



The following historical perspectives were written by Charlie Newhall and Bill Sleigh. Both review the Club history from its origins in 1932 to the end of the sixties. While there is obvious overlap between the two, each has its own focus. Charlie Newhall follows the club's physical development while Bill Sleigh examines more of the club's social development. Both are excellent and provide insight into the great traditions and spirit of the Club. They are great reads and serve as reminders of how fortunate we truly are.

### Gut 'n Feathers Club History 1932 – 1966

#### **Charles Newhall's Gut 'n Feathers Club – Its Origin and Development**

The Gut 'n Feather Club of Marblehead, - whose name was concocted by putting together names of two principle components of badminton, racquets and shuttlecocks, - has always had an informal independent character all its own.

It is striking proof of what can be brought about by a group of neighbors exercising their New England resourcefulness and ingenuity to take whatever happens to be at hand and by their combined personal efforts making it over into what they want to have.

#### 1932 – 1935

The first thing that was at hand in this case for the club's founding members was a garage of a summer hotel, - the long since departed Hotel Rockmere on Marblehead Harbor. By exercise of the above mentioned New England resourcefulness and ingenuity, seventeen friends in the general neighborhood adapted the garage so that it could be used by them as a playing area for friendly games of badminton during a six-month period beginning November, 1932.

Expenditures for "improvements" totaled only \$62, principally in connection with electric lighting. There was no heat in the garage, but the players were a rugged lot and were able to adjust themselves to the cold playing conditions, some of them even wearing overshoes! High deep clearing shots could not be made by the players because of the low ceiling of the garage, but this did not prevent vigorous play.

Each of the original group of seventeen at the Rockmere Garage contributed a sum varying from only \$5 to \$11, the amount of each such payment being based upon what use it was estimated the participating member would make of the court. Edward Rudd of the First

National Bank of Boston was the logical choice of the group to handle all these funds as Treasurer.

Well-known members of the original group included Bradshaw Langmaid, Harold Hodgkinson, Dr Malcolm Restall, David Wheatland, George McQuesten, Ruth Welch, Thomas Barry and Richard Searle.

Use of the Rockmere Garage continued for a total of three seasons. In the second of these seasons (1933 – 1934), there were nineteen members, each paying an initial charge of \$8, but receiving back at the end of the season a \$2.75 refund, making the members net charge for the season only \$5.25.

### 1935 – 1938

The next thing that was at hand for use during the succeeding fourth, fifth and sixth seasons of 1935-36, 1936-37 and 1937-38, was the vacant Lyceum Movie Theatre on Mechanic Street in downtown Marblehead. Again, New England resourcefulness came into play. Arrangements were made to rent the theatre from T. A. McNulty for \$276 a year. After the seats had been removed from the theatre, the floor was made suitable for badminton play at a cost of about \$53. Again there was no heat for the playing area itself, but a coal-burning potbellied stove was installed in a small cubicle to supply a little warmth between games. Although conditions were still far from ideal, they were much improved over those in the Rockmere Garage, and the number of family members increased to thirty.

At the time of renting the Lyceum Theatre premises in 1935, the club became incorporated. Listed below are the names and addresses of the 30 members of the club who are listed in the Club's Agreement of Association which was filed at the State House on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1935.

#### GnF Founding Members 1935

Allen H. W. Higgins	134 Front St., Marblehead
Bradshaw Langmaid	11 Gregory St., Marblehead
David P. Wheatland	133 Front St., Marblehead
George E. Stephenson	Ocean Ave., Marblehead
Edward H. Rudd	39 Orchard St., Marblehead
David S. Garland Jr.	Harbor Ave., Marblehead
Joseph M. Batchelder	20 Middle St., Marblehead
William L. Whitehead	40 Lee St., Marblehead
Edwin A. Sturgis, Jr.	11 Lee St., Marblehead
William C. A. Willman	3 Redstone Ln., Marblehead
John Babcock Howard	Marblehead Neck, MA
Malcolm M, Restall	66 Pleasant St., Marblehead
H. B. Hodgkinson	1 Green St., Marblehead
C. F. Lyman JR.	5 Pond St., Marblehead
J. S. Bridges, III	10 Walnut St., Marblehead
Henry P. Taggard	36 Gregory St., Marblehead

Ransom F. Hodges  
James C. Gray, Jr.  
Carl D. Rust, Jr.  
George E. McQuesten  
Ms. Heyliger Church  
Ms. Richard Searle  
George K. Briggs  
Carlton H. Parker  
T Hooker Barry  
Ray L. Wilkinson  
Benj A. Hunneman  
Mrs. Richard E. Pope  
Samuel B. Jones, Jr.  
Martha B. Brackett

Nanepashemet St., Marblehead  
Cottage St., Marblehead  
Marblehead Neck, MA  
Foster St., Marblehead  
42 Orne St., Marblehead  
Ballast Ln., Marblehead  
74 Sea View Ave., Marblehead  
30 High St., Marblehead  
2 Union St., Marblehead  
330 Lafayette St., Salem  
Harvard St., Marblehead  
Rock Ledge, Marblehead  
Five Oak Circle, Marblehead  
Harbor Ave., Marblehead

### 1938 and Subsequent Years

The next thing that became available, this time in 1938, was the vacant Universalist Church of Marblehead at the corner of Pleasant and Watson Streets. This was the greatest challenge of all to New England resourcefulness and ingenuity, both as to alterations in the building and as to financing the acquisition.

From the documentary stamps affixed to the deed dated November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1938 from the Massachusetts Universalist Convention conveying to the Club its present premises at the corner of Pleasant and Watson Streets, Marblehead, it appears that the purchase price paid by the Club for such premises was no more than \$2,500. From the Club's balance sheet dated May, 1940, it appears that the additional cost to the Club for its newly acquired building after it had been remodeled was \$10,285.33. Further, from the Club's aforesaid balance sheet it appears that the cost to the Club for furnishings and equipment was \$184.61.

The financing was accomplished through a savings bank mortgage loan in the amount of \$6,600, supplemented by about \$1,575 obtained on bonds issued by the Club and subscribed for by each of the above mentioned thirty members of the Club (later donated back to the Club) and a personal loan or loans of between \$500 and \$1,000 by one or more Club members (also later in large part donated back to the Club). The extensive alterations, which completely metamorphosed the interior of the building, involved many architectural and construction problems, all of which were solved to give the Club what is generally recognized to be the best two-court badminton clubhouse set-up in the United States, and perhaps the world. Dave Freeman, the greatest ever of all American badminton players, rated the courts as the finest he had ever played on anywhere.

This all required carefully detailed planning and exceptional skill in doing everything necessary to put such plans in effect. In order to bring the cost within a feasible range, it was necessary for a great deal of the basic work to be done by members of the Club themselves, including, among other things, demolition of the pulpit, organ and choir loft areas, as well as doing the

painting inside the building. Brad Langmaid, a lumber expert, did a particularly fine job in selecting the wood used for the flooring of the courts. One of the major changes in the interior of the building was the removal of the floor between the sanctuary portion of the church building and the Sunday School area underneath, which, much to everyone's relief, was successfully done, the exterior walls proving themselves to be adequate to support the roof by themselves, without the help of the sanctuary floor as a tie-in between the opposite walls. The successive groups of members who took off their coats and rolled up their sleeves had a lot of fun working together as teams, with, fortunately, only one accident, and this is a relatively minor one which occurred when, much to his surprise, one of the member-workers found that he had inadvertently hammered a nail into a water pipe hidden from his sight with the result that a small geyser spouted out of the broken pipe.

One of the by-products realized by the club from the purchase of this building was subsequently gathering in some cash proceeds from the sale of parishioners' wooden benches and the "hand pumper" organ.

One of the features of the new interior of the building was a sizable lounge overlooking the courts, with an adjoining kitchen having service counters separated from the lounge by slides in the intervening wall. With this new facility came the introduction of the immediately popular Friday Night Suppers (preceded and followed by mixed doubles badminton play), served at a cost of ninety-nine cents a person by a succession of Club hostesses (two at a time, once a season). Previously, a few suppers had been managed to be held at irregular intervals at the Club, through the use of rather primitive temporary "make-do" equipment. It also had become somewhat the custom for various groups of member-couples, after they had finished their badminton play at the Club to the home of one of the member-couples and to finish out there the evening together, with a "bit to eat and a drop to drink".

Dues were kept as low as possible. The friendly neighborhood atmosphere continue. Small wonder that there was always a waiting list to join the Club, which had a limit of fifty "family" memberships. Along with the growth in membership came arrangements to have a professional instructor, Al Dover, at the Club once or twice a week.

The new Clubhouse also made it possible for the Club over a period of ten years, beginning 1946, to conduct each January one of the principle events of the badminton season on the Eastern seaboard, - the Gut 'n Feathers Club Invitation Men's Doubles Tournament, supplemented in certain years by a Ladies Doubles Tournament making use in this connection of the Tedesco Courts. Entries were restricted to about sixteen of the outstanding men's' doubles teams in the East and elsewhere. It was a one-day tournament, held on a Saturday, with the semi-finals and finals being played at night on one of the two courts, and with temporary stands for spectators being erected on the other court. Out of state players were house guests of members. A special supper was served at the Club for the competitors and Club members. The peak tournament was probably the one held in 1949. The players competing in that tournament included all four members of the India Thomas Cup Team and also top-ranking United States players, headed by the United States Thomas Cup doubles team of Bobby Williams of Niagara Falls, NY, and Clint Stephens of Baltimore, MD. All these four teams played in the preliminary rounds the same as other teams, all of them reaching the semi-final round.

The no. 1 India team of Dattu Mugve and Bala Ullal, both of Bombay, after winning their semi-final match, had a thrilling finals match with Williams and Stephens, in which the latter team came out on top.

In some other seasons when the Gut 'n Feathers Invitational Men's' Doubles Tournament was not held, special exhibition matches were held at the Club, with some of the foremost badminton players taking part. Perhaps the most colorful of players in these exhibitions matches were Eddy Choong and David Choong of Malaya and Finn Kibbero and Hammergaard Hansen of Denmark.

Other Club activities over the years, such as participation in league play sponsored by the Massachusetts Badminton Association, and annual interclub matches with Tedesco (Newhall Trophy) and the holding of other official tournaments, not to mention the club's own Championships, Junior Play Program, parties and outings, are too numerous to attempt to list in full.

The Club should have a lot of pride in its past. There is no question but that, on their part, the Club's old-timers are proud of all that the Club is presently doing to carry on with the same old spirit that has been inherited from the past.

Charles Newhall

### **Bill Sleigh's *Gut 'n Feathers Club – A Condensed History***

In 1969, on the eve of its fortieth anniversary, the Gut 'n Feathers Club held a "Remember When" party devoted to a review of the club history. Members were asked to come dressed in the clothes of the year they joined the club. The notice called for cocktails at 6:30pm and "Dinner served until 8:30pm." The price was \$7.00/couple and there was to be a stage presentation. Hostesses were Gail Noyes, Dee Cushman and Ruth Curtis. Bill Sleigh masterminded the presentation and the following narration is based largely on his notes with some help from a few old records unearthed by the secretary and the recollections of one or two older members. The stage presentation at the party encompassed four periods: First Years (1930-1938), The War Years (1939-1945), Newhall's Folly (1946-1955), and finally, Feather and Footlights (1957-1966). The same period format will be used in this review.

#### **First Years**

Charlie Newhall has described this period in his monograph recently transmitted to Club members. One could add to his report on this period a few data which might be of interest. It was the custom of a group of the members after Friday night play to repair to the home of one of the members for a bowl of chowder (the garage being without heat, fingers and toes were

sufferers and a hot chowder was most welcome). This was the origin of the Friday night suppers and the basis of the subsequent social life of the Club. This supper routine became formalized when the Club moved in to the present Watson Street quarters with its two burner gas stove in the small kitchen off the downstairs lounge (now part of the ladies locker room.)

Some of the records remaining from this era cast light on the Club operation. For example dues were assessed at first on the basis (as the Treasurer reports) "as we thought the individual used the courts," and varied from \$5 to \$11. George Stephenson, Ted Rudd, Brad Langmaid, Paul Rust and George McQuestion were the heavy users and were charged the full \$11 for the December to May season, while Dick Searle, Fred Lyman, Tom Barry, Bill Chisholm and Ray Wilconsin paid only \$5.

In the 1934-35 season dues were assessed equally to all members at \$8, but since the total income was \$152 and the expense only \$99.75, there was a surplus of \$52.25 and a dividend of \$2.75 was declared and paid to each of the nineteen members. The dues then were reduced for the following season to \$5. Apparently to avoid the embarrassment of a surplus and the necessity of declaring and paying a dividend. But in the 1935-36 season dues were raised to \$15. This apparently was necessary because of the \$10 monthly rental charged for the use of the Lyceum Theatre and the cost for cleaning (Donald Orne - \$2/week) coal for the stove (John S. Martin coal Company), a telephone, stamps, stationary, electricity, etc. At this time the Club bought birds and sold them to members. The charge for one dozen birds was \$3.50.

The dues structure again was readjusted (apparently to avoid a surplus, or to respond to the complaints that the dues were too high) and for the season 1937-38 they were \$12.50. However, the move to the new quarters in the old church on Watson Street brought increased costs for heat, light, janitor services, and other expenses so that the dues were raised to \$25 where they remained for several years. Later they were increased to \$35, then to \$50 and by 1961 they went to \$70.

The organizational structure of the Club has always remained pretty much the same. The first standing committee was the House Committee which seems to have come into existence first about 1935 when the Club moved into the Lyceum Theatre. When the move to Watson Street was completed, the House Committee responsibilities increased so that badminton activities were vested in a separate committee. The first Badminton Committee (1942) consisted of Ernie Woelfel and Lib Lyman. It established rules for the use of the courts, stimulated Men's and Women's play, ran the annual Club tournament and arranged team play with other badminton clubs throughout Eastern Massachusetts. The Club by this time had become affiliated with the Massachusetts Badminton Association.

### War Years

The additional expense of operating the plant at Watson Street required an increased membership and the limit was raised to fifty family memberships and quickly filled. While the court floor was exceptionally good, the lighting left something to be desired, as did the heating. The court lights consisted of the eight still existing 300 watt wall and hanging fixtures with reflectors. It was not until many years later that the fluorescent fixtures (an experimental

attempt at non-glare lighting by Sylvania) were installed, and much later that the ceiling was painted white, the cloth hangings covering the balcony and over the lounge area changed from green to white and the center lights reversed to shine upward as they are today.

The cost of the renovation of the church was helped by the sale of the pews in the church to the Arch Diocese for the use in a small new catholic church. Later some of the Sunday School benches and the pews from the balcony were sold to members to assist in the construction of the new lounge in the area formerly occupied by the choir loft and organ.

When the Club moved into the renovated church there was a small kitchenette occupying a part of what is now the Ladies Locker Room with a two burner gas stove, a sink and some shelves. The shelves held three dozen heavy crockery soup bowls (country hotel style, circa 1900), a varied assortment of plates donated by Lib Lyman, Dottie Langmaid and others from broken sets of china, plated silverware in a stack on individual serving trays, as well as a few pots, pans and assorted kitchenware, mostly donated. The telephone was also installed here. There was room for not more than three workers and it is little short of amazing that the girls were able on occasion to serve dinner to as many as 180 people when our invitational tournaments were held. Calls from and to sitters, late arriving members, etc. provided traffic in and out of the kitchen to the telephone and added to the confusion

However, the Friday night suppers became an established institution and the House Committee saw to it that all members shared in this duty. The charge for supper was fifty cents in 1939 and the end of the year showed a substantial profit for the Club. When the legislature enacted a meal tax on all meals costing a \$1.00 or more, the male members were cautioned to have their spouses each pay her fifty cents separately so that there would be no question of the tax being applicable.

This era also saw the beginning of a substantial social life. The first of the parties apparently was a "Monte Carlo Night" to raise money for the Club. Numerous types of games of chance were offered with the betting in paper money purchased for a cents on the dollar and resulting in profit of some \$50 for the club, a not substantial sum for those days.

This was followed by a party masterminded by Betty Cook which featured vaudeville acts performed by members. The Andrews Sisters, then popular on radio and records, were impersonated by Charlie Rolfie, Bob Osgood and Chet Sawtelle in suitable female wigs and costumes moving their lips synchronized to the hidden victrola behind them. Charlie Pyne entertained with his magic which he had perfected for children's parties. There was a barbershop quartet featuring Houghton, Clarke, Sleigh and another. Three Flora-Dora girls were impersonated by Kay Gardner, Bobbie White and Val Sturgis, but the act which brought the house down was a wrestling match between Don Gardner (Dartmouth wrestling champion) 6' 2" – 190lbs and Miggie Taylor 5' 1" – 90lbs. Miggie's win was not unanticipated.

The war years were hard on the Club. Many, if not most, of the male members were in the service and few of them were stationed near home. Men's play diminished to the point where not more than eight to ten at the most could be expected to show up and play. For at least two seasons the Club was without fuel due to strict rationing and the only heat was from a

potbellied stove in the lounge. There was no water (the pipes having been drained during the winters) as evidenced by holes in the snow by the back porch. (The ladies used facilities across the street at the Sturgis house). Friday night suppers were box lunches brought from home. The Clifton contingent (Rolfes, Holloways, Shipmans, Pynes, Bridges) came by bicycle, skis or by train from the Clifton or Devereaux stations to the Depot (where Miller Ford used to be), not having sufficient gas (rationed) to drive to the club. Mittens and ski parkas were in order for play when the temperature on the court went below freezing.

When the weather moderated sufficiently to turn the water supply on, suppers were again cooked and served by the hostesses, but with restricted menus...meat, butter, sugar, and other staples were rationed so that the most usual recipes featured fish, beans, spaghetti, cheese and like dishes. Vegetables came from the members' "victory" gardens.

The party schedule resumed with parties at Halloween, Christmas, Washington's Birthday, even St. Patrick's Day, and finally a big Spring Party and Dance. One of the early spring parties will be remembered as the black-out party held at the Old Boston Yacht Club (by the present State Street public landing) with all windows and doors covered with black cloth as a precaution against the possibility of guidance to enemy planes, a precaution observed for two years all over the eastern part of the country. Street lights were out, automobile headlights were half covered by black paint or shields and few people other than police, Home Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary were about at night.

### **Years of Growth 1946 - 1955**

With war over, the Club returned to normal with heat and plumbing restored, male members out of service and badminton parties in full swing. Dues were increased to \$50.00 and the price of suppers to 99 cents. The annual Invitational Tournament masterminded by Charlie Newhall became a January fixture, and was recognized as the badminton event on the East Coast. It brought to our court at first the outstanding players in New England; sixteen mens' doubles teams. But it then expanded to include players from all over the country and Canada. The players and their consorts were put up in homes of members, provided with lunch and dinner at the Club, breakfast by their hosts and hostesses and a noisy and crowded party hosted by the Rolfes on Saturday night. It became so popular and attracted so many mooching hangers-on that it resulted in a mob scene. It became known as "Newhall's Folly" and was finally abandoned as an over-sized party rather than a serious tournament.

The fame of the Club prompted by our indefatigable ambassador Newhall, now deeply immersed in Massachusetts Badminton Association activities as well as Thomas Cup promotion, made it possible to attract exhibition matches featuring some of the best players, not only in the country but also in the world. The Thomas Cup teams from Malaysia as well as India performed for us, as did members of the American Thomas Cup and Uba Cup teams. England, Sweden and other countries were represented at various times. Ken Davidson, known as the "father of international badminton" came to our court and put on for us the most amazing demonstration of intricate finesse and unbelievable shots ever seen, coupled with a comedy routine which will not be forgotten by those who saw it.



Our Junior program was started during this period when Becca Stebbins brought her children and those of some neighboring members down to the Club Saturdays mornings and gave them lessons. Other members' children asked to join the group and it soon developed into a regular program leading to the hire of Al Dover as teacher and coach.

It was not long before the Juniors were competing outside the Club, a program which really blossomed under the aegis of Pam Pleasants' Junior Badminton Committee which brought Junior Tournaments to our court and sent out Junior Members to compete in State and National Tournaments.

The Club grew fast during these years; the pressure for admission resulted in increasing the membership limit. It was the sought-after Club for young new arrivals in town. Pressure for membership developed and letters of opposition as well as for support of candidates were numerous and sometimes vehement. The letters were pasted in a book and retained by the membership committee for some time until a courageous chairman destroyed them.

The annual Club tournament was resumed and teams were organized to travel to Andover, United Shoe, Maugus Club, Ringe, Tedesco and other badminton centers to compete on a home and home basis.

Numerous problems with the building and facilities arose from time to time. The towers on the front of the building had to be removed, the building painted from time to time, plumbing, heating, and hot water sources renewed or expanded, floor sanded and refinished, roof leaks found and eliminated, emergency lights installed, furniture repaired and repainted, stolen kitchenware replaced, a series of never-ending worries for the House Committee and Building Committee. For some twenty years after moving into the Watson Street Building most of the maintenance and repair work was done by work parties composed of members. Teams such as Rolfe, Coe, Clark, Bridges, Sawtelle, Stone, Sleigh, Sturgis, Stocker, Giles, and many others painted floors and walls, replaced lights, painted furniture, built shelves, and benches, and did many other house-keeping chores about the Club property. The court walls, for example, were twice painted from floor to ceiling by work parties of members wielding paint rollers on the end of long bamboo poles from ladders. One remembers George Labranche and Jim Munro among those engaged in this project. It should also be noted that a substantial contribution to the stalwart efforts of the members was made by the cases of beer provided by the House Committee as an encouragement to the volunteering members.

### **Lounge Era 1956 - 1966**

It was now obvious that we had outgrown our accommodations and we began to look for added space. Above the lounge and locker rooms was the old choir and organ loft with a stairway leading to the street. This area raised from the old church floor (which had been removed when the playing court floor was installed) could then be reached only by a ladder (donated by Ross Sawtelle for use in painting the walls) which rested against the upper floor (choir loft) where the green cambric curtain extended from the loft floor to the ceiling. A corner of the curtain had been torn to provide access to the choir and organ loft at the top of the ladder. It was rumored that members had been known to invite persons of the opposite

sex to climb the ladder to see the choir loft and organ. The only other use made of the dark space was when a somewhat inebriated member persuaded another to climb up and hand pump the organ while he clumsily fingered the keys in grand recital.

The mortgage on the building having been finally paid off, the tight-fisted treasurer agreed that the time had come to expand the facilities. The logical move was to expand to the choir and organ loft. This meant a new stairway to the court and a reconstruction of the old stairway from the loft to the street. There was also a problem of supporting the new lounge floor which required a steel I-beam over the ceiling of the old downstairs lounge. A false ceiling over the loft was also required to limit the area to be heated.

Nelson Aldrich donated his services on drawing the basic plans; Brad Langmaid (whose father had supplied the lumber for the building of the church in 1881) was chairman of the committee to carry out the project. Bill Sleight, Derrick Giles, John Bridges and others were mainly responsible for carrying the project through.

It was originally intended to be a "do-it-yourself" job with all members contributing their time and talents and only the basic electrical, plumbing and structural work to be done by professionals and many weekends were spent by work parties supervised by Derrick Giles using saw, hammer, nails, pinch bar, and other unsophisticated tools, ripping up old floors, tearing down partitions, and removing wainscotings, laying new floors, putting up strapping for the hung ceiling, etc. But it soon became evident that this was not the way it was to be done, particularly when one of the amateur carpenters while nailing down the new floor drove a line of nails through the new copper pipe carrying water to the men's locker room, an error which was discovered the following morning when the lounge below was found to be flooded.

Midway in the work Brad negotiated a sale of the organ to an organ company which needed and used the parts in repairs to old church organs throughout Essex county; our organ thus gave its soul to the perpetuation of great music throughout the area.

The committee played fast and loose with the Aldrich blue prints completely rearranging the kitchen, installing slanted plexiglas windows overlooking the courts and arranging the stairway to the street in such a fashion that it was unnecessary to move the toilet and shower stall below. How Langmaid got the strange three quarter staircase by the building inspector will never be known.

When the new lounge was finally completed and occupied for the first time it was a great day for all, particularly the ladies with their adequate kitchen, refrigerator, disposal, four burner gas stove (donated by George McQuesteon), ample shelf room and other prerequisites so sadly lacking in the former facilities.

1951 saw the first of the great Christmas parties with decorations by Marge Chesterton and Peggy Batchelder, one of the first of the decorative triumphs achieved by these two talented gals. The following spring they outdid themselves with the "April in Paris" party. The court became the Bois, the Champs Elysee, and Mont Martre, with tulip beds, street lamps, grass plots, trees, benches and exotic lighting. The program included an act from the musical

production of the same name with Jack Clarke, Dev Chesterton, Marge, a chorus line of our most vivacious young ladies, and many others. One will not soon forget the Chesterton poodle, "Rags", died pink for the occasion or Dev's impersonation of Chevalier singing "Louise". dancing to Bob Hendrick's band completed the evening.

1954 produced a Washington's Birthday Party, an underwater party, a Hawaiian Luau, and another Goldwait Beach Party with an authentic down-Maine Lobster bake.

The next era in the Club history 1955 – 1966, was more of the same. Building problems with exterior painting, replacement of rotting sills, refinishing the floor, and other housekeeping problems were as expected. "Coconut Grove" emergency lights, keeping fire extinguishers inspected and filled, clearing out the Watson Street exit area of rubbish, benches etc. to comply with fire laws and satisfy the Building Inspector and Fire Marshall, panic bars and swinging doors at the exits became the concern of the Building Committee for a time, matters unfortunately more recently forgotten or ignored. There was an increased emphasis on Junior and Club badminton and fancy and imaginative parties crowded the Club to the doors with members and guests. Among the great parties at this time was the visit of the Talbot Brothers, one of the leading steel bands from the Caribbean, engaged for us by Dev Chesterton and attracting what must have been the largest crowd ever hosted by the Club. The attendance definitely topped 300 and raised eyebrows on some of the Building Committee members who worried about floor timbers, exits, fire hazards and other panic paranoia.

The Gay Nineties Review in 1961 was also one of the highlights of the social life of the Club, followed by a Beatnik Party in 1963 and a Gay Nineties Revival Party in 1965.

The Review in 1961 was a return to Betty Cook's format with numerous acts performed by individual members. Leading off was a two act Melodrama entitled "A Fig for Phineas" authored and directed by Bill Sleigh based on a 1812 Marblehead background with fictitious capture and subjugation of Marblehead by the British. Feature parts were taken by Roger Fowler, Patty Smith, Dick Hill, Judy McManus, Hazel Bowers and Priscilla Morse with many other supporting roles.

Following the major production was a strip-tease by "Miss" Bill Seward, suitably attired and unattired, a hilarious take-off of Julia Child by Kay Vickers and other acts.

The Beatnik Party, masterminded by Gail Noyes and her helpers, provided new highlights in decorations, costumes, lighting, music and fun.

In 1965 the Gay Nineties Party was repeated by popular request with a replay of "A Fig for Phineas", a Thalassa Cruso act by Fuzzy Lord and other offerings.

1969 brought forth the "Remember When" Party already described. The program involved a presentation of the history of the Club with a talk-show accompanied by slides and a dramatic presentation depicting some of the acts put on at great parties of the past.

The badminton activities of the Club as outlined by Charlie Newhall and the social activities as portrayed in this report, not to mention the financial, administrative, structural and building maintenance problems could be enlarged upon and set forth in much greater detail had we old timers the inclination and urge to do it, but what we have set down will at least give some idea of why we have considered Gut 'n Feathers one of the most rewarding and fun clubs we have ever belonged to.

Hopefully, some of the younger members will now take pen and fill in the history from 1969.

Bill Sleigh