

# SOUTH COUNTY

## Shores are many

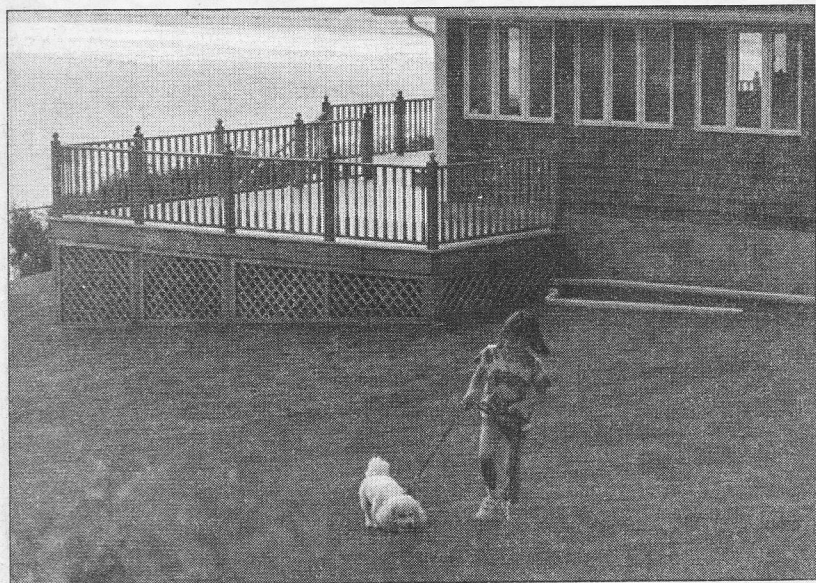


PHOTO: DANIEL G. DUNN

**Alexandra Primavera, 7, walks her poodle "Sunny" in her yard on Col. John Gardner Road Tuesday. The waters of Narragansett Bay are never far in Bonnet Shores.**

the area.

In those days a summer camp was also held at Haughey Field, where the community center is now, and the community had its own baseball team and clubs, such as the women's club and the mother's club.

Pat Moffit, the deceased mother of Dawn Abosso, was one of the people who formed the mother's club in the 1960s. Abosso, who now lives in her family's home in Bonnet Shores with her teenage son, recalled how the club sponsored parties, dances and activities for the children who lived year round in the community. Although Abosso does not like all the changes she has witnessed in Bonnet Shores over the years and feels that the sense of community has diminished somewhat, she said she chooses to live here because of her childhood memories.

Barry recalled his own memories of the summer activities that he attended as a child when his family had a summer home in Wesquage. Although he no longer lives in Bonnet Shores, he has maintained the friendships that were formed with other residents as a child.

"This is the coolest place," Barry said. "I have a special affinity for it. I spent most of my life around Bonnet Shores."

Barry said that there are 1,649 members in the Bonnet Shores Fire

District, which is run by a council/manager form of government. As manager of the district he oversees many activities that the Fire District now sponsors, including a summer camp, operations such as trash pick-up, a summer bus and summer employees hired by the district.

With about 60 percent of the residents now year round, a keen interest in the community has formed and residents are planning for the future, Barry noted. A 10-year long-range plan to address community needs is being developed and a land trust was formed in 1992 in hopes of preserving open space and access to the water. Through its efforts about 100 acres of Bonnet Shores has been preserved, and the group is hoping others will donate open space.

Recently the Fire District made several improvements around Bonnet Shores by installing a handicapped access ramp off Dunes Road onto Kelly Beach and by placing benches at overlook areas.

As Barry gave a tour of the community Monday, he shared stories about the various homes and people who have lived here. "It's as nice a spot as any in Rhode Island," he said as he drove past the Bonnet Cliffs.

"A lot has changed, but all the people I knew then I still know," he said. "This is not typical of Rhode Island, because it is a true colony."