

Letters

September 22, 1993

To the editor, Sprintsail,

There is a small omission in the fine *Sprintsail* article on the history of House Music in Woods Hole (Vol. 7 No. 2) which I'd like to bring to the attention of your readers. I refer to the house music played Sunday evenings in our kitchen on Millfield Street during the winter of 1944-45. We called ourselves the Bach, Beer and Recorder Society (which could also be rendered as Bock Beer and Recorder Society). This group played a wide variety of musical instruments in addition to recorders. The enclosed photograph shows Mary Lou Smith at the organ and some of the recorder players (see caption). Not shown are Charlie Wheeler and Phil Newmark who played violins and John Korff of the U.S. Coast Guard who played the clarinet. Another faithful recorder player was Arnold Arons. Interest in recorders was begun by Jack Decius, an accomplished recorder player and chemist, when he joined the Navy-7 Project at WHOI. His interest sparked others of us at the lab which in turn spread outside the Oceanographic. Fortunately there was an excellent source of recorder ensemble music at the Boston Music Company (easily reached by train!) and fine instruction manuals. We all worked hard at our technique and were thoroughly pleased, as authors of your article, William Simmons and Celia Fuglister, note house musicians are, with our performances for ourselves.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Ferris Smith



Some of the "house musicians" on Millfield Street in 1944-45. Back row, left to right: Wistar Janney, Paul F. Smith, Jack Decius; front row: Patsy Redfield, Mary Janney and Mary Lou Smith.

6 October 1993

Dear Ms Smith,

First, my congratulations on the magazine that *Sprintsail* has become. I enjoy each issue and pleasantly recall the day eight or nine years ago when Redwood came over here to talk about the dream he was carrying around in his head.

But, as you know, readers never write unless they want something (or have found an error!). My purpose is to ask if you would send the enclosed note to Douglas N. Clark, author of the piece on the mail service in your current issue. I am wondering if he would be able to write on the subject, perhaps enlarging it somewhat, for the *Intelligencer*, of which I am editor.

Thanks for your help and please relay my best wishes and congratulations to Redwood.

Sincerely,

Arthur R. Railton, Editor

Dukes County Historical Society
Box 827, Edgartown, MA 02539

July 11, 1993

To the Editor, *Sprintsail*

I was in Woods Hole and visited your museum two weeks ago to my enjoyment.

I also picked up a copy of *Sprintsail* Summer 1993 at the bookstore and was delighted to find an article of depth and great interest to me and to my family, on the subject of "House Music." In that article my father is mentioned, Bernard van der Hoeven, of East Dennis, MA (p. 11).

Since my brother is now retired and living in Asheville, North Carolina where he plays the cello and makes a great deal of House Music, and since I am going to visit him at the end of July, I would love to take along a copy for him.

I wonder if you could send me three copies of that issue of *Sprintsail*? I am enclosing a check for \$20.00 hoping it will cover cost of mailing 1st class as well.

Thank you!

Yours sincerely,

Gay Oliver
Ithaca, NY