



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

Statement on harmful and offensive content

The Hunt Institute Archives contains hundreds of thousands of pages of historical content, writing and images, created by thousands of individuals connected to the botanical sciences. Due to the wide range of time and social context in which these materials were created, some of the collections contain material that reflect outdated, biased, offensive and possibly violent views, opinions and actions. The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation does not endorse the views expressed in these materials, which are inconsistent with our dedication to creating an inclusive, accessible and anti-discriminatory research environment. Archival records are historical documents, and the Hunt Institute keeps such records unaltered to maintain their integrity and to foster accountability for the actions and views of the collections' creators.

Many of the historical collections in the Hunt Institute Archives contain personal correspondence, notes, recollections and opinions, which may contain language, ideas or stereotypes that are offensive or harmful to others. These collections are maintained as records of the individuals involved and do not reflect the views or values of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation or those of Carnegie Mellon University.

About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

October 7, 1935

Dr. Geo. H. Shull,
Dept. of Botany,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Shull:

You may recall that last Spring, at the meetings of the American Philosophical Society, I spoke to you about the possibility of my consulting the botanical collections at Princeton in an effort to locate certain important records for New Jersey plants.

I find that I am going to have Mondays free from academic work this semester, and am therefore writing to inquire whether it would be convenient for me to come over to Princeton some Monday, probably in November, to see this material.

I am sorry to bother you in this matter, but I knew not to whom else to write. Perhaps, if this is not in your province, you will be so good as to turn my letter over to someone who can give me a reply.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr
Asst. Prof. of Botany.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of Biology

October 14, 1935

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.
Botanical Laboratory
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Professor Fogg:

Replying to your letter of October 7th we shall be very glad to assist you in every way possible in the use of the University Herbarium. This Herbarium has long been in charge of Professor W. M. Rankin, Emeritus Professor of Botany, and he tells me that he will be glad to have you and to assist you in every way on any Monday that you and he agree on during the month of November. I would recommend that you write to him directly at 5 Evelyn Place, Princeton, New Jersey.

I hope that when you come, I too, may have the pleasure of seeing you, although I shall not be in position to assist you particularly in the Herbarium work. That indeed will be wholly unnecessary in view of the fact that you will have the services of Professor Rankin.

With regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours

Geo. H. Skull

GHS/C

January 30, 1945

Hon. Walter E. Edge
State House
Trenton, New Jersey

Dear Governor Edge:

I learn with very deep concern that the New Jersey Department of Economic Development has recommended that Island Beach, popularly known as "The Phipps Estate" be converted into a public playground.

Quite obviously the Department which makes this recommendation is taking a very narrow and one-sided view of the educational, scientific and spiritual value of this area, which is recognized by biologists all over the United States and even in foreign lands as the last remaining area in which the typical Pine Barren vegetation and animal and bird populations remain in their natural condition.

It is everywhere recognized that the New Jersey Pine Barren Area presents unique vegetational aspects which are still only partially and inadequately understood and explained, although studies have been made and discussions written about them for more than a century.

As far back as the 1830's, John Torrey, the greatest American botanist of his day, and one of the truly great botanists of the whole world and of all time, assigned as the reason for taking up his residence in Princeton instead of New York City, that at Princeton he would have so much easier access to the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

Botanical Congresses have repeatedly made excursions to the Pine Barrens one of their most popular and instructive program features, and The Torrey Botanical Club, the oldest national botanical organization in America, has included an excursion to the Pine Barrens as one of its weekly Field Trips each summer.

The proposal of the Department of Economic Development would destroy an asset of the whole country, similar in significance to Niagara Falls, Jackson Hole, Yosemite Valley or any of the Wild Life Reservations, of the country, which are being preserved in the interest of all the people of the Nation.

2. Hon. Walter E. Edge 1/30/'45

The statement that has been published by the Department in question, that "it offers opportunities for surf and bay bathing, for boating and fishing, and at the same time provides adequate space for recreational facilities and the preservation of a wild and untouched seacoast without the encroachment of the one on the other" is clearly a contradiction of terms. You can not touch an area so fundamentally and disastrously as this proposal envisions, and still leave it untouched! To fence off a small, limited portion of this area as a wild-life reservation would not prove successful, because the very fencing to prevent intrusion would set up an artificial barrier to natural migrations that would disastrously affect the naturalness of the biological relationships. In a case of this kind we "can not eat our cake and still have it", and I most earnestly plead that you preserve to all the people, as it is in your power to do, an asset of vital importance, which those who would despoil it do not even understand.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

Geo. H. Shull
Professor Emeritus of Botany and
Genetics in Princeton University

GHS/k

SHULL, G. H.

GRAYHOME
60 JEFFERSON ROAD
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Feb. 6, 1945-

Dear Dean Fogg:

I am sending you herewith a copy of a letter I wrote last week to Governor Edge, which I think is adequately self-explanatory. I have sent it also to several of your colleagues, with the hope that as many as possible will write individually to support my assertion that Island Beach is of vital interest to people outside of the State of New Jersey. Resolutions passed by scientific and civic organizations and addressed to the Governor would also have a strong influence. I am so short of clerical assistance that I am hoping many others, better situated, will take a strong hand in organizing an effective resistance movement. Any help you can give, will be greatly appreciated. Prompt action is important. Sincerely yours, Geo. H. Shull

February 12, 1945.

Dr. George H. Shull,
Grayhome,
60 Jefferson Road,
Princeton, New Jersey.

Dear Dr. Shull:

I am indebted to you for your letter of February 6th and for the copy of your letter to Governor Edge. Although I have heard for several years of rumors that the lower end of Island Beach was to be "developed," I had not realized until hearing from you that definite recommendations had been made for its conversion into a public playground.

I have written a letter to the Governor registering a vigorous protest against any action which would jeopardize the significant value of this region as the last natural area along our coastline, and have expressed my sentiments concerning the outstanding significance of this region as an asset of the State.

My colleague, Dr. Wherry, tells me that he has also written to the Governor at your suggestion, and you may be interested to know that at a meeting of the Staff of the Department of Botany this morning, we voted to transmit to the Governor a letter of protest, to be signed by the Chairman of the Department.

I am calling this matter to the attention of several of my colleagues in the Department of Zoology, who, I know, are interested in the area and who, I am sure, will be willing to write to the Governor. I believe also that Dr. F. W. Pennell and Mr. Bayard Long, both of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, will be glad to register their sentiments. It occurs to me to wonder whether you have worked through Dr. Wilbur, who, I am certain, would be vitally interested in this matter and who is probably in a position, as State Forester, to bring some influence to bear.

Again thanking you for bringing this matter to my attention, and with warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Professor of Botany.

February 12, 1945.

The Honorable Walter E. Edge,
State House,
Trenton, New Jersey.

Dear Governor Edge:

It was with grave concern that I learned of a project which is under consideration to convert the Phipps Estate on Island Beach into a public playground.

As a botanist who has carried on field studies in southern New Jersey for more than twenty years, I feel that I am in a position to register a vigorous protest against this proposal. The lower end of Island Beach is the last strip of land on the New Jersey coast in which the natural vegetation has been preserved in anything approaching its original condition. As section after section of the Atlantic coastline has been despoiled by the advance of civilization, students, teachers and nature lovers from all over the country have come to look more and more upon this area as one of the last natural laboratories or classrooms in which to study the native flora and fauna in a balanced environment. I for one have taken students to this Island as the only locality within reach for the purpose of demonstrating matters of natural distribution and adaptation. The area is famous among botanists throughout this country and abroad for the number of unique species which it harbors, and must truly be regarded as one of New Jersey's finest assets.

I can conceive of no proposal for converting this strip into a playground which would not at the same time interfere with the delicate balance of nature, resulting in the ultimate destruction of its usefulness. I therefore earnestly hope that no steps will be taken which will in any way jeopardize the outstanding value of this region, which should really be set aside as a wild-life preserve.

Very truly yours,

John M. Foss, Jr.,
Professor of Botany.

GRAYHOME
60 JEFFERSON ROAD
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Feb. 15, 1945-

Dear Professor Togg:

I am grateful for your letter of the 12th and its report ^{on} what you and several of your colleagues are doing to help protect Island Beach from ~~simination~~ ^{simination}. I have not yet written Dr. Wilbur, but I can see that that will be an important step to take, so I will write him at once. I have about reached the end of what I can do personally, for lack of clerical facilities, but I am hoping that some of the rest of you will keep the ball rolling.

I sent out 40 copies of my open letter to the Governor, and have been greatly gratified by the response. Already 17 have stated that they have backed me up by writing or by getting resolutions passed. I am hoping

to get as large and effective a stroke as possible, now, while the iron is hot.

I had a letter from the Governor's Secretary which rather sidestepped the issue, and you may get something similar. I enclose a copy of my reply, which you may find of interest.

With best regards,

Geo. H. Skull

Copy

February 15, 1945

Hon. Walter E. Edge
State House
Trenton, New Jersey

Dear Governor Edge:

I received Mr. Gilroy's letter of February 1 written in response to my open appeal to you to save for posterity and for the Nation, the unique animal and plant life of the Island Beach area.

I regret to find that his letter is not responsive to the proposition that was set forth by your Department of Economic Development, which has caused great consternation among nature-lovers everywhere, nor is it responsive to the subject of my earnest appeal to you.

The important question is not so much whether the Island Beach area be under the guardianship of the State or the National Government, but whether the purposes and objectives of such guardianship be such as to provide perfect protection of this area from every kind of molestation that would alter its present status as a Wild-life preserve of such unique value that it is widely known and prized. It is to insure this latter objective that I have appealed to you for help. I feel that you are in position to exert a very great influence, probably a determining one, in the attainment of this end. If the settlement of this matter is to be delayed for a considerable length of time there is all the greater reason to keep an alert watchfulness against any step that might leave no unspoiled wild life there to be preserved.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

Geo. H. Shull
Professor Emeritus of Botany and
Genetics in Princeton University

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of Biology

March 29, 1945

Dr. John M. Fogg
Assistant Provost
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Doctor Fogg:

We are making very good progress in our movement to save Island Beach, and are now planning to broaden our base of operations by setting up a Committee to decide on objectives, methods of further procedure, and to insure a continuation of pressure over whatever period of time may be required to attain our goal or to approach at least as nearly as possible its attainment.

For the present I am assuming the duty of Chairmanship of this Committee, and Mrs. Eleanor Marquand will act as Secretary. Our plan is to have a Committee small enough that each Member may feel that he is an important factor in its success. With few exceptions we are appointing busy people not too remote from Princeton, and will try to so manage the affairs of the Committee as to require relatively few meetings, so that the duties of Membership and participation may not become too onerous. Mrs. Marquand has had a very long-time interest in Island Beach and other unique features of the Pine Barren area, has been in correspondence with the National Parks authorities on the subject, and has long been associated with the leaders of the Women's Garden Clubs, and other Women's organizations of the State and Nation. We are most fortunate in having her interest so deeply enlisted in this cause. I have asked her to select the several members for this Committee who will best represent the various Women's organizations.

I write to ask you to accept Membership on this Committee. Perhaps we can have our first meeting in about a month for the purpose of deciding on a name for the Committee; to receive a report on work already done and to share in the planning of further activities. Please let me know your decision and if for any reason you feel you cannot function as requested please suggest the most appropriate candidate for Membership, from your institution or local group, and oblige.

Very Sincerely,

Geo. H. Shull

Geo. H. Shull

GHS/k

GRAYHOME
60 JEFFERSON ROAD
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Apr. 12, 1945-

Dear Dr. Fogg:

It is now two weeks since I asked you to become a member of the Committee for the preservation of Island Beach, or to suggest some one else who in your judgment would most capably and appropriately serve as a representative of Philadelphia biological and nature-study interests. We are very desirous of completing the roster of Membership as soon as possible in order to get the Committee into our program of publicity. We believe we have made very important progress toward a successful prevention of the proposed development of Island Beach as a playground, but ultimate success may well depend on keeping up a continuous program of publicity.

over a longer period of time. We have had something on Island Beach in our "local press" almost every week since the effort was launched, the end of January.

I feel that the Philadelphia "natural history" group has approximately the same reasons to be interested in the outcome of this effort that we have here. We would greatly appreciate a helping hand.

I am hoping you will succeed in getting for my benefit, or rather for the benefit of this Committee, copies of any resolutions that have been passed by organizations in and around Philadelphia.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Geo. H. Shull

P.S. I enclose my latest, which I would like to have returned to me. This week we have a statement by Mr. C.H. Rogers, the Curator of the University's Zoological Museum, an authority on bird-life.

April 16, 1945.

Dr. George H. Shull,
Grayhome,
60 Jefferson Road,
Princeton, New Jersey.

Dear Dr. Shull:

I have taken considerably longer than I should to answer your letter of March 29th, with its invitation to serve on a committee for the preservation of Island Beach. Although I am, as you know, keenly interested in this matter, I have not been able to convince myself that I am justified in accepting membership on a committee the meetings of which I might not be able to attend. In addition to rather heavy administrative duties here, I have accepted a goodly number of speaking engagements during the next few months, some of which will take me out of town. Frankly, I am dubious as to my ability to meet with the committee if it entails my going to Princeton or New York, as I suppose will be the case.

I have consulted Dr. Wherry and Dr. Pennell, both of whom are interested in this matter but who feel that they would be unable to find the necessary time for attending meetings. Both, however, have said that if I were a member of your committee and found it impossible to go, they would be willing to attempt to substitute for me. I am therefore wondering whether you would consider accepting me as a member of the committee with the understanding that on such occasions as I might not be able to participate in the meetings, one or the other of these men would be present in my place.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Professor of Botany.

SHULL, G.H.

GRAYHOME
60 JEFFERSON ROAD
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Apr. 24, 1945-

Dr. John M. Togg Jr., Vice Provost
The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Dear Dr. Togg:

Replying to your letter of the 16th we accept your suggestion that we enroll you on our Committee, notwithstanding the fact that your obligations may interfere with your attendance at some of our meetings. But instead of having Drs. Wherry and Pennell to act as substitutes for you, we are asking each to become a member in his own right. By thus slightly enlarging the number of members, we compensate for unavoidable absences of members from the meetings. However, we would like to have our Members feel the importance of attendance if possible, and not al-

how the inclusion of a larger membership list, to become the basis of indifference.

We have a serious and difficult problem on our hands and will need all the active help we can get. We hope to manage the affairs of the Committee in such manner as to require rather infrequent meetings, while it establishes a small Executive Board to conduct its affairs as intensively as necessary between meetings of the Committee. We hope to hold our first meeting on May 12 at the home of our Acting Secretary, Mrs. Eleanor Margnaud, at which an official name may be adopted, a permanent organization be established, reports of activities to date presented, and plans and goals for the future considered. As soon as the details of plans for this meeting are completed I will notify those who have accepted membership.

Thanking you for your willingness to assist us in this project, I am

Sincerely yours,

Geo. H. Skull
Acting Chairman.

June 13, 1945

Island Beach a National Monument

A meeting of distinguished scientists and Garden Club leaders interested in preserving the natural beauties of our state was held recently to discuss the threat to the wild life of widely known and highly prized Island Beach, involved in the proposal of Commissioner Erdman of the New Jersey State Department of Economic Development that the State immediately purchase this property and convert a portion of it to a public playground and recreation center. The group included members of the faculties of four universities, Columbia, Pennsylvania, Princeton and Rutgers, the New Jersey College for Women, the New Jersey State Teachers College and members of the Torrey Botanical Club, the Zoological Society of America, the Audubon Society, the Geological Society of America, and several different Academies of Science, as well as the Garden Club of America, the Garden Club of New Jersey, the Women's Farm and Garden Association, etc. Also present was Mr. Oliver G. Taylor who came from Richmond, Virginia, to attend this meeting. He is a career engineer of the National Park Service, was for ten years Engineer of Yosemite National Park, afterward Director of National Park Service for six years, and is now Regional Director of the Eastern Area of the National Park Service.

After a statement of the situation involved in Commissioner Erdman's proposal and an informal general discussion in which all of those present participated, the group proceeded to organize as a permanent committee to seek the establishment of Island Beach as a wild-life sanctuary under the administration of the National Park Service. The official name of the organization is appropriately "Island Beach National Monument Committee". Dr. George H. Shull was unanimously elected Chairman and Mrs. Allan Marquand Secretary. An Executive Board was authorized to conduct the activities of the Committee between meetings. To this Board the Chair appointed Miss Emma Martin of Princeton, Dr. Ray F. Dawson of Princeton University, Dr. Thurlow C. Nelson of Rutgers University and Dr. John A. Small of the New Jersey College for Women to function with the Chairman and the Secretary.

The Committee passed Resolutions of appreciation to all of those, over thirty in number, who wrote letters of protest to Governor Edge or to Commissioner Erdman or both; to Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Supervisor of Recreation and Land-planning of the National Parks Service for making arrangements to have a representative of the National Park Service at this meeting; to Mr. Oliver G. Taylor, Director of the Eastern Area, of the National Park Service for coming all the way from Richmond, Virginia, to answer questions regarding objectives and methods of National Park Service; to Mr. C. P. Wilber, New Jersey State Forester and Director of the New Jersey Department of Conservation and Development, for a particularly helpful and sympathetic conference; to Mr. La Tourette of "The Packet", and Mrs. Samuels of the "Princeton Herald" and others for press courtesies; to the Phipps family for so effectively preserving the natural conditions of Island Beach for a period of twenty years; and finally, to Mr. Francis P. Freeman, the Curator of the Phipps Estate on Island Beach who has

- 2 -

zealously guarded the natural conditions of plant and animal life for a period of nineteen years. By unanimous vote, Mr. Freeman was made an honorary member of the Island Beach National Monument Committee.

The Committee seeks particularly to promulgate as widely as possible a knowledge of the spiritual and educational importance of this "last of a beach type unique along the Atlantic Coast". It will welcome assistance from every person of intelligence and good will in making this demand so vocal that every public official who has a responsibility in this connection must give heed. All over the United States there are distinguished people who will be waiting to see whether New Jersey is willing to sell a birthright of transcendent beauty for a mess of pottage.

60 Jefferson Road
Princeton, New Jersey

June 16, 1945

Dear Colleague:

This is a belated progress report on the effort to save the wild-life of Island Beach, New Jersey, and a request for further assistance. The generous response to my first request was most heartening, and has been of very great service in helping to enlist the interest of others. Our next problem is to get an enabling act through Congress, and we are very anxious to have this done before Congress adjourns. Can you assist by writing immediately two letters, one to your own Congressman, and one to Hon. James C. Auchincloss, M.C. in whose District Island Beach is included, in support of our earnest appeal for this action. For your guidance I enclose a copy of my own current letter to Representative Auchincloss.

With sincere appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

Geo. H. Shull

Geo. H. Shull

GHS/k

Copy

60 Jefferson Road
Princeton, New Jersey

June 16, 1945

Hon. James C. Auchincloss, M.C.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Auchincloss:

This brings to your attention the active efforts which are being made by a group of substantial citizens of New Jersey, augmented by distinguished scientists of nearby universities and academies of science in the Metropolitan areas of New York and Philadelphia, to save the natural beauty and the unique wild life of Island Beach usually known as the Phipps Estate, for present and future generations. As you probably know this most interesting area is threatened with destruction by the proposed development of a recreation center on a portion of it which would be expected to attract thousands of people and which would make the preservation of any of it practically impossible.

Over 30 scientists all over the United States have written letters of protest to Governor Edge against the threatened spoliation of this area which was listed in the "Naturalists Guide to the Americas" (1926) as the most perfectly preserved area of natural wild-life in the State of New Jersey. It is in fact the only remaining area of unspoiled seacoast north of Hatteras, and the National Park Service made a survey of it in 1938 and reported that the area is worthy of being preserved as a National Monument. That report was approved by Secretary Ickes, of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

In January, Commissioner Erdman of the N. J. Department of Economic Development recommended to the Governor that Island Beach be purchased forthwith by the State and a recreation beach and public playground be developed on it. This proposal caused instant consternation among all nature-lovers, and teachers of biology who have been taking their classes to Island Beach, year after year, and to distinguished biologists all over the country.

A Committee was recently formed to work for the establishment of Island Beach as a National Monument, and as Chairman of that Committee I write to ask your assistance. We are informed that the first step must be an enabling act passed by Congress. I enclose copy of a draft of such an act, as prepared by Mr. Newton B. Drury, Director of the National Park Service. We hope you will approve what we are trying to do, and will take occasion to immediately introduce a bill of this general purport and have it passed if possible before Congress adjourns. That seems to be the only way to head off other plans which seem imminent and which if once launched would prove disastrous.

Thanking you for your help toward the preservation of this important natural feature of our state, so widely celebrated for its scenic beauty and unique biological interest, I am

Sincerely yours,

GHS/k

Geo. H. Shull

Report to the
ISLAND BEACH NATIONAL MONUMENT COMMITTEE

July 1945

After the meeting in May, an Executive Board was appointed as follows:

Miss Emma L. Martin
Dr. John A. Small
Dr. Thurlow C. Nelson
Dr. Shull, as chairman
Mrs. Marquand, secretary

Having decided on the above name for the committee on the preservation of the Phipps Estate they now beg to report on their work to date.

An unsuccessful attempt having been made to deal directly with the Phipps Family, the committee consulted at length with Hon. C. P. Wilber, head of the New Jersey Commission on State Parks and Forests, who is strongly in favour of having the Estate taken over by the National Government so as to safeguard it against local politics.

Mr. Wilber told your committee that the representative in Congress of the Island Beach district, Hon. James C. Auchincloss, was the person to introduce an "Enabling Act" in Congress, which would allow the matter to be brought up again in about a year, and then, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, Congress could be asked to vote an appropriation for the purchase of the property.

Your committee wrote to Mr. Auchincloss and he replied that he was interested, but must inform himself further.

Meanwhile, your committee is arranging to have garden clubs and other associations and influential individuals, not only in his district, but also in the State generally write to him of the importance of this acquisition, and both the Audubon Society and the Torrey Botanical Club have published articles which we have sent to him.

Any pressure you can bring to bear on Mr. Auchincloss will be helpful. Your committee greatly appreciates your interest and will keep you informed of further developments.

George H. Shull, Chairman

Eleanor C. Marquand, Secretary

ISLAND BEACH NATIONAL MONUMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. George H. Shull, Chairman
Princeton University

Dr. W. L. Eikenberry
New Jersey Teachers College, Trenton

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.
University of Pennsylvania

Mrs. Lewis M. Hull
President of the Garden Club of New Jersey

Dr. A. K. Lobeck
Columbia University

Mr. Bayard Long
The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia

Miss Emma Martin
The Farm and Garden Association

Dr. Edwin B. Matzke
Columbia University

Dr. Thurlow C. Nelson
Rutgers University

Dr. Francis W. Pennell
The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia

Mrs. Edgar Allan Poe
Regional Director of the Garden Club of America

Dr. Walter M. Renkin
Princeton University

Mr. Charles H. Rogers
Princeton University

Dr. John A. Small
Rutgers University

Dr. H. K. Svenson
Brooklyn Botanical Garden

Dr. Edgar T. Wherry
University of Pennsylvania

Mrs. Allan Marquand, Secretary

Copy of telegram to Sec'y Forrester

Aug. 14, 1945

Tom Roberts saw me yesterday. Says he must do what he is told regardless of desires of other people. Wishes to move operations to new location through very heart of best area on Island Beach, making irremediable scar on area highly prized as wild-life area by thousands of intelligent cultured people. Please, please tell him to remain on original area and limit damage there as much as possible. Letter follows.

(Signed) George H. Shull

August 14, 1945

Secretary James Forrester
U. S. Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Forrester:

Supplementary to my telegram of even date, Mr. Roberts saw me last evening primarily to learn the source of my information that the Navy's experimental work on Island Beach is concerned with the development of rocket bombs. From the sea-beach at Seaside Park, New Jersey my youngest son and I watched and listened to the operations as one missile after another was dropped into the ocean on an afternoon in June just before my letter of June 23 was written. Such operations can not be completely hidden as "under a bushel", so our information was legitimately gained, and no one is at fault in the matter.

Mr. Roberts also inquired regarding the whereabouts of certain rare plants, apparently with the thought that he could teach his men to recognize them and thus avoid their molestation. I tried to explain to him that our interest can be only incidentally stated in terms of particular rare species of plants and animals which inhabit Island Beach. We have indeed frequently mentioned these rare species because the protection of rare species is more easily comprehended by the biological layman than the protection of the unique types of vegetation which characterize Island Beach and which are no longer found in their natural state on any other considerable area along the Atlantic coast anywhere north of Cape Hatteras. It is this unique lay-out of natural vegetation, not alone the specific elements of it, that we are seeking to have preserved. For example, the impressive panorama of sand-dunes facing the ocean are in a state of almost complete stabilization by the natural vegetation which grows on them, which has succeeded almost or quite without human assistance in accomplishing what has been a difficult and never-ending problem throughout the world, wherever active sand-dunes occur. We are more interested in these naturally stabilized dunes and the net of vegetation which keeps them almost completely on leash, than we are in the particular species found there, although we have also a very great

2. J. Forrestal 8/14/45

incidental interest in a beautiful and rare oriental *Carex* which has taken effective possession of a portion of this dune complex and which is reported elsewhere in the United States only in one area in the extreme Northwest. No one knows when or how this rare species attained its present very limited distribution.

Doctor John A. Small, Professor of Botany in the New Jersey College for Women recently reported on Island Beach to the Torrey Botanical Club, in the following terms, apparently without even thinking to mention any of the several rare species found on that area. He says: "If we should preserve representative pieces of natural vegetation as museum pieces for posterity here is what Island Beach has to offer: (1) Beach vegetation for nine miles on the open ocean, and an equal distance on the bay; (2) Dune vegetation in all stages of its dynamics; (3) Dune thickets; (4) Dune hollows; (5) Fresh marsh; (6) Salt marsh; (7) Acres of *Hudsonia* heath; (8) Coastal plain forest; (9) Southern white cedar swamp; (10) Bog." These types of vegetation can be maintained in a natural state only if left alone and protected from human molestation of every sort.

I hope I was successful in giving Mr. Roberts a clearer understanding of the objectives for which Island Beach National Monument Committee is earnestly striving, but I was only partially successful; and he brought me the alarming news that he is contemplating moving the locus of his operations from the place where they have been conducted up to the present time, to a point on the bay shore opposite the more northerly Coast Guard Station, which is right in the midst of the most precious part of Island Beach from the viewpoint of nature lovers. He proposes to drag all his heavy machinery through a sand road which still makes an unfortunate old scar on this part of the area, but which nature has already made considerable progress in obliterating. He would have to trim out the encroaching vegetation on either side of this sand road, and tear open the old wound, which could not be healed in another century of natural recapture. Then his group of about thirty (?) helpers would be going about their activities right where human agencies can thoughtlessly wreak their worst destructive effects on natural wild life.

This Naval experimentation has already done a deplorable amount of irremediable damage where it now is, and it is inconceivable that its work can be more successfully and effectively carried on at the proposed new location. The result must be merely to unnecessarily compound the damage already done, without any compensating benefit. Mr. Roberts tries to minimize the actual amount of damage already done, although he admits that his men have not been as careful as they might have been in protecting the interests of the property owners. He lamely says the property owners may present a claim for damages which will be honored of course, by the government. But settlement of such claims does nothing toward restoring the natural wild life on this area to the balanced condition in which it existed before this experimental work was begun.

3. J. Forrestal 8/14/45

Since Mr. Roberts says he must do as he is told, regardless of whose feelings are hurt or whose interests are damaged I appeal with all the earnestness I can bring, that you see that he is instructed to not move to the more northerly location but remain where he is and limit the area of damage to the spot which has already suffered unfortunate injury.

In June they were shooting from the shore, out into the ocean. Could they not continue to fire in that outward direction instead of firing across the land into the bay? Is it too much to hope that with the close of the war, this experimentation can be promptly terminated, and all apparatus removed for good and all. I pray you do all in your power to save Island Beach for future edification of all the people of the United States.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

(Signed) Geo. H. Shull
Professor of Botany, Emeritus
Princeton University

ISLAND BEACH NATIONAL MONUMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. George H. Shull, Chairman
Mrs. Allan Marquand, Secretary

60 Jefferson Road
Princeton, New Jersey

August 24, 1945

Dear Friend:

Will you please write without delay or telegraph to Hon. James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C., in support of my urgent appeal that he prevent the relocation of the Naval Experimentation on Island Beach, in the northern end of the Phipps Estate, where it will unavoidably damage the best natural vegetation of that area. I believe such relocation to be wholly unwarranted, and very much to be deplored by any one who is interested in the preservation of the wild life of Island Beach.

Thanking you cordially for this assistance, I am

Sincerely yours,

Geo. H. Shull

Geo. H. Shull

September 10, 1945.

Dr. George H. Shull,
60 Jefferson Road,
Princeton, New Jersey.

Dear Dr. Shull:

I am writing to acknowledge the receipt of several communications from you which have reached my office during the last few weeks when I have been away on vacation. Since I was not here when your letter of August 24th arrived, I had taken no steps toward communicating with Secretary Forrestal. I am now happy to learn that such a procedure is unnecessary and am delighted that, thanks to your splendid and timely efforts, another danger to Island Beach has been forestalled. I am sure, however, that we should not in any way relax our efforts and I assure you that you may count upon me for continued cooperation in the project which you have so energetically initiated and so splendidly guided.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Professor of Botany.

For immediate release, October 27, 1949

ISLAND BEACH FOR A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Doctor George H. Shull, Chairman of the Island Beach National Monument Committee, reports important progress toward its goal of having the nine mile stretch of natural seashore between Seaside Park and Barnegat Inlet preserved as a wild life sanctuary administered by the National Park Service as a National Monument. Last spring the Trustees of the Phipps Estate, owner of nearly all of Island Beach, let it be known that they had received an offer of a million dollars from a big real estate firm for the northerly 118 acres of Island Beach plus an option on a portion farther down the peninsula, the object being to develop a big seashore real estate project. To counter this proposal a meeting was called at the American Museum of Natural History, in New York City, which was held at the Museum on April 8 under the chairmanship of Richard H. Pough, Curator of Conservation and Use of Natural Resources, of the Museum Staff, and a member of the Island Beach National Monument Committee. At this meeting a Committee was appointed to negotiate with the Trustees of the Phipps Estate, and to find a chairman of a finance committee charged with the raising of funds necessary for the purchase of Island Beach for presentation to the National Government. As a result of these activities the proposed sale to the real estate company has been called off and the friends of a wild life sanctuary are to be given a period of five years in which to secure the necessary funds.

In the meantime a bill to authorize the establishment of Island Beach National Monument as a part of the National Parks system was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Robert C. Hendrickson of New Jersey. On October 11 this bill was approved by a Congressional Committee, and less than a week later (on Oct. 17) it was passed by unanimous vote of the Senate. It will go to the House of Representatives for consideration early in the new Session which begins in January.

Many citizens of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, as well as leading ecologists all over the nation gave their warm support to this bill, and there is good reason to anticipate that a successful outcome will be achieved. But this can be done only if the many friends of Island Beach as a wild life sanctuary give ardent support to the financing campaign that is about to begin. The bill just passed by the Senate makes no provision for a contribution from the National Government toward the purchase of Island Beach from the Henry C. Phipps Estate.

An Island Beach exhibit of great interest and educational value is being assembled by the New Jersey State Museum and will be available in due time for inspection in the State House Annex, in Trenton.

ISLAND BEACH NATIONAL MONUMENT COMMITTEE

Executive Board:

Mrs. Allan Marquand
Miss Emma Martin
Dr. Thurlow C. Nelson
Dr. George H. Shull, Chairman
Dr. John A. Small, Secretary

60 Jefferson Road
Princeton, N. J.
December 3, 1949

Dear Fellow Member:

Mr. Thomas H. Beck has suggested that it is desirable that the friends of Island Beach as a National Monument be incorporated as a non-profit corporation in order to more effectively handle the problems involved in seeking funds necessary for the achievement of this end. I think this would be entirely feasible and highly desirable, but before steps are taken in this direction it seems to me also highly desirable that the organization be enlarged to include all those who have thus far taken an active interest in the preservation of this beautiful area in its natural state as a wild life sanctuary. As there are no other conditions for membership except the natural one of community of interest in the achievement of the designated goal, I believe it appropriate to simply ask persons who have such interest to permit us to enroll their names in the membership of this Committee. I am therefore writing some fifteen or twenty persons asking the privilege of so enrolling them.

My list includes Mr. & Mrs. Harold E. Anthony, Gardner D. Stout, Jean Delacour, C. P. Wilber, Frederick C. Sutro, Senator & Mrs. Hendrickson, Dr. Horace G. Richards, Capt. Joseph E. Tilton, Mrs. Le Roy Clark, Mrs. Elbert C. Sherwood, Mrs. Arthur J. Sullivan, Mrs. Francis P. Freeman, Mrs. M. Erlanger, Mrs. Kathryn B. Greywacs, Miss Elma L. Johnaton.

I have sent the foregoing statement to the persons mentioned and I now ask you to do two things: (a) Give me a statement of your approval of this action, and (b) Suggest other persons who ought to be included in this list, with addresses, or (c) Better yet, yourself, extend the invitation of this Committee to such persons and give me the names and addresses of those whose answer is in the affirmative. Naturally we especially desire that these invitations go to persons in positions of leadership and whose membership in this Committee will be sources of strength to our cause.

It is my hope that as soon as this campaign has had time to achieve its objective, we may have a full meeting of the Committee, to be again held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, and probably again under the able chairmanship of Mr. Richard H. Pough, for such reorganization as may seem desirable and such other formal action as may be decided on for the furtherance of our overall objective.

Hoping to hear from you as promptly as may be convenient,
I am,

Sincerely yours,

Geo. H. Shull

George H. Shull

December 22, 1949

Dr. George H. Shull,
60 Jefferson Road,
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Shull:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic approval of the proposal contained in your letter of December 3rd with respect to the organization of the Friends of Island Beach as a non-profit corporation. You certainly may include my name among this group.

With respect to securing additional persons to be enrolled for membership, I have met with no success. Everyone of my acquaintance who is actively interested in this movement has either long been associated with it or has recently been approached by someone else with a request for coöperation. I shall continue the search, however, and shall hope to be able to send you some additional names and addresses in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany

GRAYHOME
80 JEFFERSON ROAD
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Jan 19

Jan. 14, 1952

Dear Dr. Fogg:

Next Sunday afternoon I am bringing Mrs. Skull to your University Hospital, where she is due for a thyroid operation by Dr. Julian Johnson on Tuesday, Jan. 22. I have arranged to witness the operation and will hope to spend considerable time ~~time~~ at her bedside during the following ~~ten~~ days. It may not be convenient always to commute from Princeton, and it has occurred to me that you may be willing to recommend some rooming facilities, in the neighborhood of the University and perhaps less expensive than the big hotels with which I am alone familiar farther down town. I need nothing elaborate, just a place to lay my head, and

MEMORANDUM
STATE DEPARTMENT OF
YORK UNIVERSITY

will be very grateful to you for a suggestion.
My retiring allowance has not been increased
since it became effective ten years ago,
and I have no other source of income,
so you will understand my situation,
and will excuse my turning to you
for a helpful suggestion.

With all good wishes and admiration I am
Cordially and sincerely yours,
Geo. N. Shull

January 15, 1952

Dr. George H. Shull,
Grayhome,
60 Jefferson Road,
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Shull:

I have just received your letter of January 14th and am indeed sorry to learn of your wife's impending operation. It seems to me that the best service which I can render you is to reserve in your name a medium priced room (\$4.00 per day) at the Normandie Hotel, which is at 36th and Chestnut Streets, just two and a half blocks from the Hospital. I have therefore made such a reservation beginning Sunday, January 19th, for an indefinite period. If this is not in line with your wishes, please do not hesitate to let me know and I shall be glad to make other plans.

The Normandie is a modest, but I think, entirely adequate hostelry. We have a large number of foreign educators who visit the campus under the auspices of the Federal Security Agency or the State Department - men who are traveling on a limited budget - and it has been my practice to make reservations for them at the Normandie, which they have found entirely satisfactory.

Most of the rooming houses in the campus area are filled, although if you prefer, I shall be only too happy to see whether I could secure a room for you in one of them.

Please let me know whether the date of the 19th is the correct one for the beginning of your stay and do not hesitate to call upon me for any service which you think I might render. My office is in Room 104 College Hall, which is but a stone's throw from the Hospital, and I shall hope to have the pleasure of seeing something of you while you are here.

With best wishes and warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

GRAYHOME
60 JEFFERSON ROAD
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Dear Doctor Togg: Jan. 16, 1932

I am grateful to you for your letter of yesterday, and regret that I did not give you a fuller statement of my intended program during my wife's stay in the University Hospital. Most of the time I expect to commute from Princeton, so do not desire a reservation covering an "indefinite period", but only to know where I can lay my head on any night when it may be inconvenient or undesirable to return to Princeton. I am glad to know about the availability of the Normandie Hotel and assume that no reservation will be necessary in advance for a room for a single night. Thanking you again for your great kindness, I am,

Cordially and appreciatively yours,
Geo. H. Shull

*This is final copy I sent out - about 850 in all
Have plenty left. Do you want any to use*

ISLAND BEACH, NEW JERSEY

A PROPOSED NATIONAL MONUMENT

Fogg to Skull

John

Island Beach is a narrow strip of land between Barnegat Bay and the ocean. It extends from Barnegat Inlet north nearly ten miles to Seaside Park. Except for a service road for the Coast Guard stations and a few small houses and fishermen's huts, the beach, dunes, and bay shore are entirely wild. Here is to be found the last good sized area of the beautiful and distinctive vegetation of the Jersey coast unspoiled by the encroachment of the destructive power of man. For this reason botanists and other scientists have come from all parts of the world to study and enjoy the plant, animal, and bird life here.

There is a movement on foot to have the state buy Island Beach and build a great playground and recreation center. Such playgrounds are, of course, greatly needed, but more suitable locations are available which would not entail the destruction of the unique flora of this property.

Conservationists and lovers of our native wild life have urged that instead of the playground a Wild Life Sanctuary be established to preserve this only remaining long strip of beach along our northern Atlantic coast, which is still in its natural state.

To foster this suggestion there has been formed "The Island Beach National Monument Committee", with Dr. George H. Shull of Princeton University as Chairman. Included in its membership are representatives of many universities and colleges, scientific societies, garden clubs, women's clubs, etc. This committee has asked Congress to establish the beach area as a National Monument, because this seems the best way to preserve its primitive nature.

As the playground proposal may come before the New Jersey legislature at the 1945 autumn session, IMMEDIATE ACTION is necessary if the property is to be saved for a Wild Life Sanctuary. Lovers of nature throughout the state and the adjacent states must be informed. Public opinion must be aroused to get our national Congress to act.

The committee needs your help to pass on this message to your friends and neighbors and thus arouse public opinion. In addition to this will you write to your Senators and Representatives emphasizing to them the unique character of this beach and urging them to act to make it a National Monument.

ISLAND BEACH NATIONAL MONUMENT

The membership of the Island Beach National Monument Committee now includes the presidents of New Jersey's two great Universities, Princeton and Rutgers; the vice-provost of the University of Pennsylvania; directors of the three most important botanical gardens in the country, New York, Brooklyn and St. Louis; three curators in the American Museum of Natural History, in New York City, two in the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, and one in Princeton University; heads of the Botany Departments of Columbia, Rutgers, New Jersey College for Women, and the University of Pennsylvania; heads of a number of other departments in several universities; the director of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation; at least a dozen leaders in the Garden Clubs of New Jersey and the Garden Club of America; presidents or other leaders of such outing clubs as the Audubon Society, Torrey Botanical Club, the Green Mountain Club, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Philadelphia Trail Club, etc.; editors of Trenton Evening Times, Asia Magazine, The Living Wilderness, and National Parks Magazine; internationally renowned conservationists such as Mrs. Pearl Buck, David Fairchild, Louis Bromfield and Frederick Law Olmsted; Mr. C. P. Wilber, N. J. State Forester; Mrs. Kathryn B. Greywacs, director of the New Jersey Department of Education; Senator and Mrs. Hendrickson; The Reverend Henry C. Beck, director of publicity of the Diocese of New Jersey; and many other substantial citizens of New Jersey and neighboring states.

Dr. George H. Shull, Chairman of the Committee, reports that the Island Beach bill, S. 1583, authorizing the establishment of the Island Beach National Monument, which was offered by Senator Robert C. Hendrickson, and passed unanimously by the Senate last October, is being delayed in the House of Representatives because of the opposition of some of the local politicians in the Congressional District in which Island Beach lies, who seem to think there would be more votes for them in seashore playgrounds or in tax ratables from a real estate development than in the preservation of a veritable gem of unique primitive seashore. The nature of this opposition has been made clear in several articles which have appeared recently in two prominent shore-city papers. Both of these papers give such inadequate or distorted views of the objectives of this Committee, that in the interest of public understanding, they ought not be ignored.

To keep the record straight Dr. Shull has prepared rejoinders to these articles, which have been sent to the editors of the journals in question, and since they deal with matters of general interest, they are also being given wide distribution. Two of these articles together with Dr. Shull's rejoinders are submitted herewith.

(Ocean County Sun, February 23, 1950)

DEVELOPERS WOULD OPEN ISLAND BEACH
PROVIDING COUNTY WITH TAX RATABLES

Opening of nine miles of beach front and the addition of several millions of dollars in County ratables will result from a proposed homes development on Island Beach.

The nine miles of beachfront, representing the last undeveloped surf area in the State, would comprise 20 per cent of the entire beachfront in the County.

Development of the area is stymied by pressure being brought on the Phipps Estate, owners of Island Beach, by the Audubon, Botanical and Ornithology societies, which aim to make Island Beach a bird and plant sanctuary.

If the Phipps Estate turns Island Beach over for the purpose which the societies would use it they plan to practically shut out the general public. Less than 100 persons a day would be permitted to enter, and then the gates would be closed.

Sentiment in the County strongly favors Island Beach being developed for year 'round homes, pointing out that not only would considerable tax revenue be added, but the new development would also provide additional business in the County.

According to the plans of one of the major developers seeking to open up Island Beach, a portion of the more than 3,000 acres and a part of the nine miles of beach would be set aside for visitors.

In the event the bird and plant hobbyists are able to gain control of Island Beach the land would be tax free, while businessmen could anticipate no increased revenue.

However, there is an even greater concern being expressed by County officials, and this is concern over Federalization of the area under a bill being proposed by Senator Hendrickson.

Federalization of Island Beach would make it entirely tax free. It would also forestall the possibility that the area would be converted into a development of private homes.

Nearby communities, particularly Seaside Park, are concerned that if Island Beach is Federalized that it will be little more than a miniature Coney Island.

Tax experts point out that already the loss of potential tax income from Island Beach has been considerable. As far back as 25 years efforts were made to develop the beach.

DEVELOPERS WOULD DESTROY ISLAND BEACH
DEPRIVING COUNTY OF MOST NOTABLE ATTRACTION

George H. Shull

Shall we destroy "the last nine miles of undeveloped surf area in the state" while intelligent citizens everywhere, both in the state of New Jersey and throughout the nation, bemoan this sell-out of Ocean County's most precious natural heritage for exploitation by a big real-estate concern, to be divided up and sold as privately owned shore properties? "The Ocean County Sun" publishes a leading article in its issue for February 23, which erroneously refers to this deal as "opening up" the area, but it would be better described as a "closing out." The article is unsigned and must be assumed, therefore, to represent the editorial opinion. It contains an amazing amount of misinformation which can be explained only on the assumption that the author underestimates the intelligence of his readers, and feels that his position is so weak that it needs to be bolstered up by a complete misstatement of the aims of those who are working to have the beauties and the educational values of Island Beach preserved forever in the public interest.

Island Beach is known and prized by intelligent nature-loving people all over the United States, and not alone by the members of the several scientific groups mentioned in the "Sun" article. It is everywhere known that in this nine-mile stretch is contained the last sizable example of the unique natural plant and animal associations which have given the charm and the educational and scientific values of the barrier-beaches which fringe a large portion of our country's Atlantic oceanfront, and which have been everywhere else destroyed or so marred as to be no longer either beautiful to look at or of value for scientific observation. No kind of "development" of this area is possible which will not destroy forever the natural beauty and educational wealth of this Ocean County gem.

One wonders where the author got his erroneous information that "less than 100 persons a day would be permitted to enter, and then the gates would be closed." The fact is that if Island Beach becomes a National Monument, as provided by the bill S - 1583, which was offered by Senator Robert C. Hendrickson, and which passed the Senate by unanimous vote on October 17, and is now pending action in the House of Representatives, it will be open to the general public free of charge, instead of costing \$15 or more for a seasonal permit as at present. Naturally, the National Park Service will enforce such regulations for conduct of visitors as may be found necessary for the protection of the wild life from molestation, but no one would be barred on the basis of a numerical restriction.

The statement that "federalization" would convert Island Beach to "little more than a miniature Coney Island" is the most absurd perversion of the truth that can be well imagined. If Island Beach is not now a "miniature Coney Island" the earnest efforts of the friends of a wild life sanctuary to have its present condition preserved and protected forever gives the best assurance possible that it will never be permitted to become a "Coney Island." I have lived among the fine people of Seaside Park for fifteen summers, and know many of the year-round residents well, and I cannot believe that any of them thinks that the lovers of Island Beach as a wild life sanctuary might establish a Coney Island instead. The very thought of such a thing is shocking.

And what about the tax ratables which are so prominently stressed? We do not include our Churches, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. buildings, Private and Parochial schools, Universities, Research laboratories, or Museums, as tax ratables, -- and why? Simply because such institutions contribute so vitally to the public welfare that they deserve to be encouraged. Island Beach is in the same class as these other tax exempt institutions. In its natural state it is a source of spiritual uplift to everyone who visits it in a comprehending spirit, and to the student it is a museum piece and a scientific laboratory of transcending value.

TAX RATABLES ARE ONLY THE "MESS OF POITAGE" WHICH IS BEING OFFERED TO OCEAN COUNTY TO TEMPT IT TO SELL ITS BIRTHRIGHTS!

STATE UNIT MAY WEIGH ISLAND BEACH PROPOSAL
(Asbury Park Press, February 14, 1950)

(Staff Correspondent)

TRENTON. -- Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll's Sandy Hook state park committee may be asked to study a proposal that the state consider acquisition of the Island Beach peninsula in Ocean County for park purposes.

The governor told reporters yesterday that he is considering asking the 16-member Sandy Hook group to look into the matter. He said such a study has been suggested by Rep. James C. Auchincloss, Rumson Republican, during a brief conference in the governor's office yesterday.

Representative Auchincloss told the Asbury Park Press that a bill introduced by Sen. Robert C. Hendrickson (R-N.J.) would permit the federal government to buy the Ocean and Barnegat Bay front property and establish it as a national park.

Perhaps, he said, the state would be interested in having a prior claim. Garden clubs and other groups, he said, have expressed concern for preservation of the "flora and fauna" abundant on the peninsula and the matter deserves study.

Wants No Coney Island

Purchase by either the state or national government, Mr. Auchincloss said, probably would be at a cost of upwards of \$2 million. He said that studies should include consideration of the cost element and the methods of operation. "Certainly we do not want a Coney Island on that peninsula any more than we want one on Sandy Hook," said the former Rumson mayor.

Mr. Auchincloss is a member of the Sandy Hook committee, which is headed by Wayne D. McMurray, editor of the Asbury Park Press. The committee recently recommended acquisition of Sandy Hook from the Army and development of a recreational, non-commercial, park area. It also suggested possibility of an independent authority having operational jurisdiction.

Mr. Driscoll said he was interested in preserving the "wonderfully beautiful" plant and wild life of Island Beach and indicated he did not favor the national government expending funds in the area.

"I certainly do not favor the federal government spending any large sums for anything other than national defense and emergency purposes," he said.

The Sandy Hook committee could submit a report telling to what extent it believed the state might use Island Beach for public purposes without destroying the natural assets of the peninsula, he said.

Further Thoughts On Island Beach

By GEORGE H. SHULL

The Packet of last week contains a very timely editorial on Island Beach, which is gratifying to those who are striving for the permanent protection of this impressive example of unspoiled seashore. After considering opposite pros and cons the Editor reaches the conclusion that Island Beach "is not the proper site for a New Jersey State Park."

But those of us who love the Phipps Estate for what it is instead of what it might be made into by any sort of manipulation or exploitation, "development" or "improvement," are not quite satisfied with this negative type of argument. We prefer to have our case presented strictly on its own positive merits, and hope that the argument will proceed on this high level, and that too much stress be not laid on the demerits of this area as a proposed "recreation center," such as its relative inaccessibility, probable cost to the tax payers, and the existence of certain pestiferous insects.

As for the swarms of female *Culex*, black flies and "green-heads" mentioned by the Editor, and to which Dr. Charles Browne has recently made allusion under the epithet of "biting fauna," we note that the Editor himself says that the Phipps Estate "has been a favorite fishing and picnic grounds for Princetonians for many years." I have taken groups of students to the Phipps Estate year after year without being too much annoyed by this "biting fauna," and I know of friends—who are not botanists—who have refreshed their souls on the Phipps Estate, many, many times. So I think we must conclude that the presence of insects in the natural scheme of things at Island Beach is not a completely insufferable condition when one visits the place for observation, contemplation and spiritual uplift. What would be the situation if we spent our days lolling around on the beach in a practically nude state in association with many thousands of others like us, is of course unpredictable. It would not seem unlikely that this "biting fauna" would congregate where its natural food-supply occurs in greatest abundance. But I hold that this argument is relatively unimportant as compared with other considerations.

The Editor lays too great stress, I think, on the idea that only botanists have a primary interest in the preservation of Island Beach. I have already tried to make it clear that the botanists are not desiring the maintenance of Island Beach for use as a botanical laboratory, but as a wild-life sanctuary for the benefit of the many thousands to whom Nature is a source of refreshment and inspiration. No one can ever determine how large a proportion of our people has this susceptibility to uplift from contact with really fine natural scenery, but it is my personal opinion that it is very high indeed.

The Editor raises the question as

to the "greatest good to the greatest number" and the same thought has been advanced by others, but who can determine what is the greatest good, and who are the greatest number? There is room for a comprehensive essay on this hoary shibboleth of representative democracy, but I can not go into the subject here. I am convinced that, as a practical matter, the greatest good to the greatest number is just as much an abstraction as the "average man," and even less capable of approximation by any sort of mathematical procedure. But this does not set aside the "greatest good to the greatest number" as a valuable political concept, even though in practice it is wholly indeterminable. Even if it were, in a specific case, determinable it can not cancel out the rights of minorities to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," and it is therefore unavailable as a yard-stick in settling such a question as the one under consideration.

I am particularly interested in the Editor's reference to Martha's Bog in Burlington County. I have never had personal contact with that area but have known for a long time that the headwaters area of Wading River is reputedly also worthy of solicitous consideration as a wild-life reservation. But the idea that Martha's Bog could be in any sense a substitute for Island Beach, or vice versa, is entirely incredible to me, notwithstanding the Editor's quotation from "an official of the State Department of Conservation and Development," that it "has everything in the way of vegetation that Island Beach has, and more." Since Burlington County has no ocean front, how is it conceivable that Martha's Bog could present an impressive example of a dune area which, because of its naturally developed vegetation, is holding its own against the continual furious onslaughts of changing winds and waves of an open ocean front? Martha's Bog is probably worth saving by every power the Department of Conservation and Development can muster, but it can not be a substitute for Island Beach and must not be used

as a "red herring" to divert attention from the fact that it is Island Beach, not Martha's Bog, whose character as a Wild Life Sanctuary has been specifically threatened by the proposal of Mr. Erdman's Commission to create on Island Beach a populous shore resort, or so-called "recreation center."

In a recent reply to a correspondent Commissioner Erdman has been somewhat less than frank in regard to the scope of the plans his Commission had in mind in making its recommendation to the Governor. He says repeatedly that his Commission "have no intention of seeing the entire area developed into another Jones Beach," and adds that such erroneous impression is "obviously ridiculous." To be frank he should have given at least some intimation as to just how much of the entire area the Commission did contemplate developing in this way. I have just been studying a map of Ocean County on which the proposed "Botanical Sanctuary" is specifically indicated. It includes 225 acres, somewhat less than one-tenth of the 2,500 acres, more or less, which is included in the Phipps Estate. What difference does it make to nature-lovers whether all of that splendid natural monument or only nine-tenths of it be despoiled? What would be left of Niagara Falls if nine-tenths of its water were diverted to drive industrial turbines?

I especially appreciate the references the Editor makes to other portions of New Jersey's long shoreline which are still available for acquisition and development as "public recreation centers on salt water," much more accessible to the great centers of population than Island Beach, and which have already lost any interest they may have had originally as wild-life areas. So long as these other available areas have not been utilized it is inaccurate and incorrect to say that the failure to develop Island Beach as such a public recreation center is "denying many thousands of New Jersey residents free access to the only remaining seashore area north of Barnegat Inlet available for a public playground."

The Packet Apr. 5, 1945

SHULL REPLIES TO THE GOVERNOR ON ISLAND BEACH PROPOSAL

Dr. George H. Shull, professor emeritus of botany and genetics in Princeton University, and chairman of the Island Beach National Monument Committee, commenting on the interview of Governor Alfred E. Driscoll, as reported in the Asbury Park Press for February 14, says that the proposal to have the Sandy Hook committee consider the acquisition of Island Beach by the State of New Jersey, and its development in part as a recreation area, is essentially the same proposal that was made to Governor Edge in January, 1945, which stirred a wave of protest from university communities, academies of science, garden clubs, outing clubs, and other conservation-minded people all over the state and throughout the nation.

"This interview makes it painfully apparent," says Dr. Shull, "that neither the governor nor Representative Auchincloss who made the proposal to the governor has any real understanding of the great value of Island Beach as an educational, scientific, and esthetic asset of the American people, nor any interest in its permanent preservation as a wild life sanctuary."

After referring rather uncomprehendingly to the desire of garden clubs and other groups for the preservation of the "flora and fauna abundant on the peninsula", Mr. Auchincloss said, "certainly we do not want a Coney Island on the peninsula any more than we want one on Sandy Hook." "To understand this designedly disarming statement," Dr. Shull says, "it is only necessary to recast it to its positive equivalent in which it says: 'We certainly want on Island Beach, just as we want at Sandy Hook, the development of a recreational, non-commercial, park area.'"

"Such a recreational area or seashore playground, by whatever name it is called, is wholly incompatible with the preservation of Island Beach in its impressive natural primitive state. It is not the quantity of 'flora and fauna' on Island Beach that is important, since flora and fauna are likely to be abundant almost everywhere, but the uniqueness and the naturalness of the flora and fauna there that cannot be matched anywhere else and which can never be restored to a natural state once it has been fundamentally disturbed, that cries aloud to every lover of the wilderness to prevent if at all possible such an unjustified desecration.

"If we have a 'recreational, non-commercial, park area' on Sandy Hook close to the congested portions of the state where it is so greatly needed, why", asks Dr. Shull, "should we not keep Island Beach as a natural, primitive seashore at the only place it can be had, and where a recreational area is wholly unnecessary, and where if such a playground were established it would only offer undesirable competition with other beaches all up and down the coast, which are available to the public, either free or at reasonable rates, and still only slightly utilized."

To Governor Driscoll's statement that he does not "favor the federal government spending any large sums for anything other than national defense and emergency purposes," Shull concedes that this is a clever political slogan in these tax-conscious times, but he cannot see that this has any bearing on the present problems with respect to Island Beach. "New Jersey citizens are not blind," Shull says, "to the fact that whether a service is given by the state or the national government, it is the tax-paying citizen who pays, and the important question is not the channel through which payment is made, but the relative cost and the quality of the service received."

"The least expensive thing that can be done with Island Beach is to keep it as it is. No 'large sums' will be required of the federal government, because it already has all the expensive overhead personnel available in the National Park Service, and it also has the expert knowledge and experienced skill in the preservation and maintenance of wilderness areas, which are so important for the preservation of the 'wonderfully beautiful wild life of Island Beach', which the State of New Jersey does not now possess, and which it could not quickly develop."

"Citizens of New Jersey should not be misled by the obvious intent to appeal to state pride. The establishment of Island Beach National Monument by the National Park Service takes nothing from the State of New Jersey, but instead it gives to the state, at the least possible cost and the greatest possible effectiveness, the maintenance of a priceless asset which cannot be matched by any other state and which will bring to New Jersey admiring visitors from all over the United States and from foreign lands, besides contributing both educationally and inspirationally to our own people."

ISLAND BEACH NATIONAL MONUMENT COMMITTEE

Executive Board:

Mrs. Allan Marquand
 Miss Emma Martin
 Dr. Thurlow C. Nelson
 Dr. George H. Shull, Chairman
 Dr. John A. Small, Secretary

Princeton, N. J.
 February 6, 1950

U R G E N T C A L L :

Dear Fellow Member:

This Committee was organized exactly five years ago at the call of Mrs. Allan Marquand and the undersigned, and held its first meeting at Guernsey, Mrs. Marquand's home in Princeton on May 12, 1945. An effort is now being made to consolidate in our membership all those known to have been actively interested in the preservation of Island Beach as a wildlife sanctuary. This is a call for a meeting of the full Committee as newly constituted, for reorganization, incorporation, discussion of plans, appointment of sub-committees, and any other acts which seem desirable for the achievement of our goal. The threat of an early sale of a part of this precious area for a privately owned real-estate development is an ever-present reality, which makes prompt action urgently necessary.

²⁴ You are asked to do two things: First, if at all feasible, attend this first meeting of the full Committee, which will be held at 3:00 P.M., on Friday, February ~~17~~²⁴, 1950, in the Sports Library, Roosevelt Memorial Building, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York 24, N. Y. At my request, Mr. Richard H. Pough, Curator of Conservation and Use of Natural Resources, at the Museum, will act as Chairman of this meeting.

The second crucial contribution you can make at this time to the establishment of Island Beach as a National Monument, is to write strong individual appeals to the Public Lands Committee of the U. S. House of Representatives, requesting that it take prompt favorable action on bill S-1583, which passed the Senate on October 17, 1949, and which authorizes the acceptance of Island Beach by the National Government and its administration by the National Park Service as a National Monument. For your information, the membership of this Congressional Committee is appended below. Please do not delay the making of this appeal. Write at once to the Chairman and any other members you may select. DO IT NOW!

²⁴ Hoping to see you in New York on February ~~17~~²⁴, and with appreciation of your help, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Geo. H. Shull

PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE, U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAJORITY MEMBERS

J. Harold Peterson, Florida, Chairman
 John H. Murdock, Arizona
 Clair Engle, California
 Monroe M. Redden, North Carolina
 Toby Morris, Oklahoma
 Ken Regan, Texas
 Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr., Texas
 Compton I. White, Idaho
 Walter Baring, Nevada
 Mrs. Reva Beck Bosone, Utah
 Fred Marshall, Minnesota
 Harry P. O'Neill, Pennsylvania
 Wayne N. Aspinwall, Colorado
 John E. Miles, New Mexico
 Louis B. Heller, New York

MINORITY MEMBERS

Fred L. Crawford, Michigan
 William Lemke, North Dakota
 Frank A. Barrett, Wyoming
 Dean P. Taylor, New York
 Jay LeFevre, New York
 A. L. Miller, Nebraska
 Wesley A. D'Ewart, Montana
 Norris Poulson, California
 John Sanborn, Idaho
 E. L. Bartlett, Alaska
 John P. Saylor, Pennsylvania
 Joseph R. Farrington, Hawaii
 Antonio Fernós-Isern, Puerto Rico