited explorer might choose to walk the lake-shore from this point back to the western extremity; however, poison ivy, tangled woods and steep paths suggest a different approach. The main road passes the rear of the lots belonging to seven houses which will all be visible from the road except Sackett's and Hawley's.

Thompson's Point is omnis divisa two shores--the South and the North. One claims the serenity of sunrise, the other the grand tranquility of sunset. Southerners have the lake at their feet; Northerners, nesting eagle-like atop rocky cliffs, enjoy wide horizons. However, the Point is fortunate in that the hospitable South-shore residents share the water access with their more land-locked North-shore neighbors and, conversely, the Pointers on the South-shore do indeed cross the road to view and share the advantages of the North side. The camps on the North-shore were built at a later date and have been subdivided into odd parcels. For example, one odd-lot contains the water tower which is the pride of the Association and best friend of all campowners since fire is an old wood building's worst enemy. Most camps have fireplaces (some built from Point rock) or some kind of antique stove and there are flammables everywhere in our old camps. Campers remember that fire wiped out the Indian Obanswain's place, the Hicks', the Sprague's, and the place in back of Currier's (just to mention our best remembered conflagrations). Marvelously, the Town now has a volunteer fire department; but, it is still comforting to know that we have the water supply, the knowledge of long-ago water-bucket brigades and the presence of fire extinguishers in all camps to serve as "back up." Two parcels on the "Northside" were reserved to be garage/boat storage sites that go with the "Southside" camps of the Ward's and the Drye's.
At any place on the main road bordering those North-shore camps, a short trip up the top of the cliffs will provide the walkers with spectacular views. It's all there—right there—looking north and/or west from Sackett's, Hawley's, Teetor's or Illick's. The Barton view, along with Reid's, is an illustration straight out of William Cullen Bryant's Picturesque America. The Four Brothers, Split Rock and the rest of that grand expanse of Champlain's Lake which stretches to infinity (or Isle La Motte, whichever is first) is an unequaled vista. From the lake, this part of the Point is a marine heaven and boat passengers on the lake can look up at awesome cliffs, rocks and trees of giant proportions. Gnarled cedars clutch tenaciously to the rocky cliffs which jut precipitously over the shore. Converse Bay holds three small islands; Picket Island is small and uninhabited but Cedar Island and Garden Island have summer camps which are reached by boat from the Point.

Back on the main road, it is apparent that the end of our walk is in sight. Water is once again visible on both sides as the Point begins to narrow. A cluster of mail boxes on the left will denote the end of through driving. At the small bridge (a spot marked "Cloven Foot" on some old maps) is located a steep gorge where we have a view of Barton's steps plunging down into the gorge which invariably brings the walker to a stop. Barton's steps which wend their way down into what we call "Point Gorge" for lack of an official title are a manmade marvel set into our own local natural wonder. It is one of the most impressive views on our walk among otherwise gentler scenes of camps, woods and lake. The view of the Split Rock Lighthouse from this area is probably one of the most photogenic views on Lake Champlain. The Barton's steps really work. They withstand the winters, and all this endurance is a testimonial to Charlotte's Richard Frink who designed and built the structure. The Reids are high atop the opposite wall of the gorge, their perimeter guarded by a firm fence......and here the road ends. The Currier's camp, across the way to the south, is a many-sided, red and white place that looks very much like a "Liberty Hall" (appropriately its old name). Twin boulders on the Currier beach are small landmarks attesting to the glacial history of the entire Champlain Valley. A knowledgeable source suggested that the parent rock of these boulders was to be located somewhere far into Canada. And there before us, once more, is the old "Ti" dock where landways and waterways met decades ago; where paths and people now meet—ending our walk.
CHAPTER II

ARTISTS, AUTHORS AND OTHERS AT THOMPSON'S POINT

Life itself is an art form as demonstrated by the varied activities of our Pointers and, as a result, summer conversations do truly have the proverbial and much sought after sparkle. Talents necessary to sustain our somewhat unique brand of summer life are everywhere and it is often difficult to separate the ordinary from the extraordinary. The more routine household arts such as the preparation of cuisine require a broad and practical working knowledge because food supplies, restaurants and the more rarefied urban amenities are somewhat distant. Live-in help is non-existent in this modern age so home skills must be applied by all. In summer, house and marine repair projects are part of the ordinary "work" ingredient for Jacks and Jills otherwise intent on summer play. Arts galore of a more ordinary nature can include gardening, preserving and party-giving. Competitive athletics add requirements for the art of playing great tennis and the art of great golf at nearby courses. Swimming, boating and lastly, enjoying the lake all require some art and skill. Ping pong, shuffleboard and croquet are our less splashing contests while bridge, chess, Boggle and puzzles attract the experts. All of these provide Pointers with the good times of old summertimes. We could write this chapter exclusively about the ordinary summer events, pastimes and flow of everyday life from July to September which repeats itself from year to year (if not generation to generation). Such a rendition would be predictably dull reading in comparison to the real life endeavors of our summer residents in the outside, everyday work world; thus we elected a very contemporary look at the work of our Point residents.

To make the writing and research project as simple as possible, we initially decided to look at only the very specific writing and artistic activities of our summer residents; however, at an early date, the requirement to add the unspecified category of "others" became apparent. This chapter is really a summary because it is limited to endeavors that were easily accessible to our research. At the outset, the task of selecting our subject artists and authors appeared easy but, there were so many choices. Not even one of our subjects could be easily labeled as author or artist which made our selection process somewhat less than precise. We also decided to omit detailed listings of our subject authors' and artists' professional and career attainments. We could not record the quantities of newspaper copy, advertisements and literature which had been produced in furtherance of Pointers' commercial and philanthropic causes. We didn't search out lectures, lawyers' briefs, sermons, treasurers' reports or speeches presented at either grand or lesser occasions. The choices were difficult and there is always the possibility that we have inadvertently omitted some individuals who accomplished even more than those listed herein or, more likely, that our selection of accomplishments for those listed may have overlooked even greater personal attainments.
People who have in some way produced literature about the Point were our first consideration. Back in 1899, the Vergennes Vermonter featured an illustrated account of life at the Point which was written by W. W. Higbee, then town clerk and local historian. As may be true of this present account, then contemporary Charlotte residents immediately seized upon the book's real or imagined errors and inaccuracies which in no way diminish the basic vitality of his efforts or its usefulness for us today. His early picture of the Point stands alone as a valuable record of the earliest days of summer life at the Point. Point resident Jessie Gibbs published a charming pamphlet subtitled, "Some Facts and Fancies about a Favorite Summer Resort." It was the result of a winter's project and is now a classic profile of a Vermont summer resort. In the early 1970's, Colonel Colby, who had been at the Point in utero and can now claim the longest residency, wrote "The Histories of the Cottages at Thompson's Point." Copies of this informal publication may be found at local libraries and it is a valuable addition to our local history. In addition, he wrote a number of published arguments to contest bureaucratic arrogance in order to restore the apostrophe to "Thompson's" in reference to the Point. A marvelous drawing set forth his argument about the apostrophe in an article published in the George Washington University Magazine. He was not alone in his battle and his troops labored to restore the missing punctuation mark. His rationale is set forth in "The Battle of Thompson's Point." As founder of the School of Journalism at that University, he had an added interest in grammatical correctness versus bureaucratic reasoning.

Donald Gibbs' incisive humor and recollective mind were well displayed in a poem which he composed for the 50th Anniversary of the Thompson's Point Country Club. Year-round Charlotte residents, Allen C. Moore and the late Russell Williams, have also preserved some gemlets of our local history. "Pat" Moore has set out some of the historical facts which are recorded in the town books and has also collected facts from local residents to produce a series of columns in the Charlotte News. With the light touch associated with the Williams' family spirit, Russell Williams compiled accounts of Point and Town occurrences which are assembled in a booklet, "Busy Work," now sold by the Charlotte Historical Society. He was an active photographer and the Historical Society has some of his negatives recording Vermont scenes which were dear to his heart. At the Point, William Carroll has a collection which must be considered as more than simple memorabilia on the Point. His photographs include scenes of the old Field farm, the Essex ferry, and the old tents which were the original "camps." A diary, written by Carroll's grandmother, describes camp life in the early days before our modern comforts changed our daily lifestyles.

Large chunks of local history are presently set forth and thus preserved for future researchers in The Charlotte News, a voluntary non-profit enterprise sponsored by the Congregational Church. Mary Williams King, daughter of Russell and Marion, has served as its editor since 1974. Her mother was only five years old when she came to the Point in 1909 and Mary herself came to camp directly from Mary Fletcher Hospital, only ten days old (some early roots and tender shoots of camping at T. P.).
If we take the time to go to a local library and look up the creative output produced by our resident authors and artists, a banquet of ideas has been assembled for the enjoyment of the rest of us. There is a wealth of output in many fields which has been produced by our summer campers. Almost none of that work is about the Point, but we assume that the refreshing summers and retained visions of Vermont have in some way illuminated hearts and hands in their year-long writing and artistic chores. The Point itself was predictably a moving inspiration in these endeavors and the halycon days of summer live on long into winter in affectionate minds.

There are dangers of sorts in doing biographical accounts because it is easy for readers to fall into a "catalog" or "list" weariness. Also, the writer(s) could succumb to awarding blue ribbons and prizes while not being in any way qualified to judge the relative merits of so many disparate fields of accomplishment. We have thus adopted the fearless motto, "Let the world decide!" in this presentation. The adjectives of praise and applause are for merit, of course, although they cannot be weighed in order to compare excellence in writing to that attained by others in art. Our praise in most cases is based upon documentation from that person's specific field while, in others, it is a distillation of spirit and observation.

Capturing visual beauty is an art practiced by painters, photographers and film makers. Caroline Reid McAllister, applying her skill mostly out in Redlands, California, is a photographer who specializes in portraits and public relations. Her pictures have been published in such magazines as Ceramics Monthly and West Coast Review. At the Point, she has taken a group portrait at the Club's 60th birthday and captured enticing portraits of youngsters in Lake Champlain settings against backdrops of leaves, flora and camps (in magnificent colors). Ben Price, once a photographer for the New York Herald Tribune and other publications, is the "official" camera man for the Point Fourth of July parade and similar local festivities. His aerial views and marine shots of T. P., done for the Bicentennial, are cherished records and many camp owners have framed and mounted his gems in their photo albums.

Those who wield the paint brush abound. Some have not enlarged their audiences beyond a "family public," but their work is observed to draw admiration. Jocelyn Gibbs, Dorothy Rutter and Charlene Barry produce sketches and scapes. Dorothy has been a painter all her life as her undergraduate days were devoted to art and she has now passed along hints and appreciation to her grand-daughter, Robin Rutter Price, and son-in-law, Bob Kalteyer, among others. In addition, she has an amazing array of creative output in other crafts: metal flowers, upholstered sofas and chairs, painted rugs and paper collages. Dorothy has shared her artistic skills with other Point ladies and has even offered a class. Many other campers have artwork to their credit although we may never have seen them in an outdoor setting at their easels or boards, if indeed they ply their skills around the Point. We might search for reasons--too many kibitzers? Too many children or dogs? Too much rain? We will continue to search for answers.
A knowledge of visual arts, dramatic themes along with directing and producing requirements all combine in Colby Films, Inc. headed by Carl Colby. He has either produced or directed the following films: Franz Kline Remembered, 1981; Edith Wharton: Looking Back, 1981; Jack-A-Boy, 1980; Kid Thomas and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, 1976; Fat Tuesday, 1975; and, Gene Davis, 1974. Fat Tuesday was winner of the Best Film Award of the U.S.A. Film Festival and Gene Davis was nominated for a CINE Golden Eagle. Edith Wharton: Looking Back was a one-hour dramatized biography produced in association with the National Endowment for the Humanities shown over PBS through Exxon's Great Performances. Franz Kline Remembered was a half-hour documentary on the late abstract expressionist artist, Franz Kline. It was a Courtney Sale Production for the Atlantic Richfield Company. Carl's resume lists 16 films which include the more noteworthy ones previously mentioned. Is artistic ability inherited? Acquired? Here we observe a lineal descent of ability because great-grandfather, Prof. Charles E. Colby, a professor at Columbia University, painted watercolor studies. Some of these paintings, which are still located at the camp, included locomotives of his day. A great-aunt, Sabra Colby (later Mrs. Walter Tice), enjoyed working with charcoal and her sketches are also at the camp where she spent most of the summers of her life.

Music, another of the Muses, won the lifelong dedication of both Howard Mitchell and W. Don Hammond. Howard Mitchell became the principal conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D. C., and he served with that organization for 36 years. Unlike the sometimes rapid in-and-out careers of present day conductors, he started with the National Symphony while still a student at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and worked his way up through the ranks. He was principal cellist for eight years, then appointed assistant conductor to Hans Kindler whom he succeeded as conductor in 1949. His recordings are many and he has distinguished himself in his field. He was considered conservative in his musical tastes (this evaluation from The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians); nevertheless, he introduced premiers of modern works. In the 1950's, he conducted Paul Creston's Fourth and Fifth Symphonies, Quincy Porter's "New England Episodes" and Villa-Lobos' Symphony # 12. Later, while serving as music director emeritus for the National Symphony, he took up the principal directorship of the Symphony Orchestra in Montevideo, Paraguay in 1969. He has been repeatedly honored and has received the following: the Ditson Award of Columbia University; a Citation of Merit from the National Association of American Composers and Conductors; and, an award for distinguished service from the National Music Council. The Mitchells (Alma Mitchell has since passed away) loved Vermont so much that they planned to make their permanent home in the town of Charlotte. Howard originally came from America's heartland, Lyons, Nebraska and grew up in Sioux City, Iowa where he developed his appreciation for the pastoral peace found in rural scenes of meadows and water. As a young musician, he started on the trumpet and piano, and today, as an enthusiastic and attentive grandfather to the many young Mitchells, he continues to impart his devotion and appreciation of music.
Flutist Don Hammond has performed in commercial music endeavors for all of his professional life. He is versatile and played the saxophone and clarinet while performing with large dance bands in the dizzying fashion of life on the road. "After leading a life of sin and joy with the clarinet and saxophone," he concentrated on flute and recorders. His work has centered around the music community in New York City and he has played with Kostelanetz, Stokowski and Toscanini. You might even have seen some of his concerts in the New York area when he played at Carnegie Recital Hall. Hammond compositions have been played at Carnegie Hall and in Town Hall. He has written the music for a Brass Quintet record, and a Hammond flute album and a recorder album are some of his recent productions. Melodic strains from his practice flute have floated over the club house and tennis courts to produce a supreme kind of summer serendipity. Don's flute music has often been heard around the Point as a sharp accent to the refrains of our July Fourth parade.

A large part of Ward Bedford's life has been devoted to music and, even after events conspired to take him, successively, into the worlds of business, farming and politics, he has dedicated a portion of his time to musical endeavors and enjoyment. He studied at Westminster Choir College, where he is presently a director, and married Westminster graduate Mary Louise Bates who shares his musical enthusiasms. We interrupt this "musical interlude" to add that the many Bedford achievements were set out in his autobiography, For The Record, which was written with a characteristic lack of puffery--clean and concise. During part of his 16 years at Middlebury College in the Music Department, he directed the Middlebury College choir. Ward came to Vermont especially to fill that post, stayed, and chose T. P. as his summer haven. Crayton Bedford, the next generation, has studied voice and sung in choirs and aria groups, thus continuing a family tradition.

More brief musical "notes" of note: Gloria Shaw, widow of Gilbert Shaw, was a dancer with the Martha Graham group after studying at Bennington College. She has performed choreography and led dance groups, some of them in her homes at either Cornwall or on Flat Rock. Music may be in the air (birds, waves against the shore, an amateur barbershop quartet and/or guitars) at the Point but musical intruments themselves are often hard to find. Pianos do not thrive during the long winter season but there are a few hearty survivors around in camps, often the victim of kiddies' "Chopsticks," but also regularly used for practice by the more gifted.

The written word commands audiences of perhaps of a different kind. Thompson's Point authors have added a goodly share to the libraries of our time. Two works by Point authors seem to have the honor of achieving the widest general audiences. They are: William E. Colby's Honorable Men: My Life With the CIA and Jeffrey Simpson's Discipline of Power. The former book is by an acknowledged leader in his field and the latter book is by a professional journalist. Bill Colby spent his entire public service career in intelligence, becoming Director of the CIA in 1973. His book, undertaken with Peter Forbath, includes some autobiographical material but it is primarily an analysis of the "three cultures" of intelligence and chronology
of world events as he lived them in Europe, during the Cold War, and South-east Asia, from the start until the end of the Vietnam war. The latter third of the book reviews Colby's part in the reorganization of the CIA following Watergate and the period before a new Director was named by President Ford. The book jacket says it well: "Here is the real description of spycraft by a man who knows it intimately, both from field experience (in wartime France and Norway and as a CIA operative in Scandanavia, Italy and South Vietnam) and as a senior official and Director of the CIA in Langley." The book was published in 1978 and has been translated into many languages. The autobiographical material in his book is of particular interest because portions of the book were written in the summers of 1976 and 1977 while "in camp" at the Colby summer place on the Point. Page 28 of the book reads:

There were also other forces at work on me during the youthful years. There was, for example, all the traveling we did. In my first sixteen years, my father was posted back and forth across the world and all over the country, from the Panama Canal Zone to Tienstcin, China, from Minnesota to Georgia to Vermont....The longest period of settled life that I experienced in my youth was the three years I spent at high school in Burlington, Vermont, where my father had been assigned as an ROTC instructor at the University.

And--Thompson's Point--just fifteen miles away for the youthful pursuits of glorious summers, then and later with his own family as time allowed.

The sub-title of Jeffrey Simpson's book, published in 1980, is "The Conservative Interlude and Liberal Restoration." Jeff is in print frequently in some form or format as he is London Bureau Chief of Toronto's The Globe and Mail. A graduate of the London School of Economics, Jeff has written extensively about relations between Quebec and the rest of Canada and he has covered federal elections, experience which served him admirably as preparation for writing this book. Discipline of Power examines the nine month period in Canadian parliamentary politics when the conservatives won power after being out of majority leadership for 16 years. The book jacket notes: "...[this book] offers a panorama of Canadian politics, examining the personalities and issues of our time. It paints a disturbing picture of the nation's political life in which problems were allowed to fester while politicians scrambled for partisan gain." In 1981, Jeff was the sole recipient of the Governor General's Award for the best non-fiction, Canadian book. There were 14 consecutive weeks when his book was listed on the top ten best sellers' list. This Canadian writer has spent many Vermont summers at his family place which his paternal grandmother, Anita Simpson, first spotted and fell in love with in the early 1920's.

This paragraph is not meant to resemble a ribbon-bestowing ceremony for Thompson's Point; so, the designation "only" has to be taken in the context of a small number of houses. T. P. has the "only" locally resident editor and publisher of a nationally distributed stockmarket investment advisory journal, Growth Stock Outlook (GSO). Charles W. Allmon, long time renter
at the Point, also publishes the related Junior Growth Stocks, and both publications grew out of endeavors which were once a hobby. Allmon had prior literary experience with National Geographic Magazine. That endeavor grew out of his post-Purdue travels and a hobby of photography. His travels and talents led to nine illustrated (with the aid of a camera) articles which were published in National Geographic Magazine and they included looks at Liberia, the South Seas, Barbados, Bermuda and the Virgin Islands. As his wife, Gwen commented: "We have taken to watching Chuck's hobbies." He has a particularly quotable comment about the stockmarket in general wherein he warns that, "Apples and worms go together." He has appeared before hundreds of groups and his term "Blue Gyps" encapsulates his feelings about private investing in large companies. Allmon's heroes are the so named "basement entrepreneurs." He studies balance sheets and estimates of individual motivation as the basis of his predictions. He started his newsletter while still working as a photo editor at National Geographic. In 1969, he became a full-time investment advisor, and he now manages a portfolio management service in addition to the two bi-weekly newsletters. Money Magazine last year chose Charles Allmon as one of "Eight Master Stock Pickers." Forbes featured him in an article that paraphrased its subject, "Modern portfolio theory is hogwash." Producing the letters seems a formidable enterprise for such a busy man as GSO monitors about 100 companies and Junior Growth lists another 200 companies (those he considers interesting but unproven). Pointers may, in a discreet way, seek out his advice and it sounds like a good idea to listen (in the E. F. Hutton tradition, if Allmon deigns to so speak). As evidence of his foresightedness, one of the early GSO issues (1965) carried a stock that has since gone up 7,100% since Chuck Allmon put it on his list.

Another fascinating "only" category is held by Bruce McAllister, our "only" resident science fiction writer. He is also a poet, editor and technical writing consultant. In 1971, he published a novel, Humanity Prime, and, since 1963, he has had 50 short stories published in such magazines as Fantasy and Science Fiction, Galaxy and If. For two years he was the managing editor of an anthology series, Best Science Fiction. He is also the editor of two other anthologies. Bruce's poems have appeared in a variety of literary quarterlies. For Sci-Fi lovers (and others), we have listed the publications that contain some of Bruce's short stories: 9th Annual of the Year's Best Science Fiction, Universe, Mars: We Love You, New Worlds, Best S.F.: 1969, World's Best Science Fiction 1970, Showcase, The Best from Fantasy and Science Fiction-19th Series, Twenty Years of Fantasy and Science Fiction, From Pop to Culture, Science Fiction and Fantasy, and 100 Great Science Fiction Short Short Stories. While in summer residence at the Reid camp, he may well have looked northward and divined mysterious objects or northern lights which appear in our sky (some Sci-Fi inspiration, T.P. style).

It seems safe to assert that more fiction talent is to be found around the Point though not yet expressed, and that those talents are surely beyond the scope of the usual fish stories although local fish stories also are observed to abound in suitable quantity and quality. Proud young fishermen who catch a few marginal sized perch over Fishing Reef (see map) also require the application of some art. The cleaning, preparation and cooking of these
Writing in the food field has been a hobby for Katherine Teetor. She published her early articles in Bon Appetit and Baby Post. Mrs. Teetor is presently the food editor for The Single Parent magazine, the journal for Parents Without Partners. The titles of some sample columns (sans recipes, a real treat for a food writer) include "The Low Tech Kitchen," "Etiquette: Getting Pleasure Out of Family Meals" and "Food and Love."

Norman Ansley edits a periodical of national scope called Polygraph, the journal of the American Polygraph Association which is published quarterly and covers important areas of law and law enforcement. Samples of articles include: "Techniques for the Expert Witness," "The Polygraph and the Criminal Law," and even, "The Polygraph in Poland." Norman is an active participant in National Polygraph Association affairs. Norman majored in police studies as an undergraduate at San Jose State, and law enforcement has been a large part of his career. He has had articles in such publications as: The Journal of Criminal Law (e.g. "The United States Secret Service, An Administrative History") and Security Management ("U.S. v. Oliver, A Federal Landmark Decision") and he has authored several books. One book is Admissibility of Polygraph Evidence in Criminal and Civil Cases, which reviews 427 cases involving use of the polygraph. That book dovetails with another Ansley-assisted quarterly publication, the Polygraph Law Reporter, which updates interested readers on law and legal literature concerning lie detectors. Along with Frank Horvath, Norman wrote Truth and Science, a bibliography that examines 1,700 citations. He also edited Legal Admissibility of the Polygraph. All in all, this list is far from complete but it is indicative of Ansley's modesty in reply to our query because there are 32 publications listed for him in Truth and Science. In summary, truth may be stranger than fiction but it is certainly much more difficult to assert as Norman's writings suggest.

Two of our resident engineers, mentioned elsewhere as being helpful with the vagaries of the Point water system, have also served upon a much wider scene in the sciences. Dr. John O. Outwater, Jr., presently a professor of engineering at the University of Vermont in Burlington, earned one doctorate at MIT and another at Cambridge University, England, the land of his birth. A combination of theoretical knowledge and practical application of engineering (his field is mechanical engineering) have led to varied endeavors. He has been retained as a consultant by many companies and he has clearances with defense-related agencies in his field. He has also performed valuable Committee work in various Associations working on education, micromechanics, interface, bioengineering and (yes!) skibindings, all of which cover quite a range of talent. He lectures and talks to organizations composed of industrialists, atomic scientists, orthopedists, and other varied specialities which are literally "too numerous to mention." His list of publications is long; therefore, we will merely number them as follows: 3 in metal cutting, 46 in plastics, 6 in glass, 4 in ski injuries, 6 in archaeology and, finally, 3 in bones and joints. He authored (with others) "Engineering Materials" and "Esplendor del Mexico Antigua."
William M. Hall, long associated with the Massachusetts based Raytheon Corporation, has worked in engineering fields that are mysterious to lay people but enormously useful in application. A list of his 24 publications reads like a "what's what" in Acoustical Engineering. A selective listing has the very sound of the phenomenon, "Sound," because we observe titles like "Reverberation Time Meter," "Logarithmic Measure and the Decibel" and "An Acoustic Transmission Line for Impedance Measurement." Such verbal combinations produce formidable mouthfuls of sound themselves. His earlier work on radar found written expression in Electronic Progress with "The Information Obtainable from a Radar" and "General Radar Equation" in Space/Aeronautics Research and Development Handbook. He is a demonstrated leader in his field and a major contributor to the science of acoustics. Bill, living in Lexington, Massachusetts, is appropriately a graduate of M.I.T.

Two of our other professors, J. Rowland Illick of Middlebury and Robert E. Kuenne of Princeton, continue to enrich their respective fields, geography and economics. Rowland, who won his PhD at Harvard, has had publications in professional journals of geography, and his extensive foreign travels are recorded in his own family annals. He was born in Nanchang, China and did not come to the United States until he was 17 years of age. During his Middlebury years, which began in 1946, he also taught at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon; the College of Minerals and Petroleum, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia; and in British Columbia and Manitoba, Canada. Bob Kuenne received his doctorate at Harvard and has taught at Princeton University since 1956 in his chosen field, economics. In 1963, he published "The Theory of General Economic Equilibrium." His studies of the marketplace led to the following publications: "Monopolistic Competition Theory: Studies in Impact: and "Microeconomic Theory of the Market Mechanism." He has served as a consultant with the U.S. Naval War College, the Institute of Defense Analysis and taught military systems analysis at the Army War College. Other publications are: "The Attack Submarine: A Study in Strategy" and "The Polaris Missile Strike: A General Economic System Analysis." In the summertime, Prof. Kuenne works in his second story study, treetop style, far above the gathering crowds of teen-agers who find the location of his camp at the Point a good place to gather.

History, always a magnet, has attracted the interest of Henry Frederick Bedford, Ward Bedford's oldest son. Because he has been an educator throughout his career, Ted Bedford's writing is oriented toward students of American history. His textbooks, The Americans: A Brief History (written with Trevor Colbourn) and The Union Divides: Politics and Slavery--1850-1861 can be enjoyed by a much wider audience. His other major works are Socialism and the Workers in Massachusetts, 1889-1912, Trouble Downtown: The Local Context of Twentieth Century America and From Versailles to Nuremberg.

Attorney Paul Teetor (later Judge) has had a broad legal career which has covered private, public and corporate legal fields, throughout which he has retained his earliest interest, history. During his early Middlebury years, he wrote a biographical pamphlet entitled "Warren Robinson Austin," which was distributed to all Vermont school children by the American Legion.
His Princeton work and University of California studies in legal history led to "England's Earliest Treatise on the Law Merchant" in the American Journal of Legal History. He has just completed a new book, A Matter of Hours: Treason at Harper's Ferry, based upon his maternal grandfather's experiences. This book, although in no way about the Point, has some relation to the Point because most of the writing has been done in his study looking north, over the magnificent sweep of Champlain's lake (surely an inspirational aid).

Many years of teaching mathematics inspired Crayton W. Bedford, younger son of the Ward Bedford's, to co-author a textbook entitled Fields and Functions: A Course in Pre-Calculus Math. Gwen Drayton Allmon, who has traveled extensively, chose Washington, D. C. as the subject for her book entitled In A Nutshell. It is a delightful guidebook covering the Nation's capital.

Doubtlessly, many Pointers have affected legislation in a myriad of fields of statutory or administrative regulation as reflected in earlier paragraphs of this chapter. A direct impact on Vermont legislation has been effected by Ward Bedford who was in the Vermont House for seven years and in the Vermont Senate for five years. He was head of a committee of three that wrote the Vermont State Colleges Act in 1961. He prepared the bill which established the Vermont State student aid program known as the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, in 1965. He was also one of a three man team that drafted the State Reapportionment Act. Ward regularly writes editorials concerning matters of public interest for the Addison Independent, a weekly newspaper in Middlebury, and these articles document his wide ranging knowledge of legislative affairs, especially those pertaining to education and finance.

Perhaps the writer with the broadest fields of interest in print is Colonel Elbridge Colby. Even though his literary works provide a road map of his distinguished career, specific details of these numerous and impressive accomplishments are outside the scope of this small booklet. Interested readers are referred to readily available biographical reference works for such detailed information. Colonel Colby's early love was English literature and he made a masterly study of the 18th century playwright, Thomas Holcroft, which became the basis of his Columbia doctorate. He also edited a two volume set, Life of Thomas Holcroft, for Constable and Company (London) in 1925. His 1936 book, English Catholic Poets from Chaucer to Dryden, explored the Catholic religious influence on a non-Catholic country. A 1965 book by Twayne Publishers detailed the life of an American writer, Theodore Winthrop. The book, Theodore Winthrop, was one of Twayne's "United States Author's Series," which is found today in all local reference libraries. Every school term paper on Winthrop which has been written since 1965 probably quotes some of the Colonel's work.

Colonel Colby served as a United States Army officer for 31 years, and his writing talents (as well as subject matter) were interwoven with his military career. His best known writings of this period concern the language
of military life: i.e., an eight installment dictionary of "Soldier Slang" (1929); a 1936 article in American Speech about "Soldier Speech;" and, just after Pearl Harbor, Princeton University published Army Talk (1942 and a 2nd edition in 1943). The Infantry Journal characterized Army Talk as more than a dictionary..."It is the story of our Army told in the stories of the words it uses."

Many of the Colonel's writings do not easily fit into either military or academic categories. During his Army years, the Colonel wrote and published literally dozens of articles and a half-dozen books of major significance on military science and others related to national policy. When H. L. Mencken put out his first issue of American Mercury, he selected an E. Colby article. Colby articles were also published in Current History, The Nation and Harpers Magazine. After his retirement from the Army, he began a second career in teaching journalism at George Washington University and, after his retirement from this career, he wrote reviews concerning more than 100 books for Best Sellers.

His military writing was important and reached a broad audience during some of America's most trying years. American Militarism (1934, Society of American Engineers) analyzed the lessons of unpreparedness in notable defeats and Masters of Mobile Warfare (Princeton University Press, 1944), a book on matters of strategy and tactics published in the middle of WW II, was directed toward his fellow officers. The section on the Duke of Marlborough had earlier won the Military Engineer's Toulmin Award. Colby served as Secretary of the Historical Section at the Army War College and his duties included the task of writing the history of the American Expeditionary during WW I. Another effort ended in 1969 when the U.S. Senate ordered the publication of the very readable The First Army in Europe 1943-1945, (pub. by U.S. Government Printing Office). The Colonel wrote his earliest book on a military subject at age 33 and it was The Profession of Arms (Appleton, 1924). The final chapter on "The Ideal of National Service" has been widely accepted as a credo for American soldiers and it was reprinted half a century later—a testimony to its continuing vitality. Another testimonial to the continuing importance of the Colonel's work is based on an incident which is reported to have taken place when a new Secretary of Defense asked an experienced General, Lawton Collins, Chief of Staff, for a book that would best orient him to Army life. Collins told him to read The Profession of Arms.

The Colonel's law review articles on military law and various aspects of justice were also important works. A strong interest in the problems of maintaining a standby reserve were outlined in a 1977 book, The National Guard of the United States (pub. in Manhattan, Kansas, 1978).

There were also other articles in fields far removed from English literature and the realm of the sword. The Colonel had once taught swimming and, most of all, he plainly loved swimming; thus, the Colonel wrote and published some material about his favorite sport. For him, it was a skill learned on Lake Champlain and one that served him well over the long years. Swimming and his other interests are well expressed in the selection of a bookplate for his library. It evinces waves and a soldier with a quotation from Beowulf: "We held our stout swords bare in our hands as we swam in the
sea." It is predictable that someday someone will reprint the Colonel's "Histories of the Cottages on Thompson's Point" and his bookplate would make an excellent cover "logo." ("Histories..." was written in residence at Thompson's Point.)

There is journalistic writing talent in large supply all around the Point and it finds professional application throughout the year. Carl Braun is equally at ease with words or "blue pencil" in his capacity as the editor of the Windsor Chronicle, a weekly in Southeastern Vermont. He also writes a column entitled "The Great Outdoors" for the Claremont Eagle-Tribune, which is published across the Connecticut River in New Hampshire. His father, Dr. C. E. Braun, known as Ernest, is now a retired UVM Professor who lives in Burlington and summers at T.P. Dr. Braun's writings were in his chosen field, chemistry, and appeared in professional journals during his teaching years.

/Editors note:
A quotation which should have been used on page 13 in the second paragraph was overlooked during our writing; however, it seems to make a good ending for this chapter. It reads:

Whenever I think of 'Artists and Writers' in a summer context, I think of a loose, white-suited gentleman delicately tugging a cat-gut line over the still waters of some cove, trying to tempt a trout into his net, all the while inventing little racy snips of dialogue for his next dressing-room scene. But, we're no longer Impressionists...thank God, we're Vermonters, if only for the summer.

(From a letter by)
Carl Colby
February 26, 1982/
BILL L'HOMMEDIEU's ILLUSTRATION FOR COLBY ARTICLE (Courtesy of George Washington University Magazine, Aug. 1969)
CHAPTER III

ECHOES FROM SUMMERS PAST

Even though our Thompson's Point work was not a historical exercise, one cannot help but be affected by the sense of history which is sensed to prevail. There are echoes of a different era which one feels at Newport, R. I., Saratoga Springs and other well preserved turn-of-the-century resorts. A walk along the much decayed Cliff Walk at Newport on a foggy Spring morning is a must for all students of American architecture. Thompson's Point may not bear a physical resemblance to those aforementioned resorts; however, the goals of its founding fathers were the same—to build a summer place where they could get away from the routine of everyday life. The success of their effort is embodied in these wonderful old camps which occupy the Point today. This small summer resort is an anachronism in this modern age and, to underline this aspect of our walk, we felt certain historical events of Summers' past were relevant.

In every published local history article, there are inevitably some items of regional or sociological importance of a broader nature. In this respect, the Higbee article on Thompson's Point (previously mentioned) includes such contributions to our Lake Champlain history. Today, any photographs which show steamboats and windmills are collectors' items and the Higbee article contains several such pictures. On the first page is a photograph of the old Thompson's Point windmill while another photograph shows the steamer, Vermont. Higbee describes the Glenwood Inn and, with the help of his photographer, W. H. Hall of Vergennes, he also includes an excellent photograph of the old Inn. Higbee also wrote an unpublished manuscript entitled "Around the Mountain" which will soon be published by the Charlotte Historical Society. The Gibbs' pamphlet is now a collectors' item and is almost impossible to find at any price. This pamphlet contains a quantity of information of interest to historians while, at the same time, serving as a classic profile of a Vermont summer resort. It is one of those "must" items for local and Vermont State libraries.

Two men who are prominently featured by early Point writers were Leslie M. Shaw and David J. Brewer. Leslie Shaw was a man of many talents but on the Point he is remembered as Secretary of the Treasury (1902-1907) for President Theodore Roosevelt. He was also 17th Governor of Iowa (1898-1902) and President of Cities Service Company (1908). After he left Cities Service Co., he devoted the rest of his life to writing. His publications included Current Issues (1908), Vanishing Landmarks, the Trend Toward Bolshevism (1919) and, at death, he left The American Payroll in an unfinished state. David J. Brewer was appointed an an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court by President Harrison on December 18, 1889. Previously, he was an elected judge on the Supreme Court of Kansas and he later taught law at Columbia Law School. He married Louise Landon of Burlington, Vermont.
which might explain his presence at Thompson's Point. The Brewer camp was prominently marked on the 1897 survey map of the Point (as lot 13 located in front of the steamboat landing). Judge Brewer was also an author but the most authoritative biography about him was written by Stanley Itson. As you might expect, all of Brewer's writing was in the field of law and none of his published articles were relevant to Point history.

The Roosevelt visit to Thompson's Point is one of the best remembered events in the history of the Point. The reason for including this material in our "Walk Around the Point of the Point" is to provide documentation for two little used photographs owned by Vermont Historical Society. One photograph in particular shows a high-peaked, gabled building standing on a dock constructed as a high crib of timber and stone. The dock is of a height to indicate that it was especially built to accommodate steamboat, passenger traffic. The other photograph shows the Presidential party aboard a small boat and is only included for our reader's information.

A body of local history as well as some verbal folklore has derived from the President's visit. Mrs. Katherine Teetor recounted this event in The South County News (August 1980) in an article entitled "T. R.'s Arrival Was a Big Day for Thompson's Point." A detailed version of his visit appears in Jessie Gibb's booklet which we reviewed in Chapter Two. Ralph Nading Hill recalled the President's visit to Lake Champlain in the Summer issue (1966) of Vermont Life. We will not reproduce the information found in these publications; but, will instead quote a part of a contemporary article from the authoritative State magazine, The Vermonter. This article was published in the October 1902 issue and provides us with the most detailed account of the President's visit to Vermont that is available today. Only the paragraphs relevant to the President's visit to Thompson's Point and nearby Shelburne Farms will be quoted as follows:

THOMPSON'S POINT

Thompson's Point is a picturesque promontory comprising rocky shores and wooded grounds on the Vermont side of Lake Champlain a score of miles south of Burlington. It is a charming spot with many pretty summer cottages. Hon. Leslie M. Shaw, Secretary of the Treasury, and Justice D. J. Brewer of the United States Supreme Court are among the distinguished summer residents of this delightful resort. The Shaw cottage lies in the shade of the sheltering grove and its broad piazza commands an extended view of the lake and Adirondacks. It was at this restful retreat that President Roosevelt became the guest of Secretary Shaw and his estimable wife.

As the "Elfrida" rounded the point on the lake and approached Thompson's Point a scene of dazzling splendor was presented to those on board. Innumerable colored lights were massed and suspended from heights and grouped and arranged in such a manner as to successfully convey the idea that they were hung from the facades of a number of large buildings facing the water front. The illusion was perfect and old residents might easily be deceived into the belief that
they were in a dream and that a fairy city had arisen in a moment from the waters of the lake. In addition to this the harbor was full of brilliantly lighted yachts and launches flitting about and casting the dancing glow of their lights upon the water. When the "Elfrida" hove in sight of this brilliant section of fairyland is it any wonder that the President exclaimed in surprise, "Is this the quiet little Thompson's Point you said you were taking me to?"

After a brief wait for a view of the spectacle the President was landed at the wharf, where he proceeded to the Shaw cottage accompanied by his host.

An avenue was roped off through the crowd of people who were waiting. The crowd of cottagers cheered the President lustily, and he bowed right and left cordially. The Shaw cottage was brilliantly decorated and illuminated, and here the President's long and strenuous day ended. He enjoyed a refreshing sleep, and Sunday morning he spent quietly with the few guests who had been invited to the cottage by Secretary and Mrs. Shaw.

Justice D. J. Brewer of the United States Supreme Court spent a half hour with the President Sunday morning. Lieut. Gov. and Mrs. M. F. Allen, Congressman and Mrs. D. J. Foster and Mr. C. S. Forbes also called at the Shaw cottage in the forenoon to pay their respects to the President.

At 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon the President left the Shaw cottage and proceeded with his host to the dock to take the "Elfrida" for Shelburne Farms, where he was to be the guest of Dr. W. Seward Webb.

Before boarding the "Elfrida" the President briefly addressed the summer residents gathered at the dock to bid him farewell.

SHELBURNE FARMS

President Roosevelt on his New England trip visited no place of such rare scenic beauty and pastoral loveliness as the magnificent Vermont estate of Dr. W. Seward Webb on Lake Champlain. Shelburne Farms has had many distinguished visitors in the past who have enjoyed the unbounded hospitality of Dr. and Mrs. Webb, but no guest was ever entertained more charmingly under the roof of Shelburne House than the President of the United States on the second day of his Vermont tour.

The President was brought from Thompson's Point to Shelburne Farms on Dr. Webb's handsome new steam yacht, after a delightful trip among the islands of the lake.

Landing at the dock and stepping ashore the President found himself a guest of honor on one of the most extensive private estates in America. ...
It would be a fascinating winter's project to compile an alphabetical index of all known Point camp owners and to cross reference this list against the card catalog of the Library of Congress. From what little we know today, we can predict that some previously unsuspected authors would be revealed in much the same manner as Chapter II reveals a surprising array of literary talent at the Point today. This exercise might also produce some surprises both in terms of authors and the books that they may have produced. We have discussed this aspect of Point history and it seems to be the most productive chapter of Point history left unrecorded by any writers (including us).

Such a study covering turn-of-the-century Thompson's Point residents would inevitably encounter elements of several national movements such as: the Chautauquan Movement (1880-c.1914); the "Back to Nature Movement" of Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir and John Burroughs (c.1880-c.1920); and, finally, the Suffrage Movement (1880's-1919). Col. Colby does not remember any Chautauquan meetings at Thompson's Point; however, he does remember them being held at the Queen City Park in Burlington. The real significance of this adult education movement on American society may never be measured. There was a virtual explosion of books by members of almost every profession during this era and almost every American felt the need for self expression in some artistic or written form.

There were many social forces in operation during the early days of Thompson's Point and all of them, in some way, impacted upon its history. The evolution of our rough and ready tent campers into more genteel campers housed in permanent structures is a matter of theory rather than fact today. The beginnings of the women's movement may have influenced the men to begin work on structures which were more suitable for the entire family or it may have been the "Back to Nature Movement" which espoused the beneficial health benefits of lake breezes and pine scented air for the whole family. Doctors were prescribing beds of pine boughs for asthma, tuberculosis and other respiratory disorders in combination with proper ventilation and fresh air. Doctors were even designing cottages with proper cross ventilation and suggesting window locations for health (in the late 1880's). Even today, it is difficult to imagine that any other location could be as rich in fresh air, clean water and refreshing views as is Thompson's Point, Vermont.

We might assume that these campers in their new cottages must have felt some nostalgia for their earlier, more primitive existence; hence, the popularity of "rustic" adornments and rough hewn furniture. Camps were inevitably stained or sometimes painted in muted earthy and natural colors. We could continue at length to track these ghosts of summers past via the architecture and extant historical records left in many of the original camps. Since the then resident authors did not document this interesting era of Point history when it was easily recordable, we must allow these few short paragraphs to alert readers about the existence of this untold story. Readers should also refer to some of the less flattering comments made by Rowland Evans Robinson about the early Point residents. When he heard that they were playing croquet in full dress on the Point, he wondered "what the world was coming to." No Point bookshelf is complete without some of his local works such as Sam Lovel's Camp. The same might also be said about the
State's very own distinguished author, Ralph Nading Hill. His Lake Champlain Key to Liberty is one of those "must" books for both entertainment and reference.

Ghosts of summers past abound around the Point as fleeting shadows on warm, moonlit Lake Champlain nights. Their incorporeal existence is the combined product of fond memories of summers past and expectation of summer present. In the morning, their departing reflections are seen in glints of light on dewy grass and moisture droplets on drooping leaves.

Marine activity has always been a part of summer life at Thompson's Point. It began with the small wooden fishing boats used by the tent campers for fishing and continues today with a variety of craft. The Sailing Committee of the Thompson's Point Country Club oversees summer races on Sunday afternoons. Commodore Peter Regan organizes and maneuvers his fleet of "wet suit" Sunfish and Sailfish. Since Thompson's Point is a peninsula, the choice of race courses can depend upon wind, weather and/or need for variety. Point races always begin at the old "T"i" dock and may go over to Split Rock Mountain; at other times, it is designed to wind among the islands of Converse Bay; and, other courses may turn among Clorox bottle markers out in Lake Champlain. Needless to say, every race has its own story and every summer contributes to the marine lore of the Point. Professor Outwater devised a traveling trophy for the summer's winner which is locally called "The Golden Horn."

There are several antique marine vessels of note which are still around the Point such as Barlow Reid's North Wind and John Paul's old wood launch. John Paul's experience with the Champlain Transportation Company and his engineering education qualifies him as the resident Thompson's Point marine expert. Bill Hall owns a Rhodes 19, Raha, and John Outwater owns the Osprey. The echoes of summers past will thus inevitably include some "putt-putt(s)" and "thuds" from ancient power boats as well as the "creak" of sails straining against polished wood.

The most elegant story of Point marine history concerns the "Navy of the House of Hagar." This is not an original title but one that springs from the fertile imagination of George L. Lawrence. He spent many happy summers visiting the Hagar family at their Thompson's Point camp. He was also a keen student of Lake history and, sometime later in his life, he undertook an ambitious writing and drawing project. He began the compilation of a manuscript book which was made up of sections which he physically cut out of U. S. Government charts and of original drawings which he produced on drafting paper. He carefully divided the entire lakeshore into sections and utilized the blank land portions of the U. S. charts to detail the historic events which had happened in that particular geographic area of Lake Champlain. If the event took place out in the lake, he marked the exact spot where the event happened with numbers, letters and other symbols to tie it to a written text. If one or more pages were required, they were hand lettered and appended to the chart. This was a true, one of a kind, book and it was never meant for publication. It was a gift to the Hagar
family in about 1936 for their consideration and friendship. In 1978, George Hagar gave it to the G. W. Blunt, White Library of the Seaport Museum at Mystic, Connecticut.

The various vessels drawn by Lawrence have been redrawn for illustration purposes by Richard Lash of Vienna, Virginia. The letters below refer to drawings which are seen on the next two pages. They are as follows:

A. Pumpkin Seed, 1885. This was the first boat of "Navy of House of Hagar." A flat bottom rowboat with pointed ends.

B. Jabberwocky, 1888. This was a boat especially built for the two small boys (Henry and George).

C. Crocodile, 1892. A green painted skiff. It was named after Molly Hagar who was found asleep in the new, unnamed vessel with her mouth open, an act she never repeated for obvious reasons. You can also imagine her chagrin every time a stranger asked, "Why did you name your boat, Crocodile?"

D. Madia, 1893. A keel yacht drawing 4'9". She had a topsail.

E. Mephisto, 1894. The first power boat of "Navy." It had a kerosene engine which was bought from the lighthouse keeper on Juniper Island.

F. Onajag, 1897. Bought with a glass cabin and later converted to a hunting cabin cruiser, a popular turn-of-the-century Lake Champlain design.

G. Saravan, 1925. A fairly large "V" bottom cruiser. (This vessel is not shown on drawings.)

H. Saravan II, 1926. Brought from New Bedford, Massachusetts, in the Summer of 1926. Lawrence helped Henry Hagar to bring her as far as Yonkers on the Hudson and later that summer, they took her from Thompson's Point for a sail on the St. Lawrence and back to the Point.

This elegant tradition is carried on today by the senior Hagar family member, George Hagar, who enjoys his 1958 Chris Craft, Fancy Free, and by Hank Hagar who commands an all wood, antique boat which bears no name. Hank's boat is a classic and provides Pointers with a serendipitous sight on a summer evening. Her thirty foot length is designed as a "cruiser runabout" (a kind of inverted hull design). The runabout's cockpit is forward and the cruiser compartment is aft, giving it the appearance of a nautical version of a stately Bentley limousine with the driver "up front" and the passengers "in back." This pleasure craft was built in 1929 by the American Car and Foundry Company and is made entirely of wood (the main portion is of mahogany over oak). The windshield is edged with nickel plate which catches both sun beams and star lights which are, in turn, reflected and refracted over the rapidly parting waters. The boat, once owned by Willard Vaughn, originally had its
own linens and china service but these perishable items were no longer on board when it joined the long line of Hagar boats. The "House" had five boats that carried the elegant name of Saravan over the years and Saravan V, which George Hagar sold some years ago, may still be seen at its new home in Essex, New York.

In addition to recording the vessels of the "Navy of the House of Hagar," Lawrence included some drawings of merchant vessels which were then passing by the Point, and this record has provided us with a valuable marine information resource. This, in some small way, serves to highlight our rationale for doing this pamphlet. Turn-of-the-century Point residents probably scoffed at the idea that there would be any value in someone sitting down and making detailed drawings of the everpresent canal boats which were then passing up and down the lake. Those contemporary summer residents probably said, "Why bother; everyone knows what those old canal boats look like." However, today, only 80 years later, we have very little idea what these old industrial relics looked like, or even how they worked. Mr. Lawrence's fragile drawings are one of our most important records about this aspect of Lake Champlain history and we must reiterate that it began during a summer vacation at a Thompson's Point camp. History continues to repeat itself and even though we can't predict just what part of this small booklet will help future historians, it is predictable that some small fact or view expressed herein may justify our efforts today.
VESSELS OF THE HOUSE OF HAGAR IN FRONT OF SPLIT ROCK LIGHT
APPENDIX I

SOME OLD FASHIONED NOTES ON A VISIT TO THOMPSON'S POINT IN THE SUMMER OF 1981

During the last century no self-respecting traveler would have thought of completing an important trip without making some type of written record. These documentaries were made in many forms and variety was the only constant which applied. Today, most travelers are content to allow a camera to record their visit and, maybe, at a later date, they may even annotate the back of their photographs. I will utilize an old fashioned tool, a trip log of collected recollections, to describe my visit to Thompson's Point during the Summer of 1981.

From my own summer place at the Crater Club in Essex, New York, Thompson's Point has always been a constant companion on the landscape. Its lights are bright beacons on dark, lake nights and the rhythm of their on/off pattern will sometimes set the pace on my own front deck. For example, as the lights in the camps on the North shore of the Point begin to disappear one-by-one with the cadence of the clock, I begin to feel sleepy and, when most of them are extinguished, I retreat to bed.

Thompson's Point is also the backdrop for all lake activity viewed from my summer camp and only the worst weather will obscure its presence. On a typical Fourth of July weekend, there are lights ablaze all over the Point and an occasional bonfire will attempt to compete with the stark, white blaze of man-made lights. On that night, there are boats sporting their red and green running lights adding to the variety of lights all around the Point. Even a match will reflect against the mirror-like surface of the lake and on a calm clear night, it also will briefly contest the other surrounding light sources. Split Rock light, a bright moon, the sweep of the Milky Way, nearby planets, distant stars and an infrequent flash from a car headlight will complete our Thompson's Point light show. Since we are talking about Fourth of July weekend, there is always some kind of fireworks display visible around or over the Point. I can just imagine the parental admonitions of "now be careful" and the other such commentary while the parents themselves secretly await the pleasure of the pending fireworks. You might call this another of our many communal rituals.
Except for Fourth of July fireworks, the only sounds produced by this light show do not emanate from the Point. Sounds, from over the lake, are produced by transportation vehicles. On a Fourth of July, there will inevitably be petroleum tugs announcing their presence with a low frequency "thud, thud, thud." You feel their arrival even before you see them coming. The tugs either push or pull huge barges filled with petroleum products for tank farms in Burlington or Plattsburgh. There is one unusual tug that moves silently up and down the lake because it is driven by a very effectively muffled turbine or electric motor, other than the more common diesel motor. Motor boats produce almost every imaginable whine, whirr, thud, thump and bang. They plod or sweep across the lakescape and the sound changes as they move (in physics, I believe that they call this a "doppler effect"). Only the haunting sound of a distant railroad horn reaches the New York shore from inland Vermont. In the Fall, we do hear the occasional gunfire of hunters on the South Slang of the Lewis Creek area.

We selected the Monday after the Fourth of July for our visit to the Point so that we would not interfere with the Point's busy Independence Day activities. The Essex ferry provides a convenient means of reaching Vermont from the New York shore and we were lucky to have a huge Lake Champlain Transportation Company ferry, Adirondack, at our service. Later that month, the Company received their new, small, energy-efficient vessel, Essex, and placed it in service on this route. I emphasized the "lucky" aspect because, just as we left the Essex dock, a menacing black thunderstorm swept down the lake. This ended our landscape gazing up on the deck and drove us into the large gift shop and lounge on the second deck of the Adirondack. We inevitably bought some Lake Champlain Monster tee-shirts, monster coloring books and a collection of postcards.

The rain stopped just as we landed in Charlotte and we headed for the Point. However, we made one small detour to follow a very seductive sign which promised "fresh, red raspberries" for sale. The offerer was unfortunately sold out but promised to pick and save some for us after the fields had dried out. Feeling somewhat disappointed, we once more set out for the Point. Perhaps I should add that my companions on this trip were my wife, Ellin, and Mrs. Louise Beatty. Another storm descended upon the eastern Lake Champlain shore and our next visible landmark was the very unusual, old Bucklin place. A strange looking structure greets new arrivals to Thompson's Point and it looks like a combination observation tower and water tank. Incidentally, Bucklin made his fortune by inventing a connector for freight cars and became something of a "character" around the Point. Another road leads to the Point Bay Marina. I had the misfortune to spend the afternoon at the Marina in the Summer of 1979 while awaiting boat repairs so I was all too familiar with this part of the Point.

Mrs. Teetor had advised us to look for the only blue house behind a stone wall, and this combination informed us that we had arrived at our destination. The sun chose that moment to reassert itself; however, the Teetors' front lawn was then awash with puddles and strewn with broken limbs. Tree limbs, heavy with wet leaves, drooped close to the ground and the lake view was obscured in a thick haze. This then, seemed like an ideal time for a house tour from the "inside." The Teetors' camp is representative of a
more substantial version of "carpenter Gothic" (so called on the Point) than is to be found at our own Crater Club. The materials used by Point carpenters are of a better quality and the finished carpentry is definitely a "cut above" that with which were were familiar. However, the use of dark green and brown stains for wood finish was a familiar trademark of these turn-of-the-century artisans. The stone fireplace, hidden nooks for storage, winding staircases and odd-shaped windows which revealed spectacular lake views completed the architectural picture on the first floor. As we went upstairs, it still radiated a pleasant warmth from the earlier sun. The patina of well used natural wood, a comfortable array of antiques and unparalleled window views from a higher vantage point were encountered. The walls stopped before reaching the ceiling, thus making all the rooms open at the top--obviously a "carpenter Gothic" design to combat the summer's heat. A ceiling exhaust fan had been installed near the peak of the roof which was the only readily apparent architectural modification since its original construction in 1910. Even if the rain precluded any further tour of the Point, this "indoor" house tour was well worth the visit.

Next, our host, Mr. Paul Teetor, showed us his "retreat" which was perched precariously near the cliff which formed a steep scarp many feet directly above a rocky lakeshore. The rocky beach, referred to locally as "The Silver Coast," is the first line of defense of these camps from the savage onslaught of lake waves, sometimes driven to oceanic size, down the long reach of Lake Champlain. The location is a combination of a crow's nest and Walden II. Mr. Teetor had moved the small servants cottage which had been located at the front of the camp and had installed a sliding glass door on the lake side. A spartan array of chairs, a desk and a minimum of office supplies furnished the interior. The walls were covered with a comfortable selection of books, and all I can say is--"What a place to work with words!" I know Mr. Teetor's research is based upon centuries' old legal history, but this everpresent view must somehow impact upon his thoughts and work.

We returned to the back porch of the Teetor camp and the sodden cushions were not quite ready for use. We then decided that the sky was so potentially threatening that our walk had to be now or not at all for that day. I will not attempt to repeat the particulars of that walk around the Point because our guide, Mrs. Teetor, after several months of encouragement, put it on paper. In fact, if memory serves me, there was a great deal of information provided that day which was edited from the final written work. However, rest assured that the major points are all recorded and properly edited for generations of future Point visitors.

After our walk around the Point of the Point, we rested on the back porch of the Teetors and watched the sunset over the far Adirondack Mountains with a few other guests. Later we enjoyed an excellent meal and for dessert we had some fresh red raspberries. This reminded me that our Charlotte farmer had promised to pick some berries for us so, in addition to meeting the last ferry, we also had to allow sufficient time to detour for the berries.
We thus left the Point well ahead of darkness and the drive back to the ferry was spectacular. The road to the ferry follows a ridge line and the surrounding fields allow an unparalleled view of lake and mountains. Only a few white, silver and blue silos, a few freshly plowed fields and an occasional farmhouse punctuate nature's beauty. Small side roads lead to Cedar Beach, the location of another thriving summer colony and the Converse Bay recreation area. The small town of Charlotte is a quaint Vermont village with its red brick structures and simple architecture. From here to the ferry, one encounters a variety of old and new architecture. There are stark modern designs with energy collectors mingling with kit-built homes. Nearby, a small side road (to the north) leads to a real Vermont covered bridge over a stream emptying into Lake Champlain. Wings Point, also to the north, is reportedly the site of Lake Champlain's latest summer home development. Garden Way research has expanded around the railroad tracks and one never knows when a new building may "pop up" to support their world-wide enterprises. Near the ferry, a sign points to Kinloch House, the former residence of Sir Wilfred Grenfell. The boat storage, repair and boat handling devices of McNeil Cove, despite their outward appearance of clutter, are a pleasant blending of landscape and industry.

Our quick stop by the red raspberry stand had made us a few minutes late for the last ferry. But fortunately at this hour, the ferry was still almost empty and the crew, waiting for stragglers, cheerfully waved us on aboard. The Adirondack was tied up for the night and we crossed on the much smaller Charlotte.

M. G.
Essex, New York
APPENDIX II

A MAP OF THOMPSON'S POINT

AND

INDEX TO MAP

AND

PHOTOGRAPHS