

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 46, No.3 December 2011

Building Strong



BRAC '05: Delivering Quality Training Facilities to New England Guardsmen, Reservists
Story on page 4

Yankee Voices

Delia Vogel, lames Hachigian and Zachery Koziol



Sympathy

... to Thomaston Dam Unit Park Ranger John Haluchak on the passing of his father, John E. Haluchak, of New Hartford, CT on Nov. 8. Mr. Haluchak served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and retired from the Connecticut Department of Transportation after 34 years of service.

...to former Public Affairs employee Cathy Collins on the passing of her husband, Jim, on Nov. 17.

On the cover

The Corps of Engineers, New England District recently cut the ribbon on five facilities for the 99th Regional Support Command, which will support training.

A Soldier from the 99th Regional Suport Command participates in a tactical exercise. Soldiers from the 99th Regional Support Command are air-inserted into a field training exercise.

Background photo by Staff Sgt. Nicole Dykstra. Foreground photo by Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris.

West Hill Dam Receives NLPD Letter of Appreciation

Dear Ms. Bramel:

Thank you for your support and participation during this year's National Public Lands Day. The event drew over 170,000 volunteers at more than 2,000 sites around the nation. These projects contributed an estimated \$17 million in improvements to federal, state and local public lands.

As the annual celebration of volunteerism on public lands, National Public Lands Day (NPLD) highlights the significance of community service to parks, reserves, wildlife refuges and green spaces. This year, NPLD focused on the connection between public lands and public health and the diversity of recreational activities available on our public lands. These topics were featured during our signature event in Rock Creek Park where U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Regina Benjamin, spoke to volunteers and community leaders.

I want to personally thank you for helping us acquire a gubernatorial proclamation from the state of Massachusetts. Thanks to you and *other* partners across the country, NPLD received a record number of proclamations, including 36 gubernatorial proclamations and 72 proclamations from cities, towns and counties. All proclamations can be viewed online at: www.publiclandsday,org/newsroom/proclamations

Success stories are coming in every day. We will be sharing them throughout the year with photos, videos, and written accounts from volunteers and site managers at www.publiclandsday.org. Sincerely,

Jessica Jones

Program Coordinator, National Public Lands Day National Environmental Education Foundation

(Editor's Note: This letter was sent to Park Ranger Viola Bramel for her exceptional work on the National Public Lands Day event at West Hill Dam.)



Commander's Corner: Selflessly serving the Nation, the Region, and the People!

by Col. Charles P. Samaris District Commander



"And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you...ask what you can do for your country."

- John F. Kennedy Inaugural speech as 35th President of the United States

Team,

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Happy Holidays to all! During the holiday season we invest lots of time and energy in

thinking about and doing things for others. We shop, wrap, cook, and some of us analog folks still get hand cramps writing cards. Bottom line: we serve others before self. So, I can think of no better time of the year to highlight the great service you render to the people of the Nation and New England.

Every day, members of the New England District team are out there on the front line of public service to this great region. This dedicated and selfless service takes many forms: a project engineer at a new border patrol station in Vermont; a long-standing regulatory office in Maine; a committed construction representative at a VA hospital renovation in Rhode Island; a hurricane barrier operator in Connecticut; a park ranger at a flood risk management project, with recreation facilities (of course), in western Massachusetts; and even manning a canal on Cape Cod. Although incomplete, this roster of high-impact actions emphasizes the scope, scale, and importance of what we do, that is: SELFLESS SERVICE to the NATION, the REGION and the PEOPLE.

So, let's delve into the concept of selfless service a bit. As always, it's all about the words and what they mean... clarity, specificity and understanding the true definition.

SELFLESS is an action word. Selfless is something we should be ourselves or see in others, rather than say we are or hear another's claim. Selfless is: 1) having little or no concern for oneself, especially with regard to fame, position, money, etc., unselfish; 2) devoted to others' welfare or interest and not one's own. Selfless is not easy. Why? First of all, it's not natural. Our instinct is self first, be it preservation, promotion, or pleasure. Sometimes it's tough to put other's

first when we have our own challenges at work or at home. No, selfless is not easy, because selfless requires...sacrifice.

SACRIFICE is a word you don't hear much these days, unless discussing the life of a Soldier or Civilian (or their Families) deployed to an overseas contingency operation (OCO). But sacrifice is not isolated to OCO. Simply defined, sacrifice is the surrender of something prized or desirable for the sake of something considered as having a higher claim [or calling]. For us, that higher calling is service to the Nation, the Region, and the people. Our sacrifice is placing the needs of the Nation, the Region, and the people before our own. The people of the United States deserve our very best effort. They are who we serve.

SERVICE, or to SERVE, are two very meaningful words. Service is pretty clear: 1) contribution to the welfare of others; 2) an act of helpful activity; 3) the supplying or supplier of commodities required or demanded by the public; 4) a department of public employment and its employees: *CIVIL SERVICE*. Serve is even more clear: 1) to be of use; 2) to be worthy of reliance or trust; 3) to discharge a duty or function; 4) to answer the needs of; 5) to contribute to. Service is about others, not self. We exist to serve – to meet the needs and insure the welfare of the Nation, Region and people – and be worthy of their trust. To serve successfully, we must do so selflessly, as stated in the Army Values:

SELFLESS SERVICE - Put the welfare of the Nation, the Army, and subordinates before your own.

You'll find some great stories of service on the pages of this month's edition of Yankee Engineer. From the Herculean efforts of many to get a challenging BRAC program across the finish line, to a ranger being recognized for excellent service by a sister federal agency, to the retirements of long-time and stalwart district public servants...these are not only highlights of the stories included herein, but also - and more importantly – examples of what you, the proud public servants of the New England District do every single day!

Essayons!

Serving New England since 1775!

"The general [or any civil servant] who advances without coveting fame and retreats without fearing disgrace, whose only thought is to **protect his country and do good service** for his sovereign, is the jewel of the kingdom."



Construction work at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in White River Junction, Vt.

Photo by David O'Conno

District implements BRAC '05 delivering quality training facilities to National Guard and Reserves

Members of the New England District team have been busy this fall cutting ribbons on five new facilities for the National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves throughout New England. The customer for all five projects is the 99th Air Reserve Center, headquartered at Fort Dix, N.J.

Under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program, some U.S. Military facilities were consolidated and closed. The program also called for new facilities to be built as part of that consolidation, such as the five facilities the District recently completed.

Ribbon cutting events were held for facilities in Ayer, Mass., Newport, R.I., Middletown, Conn., and Rutland and White River Junction, Vt. "This was the biggest military construction program we've had," said Sean Dolan, Chief of Construction. "Combined, the projects were about \$176 million."

The New England District worked closely with the Louisville District which is the National Program Manager for the Corps of Engineers' BRAC Reserve Program. All five facilities were design

build contracts and all had a completion deadline of Sept. 15, which was mandated by Congress in the BRAC legislation. The projects varied in size -- the largest in Ayer at about \$77.4 million (currently the largest project of this type in the Nation) to the smallest in Newport at about \$12 million – and most had varying degrees of challenges, but all were completed in time.

The Ayer project consisted of constructing an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) that included the center itself, a vehicle maintenance shop, regional training facility, organizational maintenance shop, multi-use class-room and unit storage. The project also required demolishing two existing buildings. "Work included paving, fencing, site improvements and utilities infrastructure," said Resident Engineer Jim Conway.

A project of this size didn't come without sizable challenges. "Phasing was a major challenge," said Conway. "The contract required certain buildings to be demolished in order for the new consolidated maintenance shop

to be built."

Another challenge was that part of the facility is located on state property, so different sets of building codes applied to that construction. According to Conway keeping communications and good relationship with all parties was a lot of work, but the extra efforts on the part of all parties resulted in a state-of-the-art facility. In addition, one of the buildings set for demolition was so enormous it was the largest DoD facility before the Pentagon was constructed; the other building set for demolition was not destroyed at the customer's request, which resulted in rewiring the building to upgrade the power distribution system.

Despite roadblocks, the New England District team and their contractor, J&J Construction of Lowell, Mass., cut the ribbon on the facility on Nov. 5. Team members who worked on this project were Conway, Steve Chase, Ruth Cormier, Paul Duffy, Ken Paton, Tim Coleman, Matt Gilchrest, Keith Gilchrest, Mike Adams, Joycee Boudreau, Don Hassett and Richard Kristoff.

"Contractors Steve Eaton, and Steve Porter supplemented our in-house team by providing quality assurance support," said Dolan.

Work on the \$54 million AFRC in Middletown included the construction of a five-story facility, vehicle maintenance stop and an unheated storage building. This project is currently the third largest of its kind in the nation, according to Dolan. Among the many features in the facility are classrooms, full kitchen, library and fitness areas. This impressive facility also had some impressive environmental attributes.

According to Jeff Perchak, Lead Civil Engineer for the project, this is the first AFRC in the United States that went partially green with a roofing system that has vegetated roofing materials over the main assemble hall. The plants will help reduce storm water runoff by absorbing more storm water than a metal or shingled roof would.

Other environmentally friendly features include solar hot water heating systems and photovoltaic panels that will produce 40 kilowatts of electricity and retention ponds and other water features that make a first class water management system. Ironically, the environmentally friendly Middletown project's challenges included wetlands and habitatissues that included protecting the Eastern Box Turtle, a Connecticut species of concern. According to Perchak, the District Team hired a turtle specialist and trained canine to locate the turtles so we could relocate them out of harm's way.

The New England District team and its contractors KBE Building Corporation of Farmington, Conn., and DeRite Construction Company, Inc., of Middletown, Conn., were also challenged with the removal of over 425,000 cubic yards of soil from the site to prepare it for construction. "That's about 21,000 dump truck loads," explained Dolan.

The bigger the obstacle, the more determined the team was to overcome

it. "With all these challenges, the construction duration was compressed to a mere 14 months for the facility and its related buildings to be completed," said Perchak.

The ceremony to officially open the facility was held Dec. 10. The Westover Resident Team members that worked on this project were Perchak, Ray Goff, Pat Devine, Kurt Mintell and Sue Loubier. Cori Rose handled the Regulatory issues for the project. Joe Redlinger and Kirk Bargerhuff also contributed to the completion of the project. "Lt. Col. Larry Rea and Lt. Dan Richardson, Army Reserve Officers with the Personal Force Innovation (PFI) Program, were significant contributors to the success of our project delivery team (PDT) as were contractors Eugene Bowen and John Boudreau," said Dolan.

The \$16.7 million facility at White River Junction had no significant construction challenges according to project engineer Dave O'Connor, but the District's Real Estate Division did much coordination prior to shovels hitting the ground. "Real Estate had an important role prior to construction in the acquisition of the property," said O'Connor. "Joe Redlinger coordinated with the property owner and the town of Hartford, Vt., over various issues."

Site work for this project began in March 2010 and was completed in July

2011. This project's ribbon cutting event took place Nov. 21. Contractor J&J Construction worked with the following District team members in completing this project: O'Connor, Jim Doucakis, Craig Hysler and Bob Casoli. Contractors Gene Sawyer and Jack Zebora were also important pieces of the PDT.

The AFRC project in Rutland included a facility with a multi-use classroom, organizational maintenance shop and unheated storage building. Immediate challenges with real estate acquisition threatened to prevent finishing the \$17.4 million project in time, but the New England District Team and contractor J&J Construction were able to work through them. "The issue set the contractor back about three weeks and it was important for them to begin before winter set in," said Conway, who was also the construction manager for this project. "In the end the contractor was able to adapt and make up the time."

Encountering additional ledge on the site also posed a problem. "A large modification was processed to blast a significant amount of additional ledge to allow for foundation and underground utility installations."

This particular project was completed just in time for immediate use. "We turned over the facility just days before Hurricane Irene hit," said Conway.

Continued on next page



Photo provided by Sgt. Elizabeth Strauss

Col. Charles Samaris (far left) stands with contractors and customers during the ribbon cutting ceremony at Rutland, Vt.



The Armed Forces Reserve Center in Newport, R.I.

District implements BRAC '05 delivering quality training facilities to National Guard and Reserves

Continued from previous page

"Vermont was significantly impacted by the storm, but the facility sustained no damage. Days after the storm hit, the facility housed hundreds of National Guardsman from all over the country who came to respond to the hurricane event. We are very proud of that facility."

Ribbon cutting ceremonies for this facility were held on Nov. 21. J&J Construction served as the contractor on the project. New England District team members who worked on this project were Conway, Ken Paton, Paul Duffy and Joycee Boudreau. Contractors Bob Cunningham and Gene Sawyer also participated in the PDT.

The \$14 million Newport AFRC was built on the Newport Naval Station. "Primary facilities include an AFRC training building, an Organizational Maintenance Shop, an unheated storage building, and organizational parking," said Project Engineer Edward Frazetta.

Though the smallest project of the group, the issues the District team and contractor J&J Construction had to face to get the facility completed in time were not. "The local gas utility

provider delayed installing the natural gas service to the buildings for eight months forcing the contractor to push back mechanical completion and commissioning," said Frazetta.

Issues with the type of card entry system required, maintenance contracts, and qualified elevator inspectors also attempted to hamper the project. Despite the challenges, the Newport facility was completed on time and was officially opened on Nov. 5.

New England District Team members who worked on this project were: Frazetta, Michael DeGrazia, Sarah Sin-

clair, David Havron, Maurice Beaudoin, Jeanette Cline and Kane Turmelle. PFI Reservist Sqt. Brian Noel also lent a hand to successfully complete this project. With these projects completed, the New England District team is now focusing on completing the rehabilitation on existing AFRCs in Cranston, R.I., and Brockton, Mass.

Future construction will take place on Pease Air Reserve Center in N. H., (awarded at \$6 million), Danbury, Conn. (awarded at \$34 million), and the not yet awarded Attleboro, Mass, and Bridgeport, Conn.



Photo by David O'Conno

An interior view of the Armed Forces Reserve Center in White River lunction. Vt.



All traffic lanes open on the Bourne Bridge

by Timothy Dugan Public Affairs

All four traffic lanes on the Bourne Bridge, spanning the Cape Cod Canal in Bourne, Mass., are open, according to officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

The lane restrictions put in place while steel repair work was performed above the road deck on the Bourne Bridge ended Dec. 16. Steel repair work will continue below the road deck on the Bourne Bridge until the fall of 2012. There will be occasional times in the next couple weeks and through the fall of 2012 that a one-day lane restriction will be required and put into place to complete the Bourne Bridge steel repair work.

The \$8.5 million Bourne Bridge and Sagamore Bridge repair project involves the removal and replacement of structural steel secondary members, the strengthening of existing structural steel members, the replacement of structural fasteners, the removal of selected existing welds, and the strengthening of selected gusset plates.

Completion of the steel repairs is critical to maintaining the integrity of the bridges, which are vital components

of the transportation system for the Cape, the Islands and southeastern Massachusetts.

Work on the Sagamore Bridge will begin after winter and continue through the fall of 2012. Temporary lane restrictions, reduced to one lane in each direction, will be put into place in the spring of 2012 for about 4-6 weeks to perform the above deck work on the Sagamore Bridge. Also, there will be occasional times throughout this work schedule that a one-day lane restriction will be required and put into place to complete the Sagamore Bridge steel repair work.

Message boards and fixed signage will keep motorists advised of work efforts and travel restrictions. Accessing the Cape Cod Canal website (use the link: CapeCodCanal. US, then Bridge Alerts) will inform motorists of work status and other adjustments to the schedule.

Those who want to be notified of changes to the bridge work schedule can sign up for the Bridge Alerts email notifications.

To sign up for the Bridge Alerts send an email to: Cape-CodCanalBridges@usace.army.mil with the subject title "Bridge Alerts." An email alert is sent when there are major changes to the bridge work status or schedule.

Project Management's Tim Beauchemin retires



Cathy and Tim Beauchemin cut the cake during the retirement ceremony.



Attendees munched on pizza during the luncheon.

Family, friends and coworkers of Tim Beauchemin, Project Management, crowded into the Massachusetts/Connecticut Conference Rooms, Dec. 1, to congratulate the Boston Bruins' number one fan on his decision to retire.

Fifty-eight people munched on pizza as they recalled funny stories and memories with Beauchemin during his career. Scott Acone served as master of ceremonies for the day. Other speakers included Gene Brickman, formerly of New England District's Geotech Branch and currently at NAN, Steve Dunbar and Bud Taylor.

Beauchemin's friends and coworkers presented him with a gift card to the Bass Pro Shop and a Boston Bruins' Stanley Cup Bobble Head doll. Acone presented Beauchemin's wife, Cathy, with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the District.

Lt. Col. Steven Howell, New England District Deputy Commander, and Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management, represented the Executive Office and presented Beauchemin with a Bunker Hill Plaque and his official retirement certificate for his 33 years of faithful federal service.

After the presentations, Beauchemin got up to speak, thanking everyone for coming to his lunch and saying that he will miss everyone but will stay in touch. He ended with a gift presentation of his own: Beauchemin talked about his wife's famous Anisette Christmas Cookies, an annual tradition that is cherished by members of Engineering and Programs/Project Management. As a parting gift to the attendees, he brought a box of the cookies for them



Tim Beauchemin receives his retirement certificate from Lt. Col. Steven Howell.



Judy Antonellis was one of the many attendees at the retirement luncheon.



Tim Beauchemin shakes hands with Gene Brickman, who came from New York District to wish him well.



The retirement luncheon's decorations reflected Beauchemin's love of the Boston Bruins

to eat. Sources say that not one crumb was left of the famous cookies.

Beauchemin's wife, Cathy, and son, Dan, accompanied him to the lunch. His other son, Paul, was not able to attend. Retirees who attended were Sue Holtham, Terry Wong, Greg Buteau, Joe Colucci, Mark Otis, Bill Mullen and Nick Forbes.

Beauchemin plans on joining private industry with his own engineering firm.



Attendees enjoy listening to the presentations during the retirement luncheon.

Park Ranger Vogel retires with 34 years of service

By Park Ranger Zachery Koziol Birch Hill Dam

Many members of the NAE family stopped by McNally's Grille & Pub in Westminster, Mass, Nov. 18 to celebrate the retirement of one of their own. Barre Falls Dam Park Ranger Delia Vogel has finally decided to call it quits after 34 years of federal service. Her friends and coworkers wished her the very best in her future and thanked her for her selfless service and sacrifices throughout her career.

Vogel started her career in February of 1977 with the U.S. Air Force, where she worked in their Civil Engineering, Contracting Division & Contract Administration Office. She began her career with the Corps of Engineers in 1986 working for the Western Area Office out of Westover Air Force Base.

During her time at Westover, Vogel administered many contracts and gained an invaluable skill that would prove beneficial to her later on in her career as she made the transition from the construction branch to the operations branch.

In 1998, Vogel made the move from Westover as an administrator managing big dollar contracts, to Barre Falls Dam as a Park Ranger managing visitors, woods and wildlife.

According to her Manager Ralph Gendron, Vogel experienced a bit of a culture shock at first, but she grew to demonstrate a high level of commitment to the natural resource management position. As her years and experience grew, Vogel truly excelled in her role as a Ranger. During her time at Barre Falls Dam, she accomplished many tasks and became a leading contributor as an interpretive ranger for the Lower Connecticut River Basin and beyond.

Vogel has made numerous notable contributions during her career. She



Joe Faloretti, Ralph Gendron, Delia Vogel and Joan Gardner at the retirement luncheon in Westminster, Mass.

Photos by Brian Murphy

assisted in overseeing the removal contract for the former water quality lab from Barre Falls and made numerous repairs to the project office building post demolition. In 2003 she was awarded the New England District Interpreter of the Year Award. In 2004 she served as the temporary project manager at Buffumville and Hodges Village Dam. In 2009 she served as the temporary project manager at Birch Hill Dam. Vogel also took a lead role in researching and presenting interpretive programs in support of the Corps celebrating the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark explorations.

Vogel was presented the Com-

manders Award for Civilian Service by Deputy Chief of Operation Joan Gardner and LCRB Basin Operation Manager Joseph Faloretti.

As she reflected on her career with the Corps at her luncheon, Vogel said she looks forward to enjoying time with her husband, Richard, and their newly expanding family. Her son, Anthony, and his wife are expecting their first baby, and she says she is very excited about her new role as a grandmother. Vogel is also looking forward to having more time to explore and expand on new and existing hobbies such as baking home goods, sewing, tag sales and most things craft related.



Gary Rogowski presents Delia Vogel with cards and gifts during her luncheon.

Volunteers Work to Reverse Adverse Impacts by Invasive Plants at Edward MacDowell Lake

By Joshua Levesque Natural Resource Specialist

This past fall, nearly 20 employees from Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS) gathered at the New England District's Edward MacDowell Project in Peterborough, N.H., as part of the company's Volunteer Service Day -- a program that the company created to encourage their employees to give back and volunteer their time on outdoor projects that benefit their local community. This year's focus, and in years past, was on the removal of invasive plants such as European Glossy

Buckthorn, Oriental Bittersweet, Autumn Olive and Japanese Knotweed. Natural Resource Specialist Joshua Levesque began the day by informing the volunteers of the havoc invasives were having on the natural resources of the project. "There are more than 11 invasive plants adversely impacting the natural habitats and their functions at Edward MacDowell Lake," he said.

Levesque pointed out that without the help of volunteers and



Photo by Joshua Levesque
An EMS volunteer cuts evasive plants during Volunteer Service Day.

efforts like Volunteer Service Day parks and outdoor recreational experiences will continue to suffer and the ability to combat this epidemic looks grim. Park Manager Jason Tremblay informed the group that the spread of invasive species are posing major obstacles to the management of the project's natural resources and recreational opportunities.

Each year, Tremblay continued, the project spends approximately 10 percent of its contractual budget on the control and management of invasive species. "The Corps of Engineers works closely with other state and federal agencies to combat the spread and control of invasives, but with increasing demands and diminishing budgets, contributions from volunteers are invaluable," said Tremblay.

Many of the volunteers cited personal reasons for coming to the event. "I love the outdoors and want to see it

protected," said Susan Valez of EMS. "This is my backyard."

Levesque then instructed the volunteers on the identification, treatment and proper disposal of the invasive plants that they were going to encounter.

The publication from the University of Connecticut, "Guidelines for Disposal of Terrestrial Invasive Plants," that Marty Curran the District representative on the Invasive Species Leadership Team, made available to the volunteers proved extremely helpful. Levesque also provided the group with colored printouts for identification from the National Resource Conservation Service. Some of the unique safety

issues of working with these invasive plants and the hand tools needed for their removal were also demonstrated. "We want to cut these plants with loppers or hand saws and treat the stump," said Levesque. "Treatment during the fall dramatically increases the effectiveness of the herbicide on these plants. The plants are starting to store nutrients for the coming winter, naturally drawing the herbicide into their root system."

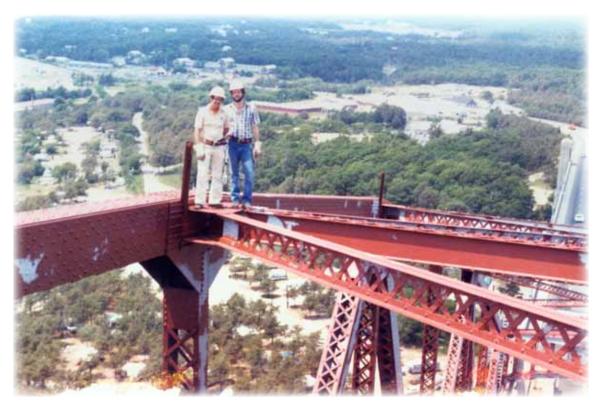
The volunteers

were then broken up into teams and armed with loppers, roundup and protective gear. In one day, the volunteers treated or removed all of the invasive plants on nearly 5 acres and along 3.5 miles of trails at the project.

The work was hard, but enjoyable for the volunteers. As they worked, calls of "Go Buckthorn Slayers!" in reference to the destruction of one of the invasive plants could be heard on occasion.

The monetary contribution of the volunteer effort was estimated at \$3,000, and a direct cost savings from our invasive control management budget of nearly \$4,000. More importantly, however, are the experiences of working with a volunteer group and the spirit of community involvement created by this bond between the volunteers and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Vreaz Wh



Cape Cod Canal Team Members Frank Vilkas (left) and Frank Fedele (currently Chief of Operations) stand on the Span 1 arch of the Bourne Bridge in Bourne, Mass., looking to the mainland in this circa 1980 photo.

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