

From the Editorial Board

Even in a town as old as Falmouth, it is notable when an institution marks its centennial. Falmouth's local newspaper has been *The Enterprise* for 100 years. For 66 of those years it has been owned, published and edited by three generations of the Hough family. The editors of *Sprintsail* salute *The Enterprise's* long service to our community and congratulate the Houghs for their years of professional skill, dedication and integrity.

Newspapers rarely make history and reporters are not historians. Instead they seek out what is new, what is happening now, even what is going to happen soon. A local newspaper is a chronicle of current events, informing readers about the day to day activities of their town and its residents. A good newspaper, like *The Enterprise*, also has a sense of history, an editorial perspective that can place events in a larger setting. *The Enterprise* has further contributed to the history of our community by reprinting news from 20, 35, 50 years ago, and with lengthy articles in the spring Mail-Away edition.

But a newspaper's principal role in history is as raw material, the source of information, numbers, quotations—the bits and pieces from which historians assemble a view of the past. It is a resource which can be mined not only for its news and features, but for pictures and advertisements which tell us how we dressed, what we ate, what we did for fun and what it all cost.

For *Sprintsail*, *The Enterprise* has been a gold mine. At least half of our 18 issues—including this one—have articles in which the paper has been cited, and our story on Falmouth in World War II (Winter 1995 issue) was put together almost entirely from *Enterprise* reports.

So it is as students of history and as citizens of Falmouth, that we express our appreciation to *The Enterprise* and to the Houghs, for their important and continuing contribution to the strength and well-being of our community.