

HISTORIC MACE FIGURES IN STATE INAUGURATION

1929

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Home Used in Device.

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The emblem of authority is now owned by Col. Hunter C. White, son of the late High Sheriff Hunter C. White. The latter had it made for himself late in the 19th century under the supervision of the late Deputy Sheriff Edgar S. Thayer.

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Sheriff Thayer contributed some of the specimens which he had in his own private collection so that the mace might be made of things historical. On Jan. 7, 1902, the sheriff carried the mace as a symbol of his authority and proclaimed Charles Dean Kimball Governor of Rhode Island.

Sheriff Hunter used the mace in the inaugurations of the State's Chief Executives from 1902 until his death in 1910. It was used last Tuesday in the inaugural ceremony which made Norman S. Case Governor of this State.

TRADITIONAL MACE.

The traditional mace owned by Col. Hunter C. White who is a summer resident of this town, will be used by the sergeant at arms to announce to the people of this state that the Hon. Theodore Francis Greene has been proclaimed governor of this state.

This mace has been in the family of Col. White for many years and has been a high light at the inauguration of governors of this state for many years. It is priceless because of its traditional aspect and its value to Col. White. This mace will be used next Tuesday when Hon. Theodore Francis Greene will be proclaimed our next chief executive and he will be sworn in also on the Bible belonging to Col. White, which is another object of long tradition in the family of Col. White.

Lieut. Col. and Mrs. Hunter C. White and their daughter, Miss Virginia E. White, are at Rye Beach, N. H., where Col. White is on duty with the One Hundred and Ninety-seventh Regiment, New Hampshire National Guard.



Journal photos, Scheer

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WALLACE E. JAMESON, master at arms, proclaiming the inauguration of the Governor in time-honored fashion.

Sheriff's Dilemma Shared by All of Us

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It was this: "I'm stuck."

What sticks the veteran sheriff who by law makes all plans for the biennial ceremony is this: He doesn't know who is going to be inaugurated as governor, a doubt shared by thousands of other persons including Dennis J. Roberts and Christopher Del Sesto.

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governor hopes you will be able to attend."

Otherwise, Mr. Costello has followed the historic pattern of planning. There will be a concert, 1,000 folding chairs in the corridors, a platform for dignitaries, a loud speaker system, and of course, the sheriff said, palm trees.

Mr. Costello will also be garbed in high hat, tails, and will bear a mace. When attempts to reach him were first made this morning, the laconic deputy sheriff's voice on the other end of the phone said Mr. Costello was not immediately available.

"He stepped out to get his mace," it was explained.

Later Mr. Costello disclosed that the state owns no mace. He uses one kindly loaned to him by the son and daughter of onetime High Sheriff Hunter White.

The present high sheriff made one definitive, positive statement about the inauguration. "I don't know who's going to be inaugurated governor, but I'll be there with my mace."

Wickford Woman Honored at Dinner

Miss Elizabeth A. Merithew of Wickford, who has the longest woman's service record in the Industrial National Bank, was honored last night at a dinner at Smith Manor, North Kingstown, on her retirement from the bank after nearly 44 years. **3/15/1957**

Miss Merithew, who lives at 109 West Main St., had worked in the Wickford branch of the bank since May 19, 1913. The local bank at that time was a firm, not affiliated with the Industrial National system. Her retirement was effective March 1.

Miss Merithew was given a wrist watch by O. Norman Middleton, associate manager of the Wickford branch, on behalf of the office staff and manager. She also received an orchid.

Miss Merithew originally was hired "to run the Boston Ledger and do general office work" at \$6 a week.

She is a trustee and Sunday School teacher at the First Baptist Church in Wickford and served as an air raid warden in Wickford during World War II. She is known as a local historian and she and her sister, Miss Annie A. Merithew, have a collection of colonial costumes.

Her sister, librarian at the North Kingstown Free Library in Wickford for 37 years, also was at the dinner last night.

Mrs. Ruth Place was general chairman. She was assisted by Mrs. Barbara Bates, Mrs. Dorothy Tibbetts and Miss Miriam Benard.

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John P. Leonard tells the city the news in the traditional way,

outgoing Sheriff of Providence County shouting from state house terrace.



WILFRED R. McPEAK, JR., manager of the North Kingstown office of People's Savings Bank, was recently elected assistant treasurer of the bank by the Board of Trustees. Mr. McPeak joined the bank in 1962, and has been manager of the local branch since 1970. He lives with his wife and family in Warwick. **12/19/73**

**Sheriff's Mace
Has Been Used in All
Inaugurals Since 1902**

The mace which will be carried by Sheriff Robert J. Connelly in today's inaugural ceremonies, has been used in all inaugural ceremonies since 1902.

The mace was made for Hunter C. White, then high sheriff, in 1901. The eagle which tops it was used throughout the Civil War on a Union battle flag. Wood for the staff and the head came from the Gaspee, a British ship sunk in the Revolutionary War, and from timber in the old Governor Fenner House in Cranston.

~~The mace is now owned by~~
Providence attorney.



Property of Miss Virginia White of Wickford

R. I. Inaugural Mace has interesting history

On January 3, 1961, John A. Notte became Governor of The State of Rhode Island.

During the inaugural ceremony, how many of the assemblage knew of the actual background concerning the ceremony itself?

The Mace used in that ceremony by High Sheriff of Providence County, John P. Leonard, is the property of Miss Virginia A. E. White of Main Street, Wickford.

Miss White is the daughter of the late Colonel Hunter C. White and granddaughter of the Mace's original owner, General Hunter C. White and has been used in all of the Rhode Island inaugurals since 1902, with the exception of a period during World War I when Col. White, his son, served with the American Expeditionary Forces.

It is interesting to note that the eagle atop the mace was carried

through the Civil War. A portion of the wood from which the Mace is made was taken from the ruins of the much-hated British revenue schooner, "H. B. M. Gaspee". This schooner was burned off Namquid Point on June 9, 1772, and was commanded by Capt. Abraham Whipple. A Lt. Dudingston was wounded in this engagement, and it is believed to be the first incident of British bloodshed in the Revolutionary War.

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TRADITIONAL MACE USED

The traditional mace, emblem of authority, was once more used in the proclaiming on Tuesday of the inauguration of J. Howard McGrath as Governor of the state.

The mace, for many years in the family of Col. Hunter C. White of this village, is made of wood from the historic "Gaspee" and from the Gov. Fenner House. It is mounted with a bronze eagle, a relic of the Civil War.

This mace has been used to proclaim Governors of Rhode Island since 1902.

ALICE THURBER Feb 14 -

MACE USED AT INAUGURAL

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The mace used by Sheriff Holland in proclaiming William H. Vanderbilt Rhode Island's 43rd Chief Executive from the balcony of the first entrance to the State House, is the property of Col. Hunter C. White of this village. It was first used by Col. White's father, Sheriff Hunter C. White when he was Sheriff of Providence County and since then has been used by every sheriff, of that county.

The mace is made with wood taken from the Fenner House and is surmounted with a golden eagle.

Col. White loans the mace to the in-coming Chief Executive to be used for the ceremony.

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Mace Used In State Inauguration Owned By Col. Hunter White Of Wickford; In Family Many Years

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This mace, made of historic specimens of wood, is closely associated with the historical background of this state and the nation. The eagle on the top of the mace was carried through the Civil War on the top of a staff which bore a battle flag. Part of the wood from which the mace is made was taken from the ruins of the much hated British revenue schooner "H.B.M. Gaspee" which was burned off Namquit Point by our revolutionary ancestors on the evening of June 9, 1772 under the command of Captain Abraham Whipple. The British commander, Lt. Dudingston, an insolent, overbearing man, was wounded in this engagement, thus marking this the 1st British bloodshed in the Revolutionary War. Another part of the wood for this mace was secured from the Governor Arthur Fener Homestead in Cranston which was built about 1680 and torn down in 1880.

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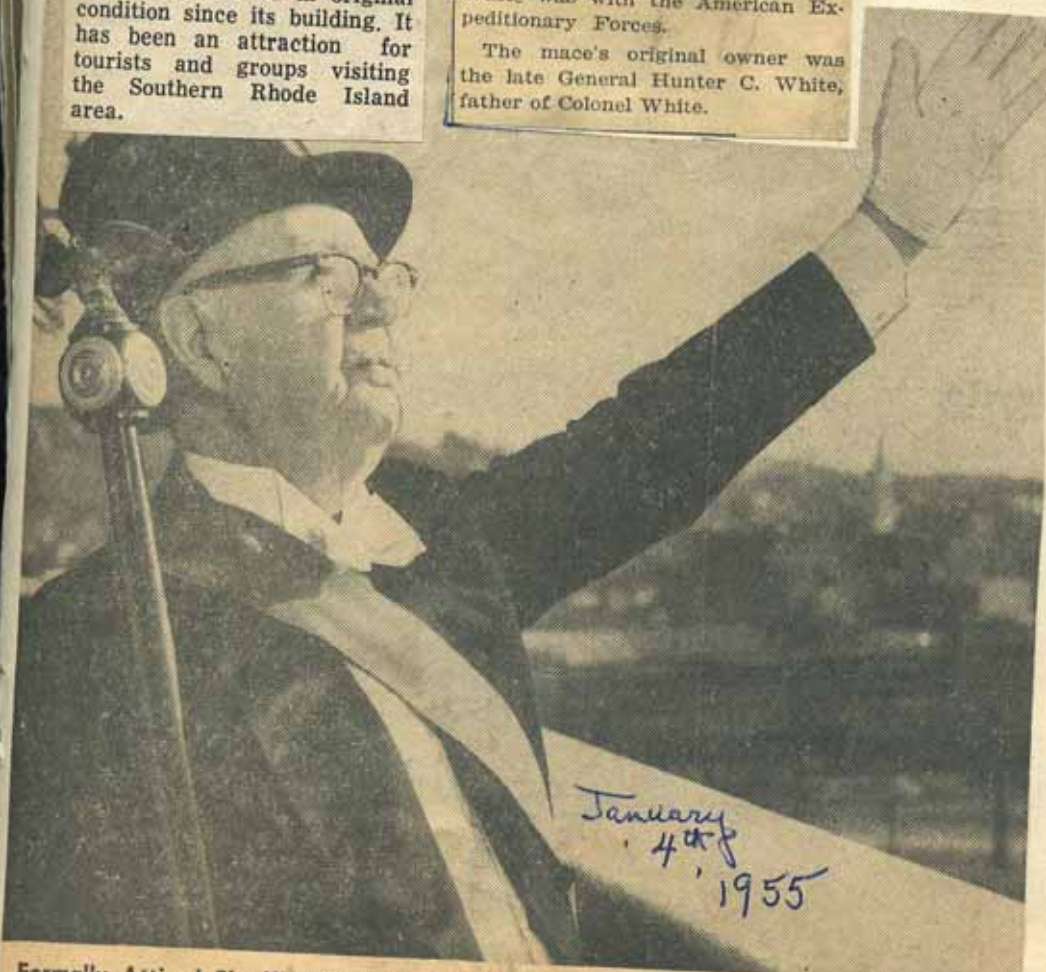
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1969

Old Church Opens Fridays in July

The Old Narragansett Church on Church Lane in Wickford Village will be open Fridays during July and August from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. according to Mrs. Hunter C. White, who is in charge of the structure.

Earliest Episcopal house of worship in Rhode Island, the old church has an hourglass pulpit, box pews, and interior features preserved in original condition since its building. It has been an attraction for tourists and groups visiting the Southern Rhode Island area.



January
4th
1955

Formally Attired Sheriff Michael F. Costello, carrying mace and sword, will officially proclaim governor's inauguration today to "throng" on State House lawn. —Staff Photo

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12/27/57

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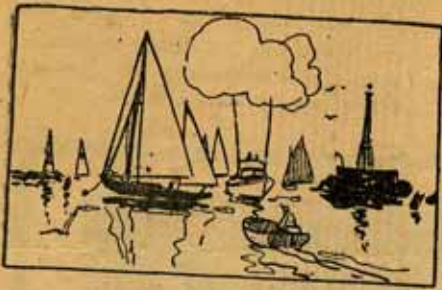
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ALLENTON — BELLEVILLE — DAVISVILLE — HAMILTON

OUR 71st YEAR, No. 26

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History In That Stick

WARWICK — Most spectators here at tomorrow's Gaspee Days parade would ordinarily pay little if any notice to the stick-like object that will be carried by Councilman Gerald S. Goldstein, who is leading the march.

That "stick," though, might be the closest link to the historic event being commemorated.

It is called the Rhode Island Mace and it reportedly contains a piece of wood from the British sloop Gaspee, along with other historic remnants of wood and metal.

The mace was created 73 years ago by Hunter C. White, then the high sheriff of Providence County, and first used on a public occasion at the inauguration of Gov. Charles Dean Kimball (1901-1903).

The mace is presently owned by White's granddaughter, who wished to remain anonymous for fear that the relic could be stolen from her home.

The mace has been used ceremonially in the inauguration of every governor this century until Governor Noel,



Authority: Councilman Gerald S. Goldstein of Warwick, with the Rhode Island Mace he will carry in the Gaspee Days parade tomorrow.

—Journal-Bulletin Photo by DON SOCKOL

with the exception of an inauguration during World War I when its recipient was serving in Europe with the

American Expeditionary Forces, White's granddaughter said.

No request was made for the mace by Noel inaugural planners, she said.

Besides the wood from the Gaspee, the mace also contains a piece of the historic homestead of colonial Gov. Arthur Fenner. The homestead was built about 1680 and torn down in 1895.

The eagle capping the mace was carried on a Union battle flag during the Civil War.

There are other historic remnants making up the mace, but she cannot identify them, the owner said.

HISTORIC MACE USED IN R.I. GUBERNATORIAL INAUGURATIONS

AND R.I.' "GASPEE DAY" PARADES

The Mace used in yesterday's inaugural ceremonies for Governor John H. Chaffee by High Sheriff Robert J. Connelly has been used in all inaugurations of all R.I. governors, since Gov. Charles Dean Kimball was proclaimed governor on January 7, 1902 by General Hunter C. White then High Sheriff of Providence County, except during World War I when its owner the late Colonel Hunter C. White was with the American Expeditionary Forces.

This Mace, made of historic specimens of wood, is closely associated with the historic background of R.I. and the nation. The eagle on the top of the mace was carried through the Civil War on the top of a staff which bore a Union battle flag. Part of the wood was once taken from the much hated British revenue schooner "H.B.M. Gaspee" which was burned after being caught on a sand-bar off Namquit Point after an unsuccessful attempt to overhaul Captain Benjamin Lindsey in his colonial packet sloop "Hannah". A group of our revolutionary patriots in a flotilla of 8 long boats under command of Capt. Abraham Whipple set out from Providence on the evening of June 9, 1772 and burned her. The British commander Lt. William Dudingston, an insolent overbearing man, was wounded in this engagement, thus marking this the first British bloodshed in the Revolutionary War. Another portion of the wood for this mace was secured from the Colonial Governor Arthur Fenner homestead in Cranston which was built about 1680 and torn down in 1895. The owner at that period was said to dislike the coming of sightseers to view the house and hence had it demolished. It was situated about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile southwest from his son Major Thomas Fenner's home which is still standing to-day in the village of Thornton and occupied by his descendants.

The residents of this state should be proud of R.I.'s heritage and "Gaspee Day" which annually commemorates this action which preceded the Battles of Lexington and Concord by three years. By this action R.I. had struck the "First Blow for Freedom."

This mace has been at the head of ans.

The annual "Gaspee Day" Parade has used this historic mace at the head of the Parade ever since the first observance of Gaspee Day in June of 1966.

Almond to take oath Tuesday

PROVIDENCE — Shortly after noon Tuesday, Governor-elect Lincoln C. Almond, a Republican, will place his hand on his uncle's Bible and take the oath of office.

The colorful inaugural ceremonies, featuring a procession of top state officials from Providence Station, will be on the State House steps if the sun shines. If the weather is bad, as it was two years ago when Governor Sundlun, a Democrat, began his second term, the inauguration will be in Veterans Memorial Auditorium, across the street from the State House.

The event marks a historic change for Rhode Island as Almond and the other four general officers begin the first four-year terms in the state's history.

The new governor and his wife, Marilyn, will start their public inaugural events at 9:15 a.m., with a visit to the church he attended for many years, St. George's Episcopal Church on Clinton Street in Central Falls. They will be greeted by bagpipes and the city's police and firefighter color guard. Refreshments will be provided.

The Inaugural Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving will be held in the church at 9:30 a.m. with readings from the Old and New Testaments by Almond's children, Lincoln D. Almond and Amy Almond Cabbage. The governor-elect and Mrs. Almond will present the gifts of bread

and wine to the altar. All religious denominations in Central Falls will be represented.

The inauguration begins at 11:30 a.m. with the ringing of the State House liberty bell. The procession will march from the train station to the State House steps, accompanied by flag bearers representing Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns as well as the Rhode Island Militia.

Shortly before noon, Almond, Sundlun and their wives will be escorted to their seats. Outgoing Secretary of State Barbara M. Leonard will call to order the convocation for the inauguration. The Rev. George N. Hunt III, recently retired Episcopal bishop of Rhode Island, will offer the invocation.

Former Lt. Gov. Roger N. Begin, chairman of the state Board of Elections, will present the certificate of election to Almond. Republican Leonard, who was defeated in her reelection bid, will administer the oath of office to Almond. His wife will hold the Bible.

Providence County High Sheriff Rene M. Lafayette will read the proclamation of engagement from the State House balcony. The 88th Army Band will play "Ruffles and Flourishes" and the "Rhode Island March." Several artillery units will fire a 19-gun salute.

Lafayette will carry the historic Rhode Island Mace, which will be used in an inauguration for the first

time since the Noel administration, 1973-1979. The mace comprises pieces of the HMS Gaspee, a piece of colonial Gov. Arthur Fenner's Cranston home and an eagle carried on a Union flag in the Civil War.

Almond will swear in Democratic Lt. Gov. Robert A. Weygand, Democratic Secretary of State-elect James R. Langevin, Republican Atty. Gen. Jeffrey B. Pine, and Republican Gen. Treas. Nancy J. Mayer. Weygand, Pine and Mayer were first elected in 1992.

After swearing in the other general offices, the new governor will give his inaugural address. The ceremony will close with Maria Day singing "Rhode Island, It's for Me" and the Most Rev. Louis E. Gelineau, bishop of the Diocese of Providence, offering the benediction.

The event is scheduled to end by 1 p.m., when Almond and the other general officers will form a receiving line in the State Room. At about 2 p.m., the governor and Mrs. Almond will attend the swearing-in of new members of the General Assembly in the House and Senate chambers.

The Assembly then will open its 1995 session, a largely ceremonial event.

Instead of an inaugural ball, Almond will host a "Celebrate Rhode Island" festival from noon to 6 p.m. Jan. 8 at the Rhode Island Convention Center.

Gerald Goldstein's 20th year carrying Gaspee Day Parade Mace will be his last

By LISA TONNESSEN



GERALD GOLDSTEIN

and also from the Cranston home of Colonial Governor Arthur Fenner. The eagle that adorns the tip of the Mace was carried in the Civil War on top of a staff which wore a Union battle flag.

An honor, pleasure

Goldstein considers his place at the front of the parade, "An honor and a pleasure to carry something so historic and heroic." Goldstein equates the importance of the treasured item to the Statue of Liberty and the Liberty Bell.

Goldstein asked owners Waldo and Virginia Seaman's permission 20 years ago to borrow the Mace. And, up until last year, when Waldo passed away (Virginia died two years earlier), Goldstein received the

loan of the Mace each succeeding year. A personal friend of the Seamans, who wishes to remain anonymous, now is the owner and he is continuing the tradition.

Goldstein remembers, "The first time I led off the parade (in 1972), my hair was brown, now it's silver. My infamous white suit, that comes out of the closet once a year at parade time, has been altered several times to conform to the fashion/style of the times, over the years the lapel of the jacket has been tailored from a peaked lapel to a wide lapel to a narrow lapel."

End of an era

This is an end of an era for Goldstein, the memories he has created will live on for many years to come. Many will recall their Gaspee Days with a vision of Goldstein diligently leading the parade year after year. Goldstein has marched for a variety of audiences, from the 250,000 crowd drawn for the Clydesdale horses to the few hundred spectators that braved torrential rains to view the parade.

The parade kicks off this Saturday at 10 a.m. at the intersection of Naragansett Parkway and Spring Green Road in Warwick.

Bring a lunch, a chair and a few friends and head to the 27th annual Gaspee Day Parade where Gerald Goldstein will carry the historic Rhode Island Mace for the 20th time.

Goldstein has become part of the Gaspee Day tradition, carrying the Mace since 1972. Goldstein will be retiring this year with mixed emotions. In a recent letter to the Gaspee Day Committee, Goldstein says, "My family and I have concluded with mixed emotions (mostly sad) that 'my time has come'. All good things must come to an end and this, by far, has been one of my most pleasurable and important ones."

The 2 1/2-foot-long piece of wood that has adorned the arms of Goldstein for 20 years will again be placed in its place of honor, heading the parade in the arms of the former councilman. This piece of Rhode Island history contains wood salvaged from the British ship Gaspee, pieces of wood from the State House



The Rhode Island Mace

The Rhode Island Mace has been carried at the head of the Gaspee Day Parade every year since the first observance of Gaspee Days in June, 1966. Former Warwick City Councilman Gerald S. Goldstein has carried it every year.

The Mace has been used in the Inaugural ceremonies for Rhode Island Governors by the High Sheriff of Providence County since Governor Charles D. Kimball was sworn in on January 7, 1902. The only exception has been during World War I when its owner, the late Hunter C. White was with the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe.

The Mace, made of historic fragments of wood, is closely associated with the historical backgrounds of the state and the nation.

The eagle on the top of the mace was carried through the Civil War on top of a staff which wore a Union battle flag. Part of the wood was once taken from the much hated British revenue schooner H.M.S. Gaspee which was burned after being caught on a sand bar off Gaspee Point on the evening of June 9, 1772. Another portion of the wood came from colonial Governor Arthur Fenner's homestead in Cranston; which was built in 1680 and demolished in 1895.

He's leader of the pack

6-11-1992

After 20 years, Goldstein 'retires' from Gaspee Day Parade

By KAREN GAVIN
Special to the Journal-Bulletin

College.

Chosen best in state

Alianiello, 42, who lives in East Providence with his wife, Lauren, and two small children, was recently named Athletic Director of the Year by the Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Sitting in the school library, Alianiello, a shy, intense man who seldom smiles, talked about his work, what he likes about it, and why he has chosen to work at Hendricken for the last 18 years.

He came to the school in 1975, taught English and coached both cross-country and track. As cross-country coach, a position he gave up when he took the athletic director's job, Alianiello's teams won five state championships and four New England Championships.

His track and field teams have won 18 state championships and three New England championships. His lifetime coaching record at Hendricken is 212-6-1. In 1978, he was named Rhode Island Cross-Country Coach of the Year, and in 1982, the state's Track and Field Coach of the Year. He has a bachelor's degree from Boston College and a masters in education from Providence College.

As athletic director, Alianiello is responsible for 13 varsity sports at Hendricken. He is director of all athletic programs, handles scheduling, transportation, directs 50 coaches, and coordinates volunteers and awards programs. He still coaches track, and teaches English.

'It's my whole life'

Alianiello credits his coaches with much of his success as athletic director. He is "proud," he said, to have been able to maintain the same coaching staff over a long period of time.

"This staff is extremely dedicated. While they are the lowest paid staff in the state, they are the best coaching staff in the state," he said.

When he first took the job, he had a budget of less than \$80,000. Today, the athletic budget is about

He almost surrendered his reign last year, but decided instead to reach for the 20-year mark. And so on Saturday former Warwick City Councilman Gerald S. Goldstein will take his customary place at the head of the 27th annual Gaspee Day Parade for the last time.

"All good things must come to an end," Goldstein explains. "It'll be my 'Last Hurrah.'"

He'll be wearing, of course, the "infamous" white three-piece suit that has caused many a parade-goer to nickname him "The Man From Glad."

And he'll be carrying, for the last time, the legendary Rhode Island Mace.

For the past several years Goldstein has been gradually weaning himself from the very public life he's led in Warwick, both as a successful businessman and as a 16-year-veteran of the Warwick City Council. He's sold off several of his businesses, he says, and he and his wife of 41 years, Joan, have become "semi-retired."

"We need to make up for some long overdue vacations," Goldstein says.

But the decision to relinquish his role in Gaspee Days was especially bittersweet, and he says a lot of "mixed emotions" came with it, especially when he recalls the tapestry of the last 20 years.

At his first Gaspee Days Parade in 1972, his hair was brown, not silver. He says that several alterations have been made over the years on the lapels of his white suit jacket, from peaked to wide to narrow. He's quick to add, however, that "the waistline size of the pants has remained the same 34 inch size."

And it's with special fondness that Goldstein looks back on his 20-year relationship to the Rhode Island Mace, a 2½-foot-long ceremonial staff that has practically become his trademark.

The Mace, he says, is made from historic pieces of wood, including



FINAL PARADE: Gerald S. Goldstein, holding the Parade on Saturday. The former Warwick Councilman will lead the parade on Saturday.

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Goldstein

Continued from Page One

wood salvaged from the H.M.S. Gaspee. The Gaspee was the British ship whose fiery demise on June 10, 1772 at the hands of frustrated Rhode Island patriots is the reason behind all the Gaspee Days Fever in the first place.

The Mace was owned for years by Waldo and Virginia Seaman, an elderly North Kingstown couple whose identity was kept secret until their recent death. Mrs. Seaman was a descendant of the man who made the mace, Hunter C. White.

When Goldstein first met the Seamans, they'd about given up on their practice of loaning out the historic relic for use in state gubernatorial inaugurations. They were weary, Goldstein says, of the hassle it usually took to get it returned. Goldstein had "to win them over" in order to borrow the Mace for his first parade.

Because he took such good care of the historic relic, even rushing it back to the couple immediately when the parade was over, the Seaman's became convinced that Goldstein was trustworthy enough to borrow the Mace whenever he wanted.

And each year, when Goldstein received his invitation to lead the parade from the Gaspee Days Committee, the Mace came along with him.

The Mace now belongs to a close, personal friend of the Seamans, Goldstein says, whose identity is as mysterious as theirs once was. And its fate as part of the Gaspee Days Parade will be up to those who will continue in the tradition.

"It's the end of my era," Goldstein says, simply.

Here is this weekend's schedule:

Saturday, June 13:

There will be an Ecumenical Service at 8 a.m. at the Pawtuxet Baptist Church, 2157 Broad Street in Cranston.

The 27th annual Gaspee Day Parade will begin at 10 a.m. at Fair Street and Narragansett Parkway, Warwick, and will continue through Pawtuxet Village to Rhodes Place, Cranston.

The Colonial Muster of Fife and Drums will begin immediately following the parade at the reviewing stand next to Scottish Rite Cathedral, 2115 Broad Street, Cranston.

Colonial Encampment will be held at Pawtuxet Park, Narragansett Parkway, Warwick. There will be Encampment and Demonstration of Colonial living by militia and fife and drum units.

Sunday, June 14:

Allen and Edna Brown Memorial 10-k Foot Race will begin at 10 a.m. at Salter Grove Park, Narragansett Parkway Warwick.

Sunday in the Park, a family day with a free outdoor band concert, will be held from noon to 3 p.m. at Salter Grove Park, Narragansett Parkway, Warwick.

Colonial Encampment Demonstration will continue at Pawtuxet Park, Narragansett Parkway, Warwick.

Revolutionary War Battle Re-enactment will begin at 3 p.m. at Salter Grove Park, and will feature the Pawtuxet Rangers and other colonial militia groups.

The culmination of the weekend's events will take place with the Burning of the Gaspee at 4 p.m. in Salter Grove Park.

The Gaspee Day Golf Tournament will be held on June 17th at the Exeter Country Club, and is open to golfers of all levels.

For information, call the Gaspee Day Committee at 781-1772.

Historic mace to lead Gaspee Day parade ¹⁹⁸⁸



—Journal-Bulletin Photo by LAWRENCE S. MILLARD

WARWICK CITY COUNCILMAN Gerald S. Goldstein holds the borrowed mace he will carry as he leads tomorrow's Gaspee Day parade.

Piece of R.I. history made from 1772 wreck of British warship

WARWICK — A 2½-foot-long piece of wood will take its usual place of honor at the head of the 22nd annual Gaspee Day parade tomorrow.

According to City Councilman Gerald S. Goldstein, who has carried the mace in the last 16 parades, the piece of Rhode Island history contains wood salvaged from the wreck of the British ship Gaspee. It also contains wood from the home of Colonial Gov. Arthur Fenner.

One of the state's most celebrated legends, the burning and the sinking of the Gaspee took place June 10, 1772. When the British cutter Gaspee, sent to Narragansett Bay to prevent smuggling, began to chase the packet ship Hannah from Newport to Providence, the captain of the Hannah lured the cutter onto the sandy shoals off the Warwick coast, where the ship was stuck.

Before the next high tide could free the Gaspee, a group of residents sailed from Newport, burned the ship and captured its crew.

The mace — burgundy-brown, with gold paint, wrapped with a purple ribbon and topped with a metal eagle — is entrusted to Goldstein for a few days every year.

"I feel really honored and responsible having something like this in my custody," Goldstein said.

"The eagle was carried in the Civil War on top of a staff" of a Union flag, he said.

Before the mace was used in the Gaspee Day parade, it was used in inaugural ceremonies for governors, beginning with Gov. Charles D. Kimball in 1902.

Goldstein asked the owners' permission to borrow the mace to use in the parade 16 years ago. After two weeks, he received a call from the owners, saying they had "thoroughly" checked him out and that he was honorable enough to be loaned the mace if he would promise not to disclose their names.

Goldstein did say that the couple is elderly and that they enjoy the Gaspee Day activities.

Goldstein said he was nervous at first about taking temporary custody of the mace. But he says he has gained the trust and friendship of the owners and can borrow the mace other than on Gaspee Day.

Legend in wood heralds 22nd Gaspee parade

Councilman Goldstein will lead parade with relic of the shipwreck

WARWICK

By CARLA STAPLES

Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

WARWICK — A 2½-foot-long piece of wood will take its usual place of honor at the head of the 22nd annual Gaspee Day parade tomorrow.

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One of the state's most celebrated legends, the burning and the sinking of the Gaspee took place on June 10, 1772. The British cutter Gaspee, sent to Naragansett Bay to prevent smuggling, began to chase the packet ship Hannah from Newport to Providence. The captain of the Hannah purposely lured the Gaspee into the sandy shoals off of the Warwick coast, where the ship got stuck.

Before the next high tide could free the ship, a group of Providence residents sailed from Newport, burned the ship and captured its crew. Officials inquired about the

incident but no one talked, though most knew who had done the deed.

The mace is entrusted with Goldstein for a few days every year.

"I feel really honored and responsible having something like this in my custody," Goldstein said of the burgundy-brown mace, trimmed in gold paint with a wide purple ribbon, topped with a metal eagle.

"The eagle was carried in the Civil War on top of a staff," he said, noting that the staff carried a Union battle flag.

Before the mace began to be used in the Gaspee Day parade, it was used in inaugural ceremonies for governors, beginning with Governor Charles D. Kimball in 1902.

Goldstein asked the owners' permission to borrow the mace in the parade 16 years ago. After two weeks of waiting, he received a call from the owners saying they had "thoroughly" checked him out and that he was honorable enough to be loaned the mace if he would promise not to disclose their names.

Goldstein would say that couple is elderly, that they enjoy the Gaspee Day activities and that they are unable to attend because of ill health.

Goldstein was nervous at first about taking temporary custody of the mace. But he says he has gained the trust and friendship of the owners and can borrow the mace other than on Gaspee Day.

"They are really nice people," Goldstein said. "Now they let me borrow the mace anytime I want."



—Journal-Bulletin Photo
by LAWRENCE S. MILLARD

GERALD GOLDSTEIN displays
the Gaspee Days mace.

6-10-1988



—Journal-Bulletin Photo

GASPEE DAYS AGAIN: The 26th annual Gaspee Days celebration will be held this coming weekend in Pawtuxet Village. Above, Councilman Jerry Goldstein leads the R.I. National Guard band down the street along the parade route in 1985.

The Gaspee about to burn again in 26th Pawtuxet celebration

By ANNS. GOODING

Special to the Journal-Bulletin

Dust off that lawn chair, pack a picnic basket, round up friends and family. The 26th annual Gaspee Days celebration in Pawtuxet Village is about to begin.

Actually, several events, including the annual arts and crafts festival, have already taken place.

But the main events, including the Gaspee Day Parade and the re-creation of the burning of HMS Gaspee, will take place this weekend.

Gaspee Days Committee president John Hutson says that this annual celebration was popularized in the mid-1960s, when local residents decided to commemorate the Gaspee burning, which historians say was one of the preludes to the Revolutionary War.

The Gaspee, which King George III had sent to Rhode Island to enforce the Stamp Act and prevent smuggling, had been harassing ships which were passing through the

On June 9, 1772, it began chasing a colonist's ship that had left Newport for Providence. The captain of that ship lured the Gaspee into shallow waters off Namquit Point (now Gaspee Point), where the Gaspee ran around on a sandbar.

The colonial captain then reported the incident in Providence to John Brown, a prominent merchant. Brown then gathered a group of residents to discuss the incident. Eventually they rowed to the Gaspee, stormed the ship and took its crew prisoner. The next day, June 10, the ship was set afire.

The Gaspee Days Committee, made up of mostly of residents of Pawtuxet Village, which straddles the Warwick-Cranston border, has been sponsoring annual celebrations that have grown in size.

This year's parade will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday at the corner of Fair Street and Narragansett Parkway in Warwick. The parade, which will last about two hours, will continue through the village to

Palestine Shrine Temple — and will be followed by a colonial muster of fife and drums.

The Allen Brown Memorial 10k foot race, sponsored by Dear Hearts Ice Cream, is slated for Sunday at 9:30 a.m. It will begin at Salter Grove Park on Narragansett Parkway. Interested runners can contact the committee at 781-1772.

Later that day, "Sunday in the Park" is planned at the Salter Grove Park, with a free outdoor Dixieland band. The concert begins at noon.

At the close of the concert, a Revolutionary War Battle Re-enactment begins at 3 p.m. It includes the Pawtuxet Rangers and other Rhode Island colonial militia groups.

At 4 p.m. Sunday, the Burning of the Gaspee, a re-creation of the historic event, takes place in those same Pawtuxet waters.

There also will be a Gaspee Day golf tournament June 22 at the Exeter Country Club.

For additional information, call the Gaspee Day Committee at 781-

our way of doing business, does it mean that we have to lower our standards or does it mean that we have to do a better job of selling ourselves to the community we serve. I would like to think that being more visible and selling ourselves is the key rather than making wholesale change.

A good example is the Imperial article "THE SHRINE CHOSEN AS TOP WINNER IN ASSOCIATIONS ADVANCE AMERICA AWARDS PROGRAM". It was given in recognition of the Shrine's contributions to America. It was an event that was attended by President George Bush who congratulated our Imperial Potentate John W. Dean III. We can't get more visible than this, and we should be proud of this accomplishment. Locally our parades serve to keep us visible in the public eye.

Another, not so well known fact, is our own Gerald S. Goldstein, who for the last twenty years has carried "The Rhode Island Mace" at the head of the Gaspee Day Parade. See the article in this issue on the history of the Mace.

I would like to leave you with this thought, "This is the age of instability, where managing change is everybody's job. Think of it as your personal assignment."

Yours fraternally,
Rene E. Boucher

The Rhode Island Mace

The Rhode Island Mace has been carried at the head of the Gaspee Day Parade every year since the first observance of Gaspee Days in June, 1966. Former Warwick City Councilman Gerald S. Goldstein has carried it every year since 1972.

The Mace has been used in the Inaugural ceremonies for Rhode Island Governors by

the High Sheriff of Providence County since Governor Charles D. Kimball was sworn in on January 7, 1902. The only exception has been during World War I when its owner, the late Hunter C. White was with the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe.



The Mace, made of historic fragments of wood, is closely associated with the historical backgrounds of the state and the nation.

The eagle on the top of the mace was carried through the Civil War on top of a staff which wore a Union battle flag. Part of the wood was once taken from the much hated British revenue schooner H.M.S. Gaspee which was burned after being caught on a sand bar off Gaspee Point on the evening of June 9, 1772. Another portion of the wood came from colonial Governor Arthur Fenner's homestead in Cranston; which was built in 1680 and demolished in 1895.

