



HOMICIDE AT ROUGH POINT

THE UNTOLD STORY OF HOW DORIS DUKE
THE RICHEST WOMAN IN AMERICA
GOT AWAY WITH MURDER

PETER LANCE

FIVE TIME EMMY-WINNING AUTHOR OF TRIPLE CROSS
COVER UP AND 1000 YEARS FOR REVENGE

HOMICIDE AT ROUGH POINT

Peter Lance



TENACITY MEDIA BOOKS

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FIRST EDITION

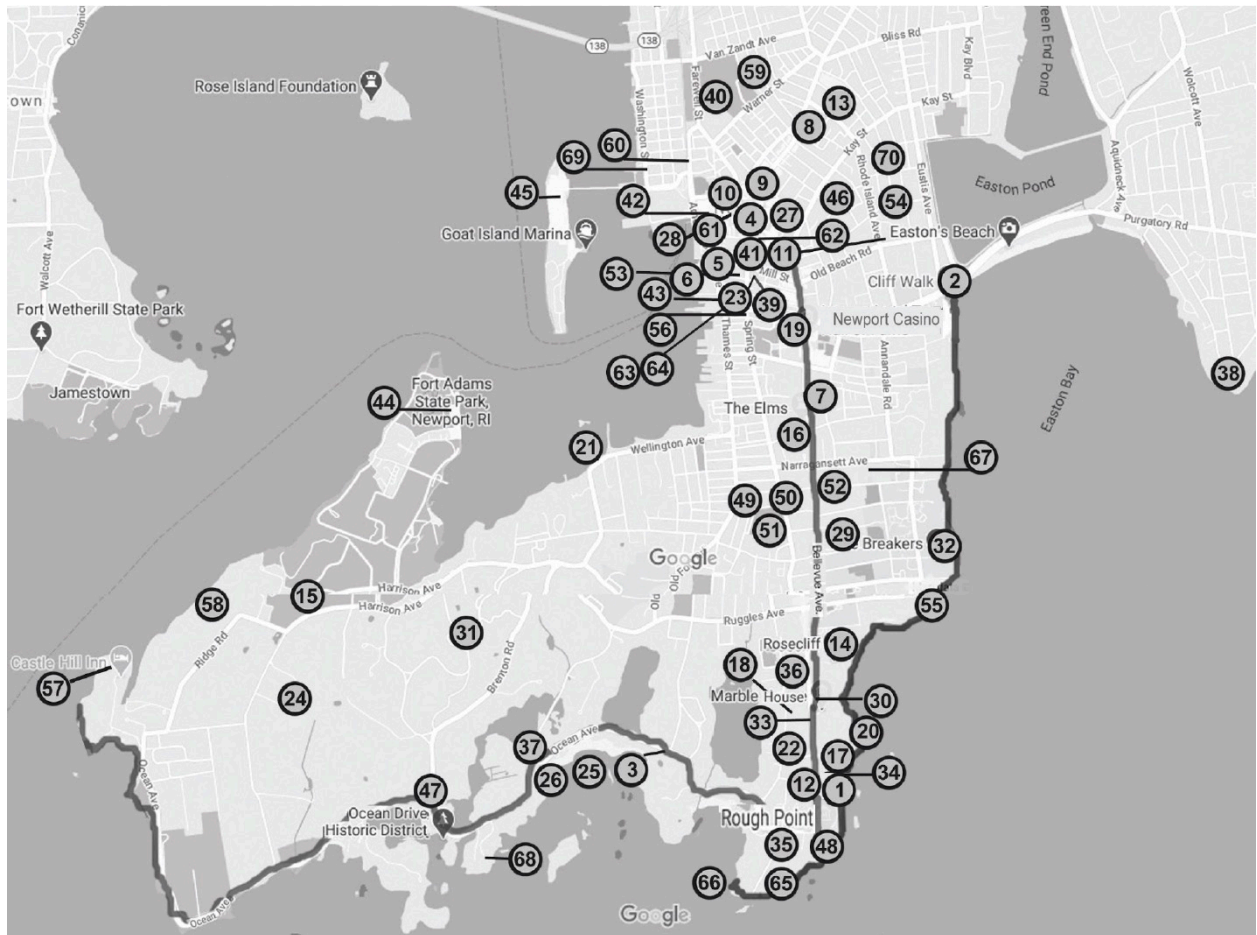
Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data has been applied for.

ISBN 978-0-9962855-9-9

Tenacity Media Books
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Mario Puzo famously began *The Godfather* with Balzac's observation that "Behind every great fortune there is a crime." Few concentrations of American wealth are associated with as many crimes as the tobacco, aluminum and energy fortune inherited by Doris Duke. This is the full, unexpurgated story of one of them.



Newport Map: Locations cited in Homicide At Rough Point.

- 1 **Rough Point:** 680 Bellevue Avenue
- 2 **Cliff Walk:** Memorial Boulevard to Ledge Road
- 3 **Ocean Drive:** Ocean Avenue to Castle Hill
- 4 **Touro Synagogue:** 85 Touro Street
- 5 **Newport Daily News:** 140 Thames Street (1967-1968)
- 6 **The Black Pearl:** 10 ½ Bannister's Wharf
- 7 **De La Salle Academy:** 364 Bellevue Avenue
- 8 **Cranston-Calvert School:** 15 Cranston Avenue
- 9 **The Quality Lunch:** 25 Broadway
- 10 **Newport Police Headquarters (1967-68)**
- 11 **Newport Reading Room:** 29 Bellevue Avenue
- 12 **Quatrel/Lorillard Estate:** 673 Bellevue Avenue
- 13 **Newport Hospital:** 20 Powell Avenue
- 14 **Rosecliff:** 548 Bellevue Avenue
- 15 **Hammersmith Farm:** 225 Harrison Avenue
- 16 **The Elms/Berwind Estate:** 367 Bellevue Avenue
- 17 **Miramar/Rice Estate:** 646 Bellevue Avenue
- 18 **The Holmwoods:** 161 Coggeshall Avenue
- 19 **Newport Casino:** 190 Bellevue Avenue
- 20 **Clarendon Court:** 626 Bellevue Avenue
- 21 **Ida Lewis Yacht Club:** 170 Wellington Avenue
- 22 **Belcourt/Tinney Estate:** 657 Bellevue Avenue
- 23 **Touro Park:** Bellevue Avenue & Mill Street
- 24 **Newport Country Club:** 280 Harrison Avenue
- 25 **Baileys Beach:** 34 Ocean Avenue
- 26 **The Ledges/Cushing Estate:** 66 Ocean Avenue
- 27 **Tubley's Spa:** 58 Spring Street (1967)
- 28 **Superior Courthouse:** 45 Washington Square
- 29 **Chateau-Sur-Mer:** 474 Bellevue Avenue
- 30 **Marble House:** 596 Bellevue Avenue
- 31 **Beacon Hill/Swiss Village:** 152 Harrison Avenue
- 32 **The Breakers:** 44 Ochre Point Avenue
- 33 **Beaulieu:** 615 Bellevue Avenue

-
- 34 **Rock Cliff:** 670 Bellevue Avenue
35 **The Mailands:** 37 Ledge Road
36 **Sherwood:** 533 Bellevue Avenue
37 **Idle Hour:** Ocean Avenue & Hazard Road
38 **The Clambake Club:** 353 Tuckerman Avenue
39 **The Newport Tower:** 152 Mill Street
40 **Newport's Back Yard:** 93 Kingston Avenue
41 **The Hotel Viking:** 1 Bellevue Avenue
42 **Fire Department Headquarters:** 21 West Marlborough
43 **The Blue Cat:** 38 ½ Franklin Street
44 **Fort Adams:** 90 Fort Adams Drive
45 **The Torpedo Station:** Goat Island (1939-51)
46 **Daniel Swinburne:** 6 Greenough Place
47 **The Playhouse:** 294 Ocean Avenue
48 **Seaverge:** 4 Ledge Road
49 **The Hedges / van Rensselaer Estate:** 453 Bellevue Avenue
50 **Timmy & Julia Sullivan's House**
51 **Brown Villa/Slocum Estate:** 459 Bellevue Avenue
52 **St. Catherine Academy:** 424 Bellevue Avenue
53 **Pelham Garage:** 17 Pelham Street
54 **Whitehall/Coogan Estate:** Catherine Street
55 **Fairholme/Young Estate:** 237 Ruggles Avenue
56 **St. Mary's Church:** 12 William Street
57 **Castle Hill Inn:** 590 Ocean Avenue
58 **Annandale Farm:** 25 Ridge Road
59 **Daniel Lyman House:** 28 Kingston Avenue
60 **Daniel Lyman House:** 11 Third Street
61 **YMCA:** 41 Mary Street
62 **Trinity Church:** 1 Queen Anne Square
63 **Rev. Lockett F. Ballard:** 44 Pelham Street
64 **Dr. McAllister's office:** 92 Pelham Street
65 **Plaisance/Beck Estate:** 41 Ledge Road
66 **Pelican Lodge/Pell Residence:** 61 Ledge Road
67 **Bois Doré:** 115 Narragansett Avenue
68 **Seafair:** 254 Ocean Avenue
69 **Hunter House:** 54 Washington Street
70 **Eastbourne Lodge:** 78 Rhode Island Avenue

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CHAPTER ONE

MURDER AT
THE GATES



Eduardo Tirella and Doris Duke, mid-1960's

CHAPTER TWO

LITIGIOUS & VINDICTIVE



Rough Point: 52 years after Eduardo Tirella's death. (Adam Fithers photo)

Newport Daily News

Local Forecast
Fair, mild tonight, heavy to the late tomorrow, fair and continued warm.

(Detailed Report on Page 2)

VOL. 122—NO. 128

NEWPORT, R. I., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1966

12 PAGES

PRICE: SEVEN CENTS



DEATH VEHICLE — Doris Duke's station wagon after it was raised to remove the body of Eduardo Tirella who was dragged across the street from his estate last night and killed. (Daily News Photo)

Doris Duke Kills Friend In Crash

Newport police this morning the road, bleeding from head injuries to indicate where they were.

Tirella said an autopsy would be performed on Tirella today, he had served in the 20th Infantry in Europe in World War II.

The victim was Eduardo Tirella of Dover, N. J., in recent years known as Miss Duke's constant companion. He was credited around town with a special side for Bellevue Avenue estate.

The accident occurred about 5 p. m. The only witness was Miss Duke, who was admitted to the Newport Hospital suffering from facial lacerations and severe shock.

She was treated for cuts in the face and head, but hospital officials this morning said that the Duke was in "good medical shape" and "might" be released today. Police Chief Joseph A. Radice could not be reached to comment on the case, but "was not in his office this morning," according to a spokesman at police headquarters.

Tirella said they did not know the Duke's name, but he was a friend of the Duke's.



Doris Duke

The Duke's marriage was to Peter in the 1950s and 40s, but James H. B. Conover in 1953 led the life of a recluse since then.

Newport Daily News headline October 8th, 1966 with "missing photo."

COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF DEATH STATE OF RHODE ISLAND									
1. NAME OF DECEASED Eduardo Tirella			2. DATE OF DEATH October 7, 1966						
3. PLACE OF DEATH Newport			4. COUNTY Newport						
5. ADDRESS OF DECEASED BelleVue Avenue			6. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Los Angeles						
7. SEX Male			8. RACE White						
9. MARRIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/>			10. DATE OF BIRTH 8 June 1924						
11. OCCUPATION Interior Decorator			12. HOME ADDRESS 2048 Stanley Hill Road						
13. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 142			14. PLACE OF BIRTH Dover, New Jersey						
15. COUNTRY OF BIRTH USA			16. AGE OF DECEASED 42						
17. CAUSE OF DEATH (Enter only one unless per line for (a), (b), and (c).) PART I. DIRECT CAUSE (a) Fractures of skull, ribs (rt) side of chest; Fractured right humerus, hip and 6 and 7 dorsal vertebrae; Subarachnoid hemorrhage; Transection of dorsal cord. Rupture of rt. lung and bilateral hemothorax PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE (b) Multiple tears of spleen and liver. Multiple abrasions and contusions of body surface.									
18. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO									
19. ACCIDENT STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> SUICIDE <input type="checkbox"/> HOMICIDE									
20. DATE OF DEATH Oct 7-66									

Eduardo Tirella's Death Certificate showing massive upper-body damage

CHAPTER THREE

LEARNING THE RULES OF “THE GAME”



Newport Harbor & Historic Hill (Duncan G. Todd)

The Newport Daily News



The Author at his desk: The Newport Daily News 1967

CHAPTER FOUR

RIFLEMAN SLAYS TWO SAILORS

Weather Data

Saturday Sun Bites 6:08 Set
6:17 Tides - high 12:00 A.M.
— P.M. Low 5:00 A.M. 6:10
P.M.
Thursday's Temperatures -
High 49 low 28.

Newport Daily News

Local Forecast

Fair and cooler tonight. Low
temperatures in the middle 30s
to upper 40s. Saturday, sunny
and cooler.

(Detailed Report on Page 1)

ESTABLISHED 1846

VOL. 125—NO. 85

NEWPORT, R. I., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1937

24 PAGES

Home Delivery
42 cents weekly

PRICE TEN CENTS



HERE ONE BULLET EXPIED — Mrs. James Welch, a waitress at the Quality Lunch, points to hole in front window. Slug went through glass, ricocheted off street and rebounded itself in restaurant building across Broadway. (Daily News Photo)

Rifleman Slays Two Sailors With Barrage In Restaurant

The Navy released at 2:34 p.m. the identification of two sailors killed by rifle shots in the Quality Lunch at 1 a.m. today.

The victims were Russell Arden Schilling of Newport, Wash., and James Donald Cook of Port Arthur, Tex. Schilling is rated a communications third class. Cook is rated a fireman stoker. No age was given for either. Cook was reported to be married.

The names were withheld pending notification of kin.

Two others were shot and killed early this morning at the Quality Lunch on Broadway by a gunman wielding a high-powered hunting rifle.

Police Chief Frank H. Walsh said the two victims had been positively identified as Navy re-

lated personnel, but he refused to release their names, pending notification of next of kin.

The name of the suspect, positively identified by eyewitnesses as the double-slaying, shot was withheld by Walsh. The chief would not describe the suspect in newspaper columns, even though he had sent out a broadcast to police departments all over the Northeast.

"At 1:20 a. m. we received a call that two men had been shot in the Quality Lunch," Mr. Walsh said. "Patrolmen William Waterhouse arrived on the scene. One of the men was taken to Newport Hospital by the Fire Department rescue truck, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. The other man apparently died instantly.

William Achate, a janitor at Lonsdale School, was an eye-

witness. He admitted I was not in the restaurant at the time of the shooting. I figured the gunman was not to kill us all."

After firing the shots, the killer walked through the restaurant to the main door on Broadway, carrying the rifle, Walsh said.

Police set up road blocks on the East and West Main Roads at both bridges leading from the island. Police originally suspected that two cars were connected with the gunman.

One, a 1936, was described as if the man that did the shooting. Police sent out a 32-station way to the hospital was waiting for the killer. Walsh said that man was through the chest and a definite suspect had been long in the back."

Identified, but he would not disclose the suspect's name, address, or description. He would lead assigned to the victims' families," he said.

not describe the suspect's belongings. A fourth bullet was found by police lodged in a piece of aluminum siding on the Central Cafe, diagonally across Broadway from the Quality Lunch.

A hole was found in the front window of Quality Lunch. The fourth bullet could have missed one of the victims, traveled the length of the restaurant, smashed through the front window and ricocheted from the pavement into the building across the street," Mr. Walsh said.

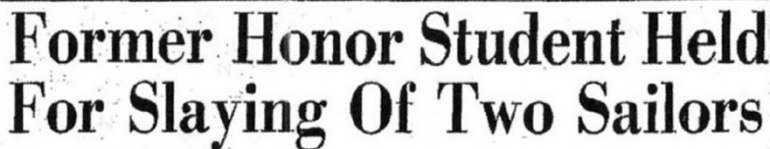
"If I understand, however, that the bullet recovered from the building was of a smaller caliber than those found in the victims' bodies," he said.

Fishermen Protest Dumping

The first story by the author on the Quality Lunch murders.

Local Forecast
Fair and cold with frost to-
night. Low temperatures in the
on coast. Sunday, fair and con-
tinued cool.
(Detailed Report on Page 3)

PRICE TEN CENTS



From Robertson's car police confiscated a .38 calibre rifle, believed to be the weapon that took the lives of Commissary and S.C. Russell Arden Schilling, 43, of Newport, Wash.

Near China

D. 14

‘D: . . . , A. . . I. . . D. . .

The follow up story on Stephen Robertson's arrest October 7th, 1967

CHAPTER FIVE

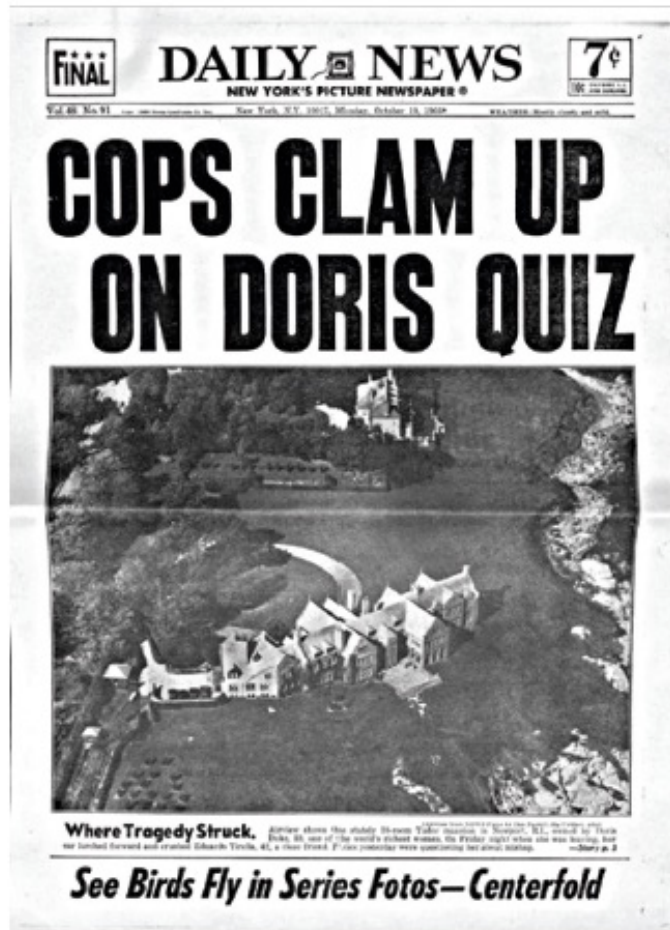
OLD MONEY & BLUE BLOOD



**The two-ton Dodge Polara wagon after it crossed Bellevue Avenue,
dragging Eduardo Tirella underneath, then knocked down 20
feet of post and rail fence (Newport Police Dept. Photo)**



**Doris Duke's bedroom where the interview by Newport police was conducted on October 19th 1966, two days after the crash.
(Adam Fithers photo)**



Front page of The New York Daily News on October 10th, 1966 critical of Police Chief Joseph Radice's refusal to release more details on Eduardo Tirella's death.

CHAPTER SIX

“A TALL WOMAN GOT OUT”



The Dodge Polara wagon was so heavy that a tow truck had to be summoned to lift it, so that Eduardo Tirella's body could be extracted.

At lower left in the shot, two of the baluster rungs, knocked out of the heavy wrought-iron gates, can be seen. (Ed Quigley photo)

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE FABRICATED TRANSCRIPT

Newport Police Department
October 9, 1966
About 12-30 P.M.

In the presence of Attorney Wesley Fach personal Attorney to Miss Doris Duke, Mr. Conley her personal business Manager, Detective George Watts and myself (Inspector Frank Walsh) we spoke to Miss Doris Duke at her residence, Rough Point, Bellevue Avenue this date, this was shortly after receiving a call from her physician Doctor Philip C. McAllister that she would talk to us.

I informed Miss Doris Duke of her rights and asked her after reading the attached form if she would sign same before making any statement.

Miss Doris Duke read same and signed

Q. Where you operating the car involved.
A. Yes

Q. Will you tell me in your own words just what happened.
A. Yes

A. We were going out of the estate Mr. Tirello was the operator we did what we have done a hundred times before, the gate was locked, Mr. Tirello got out of the car to open the gate, it was locked he was at the lock, the car was about fifteen feet from the gate, I was getting ready to drive thru the gate, the car just leaped forward and I was on top of him, He was in the middle of the gates at the lock at the time.

Q. Do you have an operators license?
A. Yes, I have a Rhode Island operators license

Q. He had not opened the gates.
A. No

Transcript of the first and only interview with Doris Duke on October 9, 1966: The "bedroom" Q&A conducted by Lt. Frank Walsh and Det. George Watts.

Death Of Miss Duke's Friend Ruled 'Unfortunate Accident'

Police Chief Joseph A. Radice said this morning the death of Eduardo Tirella, 42, of Dover, N. J., by a car driven by Miss Doris Duke Friday was, "an unfortunate accident."

Radice said this morning Lt. Frank H. Walsh questioned Miss Duke yesterday at Rough Point, her Bellevue Avenue home. Walsh was accompanied by Detective George Watts, Miss Duke's attorney. Wesley N. Fack of New York City, was present during the interrogation.

Miss Duke was released from Newport Hospital Saturday, but police withheld until yesterday questioning about the fatal accident, at the request of Miss Duke's doctors.

Chief Radice said this morning Miss Duke told police she had been sitting on the passenger's side of a late-model station wagon operated by Tirella, as they were driving out of the estate.



Eduardo Tirella.

When they reached the gates, Miss Duke said, Tirella got out of the car to open them and she slid over to the driver's side to drive out onto Bellevue Avenue. "It was something we'd done

a hundred times before," she told police. Chief Radice said, Miss Duke told police the car leaped forward and after that she could remember nothing.

Tirella was crushed against the iron gates, dragged across Bellevue Avenue and pinned under the car when it struck a tree.

Dr. Philip C. McAllister, acting state medical examiner, said Tirella died instantly of brain injuries. Miss Duke was taken to Newport Hospital. She suffered from shock and face cuts and was admitted for overnight observation.

Radice said early this afternoon he still was waiting for the medical examiner's report on the victim, and the case still was under investigation.

Tirella, an interior decorator and actor, was a frequent companion of Miss Duke in recent years. Chief Radice said, "As far as I know, they were on very good terms."

Newport Daily News story on Oct. 10, 1966, after the "bedroom interview" led Chief Joseph Radice to close the Duke case, only to walk that back and re-open it within hours after he was pressured by R.I. Attorney General J. Joseph Nugent.

That led Radice to conspire with Duke's attorney Aram Arabian, to create a fabricated 3-page transcript of a so-called "interrogation" that never took place. What follows is that "transcript" with handwritten notes by Doris Duke who was presented with it after the fact.

The effort at a cover-up was so ham-handed that the police got Doris Duke's birth date wrong. She had to then correct the "transcript" and initial it by hand.

If this had been the transcript of a live interview, the stenographer would have caught the date of birth mistake on the spot and corrected it in real time.

The following statement was given in the presence of the following named individuals at Rough Point, Bellevue Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 1966:

Aram Arabian, Esquire; Wesley Fach, Esquire, attorneys for Miss Doris Duke; and Chief Joseph A. Radice and Captain Paul J. Sullivan of the Newport Police Department.

The interrogation is being done by Captain Sullivan.

Q. Miss Duke, what is your full name, age, date of birth and residence?

A. Doris Duke, fifty-three (53), November 22, 1928/2 JJ
Rough Point, Bellevue Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island.

Q. What city were you born in Miss Duke?

A. New York City.

Q. Miss Duke, you have been informed that you do not have to make a statement. You have signed a waiver dated October 9, 1966 which has just been observed by your attorney, Mr. Aram Arabian, will you now make a statement?

A. Yes

Q. On October 7, 1966 at about 5:00 p.m. were you in a motor vehicle, Rhode Island registration [REDACTED], an Avis rental car?

A. Yes, it was an Avis car but I am not sure of the registration.

Q. Where was this?

A. On my property.

Q. Who was with you?

A. Mr. Eduardo Tirella.

Q. Who was the operator of the vehicle?

A. Mr. Tirella.

Q. Can you describe the area in which this car was operated?

A. From the house to the north gate on Bellevue Avenue.

Q. Was Mr. Tirella operating at this time?

A. Yes

Q. Was the vehicle stopped for any reason?

A. Yes

Q. For what reason?

A. To open the north gate.

Q. How far from the gate was the vehicle stopped?

A. About twelve to fifteen feet.

Q. Who opened the gate? went to

A. Mr. Tirella left the vehicle and/open the gate.

Q. Was this gate locked?

A. Yes

Q. Where were you sitting in the vehicle?

A. In the front seat, passenger side.

Doris Duke

Q. Can you describe what happened?
A. When he went to the gate I slid over to the driver's seat and I placed my left foot on the brake and I disengaged the gear with my right hand. The car shot ahead.

Q. Did you shift the gear from parked position?
A. Yes

Q. What gear did you shift into?
A. Drive.

Q. You placed your foot on the brake also?
A. Yes.

Q. The car then moved forward?
A. Yes

Q. Can you estimate the speed the car went forward?
A. No

Q. Is there any possibility, Miss Duke, that your foot could have engaged the accelerator pedal?
A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Was the hand brake on when the car was left in parked position?
A. No

Q. When the car started forward, did you think to pull the hand brake?
A. No, I had no time to do this.

Q. Is there a possibility that your foot slipped off the brake pedal onto the accelerator pedal?
A. That could have happened, *but I have no recollection of it.* JJ

Q. Do you have an recollection as to how fast the car was going?
A. It was fast.

Q. Would you say very fast?
A. From an absolutely dead stop, and it was fast.

Q. When Mr. Tirella got out of the car was the car ideling fast?
A. I don't know.

Q. What happened when the car was set in motion?
A. It went ahead through the gate, across Bellevue Avenue to a fence on Bellevue Avenue.

Q. Did you see Mr. Tirella?
A. Yes, I saw him at the gate.

Q. Do you recall what happened after the car went into motion?
A. I got out of the car. I could not see him. I looked around. This was not when the car was in motion but when it had stopped against the railing. I ran to the house. I thought he was in the house. I was in a state of shock. I looked around.

Q. Did you speak to anyone in the house when you came in?
A. No, I didn't open the pantry door. I went back to the street. I saw a woman on the street and she came and was trying to quiet me down. I said not to worry about me. I asked about my friend.

Jos. Duke

- Q. What happened after that?
A. I was taken to the Newport Hospital in a police wagon.
- Q. Do you recall who you spoke to on the street?
A. A man and a lady came up to me and the girl was trying to quiet me down.
- Q. When you went to the Newport Hospital, did a police officer speak with you?
A. Yes
- Q. Do you recall who he was?
A. No.
- Q. Did you rent this car yourself?
A. No, one of my employees, Mr. MacFarland, rented the car.
- Q. Had there been any difficulty with this car?
A. No, I drove it twice previously. I went to meet Mr. Tirella at the airport and I had driven it on Friday morning.
- Q. Was it a practice for you to slide over in the front seat of the car when Mr. Tirella would open the gate?
A. Yes, I had done so that morning.
- Q. It was actually the third time you drove the car. Is that correct?
A. Yes
- Q. Would you consider yourself totally familiar with this car after driving it three times?
A. No
- Q. Had you had anything to drinking of an intoxicating nature on that day?
A. No
- Q. How long had you known Mr. Tirella?
A. At least six to eight years.
- Q. How long had he been here visiting?
A. About three weeks.
- Q. Did you have any arguments or misunderstandings with him on that day?
A. No.
- Q. Is there anything else you would like to say about this incident, Miss Duke?
A. No, I have told you every thing.
- Q. Will you please read the questions and answers contained on these three pages of your statement, and after making any corrections you deem necessary, will you please sign your name on all pages and on all carbon copies of your own free will without any promises of reward or immunity having been offered to you.

WITNESSES:

Alan A. Anderson

Doris Duke

CHAPTER EIGHT

COMING OF AGE IN NEWPORT



Miramar, the summer “cottage” of Dr. Alexander Hamilton Rice Jr. and Eleanor Elkins Widener Rice, whose previous husband and son had gone down on The Titanic. (Library of Congress photo)

CHAPTER NINE

BOCCE, BILLIARDS &
PONY DAIQUIRIS



The Newport Reading Room on Bellevue Avenue



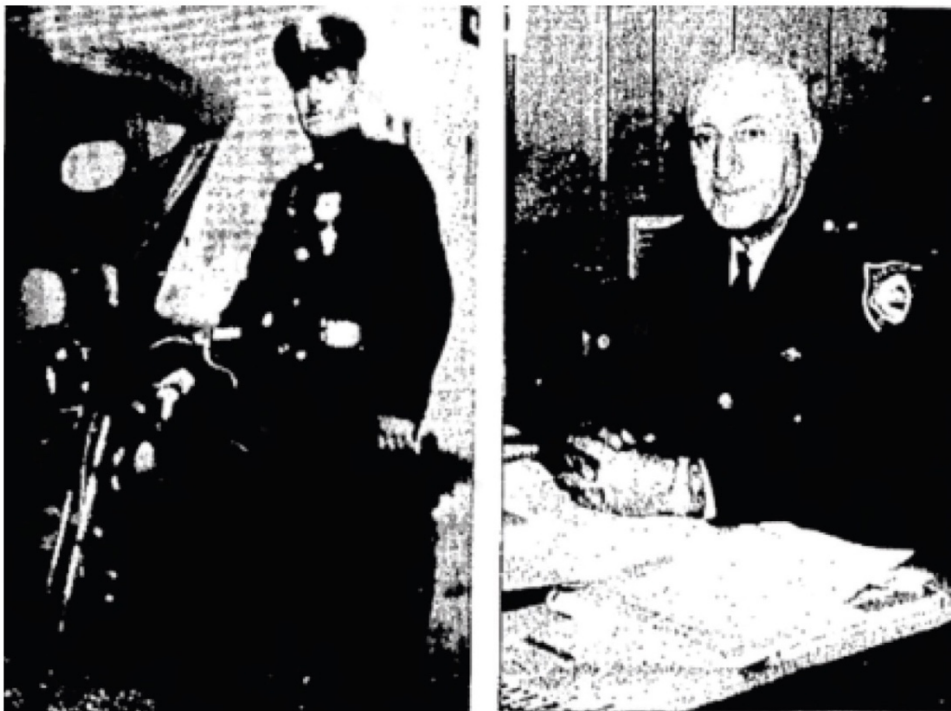
The Reading Room Bar (Jerry Taylor Photo)



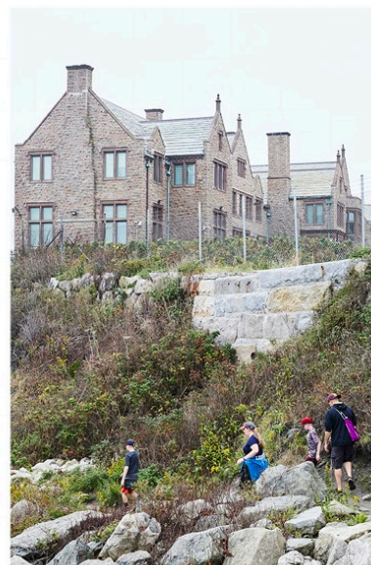
The Ledges, home of the Cushing family

CHAPTER TEN

THE CHIEF, THE CONDOS & THE MOB



Chief Joseph A. Radice as a young motorcycle cop (left) and on his last day in uniform 7 months after closing the Duke-Tirella homicide case.



Rough Point as seen today from CliffWalk. The dogs are long gone, but there is still a sense of foreboding about the estate. Despite dropping her lawsuit with Newport after Tirella's death and contributing to The Walk's restoration, the stretch surrounding the Duke estate remains the least passable section of the 3 ½ mile public walkway (Adam Fithers photos)



Capt. Paul Sullivan (left) the heir apparent for the Newport Police Chief's job and former Lt. Frank H. Walsh who got it, at a press conferences in October 1967 following the arrest of Stephen Robertson. (Peter Lance photo)

CHAPTER ELEVEN

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME



The Breakers at Ochre Point as seen from The Cliff Walk

CHAPTER TWELVE

FIRST WITNESS TO THE CRASH

THE BLACKMAIL OF MURIEL VANDERBILT



**Dr. John Payson Adams and Muriel Vanderbilt
At Hialeah Racetrack in 1958**

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

THE SLASHED ARM &
THE BROKEN JAW



Doris at her wedding to Porfirio Rubirosa Sept. 1st, 1947 (A.P. Images)



**Duke and Castro (far right) serenaded at Birdland in New York
by Big Jay McNeely (Getty Images)**

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

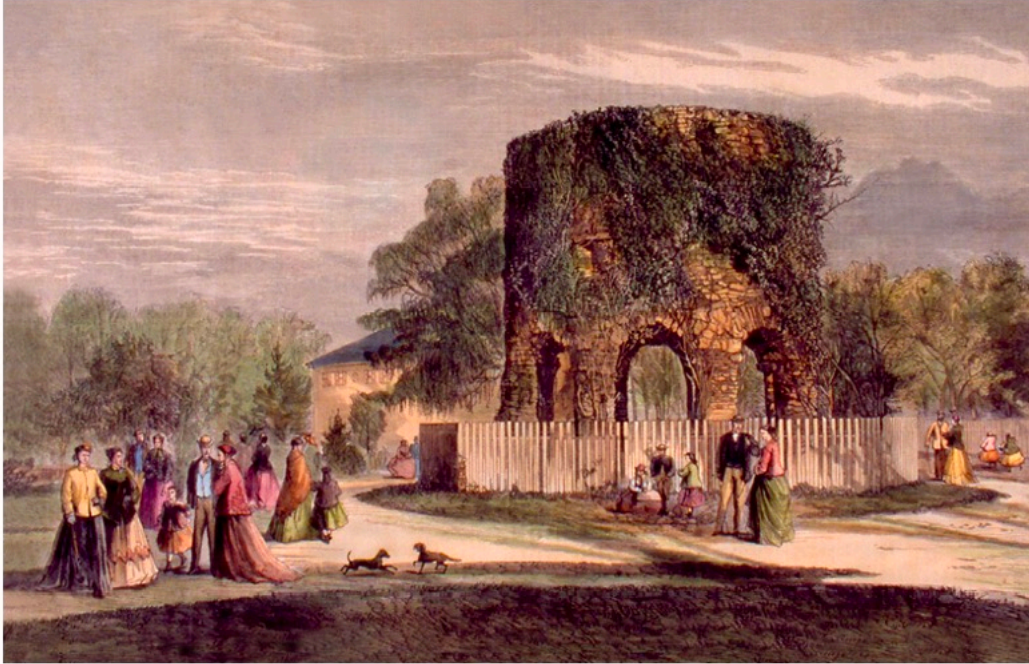
THE MYSTERIOUS STONE TOWER



The Stone Tower in Newport's Touro Park



Newport Mayor "Harp" Donnelly presenting the city flag to Queen Elizabeth II, as The Duke of Edinburgh looks on.



The Tower, covered in ivy as it looked in 1867



The Tower (at left) on the Winter Solstice when the sun shines through two windows every year. The moon (at right) shining through two windows on Lunar Minor, an event that takes place every 18.6 years. (Photos by James A. Egan)

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

NEWPORT'S BACK YARD



Photos from “Newport’s Back Yard,” Peter Lance’s four-part investigative series on housing conditions in Newport’s West Broadway neighborhood, published by the Newport Daily News August 28th to 31st, 1968. The caption read as follows:

The children in the house (at left) ranging in age from 2-5 years old, were sleeping in one 10 x 10 foot room. The bedroom window of the house (at right) where this little girl lived, has been broken since spring.

SHOCK, DENIAL, THEN ENFORCEMENT

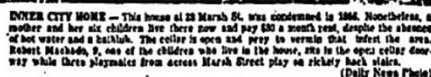
Slum Homes Lack Bath, Stove

lars imported in the city since the adoption of a minimum

declared it unfit for human habitation.

And then there is the case of Paula Butler, tenant of another flat owned by Tolia, overlooking

(Continued on Page 1)





LANDLORD'S HOME PICKETED — Members of Fair Welfare Rights Organization, some of them camera shy, picket in front of home of Alexander G. Teitz at 73 Cather-

ine St. He owns property on Kingston Avenue, which does not meet minimum housing codes.

(Daily News Photo)

Repairs Costly, Owner Closes House

Residents picketing the home of one of the landlords, cited in the series for multiple violations of Newport's Minimum Housing Code

Daily News Winner Of Top N.E. Award

News Award

(Continued from Page 1)

The Daily News was named winner today of the 11th annual Sevellon Brown Memorial Award, which goes to a New England newspaper for "disinterested and meritorious public service."

The winning entry was a series of articles on sub-standard housing here, published Aug. 28, 29 and 30. They were written by Peter Lance 21 a journalism student at Northeastern University who had worked on this paper in 1967 and 1968 as an intern under a cooperative work program. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lance of 2 Ashurst Place and a graduate of De La Salle Academy.

Managing Editor Vas Sprague of The Pawtucket Times, contest chairman made the announcement. He said that The Caledonian-Record of St. Johnsbury, Vt., and The Boston Globe received honorable mentions.

Citations will be presented to

the winners Monday in Boston at the spring meeting of the New England Associated Press News Executives Association. NEAPNEA sponsors the contest which is named for the late editor and publisher of The Providence Journal and Evening Bulletin.

Robert J. Boyle, editor of the Pottstown (Pa.) Mercury, judged the competition. He said the winning series was selected because of the reporter's ability to construct an in-depth series; because he named names of slum landlords; and because of the courage it took to reveal conditions in the community in which the newspaper published.

Boyle said the author "was stepping on the toes of community officials by putting the responsibilities of journalism ahead of the facade of a perfect



Peter Lance

community. But he and The Newport Daily News followed the finest tradition of journalism by exposing without fear conditions which should be rectified."

The newspaper, which has a circulation of 14,500 daily, is by far the smallest to win the award. The Boston Globe won last year and on two other occasions. The Boston Traveler won twice. Other winners have been the Boston Herald-Traveler, The Hartford Times, The Providence Journal, The Bangor Daily News and The New Bedford Standard-Times.

Entries for the competition came from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut newspapers holding membership in The Associated Press.

Managing Editor James G. Edward of the Newport newspaper credited Lance "with coming up with idea for the series and with doing all of the digging. It was real tough at times because there was quite a bit of opposition from some of the people who had the records."

The series won The Sevellon Brown Award, given by The New England A.P. Managing Editors Association and led to immediate reforms in the West Broadway neighborhood. But it also spurred Doris Duke's acquisition of colonial-era homes for restoration, sparking protests that led to additional reforms and the enforcement of the Minimum Housing Code for the first time in many years.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE REST OF HIS LIFE



A photo of the crash scene shot by Ed Quigley. The man at extreme left is Brian Jones, Bureau Chief of *The Providence Journal*. The tow truck is from Pelham Garage where Rough Point caretaker Howard McFarlane rented the Dodge Polara station wagon.

M E M O R A N D U M

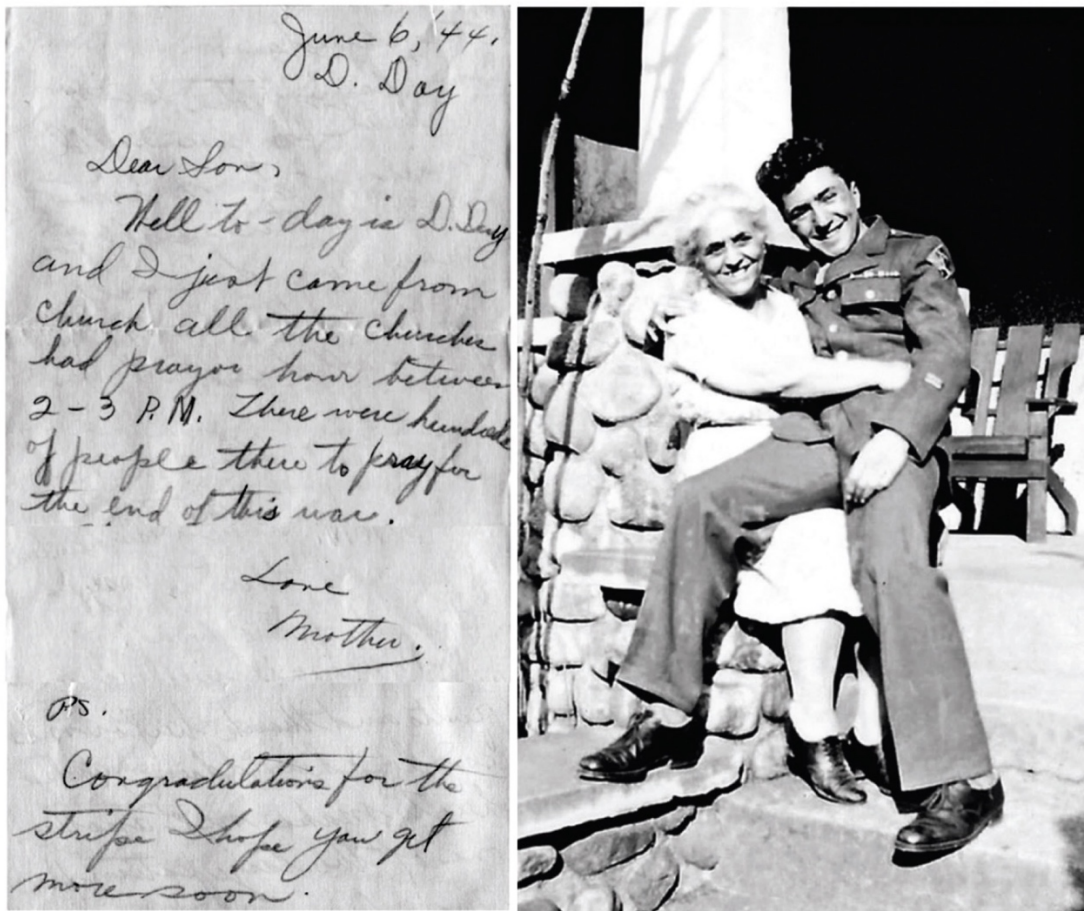
DATE October 11, 1966 .

TO MR. ROBERT M. AUGHEY
~~FROM~~ 102 ELIZABETH ST.
SUBJECT Dover, New Jersey

Enclosed please find the passport of Edward Tirella and some papers inside said passport. These were the only personal effects that were at the hospital.

Joseph A. Radice
Joseph A. Radice
Chief of Police

The typewritten memo from Chief Joseph Radice to Eduardo's brother-in-law Robert Aughey in which his personal effects, including his passport, were returned following his death. Strangely, Radice, an Italo-American refers to Tirella as Edward.



The letter Eddie's mother sent him. Pictured with her after the War.



Eddie's Dog Tags with Miraculous Medal. His grave marker and The Bronze Star that he won for his heroism during The Battle of The Bulge in WW II




At left, Eduardo next to Charles Bronson in *The Sandpiper*. At right, Edmund Kara and Eduardo in the MGM short, *A Statue for The Sandpiper*.



Eduardo with Kim Novak (left) and Sharon Tate (right) his close friends.



The Reliquary of St. Ursula, Eduardo's last curating job for Doris Duke

<p>CARVED WOOD RELIQUARY OF SAINT URSULA 1450-1475</p>		<p>221</p>
Descrip. :	<p>Gilt and polychrome, with bone relic. Date of 1450-1475 established by Ade de Bethune. Carving said to have been at one time in collection of Henry Marquand Esq. of New York. Includes base which has strap work design showing under varnish. Height 24 inches. Width 19 inches.</p>	
Purchased :	<p>October 25, 1965</p>	
Vendor :	<p>The Blue Cat Newport, R.I.</p>	
Price :	<p>\$2,500.00</p>	
Location :	<p>Newport, R.I. to <i>Stair</i> <i>Great Hall</i> <i>a/sb</i></p>	
		

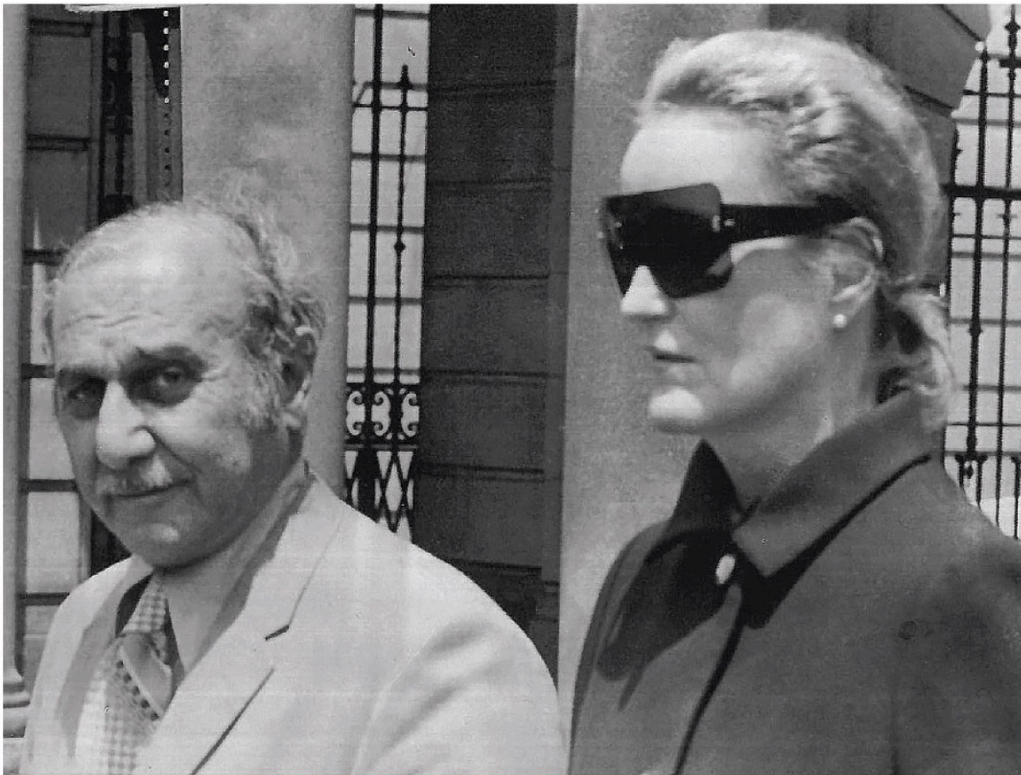
The card is from an inventory of art at Rough Point. It shows the purchase price (\$2,500) the seller (The Blue Cat) John Perkins Brown's shop on Franklin St. and the fact that Adé Bethune, who restored it, also dated it.



The Great Hall at Rough Point, with photos of Doris Duke in the foreground and priceless works of art surrounding them. Many of the pieces in this room and throughout the home-museum were curated by Eduardo Tirella (Adam Fithers Photo)

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

LITIGATION & COVER-UPS



Aram Arabian, her lawyer, and Doris Duke during the 1971 wrongful death trial (AP Images)

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

OPERATOR'S LICENSE

This is to certify that the person described below has been licensed to operate motor vehicles other than as a chauffeur.

FEE \$4.00
This license will expire Sept. 30, **1956**

DUPLICATE

DATE OF BIRTH			NAME		HEIGHT		WEIGHT	
MO.	DAY	YEAR			FT.	IN.		
11	22	12	Doris Duke		5	8	127	
LICENSE NUMBER			ADDRESS			SEX	COLOR HAIR	COLOR EYES
0155093			30 Rockefeller Plaza, N. Y.			F	Blond	Blu

CHANGE OF ADDRESS (If your address has changed please cross it out and print in your new address here.)

AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS

RESIDENCE (Fill in only if your residence address is different from your mailing address.)
Honolulu, T. H.

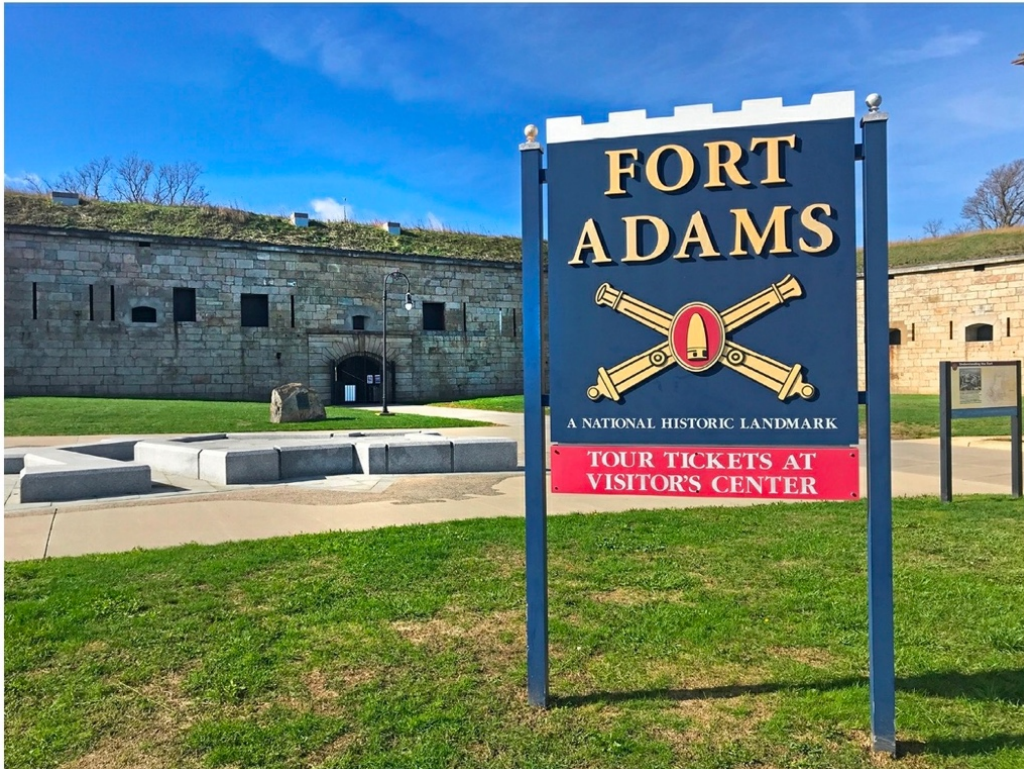
Lewis D. Lucian
VALID ONLY WHEN DA REGISTRATION STAMPED WITH OFFICIAL STAMP

SIGNATURE OF OPERATOR IN FULL *X* *1/07/58* *1/26*

A copy of Doris Duke's driver's license, which was to expire on 9.30.56, 10 years before the homicide at Rough Point, It lists her ADDRESS as 30 Rockefeller Plaza in NY City and her RESIDENCE as Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, predating statehood. The question in is whether she had a valid license at the time she killed Eduardo.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

“THE MIGHTY FIFTH”



Fort Adams, commissioned on July 4th, 1799 and named for President Adams, was greatly enlarged and fortified beginning in the 1820's; principally by a labor force of 300 Irish immigrants who lived in Newport's nearby Fifth Ward. Each summer it's the site of the legendary Newport Jazz and Folk Festivals.

“WHICH SULLIVAN WAS HE?”

There were so many Newporters over the years named Sullivan, largely residents of “The Mighty” Fifth Ward, that nicknames were assigned to dozens of them.

Automobile Jack	Lightship Dick	Shieky Jim
Babe The Mourner	Little Tim	Silent Billy
Batty The Kid	Little Tom	Silver King
Biddy The Hen	Little Mag	Sis
Blind Eddie	Maggie The Bull	Skinny Biddy
Bridget The Snob	Marvelous Mary	Sleepy John
Bridget The Money	Mary Cup of Tea	Slippery Kate
Castle Hill Dan	Mexican Mike	Sneezy

Cod Fish Mary	Mike The Bear	Soda
Con The Bender	Moon	Soup
Dan The Bull	Neil The Nitpicker	Spider
Dan The Dog	Paddy The Kid	Stallion
Dan The Fox	Paddy The Bearer	Static
Dinny The Priest	Pat The Hang	Stoneface Jack
Dinny The Bitch	Noodles	Sweet William
Eddie The Brute	One-Arm Florrie	Texas Eddie
The Educated Sullivans	One-Arm Julia	Timmy The Ranty
Frisco Dan	Paddy The Fool	Tim The Cobbler

VAN RENSSELAER VS. SULLIVAN

One of the legendary clashes between the Newport working class and the Summer Colonists along Bellevue Avenue and The Ocean Drive involved Lillian van Rensselaer, a business woman and real estate agent who married into the aristocratic family of Peyton Laudon van Rensselaer, a member of the blue blooded class that founded New York City known as The Knickerbocracy.”

She operated for years in Palm Beach, Florida, selling high-end properties before arriving in Newport, following Mr. van Rensselaer’s sudden and untimely death at the end of their honeymoon.

PALM BEACH

**MRS. VAN RENSSELAER OFFERS
TO TRADE**

Palm Beach or Miami property
for
A beautiful 120-acre suburban
home near Chicago.

A beautiful home in Tuxedo Park.

A stone home in Larchmont, N. Y.,
and many other interesting proper-
ties.

Tenant paying \$1,000 for season for
delightful home here, will sub-let
for \$500.

Ocean frontage at Boynton Beach,
100 ft. by 1200 ft.
\$4,500

VAN RENSSELAER REALTY, Inc.
335 Worth Ave. Opp. Everglades Club
Tel. 6663

CHAPTER TWENTY

THE BATTLE OF THE WOODPILE

That was the nickname given by the populist-leaning press in the 1940's when Lillian waged a costly legal battle against Timothy Sullivan and his sister Julia, who lived in what Mrs. Van Rensselaer described as a "trash heap" at the edge of one of her Newport Estates, The Hedges.

Filing multiple actions against The Sullivans, who captured the hearts of the press, she ultimately failed to dislodge them and Timmy "The Woodhooker" Sullivan and his sister became local folk heroes



CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

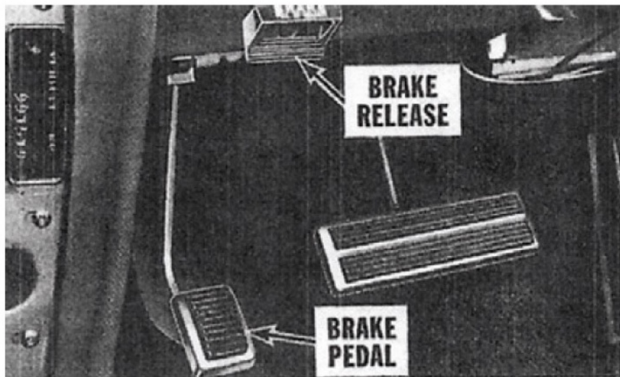
“THE MURDERER’S HOUSE”

**Hulda Goudie, Doris’s chef with caretaker Howard McFarlane
(Linda Knierim photo)**



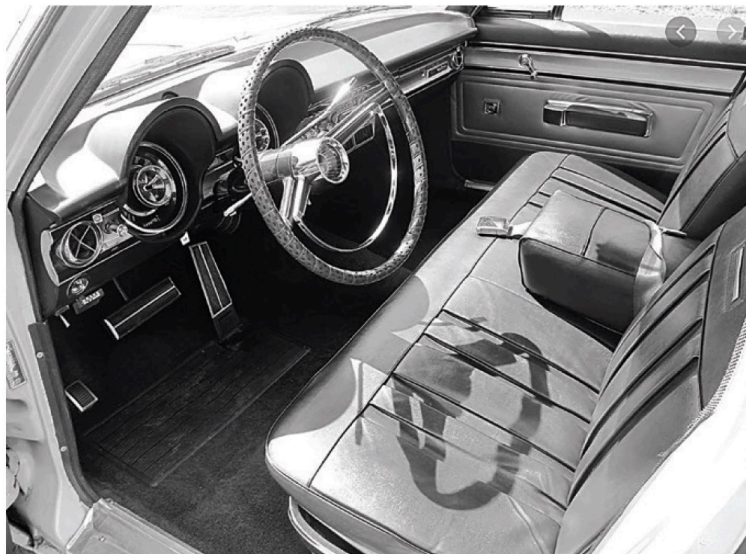
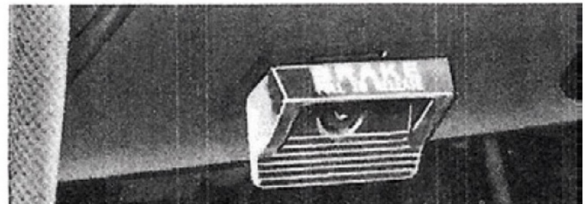
Howard McFarlane’s daughter Linda, wrote a memoir of life at Rough Point, which included a chilling account of the death of Eduardo Tirella. The details are recounted in this chapter.

The chapter also offers a forensic analysis of the 1966 Dodge Polara wagon, driven by Doris Duke, which was the murder weapon. The photos below are from its owner's manual, showing the location of the Parking Break Release and the size and location of the Accelerator and Brake pedals, which Doris Duke told police, confused her.



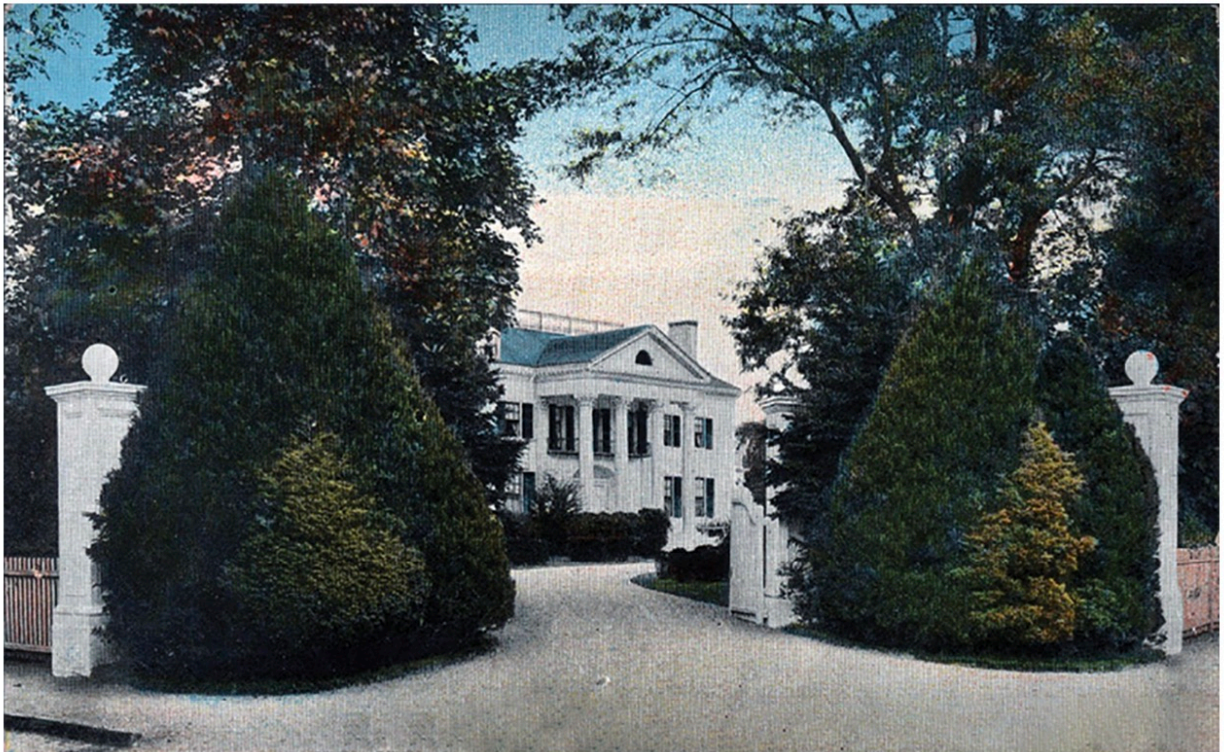
**PARKING BRAKE WARNING SIGNAL
(optional)**

Red light in parking brake release lever blinks red when engine is running with parking brake on. Helps prevent unnecessary brake wear.



CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

THEY THREW A PARTY & NOBODY CAME



Whitehall as it looked before Jessie Coogan's aborted coming out party in 1910

THE BAREFOOT GENERAL

Another famous Newport legend is related directly to Doris Duke through her restoration work. As noted in Chapter Eighteen, she became embroiled in litigation filed by Daryl Ford, the contractor she'd hired through her Restoration Foundation to restore many of the colonial era homes in Newport as well as Prescott Farms in nearby Portsmouth. That happened to be the location of one of the most daring missions of the American Revolution told in brilliant detail by Leonard Falkner for *American Heritage* magazine.



The Abduction of General Richard Prescott

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

JACK & JACKIE



JFK off Newport at the helm of the 62 foot sloop Manitou. (Robert Knudsen)



My aunt Rita waving and my cousin Joe applauding the Kennedys



**Aboard The Joseph P. Kennedy watching the 18th
challenge for The America's Cup**

THE MYSTERY OF ANNANDALE FARM

In researching this book I went into the online archives of *The Daily News* and found one piece that had a sad, ironic significance when it came to the Kennedys' love affair with Newport. In the fall of 1963, just three weeks before he was killed in Dallas, there was a front-page story authored by Emil J. Jemahl, a senior editor, announcing that Jack and Jackie planned to rent Annandale Farm, the estate next to her mother's place, for the summer of 1964.



PRESIDENT LEASES THIS ESTATE--This is aerial view of "Annandale Farm," the Barclay Douglas residence on Ridge Road which President and Mrs. Kennedy have leased for next August and September. (Hof. Aerial Photo)

Kennedys To Occupy Estate Here In 1964

By EMIL E. JEMAH, President and Mrs. Kennedy have leased "Annandale Farm" on Ridge Road for next August and September from Mr. and Mrs. Barclay Douglas. Pierre Salinger, White House press secretary, today confirmed the rental when he was asked about it by the Daily News' Washington bureau. The two-month rental is the longest time that any President has arranged to stay in Newport. U. S. Sen. Claiborne Pell had a leading role in arranging the rental after President Kennedy had informed him that he and Mrs. Kennedy were interested. The rental was made by John W. Richmond of Carey & Richmond of Newport. "I congratulate John W. Richmond of Carey & Richmond for the delicacy and discretion he has displayed in working out the details, and his own generosity in conducting the rental without profit to him or his firm. I also thank Mr. and Mrs. Barclay Douglas for their willingness to give the President and his family the complete privacy which is one of the basic reasons for the attractiveness of Newport to them. President Eisenhower was the first to have the Summer White House in Newport. That was in 1957. That summer he and Mrs. Eisenhower occupied the home of the Naval Base commander on Castles Harbor Island. When the Eisenhowers returned for the 1958 and 1959 seasons, they occupied Quarters A at Fort Adams which, incidentally, adjoins "HammerSmith Farm."

U.S. Demands Departure Of 3 Soviets In Spy Case

Dated October 30th, the piece quoted Press Secretary Pierre Salinger as confirming the rental, which was facilitated by Senator Claiborne Pell and brokered without a fee by Johnny Richmond, another Member of The Reading Room. Two years earlier, a group of Rhode Islanders had raised \$250,000 to purchase the estate with the goal of making it the permanent Summer White House, but the President declined the offer, saying it would be "asking too much of Rhode Islanders."

Then, after three memorable summers in Newport, he was ready to rent for the '64 season. [610](#)

JFK's assassination derailed those plans and Annandale Farm sat empty for four more years. Finally, the Swiss bank that held the mortgage decided to auction it off along with Broadlawns, an adjoining parcel. On

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

JACKIE & DORIS

The connection between Doris Duke and Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis is well known. Two years after the homicide outside Rough Point, for reasons that had largely baffled the Newport public, Doris Duke became obsessed with restoring the town's rich collection of original 18th century colonial homes, most of which had fallen into serious disrepair. Perhaps sensing that she'd need to add some luster to the masthead, for what would otherwise appear to be a commendable exercise in preservation, Doris reached out to Mrs. Onassis, who agreed to become the first Vice President of The Newport Restoration Foundation (NRF). A year later they made headlines in a piece that ran in both *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Washington Post*.⁶¹⁴

"Two of America's most glamorous, wealthiest women," the piece began, "are engaged in a scheme to turn a section of one of the nation's most glamorous, wealthiest resorts into a combination of Williamsburg and Georgetown." The story reported that "the former first lady may oversee collecting period antiques for the Newport museums, much as she did for the White House." It also noted that while the Navy was still Newport's principal economic resource, "proposed cutbacks in military budgets have convinced townspeople of the necessity of increasing tourism."

By April of 1973 those cuts went into full force and Rhode Island, the smallest state in the nation, took the brunt of Richard Nixon's revenge. Announcing the closure of 274 military bases nationwide, "Little Rhody" actually lost a staggering 49% of the 42,812 jobs cut across the country.⁶¹⁵ More than ever, Doris Duke became the key to Newport's economic survival.

But like so much of her philanthropy, the "giving" came with a heavy price, and from 1968 when she created The NRF to renovate and rent those 70 Colonial-era houses, she soon became the object of scorn from *three* distinct segments of Newport's population.

First, there were the West Broadway/Upper Thames Street residents who protested their evictions as Doris bought up houses at bargain-basement prices. In her memoir, Rough Point caretaker's daughter Linda McFarlane Knierim recounted how some of her displaced friends complained that "Members of my family have nowhere to live, thanks to your father's boss."⁶¹⁶

Low-Rental Shortage Laid To Restorations

That was the headline in a *Newport Daily News* piece on August 12th 1969, nearly a year after my series ran.⁶¹⁷ Doris hadn't even formally announced the creation of The NRF, which came six weeks later, and already it was creating chaos in the town. Her rapid acquisition of the houses, many in low income neighborhoods, sparked multiple demonstrations,⁶¹⁸ forcing the removal of the NRF's first executive director⁶¹⁹ and prompting a rare public pledge on behalf of the billionaire herself: "It should be stated firmly that the Foundation has no desire or intention to force people into the street," she said, "nor to put rentals on restored houses at exorbitant prices that are out of line with existing rentals. Rather, we prefer to think that it will be a matter of considerable pride to be a tenant in a restored apartment or house for which only a normal rent will be charged."⁶²⁰

Miss Duke and the NRF soon broke that pledge, charging rents that no low income tenant could afford as the newly restored homes were leased to members of the middle and upper middle class. It was a classic case of gentrification, and eight years later, those higher-end tenants themselves were forced to adopt organizing tactics worthy of the poorest residents of West Broadway.

They get storm window bill

Doris Duke stirs wrath of tenants

By WILLIAM M. KUTIK

Doris Duke has asked the people living in Newport Restoration Foundation houses to pay for their own storm windows, and the tenants are hopping mad.

Some say they won't pay, others are unsure, but many are planning to attend a tenants meeting tonight to decide what to do collectively.

The wooden windows already are installed, and the tenants' complaint is that no prior arrangement was made about who would pay for them.

"This was just sprung on us," said one tenant, who refused to allow his name to be published. "We don't own the houses, she does. We just pay rent, and she should pay for the windows."

Saturday, many of the Foundation's 54 tenants received letters from Foundation officer Benjamin C. Reed Jr. asking a \$35 payment for each storm window plus a yearly charge of \$20 to \$100 for in-

stallation and removal. Depending on the number of windows, the total payments range from \$300 to \$1,800, to be paid over five years.

Most of the tenants reached today refused to be quoted by name for fear of reprisals. Reed would not comment on the issue, but did say some tenants have agreed to pay.

Edwin P. Young, who lives in the largest Foundation house (37 windows) at 40 School St., said, "I was surprised at getting the letter. We had no prior notice and no suggestion that it would take place. My feelings haven't jelled yet, but I'm going to tonight's meeting."

Some of the tenants have been asking for the windows for years. "We all know the houses aren't insulated very well," one said, "but the lease specifically forbids us from putting up storm windows ourselves."

The Foundation started installing the wooden storm windows last winter, and some tenants got theirs last week. Those tenants didn't get a bill this year but are expecting one next year.

Reed said the Foundation would own the windows after the tenants finish paying for them. "They're being amortized," he said. "The windows go with the house."

Most tenants agree that Foundation rents are far below the market rate. A five-bedroom house rents for as little as \$350. "But that's why we put up with all this stuff," one said.

But in the last year, rents have been increased from 25 to 60 per cent, and the heating bills have been enormous, as much as \$300 a month. The Foundation houses are not the bargain they used to be, and one woman said, "If Doris pushes me out, I'll just go back to my house in Virginia."

They formed The Newport Restoration Association⁶²¹ after Doris retroactively billed them for storm windows, she installed without notifying them in advance. Depending on size, the cost of retrofitting could be as high as \$7,700 per home in 2021 dollars. The Association included a retired general and the former Rector of Trinity Church, Doris's own parish, who had married Minnie Cushing and Peter Beard in August of 1967.

Those two uprisings by Newporters at different levels of society, and a third middle class protest after Doris unexpectedly demolished parts of the local YMCA, offer deep insights into the mindset and win-at-all-costs tactics of the billionaire.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

MOVING HOUSES & DEE DEE'S ROCK



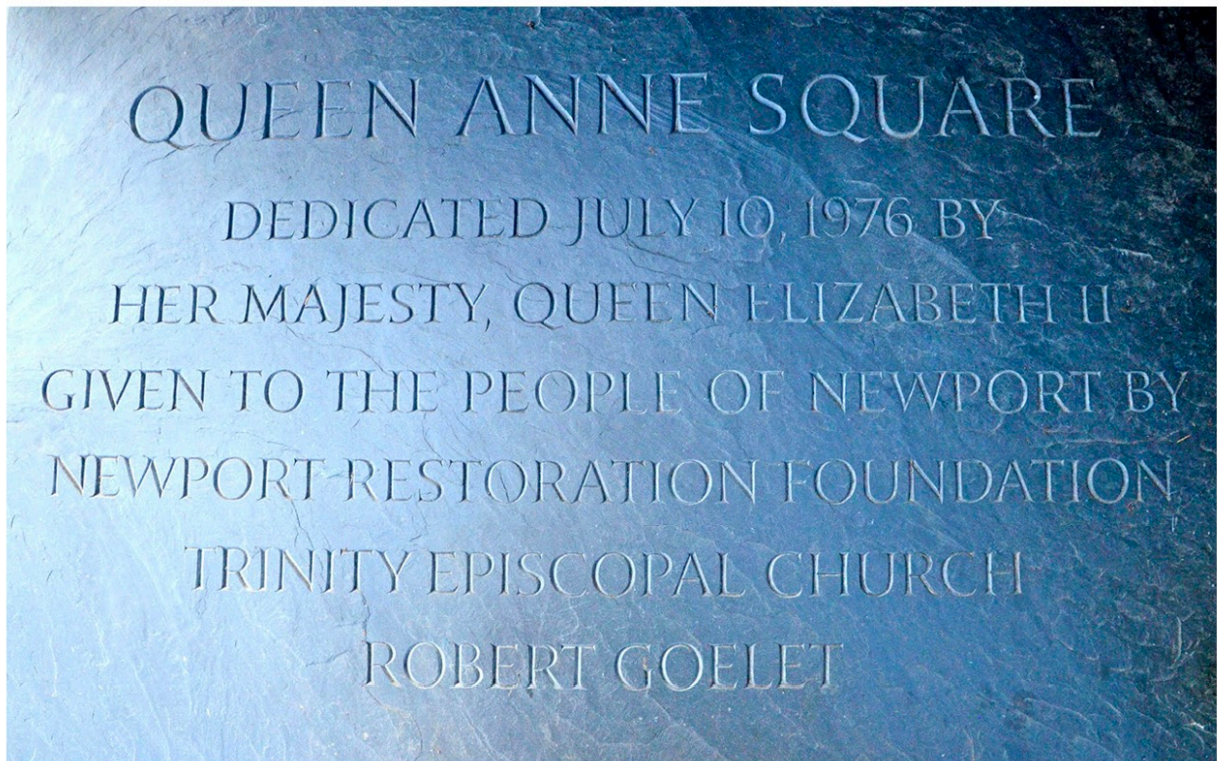
**Moving the Daniel Lyman House from 28 Kingston Avenue
to its new address: 11 Third Street on The Point**



The 16 ton boulder excavated from Rough Point as it rests today in Queen Anne Square near Trinity Church.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

SNUBBING THE QUEEN



The dedication plaque for Queen Anne Square, the crown-jewel of Doris Duke's Newport Restoration Foundation. On July 10th, 1976 Queen Elizabeth II arrived in Newport for the Square's dedication, but at the ceremony and a gala dinner hosted by Her Majesty aboard The Royal Yacht Britannia, the reclusive billionaire failed to appear.



The Robert Sherman Windmill at Prescott Farms. (Tom Perrotti photo)

Six Newport Restoration houses that form a ring around Queen Anne Square never existed in their current locations. Two of them, the Beria Brown House at 41 Mill Street and the West-Hathaway House at 15 Mill came from “off island.” The Swansea House at 3 Cozzens Court came from Swansea, Mass and the two houses that anchor the corner of Thames Street up a short block -- the Thorton-Wilder House at 53-55, originated in Johnston, RI; and the Hathaway-Macomber House at 57 was disassembled on its original site in Freetown, Massachusetts and relocated to Newport. The source for all of that is the NRF’s own website. [708](#)

“From a purely historical perspective, it was the difference between restoring an actual colonial town and creating a theme park,” said Tom Perrotti, whose late grandfather, M. Thomas Perrotti, was chairman of Newport’s Redevelopment Agency for decades. [709](#) There’s a park named for him today along the city’s waterfront not far from Queen Anne Square. [710](#)

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

THE DUKE CURSE

As reported by the BBC in 2012, the single product most responsible for Doris' wealth -- the modern cigarette as we know it -- was "the greatest artifact of death in the 20th century, killing more than 100 million people." ⁷²³

For centuries, cigarettes had been hand-rolled, but Buck Duke first struck it rich by creating the packed white cylindrical design popular since the early 1900's. It turned out to be a remarkably efficient cancer delivery system, high in tar, nicotine and fillers. He bought a machine that could produce 10,000 cigarettes a day. He then snapped up his rivals, P.J. Lorillard and R.J. Reynolds, but The Feds filed an antitrust suit forcing him to break up some of American Tobacco's holdings.

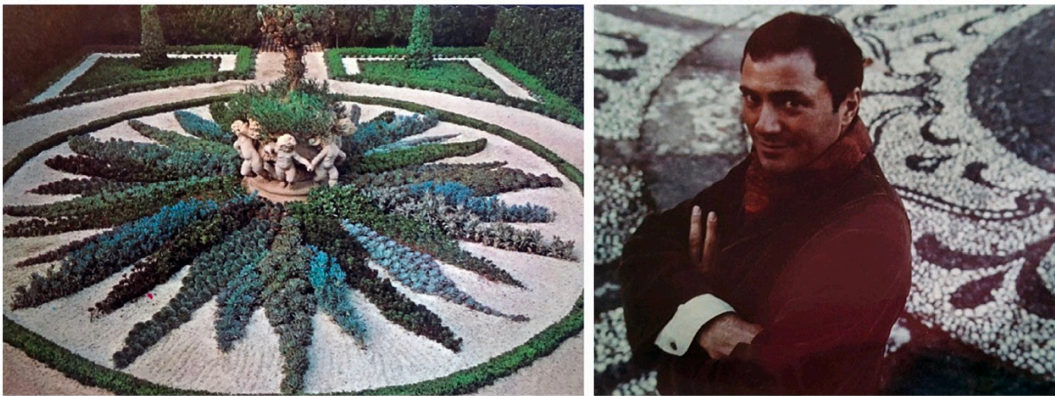


Lucky Strike ads emphasizing health & aimed at women.

Still, as early as the 1920's, Buck understood the dangers of smoking and refused to let his wife Nanaline or their daughter Doris touch tobacco. Until that time, women rarely smoked; put off by the indelicate process of hand rolling. But Buck saw them as a lucrative market, so he openly advertised to women, while falsely touting the “health” benefits of his principal brand, Lucky Strike.

Who can ever forget the iconic pitch lines, “LSMFT: Lucky Strike Means Fine Tobacco” or “It’s toasted,” a slogan attributed to the fictional character of Don Draper in the pilot episode of “Mad Men.” [724](#)

DUKE’S MISTREATMENT OF EDUARDO



One of the many garden designs Eduardo Tirella executed for Doris Duke on her 2700 acre estate in New Jersey. He also designed parts of multiple residential spaces for her including at her Park Avenue apartment, Falcon Lair in LA, Shangri-la in Hawaii and Rough Point

David Rimmer, the manager of The Duke Gardens Foundation, who dealt with Eduardo for years on every detail of his design, told me that after his death, he was actually instructed by Cooley to reach out to Eduardo’s grieving family and retrieve the unused portion of the round-trip airline ticket Doris had bought him for his final trip to Newport.

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

THE UNPLEASANTNESS AT PLAISANCE

If one were to prick any of the delicate fingers of Mary Ridgely Carter Beck, the few droplets of blood that emerged would have been as blue as any American aristocrat's. Her lineage dated back to George Calvert, 1st Baron Baltimore, responsible for founding the settlement known today as Maryland ⁷⁵⁶ and Henry Lee III, known as "Light Horse," ⁷⁵⁷ the ninth governor of Virginia who was the father of Robert E. Lee. ⁷⁵⁸ With her husband James "Jimmy" Beck, President of The English Speaking Union in Newport, ⁷⁵⁹ she threw lavish parties at Plaisance, their 6,500 square foot French Provincial-style estate on Ledge Road, just around Cliff Walk from Rough Point. ⁷⁶⁰

But there was a strange, utterly incongruous reality that went on behind the doors of Plaisance, known to only a few of the Becks' closest friends and to almost no one beyond those who served them. It seems that Mrs. Beck, the society doyenne, secretly cultivated rats – dozens of them. ⁷⁶⁴ She did this during two periods in the 1960's, creating a vermin problem that spilled over onto Cliff Walk and threatened to engulf the tony residences along Ledge Road. ⁷⁶⁵ It was a strange real-life manifestation of the popular horror film *Willard*, and its sequel *Ben*.



The Beck Family, Jimmy, Ridgely, and Mary (Jerry Taylor photo)

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

CITY ORDERS EXTERMINATION

This is the story that appeared in *The Newport Daily News* on May 21st, 1965:

City Orders Extermination Of Rats Infesting Cliff Area

Acting on complaints, the Health Department yesterday opened a campaign against a heavy infestation of rats in the Cliff Walk area just south of Bailey's Beach.

Dr. Philomen P. Ciarla, superintendent of health, said today he ordered Mr. and Mrs. James M. Beck of Ledge Road to call in professional exterminators "to take care of the situation." He said he had given them until today to reply, but up to this noon he had heard nothing from the Becks. He said if they did not remedy the situation, the Health Department will.

Dr. Ciarla said he visited the Beck estate this morning and saw food dishes on the lawn and rat holes, but he saw no rats.

Neighbors who have complained of the situation said they

had seen many rats on the Cliff Walk side of the Beck estate and on the lawn of the adjoining estate belonging to Mrs. Dolan Sellar. The estate on the other side of the Becks' is that of U. S. Sen. and Mrs. Claiborne Pell.

One stroller along the Cliff Walk said he had seen as many as "three dozen" rats at one time Wednesday evening.

A Daily News staffman and two residents of the Bailey's Beach area went to the slope in front of Mrs. Sellar's home early last night and saw about 20 rats on the two lawns and others scuttling among the rocks on the shore.

The Health Department said a similar situation three years ago led to a summer-long re-building of the Beck residence by the trustees controlling that estate.

Two neighbors who had lived near Ledge Road confirmed the story along with a member of one of Newport's most prominent landscaping families⁷⁸⁸ whose grandfather serviced Seaweed, the nearby Horace Trumbauer-designed estate of Mrs. Rita Dolan Sellar, whose family first lit the streets of Philadelphia with gas.⁷⁸⁹ Mrs. Sellar was also the grandmother of Sandra Thornton, a marine biologist who would later

marry Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island's junior senator.⁷⁹⁰

I was baffled why someone of Mrs. Beck's refinement would cultivate rats. Harle told me that it had to do with her deep love for her son.

"Ridgely was her darling and could do no wrong," she said. "The story I heard was that when he was a little boy — he might have been five or six years old — he had a pet white rat... And he'd let it out of the cage once in a while. Well, it got out one time and it mated with some of the wharf rats on the Cliff Walk. Mary could not say anything against Ridgely, and they fed the rats to the point where the family had to move out of Plaisance."

I contacted Ridgely Beck who is now 72. Though he was away at prep school at the time of Eduardo Tirella's death, he called Doris Dukes' restoration work, "Phenomenal."⁷⁹³

"She did wonders for the town," he said. "All the houses she bought and fixed up."

But in 1974 Ridgely was named executor of his mother's estate.⁷⁹⁶ After that, according to Ronald "Ollie" Oliver, a close friend who lived at Plaisance for a time, "Ridgely grew his hair long and started driving a Porsche."⁷⁹⁷

By Ridgely's own account, he followed in his parents' footsteps and began throwing large parties at the estate. "It was quite a scene for many, many, many, many years," he told me. "I would have parties like every night. Year round. Late night ones. Very late."

"Ridgely was a night owl," remembered Oliver, "he loved after-hour parties. That was the thing back then. Everybody was doing coke. Dealers would show up and everybody would buy some and stay up being brilliant all night. I went to a few, but I was more of a day person."

One party at Plaisance, into which Ollie Oliver made a legendary entrance, started early one evening a year after Mary Beck's death. Ollie's arrival was so memorable that it was written up in *The Newport Daily News* under the headline "Gate-crasher gets into party by a unique vertical approach."⁷⁹⁸ Back then, Ollie, a dare-devil skier and yachtsman who was 25, was working as maître d' at Newport's White Horse Tavern. He'd taken up sky diving, so he decided to arrive by parachute.

Gate-crasher gets into party by a unique vertical approach

By BILL KUTIK

It was the only way to beat the party's cover charge.

Like many of the other young bar and restaurant workers in town, Ronald Oliver had no intention of missing last night's party at Plaisance, Ridgely Beck's house on the Cliff Walk off Ledge Road.

But hostess Rosalind Rustigian had no intention of blowing thousands of dollars on her end-of-season bash for the locals and was charging everybody \$10 a head to get in. Besides, the 23-year-old Providence native is going to

and anyone who knows him will tell you he's a very resourceful guy. Since February, when sky-diving became his passion, Ollie has logged 68 jumps, including one last July 5 onto the grounds of Bonnie Crest on Harrison Avenue.

So he decided to combine business with pleasure (or pleasure with pleasure) and make his 67th jump onto the grounds of The Waves, next door to the party. Roz agreed to waive the entry fee.

"Actually, I just couldn't think of a more fun way to get to the party," Ollie said.

crowded the fourth-floor Sky Bar to watch the plane weave in and out of the mist.

On the third pass at 2,500 feet, Ollie jumped and for a breath-holding eight seconds or so free fell toward the water. Then the chute popped open, and one guest gapsed, "God, it's full of holes."

But those were just the cut-out control panels, and the jump went routinely until about 800 feet. Then Ollie, all 115 pounds of him, got hit by a stiff gust, that carried him across Ledge Road into a neighboring yard. Photographers and onlookers



OLIVER on his way to party.

Newport Mercury August 22nd, 1975

CHAPTER THIRTY

RENAISSANCE MAN

The deeper I got into untangling the forensics of the homicide itself, the more interested I became in understanding the victim, Eduardo Tirella: who he was; what drove him; and why he'd continued working for Doris, given the trajectory of his career and his capabilities as a designer across multiple disciplines from fashion to feature film. I understood *why* he went to work for her in the first place. After all, she had an unlimited checkbook that allowed him to travel the world assembling priceless artworks and honing his skill set. But once he'd completed Duke Gardens in 1964, why did he *stay on*, particularly after his life in L.A. and Big Sur was becoming so full?



Eduardo after the War, when he was a young hat designer at Saks.



The Marie Antionette head dress for Constance Moore



Kim Novak, Martin Ransohoff and Eduardo Tirella at Big Sur.

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE

TAYLOR, BURTON, NOVAK & TATE



Eduardo with Sharon at Big Sur. Sharon with Edmund.



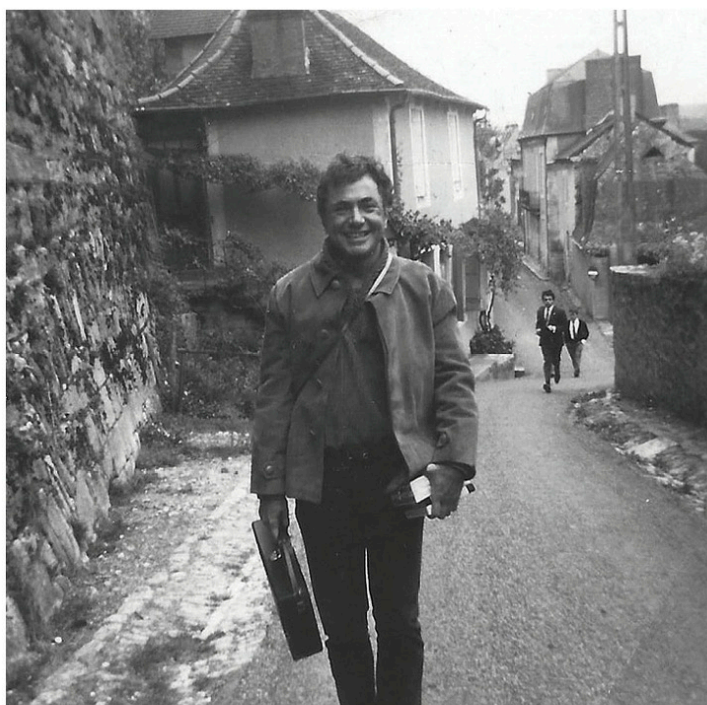
Eduardo, Niven and Sharon (in a wig) on the *Eye of The Devil* set.



Ad for Martin Ransohoff's production which featured Eduardo's set designs and a bust of Liz sculpted by Edmund Kara, his partner.



**Eduardo, third from left, being filmed with a line of folk dancers for
The Sandpiper.**



**Eduardo Tirella in 1966, months before he died, still
scouting art treasures in Europe for Doris Duke.**

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO

THE CASE FOR MURDER

To consider that, let's review what is undisputed. We know that Eduardo got out of the car and walked to the gates. ⁸⁶⁶ From Doris's October 9th statement we know that he had just enough time to unwrap the unlocked chain from around the gates when the station wagon "leaped forward." ⁸⁶⁷ The damage to the gates shows that they were struck virtually head-on at a point when they were still closed.



The Rough Point gates closed inward the morning after the crash as one of Doris Duke's German Shepherds roams in the background.
(Jerry Taylor photo)

Doris Duke had told the police and Radice had assured the press that “Tirella... was crushed against the irons gates.”⁸⁶⁸ But the autopsy report, filed by Dr. James J. Flanagan, shows that except for a fracture of his right hip, all other injuries to Eduardo’s body were *above* the waist. He sustained zero damage to his legs.⁸⁶⁹

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER 250 Benefit Street Providence 3, Rhode Island		COPY CONFIDENTIAL NOT FOR SECONDARY RELEASE	
REPORT OF AUTOPSY			
NAME OF DECEDENT TIRELLA, Edmund G.		AUTOPSY NUMBER A66-27	MEDICAL EXAMINER
USUAL ADDRESS		AUTOPSY AUTHORIZED BY Attorney General	
TYPE OF DEATH:	Unattended by a physician <input type="checkbox"/> Violent or Unnatural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sudden in apparent health <input type="checkbox"/> Fatal Agency: Unusual <input type="checkbox"/> In prison <input type="checkbox"/> Suspicious <input type="checkbox"/>	RIGOR Jaw <input type="checkbox"/> Arms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neck <input type="checkbox"/> Chest <input type="checkbox"/> Back <input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen <input type="checkbox"/> Legs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LIVOR Color: light blue Anterior <input type="checkbox"/> Posterior <input type="checkbox"/> Lateral <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Dep. Parts
Age 42 Race Cau Sex M Length 5'7" Weight 160 Eyes hazel Pupils: R. 4mm Opacities, etc.		Body Identified by: Persons Present at Autopsy Doctor Flanagan Agents: T. Nolan Edward O'Connell	
Hair Beard Mustache Circumcised Body Heat Pupils: L. 4mm			
NON FATAL WOUNDS, SCARS, TATTOOING, OTHER FEATURES:			
PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS			
Multiple abrasions and contusions of the entire body surface.			
Multiple bone fractures as follows:			
a) three fractures of left parieto-temporal frontal area			
b) fracture of right humerus, juxta trochanteric			
c) fracture of 6th and 7th dorsal vertebrae			
d) extensive fracture of the sternum and multiple rib fractures at chondro-costal junction			
e) fracture of right hip			
Massive subarachnoid hemorrhage and cerebellar pressure cone			
Transection of spinal cord at the level the 6th and 7th dorsal vertebra			
Crushing fracture of right lower lobe of lung with extensive retropleural and upper mediastinum hemorrhage and massive bilateral hemothorax			
Multiple contusions with crushing fractures of liver parenchyma and two capsular tears			
Large capsule tear to spleen			
Probable cause of death:	FRACTURE OF SKULL WITH EXTENSIVE SUBARACHNOID HEMORRHAGE AND CEREBELLAR PRESSURE CONE		PROVISIONAL REPORT <input type="checkbox"/>
	TRANSECTION OF DORSAL SPINAL CORD		FINAL REPORT <input type="checkbox"/>
A true copy:	The facts stated herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. <i>John E. R. Allie</i> Signature of Pathologist		

Eduardo Tirella’s autopsy report filed under the name Tirella, Edmund G.

The Dodge Polara was six and a half feet wide.⁸⁷⁰ It was idling 15 feet from the gates -- more than enough room to open them without Doris having to put the vehicle in reverse. Then, by Doris's own account, it "leaped forward" at a "fast" speed from "a dead stop."⁸⁷¹

All of the damage to the gates was *below* Tirella's waist. So, if Doris Duke *had* crushed him against those gates as she'd told Chief Radice, why were there no injuries to his lower body?



Ed Quigley's shot from inside the gates at Rough Point shortly after the crash. Sgt. Fred Newton can be seen working the scene at lower right.

“HE ROLLED UP ON THE HOOD”

Edward Angel had been a rookie patrolman assigned to “The Avenue beat.” He’d just gone on duty that night at 5:00 pm and within minutes, the radio crackled in his unit with word of an accident. He hit the roof lights and sped to the scene. This is what he told me he found on arrival:

“There was a woman inside the vehicle. She was extremely upset. I looked down and found someone underneath the car all rolled up. I was inexperienced and young, so I guess I blurted out, ‘He’s under the car.’ That sent her into shock.

“I submitted my findings,” he recalled, “and the next day, before I was to go back on duty, I got called in by Sergeant Newton, who’d been my training officer. He took me back up to the scene and explained to me how the gates, which normally opened inward, had been pushed out. He showed me markings on the gates that suggested somebody had been forced up on the hood of the car. Then he walked me back into Bellevue, explaining that the blood and the skin that I’d found was from when the body rolled off and fell in front of the car. At that point it was rolled over...”⁸⁷⁹

I’d been conducting the interview with retired officer Angel over the phone and I wasn’t sure I’d heard him correctly.

“Are you telling me that Fred Newton thought that Eduardo Tirella went up on the hood of the wagon *before* it hit the gate?” Angel was quick to respond. “That’s what he told me. That was his theory of the crash, and that at some point after the gates blew open, she hesitated and tapped the brakes and he rolled off. At that point he was run over by the vehicle and dragged to the point where he was still underneath it when it hit the tree.”

The shocking visual image of what he told me prompted a number of questions: When he went up on the hood, was Eduardo *facing* Doris on the other side of the windshield? If his body hadn’t rolled off, could he have survived the crash?

The significance of Edward Angel’s account was groundbreaking. Based on what he told me regarding Sgt. Newton’s calculations, Doris Duke had committed an act of intentional murder. In fact, leading up to it, she had engaged in four affirmative/voluntary acts prior to the Dodge Polara “leaping forward” from “a dead stop.”



Ed Quigley's photo of the underside of the Dodge Polara wagon with what appears to be blood at lower right.

In the newly discovered shot showing Sgt. Newton, no residue of blood or skin is visible anywhere near the gate stop. But another photo by Ed Quigley taken from *under* the Dodge after Tirella's body had been removed, suggests that Doris had dragged him across Bellevue to the tree.

In that shot above, just below the left rear tire you can see a length of pipe from the post-and-rail fence on the Quatrel estate and to the right of that, just below it, a small pool of what looks like blood. The rear differential also appears to be blood stained.

Curiously, it was the negative of that very photo that went missing from *The Newport Daily News* archives at the Historical Society. And yet, John Quigley's wife Jane found the print (above) made in 1966.

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE

“IT MOVED LIKE A ROCKET”

As to the cover-up of the case by the Newport, PD I tracked down Norman Mather, the 20-year veteran of the Department who retired in 1984 as an Inspector and earlier recounted the story of Mrs. Beck. On the night of Eduardo’s death he got to the crash scene not long after Patrolman Angel had arrived and Doris Duke had just emerged from her run into Rough Point. At that moment, he told me, she was in the middle of Bellevue Avenue, crying.

“So I said, ‘Miss Duke, my name is Patrolman Mather. Were you in the car?’ And she kept on crying. She wouldn’t answer me.” Just then, Mather said, “Chief Radice arrived in his black Chrysler. It had the seal of the City of Newport on the door, but it was otherwise unmarked. So the Chief got out, walked over to me and said, ‘Mather, I’ll take over. You go back to the station and type it out.’”⁸⁸⁵ The retired Inspector then had a vivid recollection of Radice escorting Doris Duke “arm-in-arm” into Rough Point as Sergeant Don Bergeron arrived and took immediate command of the scene.



An unpublished photo of the Dodge wagon 45 minutes after Doris Duke burst through the gates of Rough Point. The police officer pointing at right was Sgt. Don Bergeron. (Ed Quigley photo).

Later, back at Newport Police headquarters, Mather put an official accident report form (in triplicate) into a typewriter and proceeded to follow the Chief's orders. "Suddenly," he said. "Sgt. Bergeron rushed in and pulled out my original and my copies with the carbon paper. He crumpled them up. So I said, 'What are you doing?' And he said, 'This matter is being taken care of by *Chief Radice*. You don't have to do any more.' And with that, my report got thrown into a trash can."

Mather speculated that after the Chief walked into Rough Point with Doris something had changed. "Did he make a deal with her? I don't know. But the next day I went up to Radice's office on the second floor and I asked him, 'Hey Chief, what's going on?' He looked up at me and said, "Mather, I'm the Chief. What I say goes. Now get out of my office."

MINIMIZING TIRELLA'S INJURIES

One of the first things that struck me in the report was that in a section entitled INJURED, Doris Duke was listed first, as experiencing “Shock” and “Lacerations of the face.” (Appendix page 323) But below that, while noting “Eduardo” Tirella had died, the extent of his injuries was left blank. The black redaction obscures his L.A. street address: 2048 Stanley Hills Place in Laurel Canyon.

INJURED	Name	Miss Doris Duke	Address	Rough Point Estate	Driver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In vehicle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Age	Sex	First aid given by	Middle . Rescue	Injured taken to	Passenger	No.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Did person die?	No	Nature and extent of injuries	Shock, Lacerations of the face	Name	Pedestrian		<input type="checkbox"/>
				Los Angeles Calif.		Specify other		
Total number injured and killed	Name	Eduardo Tirella	Address	[REDACTED]	Driver	<input type="checkbox"/>	In vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Age	42	Sex	M	First aid given by	Passenger	No.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Did person die?	Yes	Nature and extent of injuries		Name	Pedestrian		<input type="checkbox"/>
						Specify other		

Newport PD report detailing Doris Duke’s injuries vs. no stated injuries for Eduardo.

Contrast that with the copy of his Death Certificate obtained independently from the Rhode Island Medical Examiner.

CERTIFICATION	17. CAUSE OF DEATH (Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c).)		INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH
	PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY:		
	IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) Fractures of skull, ribs (rt) side of chest; Fractured right humerus, hip and 6 and 7 dorsal vertebrae; Subarachnoid hemorrhage; Transection of dorsal cord. Rupture of rt. lung and bilateral hemetherax		
	DOE TO (b) Multiple tears of spleen and liver. Multiple abrasions and contusions of body surface.		
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I (a)			18. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Eduardo Tirella’s death certificate documenting his fatal injuries, consistent with his body being dragged across Bellevue Avenue under the Dodge Polara wagon.

In gruesome detail it describes the horrific extent of his injuries.

FORENSIC ANALYSIS

I submitted the evidence uncovered in this investigation to Harm Jansen, a senior staff engineer with Collision and Injury Dynamics, one of the nation's top forensic consulting firms, located in El Segundo, California.⁸⁸⁸

He drilled down specifically on Sgt. Fred Newton's theory of the crash and agreed that Eduardo Tirella had gone up on the hood of the Dodge Polara wagon just before Doris Duke drove it through the gates.

"There is no evidence he was pinned against the gates," says Jansen. "We know he was on the hood. We also know he got run over-mid street. To me it's clear. This was a multi-sequence event in which the driver made a number of affirmative decisions in the course of the incident. The analysis of his injuries, limited to upper body, the head-on damage to the lower sections of the gates, the account of the first officer on the scene and the contemporaneous investigation by the senior police accident investigator, Sergeant Newton, lead me to conclude that the event did *not* occur as described by Doris Duke."⁸⁸⁹

CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR

THE COVER-UP CONTINUES

The first week in April 2019, after never mentioning Eduardo in the nearly 20 years since the Rough Point museum had been open,⁸⁹¹ a new exhibit appeared at the end of the tour. A source close to The Restoration Foundation told me that it was planned as an attempt to “get ahead” of what I might report⁸⁹² after I’d reached out publicly to members of the Newport Facebook Group.⁸⁹³ In a video announcing the exhibit, Rough Point’s curator said that, “a lot of locals... have heard a local myth, so we wanted to put all the facts out so that people would know exactly what happened and that it was just an unfortunate accident.”⁸⁹⁴

Apart from embracing Chief Radice’s explanation for the homicide, the exhibit contained multiple misstatements of fact enshrined on a wall at the Rough Point museum; including the false claim that, “After several days in court, Duke settled with the Tirella family” and Radice’s assertion that “Tirella and Doris were on their way to dinner that evening.”

Typically, the exhibits at the end of the guided tour of the museum rotate every season. But as of early November of 2020, two weeks before Rough Point was to close for the season, a visit to the estate by a friend of mine who lives in Newport, revealed that the NRF’s exhibit (below) which embraces the false “accident” theory of the crash, remains intact.

The Accident at the Rough Point Gate

On the evening of October 7, 1966, Doris's friend and interior designer, Eduardo Tirella, was struck and killed while opening the front gate at Rough Point. Doris was driving the car. While we can never know exactly what happened, it is undeniably a tragic event.

We do know that Tirella and Doris were on their way to dinner that evening. She was driving a rented car and unfamiliar with the transmission. Eyewitnesses said Doris was incoherent and clearly in shock following the incident.

Many rumors and half-truths surround this tragedy. Some say Tirella was Duke's lover and he had wronged her, so she killed him- except that Tirella had romantic relationships with men. Some locals claim Doris paid off the Newport Police chief (who retired six months later) and her \$25,000 donation to the Cliff Walk restoration was hush money for the accident.

Perhaps the most persistent tale is that Doris Duke founded the Newport Restoration Foundation as a way of apologizing to the city. While Doris Duke did found NRF two years after the accident, she had been in talks with other preservationists about possible historic preservation projects as early as 1965, based on correspondence in the Doris Duke Archives at Duke University.

In 1971, the Tirella family brought a civil suit against Doris Duke for damages and lost wages from Eduardo's death. After several days in court, Duke settled the case with the Tirella family.



Tirella Crash Exhibit. While containing multiple false statements, it covered a wall at the end of the Rough Point tour for the 2019 and 2020 seasons.

THE DISAPPEARING GATES

By any measure, in the context of this story, the massive wrought iron gates that guard the entry to Rough Point are evidence of how Eduardo Tirella died. Until quite recently they remained as they had been in the fall of 1966.

This is a shot taken by John Quigley, stepson of *Daily News* photographer Ed Quigley, on March 15th, 2019. At that time they were fully intact.



March 15th, 2019 (John Quigley)

But months later in November of 2019 the gates were severely damaged by a catering truck attempting to enter the grounds. They were then removed from the pillars which had been cracked just above the bronze plaques with the estate's name and address: 680 Bellevue Avenue.



**Rough Point in early 2020 after the gates were removed.
The force of the collision with the truck cracked the pillars
just above the brass plaques. (John Quigley)**

Arguably, The Newport Restoration Foundation, had three months before the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis to repair them and one might have expected that they would, since May 1st, 2020 was set to mark the twentieth anniversary of the estate's opening to the public as a home museum.⁸⁹⁵

Yet in June, the pillars were reduced to less than half their size and across the once elaborate entrance to the estate the NRF had installed the kind of metal fence one might find dividing pastures at Duke Farms.



By June 2020, the gates were replaced by this small green fence.

(Tom Perrotti photo)

As this book nears publication in December 2020, the old gates are still down and there is further evidence that The NRF seems bent on hiding those reminders of Tirella's death. As the photo below demonstrates, *the gates themselves* have been relegated to a corner of the estate where they lie covered by boards and a tarp.



The gates, photographed in early November, 2020.

THE MISSING RELIQUARY

When Adam Fithers photographed the interior of Rough Point on the 52nd anniversary of Tirella's death, the artifact that Eduardo and Doris were leaving the estate to appraise -- the Reliquary of St Ursula -- was where it had been for years, on a chest of drawers between two gold candlesticks, at the bottom of the grand staircase. In *The Silver Swan*, while wrongfully characterizing it as "the bust of an unknown queen" Sallie Bingham rightfully noted that Doris had put it there "in a place of honor."

The very presence of that Reliquary conflicts with the story perpetuated by the NRF in its 2019-2020 exhibit: that on the night Doris Duke killed Eduardo, they were, "on their way to dinner."



The St. Ursula Reliquary on October 7th, 2018. (Adam Fithers photo)

In May of 2020, for reasons unknown, the Reliquary was removed by the NRF from where it had rested for years across from the foot of Rough Point's main staircase. As of early November 2020 it was no longer on display.



The removal of the gates and that artifact from public view, suggest a continuing effort by The Newport Restoration Foundation to rewrite the Doris Duke narrative and sanitize the circumstances surrounding Tirella's death.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE

THE REDEMPTION OF STEPHEN ROBERTSON

In Chapter Four of this book, having begun to tell the story of The Quality Lunch Murders, I had to know how it ended. I'd sensed from the coverage that there were vast pieces missing. As terrible as the double murder was, Stephen Robertson was beloved in Newport; particularly by senior officials in the police department like Capt. Paul Sullivan who had been on the board of The Boys Club.

Any other suspect who had killed two sailors in a city where the economy was dominated by the Navy, then eluded the authorities in what developed into a 32 state All Points search, only to return and walk into Headquarters blocks from the crime scene, might have been locked down in an interrogation room. Based on what I knew of the Newport police mindset *back then*, a confession might have been “induced” long before the suspect was read his Miranda Rights.



Stephen Robertson in cuffs following his arraignment at Newport Police Headquarters on October 6th, 1967. He's being escorted by Sheriff Joseph G. Silvia (left) Deputy Sheriff William F. Blake and an unidentified Rhode Island State Trooper on his way to the ACI in Cranston. (Ed Quigley Photo).

THE FATE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

Perhaps the saddest and most touching part of our interviews was when Steve told me that after he'd been arraigned, when he was facing trial, he had wanted to plead guilty and "do the right thing," but the criminal lawyer he was assigned – none other than the unscrupulous Aram Arabian -- had convinced his parents that invoking the insanity defense would be his best shot at avoiding prison.

It was a legally-baseless move that allowed Arabian to rack up his legal fees and prosecutor James S. O'Brien to soak up the headlines during Robertson's trial. With his conviction assured it was a slam dunk. O'Brien was the same former City Solicitor my slum housing exposé had proven negligent in enforcing the Housing Code. As far as I was concerned, he and Arabian were a pair of corrupt bookends to Stephen Robertson's fate.

In the ultimate irony of this saga, Goo told me that his first choice for criminal counsel was none other than Matt Faerber, who happened to be out of the country at the time. Matt was the larger-than-life lawyer who had successfully defended Timmy and Julia Sullivan.

Everybody called him "Judge" because he'd served on the Bench of The Probate Court in the early Fifties.⁹¹⁵ He drove a black convertible with red leather upholstery and traveled the world defending soldiers, sailors and military officers whom he believed had been falsely accused.

His win-loss record was second to none.

Matt lived a block away from my family growing up. His first wife Kay, whom he divorced and married again, had loaned my mother her wedding dress. Matt Jr. was my close friend as a boy and *his* cousin, Paul grew up to become the Fire Captain who found the logbook detailing the Duke-Tirella crash. As a nine-year old, with his father Eugene “Jeeps” Faerber, Matt’s brother, Paul had raced up to Bellevue Avenue after they heard the call on a police radio. In fact, we were so close to the Faerber clan, that, after my mother retired from The Courthouse, she went to work as a para-legal in the law offices of Matthew Faerber in one of the three Victorian houses he’d purchased adjacent to the Elms: East Court, Middle Court and West Court. Matt lived there with his second wife, a marvelous Irishwoman named Sadie, whom he’d met at The Plaza Hotel.

There was little doubt in my mind that if Matt had been available to take Goo’s case, he would have encouraged him to plead guilty and avoid a trial. When I mentioned that to Steve, his voice trailed off, considering how his future might have been so different.

But fate is fate and if he hadn’t gone to the ACI, he might not have redeemed himself and done so much for prisoner’s rights.



The gates at Rough Point before their removal in 2019, photographed by Adam Fithers on the 52nd anniversary of Eduardo's death. At that point the escutcheon plate was welded firmly to the cross piece at the top and the stop was riveted into the concrete at the bottom. The crash site across Bellevue where Doris Duke dragged Tirella's body is now overgrown and covered by a fence. The tree the two-ton wagon smashed into – scarred for years from the impact of the crash – is almost invisible. It's as if the physical evidence of the killing, like the gates and the memory of Eduardo himself, have been erased... Until now.

APPENDICES

INVESTIGATOR'S AND POLICE ACCIDENT REPORT

RHODE ISLAND

MAIL OR DELIVER TO:
REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES,

STATE OFFICE BUILDING,
PROVIDENCE 2, R. I.

PLACE WHERE ACCIDENT OCCURRED: TOWN <u>Newport</u> <small>If accident was outside city limits indicate distance from nearest town. Use two distances and two directions if necessary.</small> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> miles <u> </u> north-south miles <u> </u> east-west </div> <div> of <input type="checkbox"/> limits of <input type="checkbox"/> center of </div> <div>City or town</div> </div> LOCATION OF ACCIDENT IS <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Urban CHECK WHICH		DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE No. _____ D 4848 409C Beat 10																	
ROAD ON WHICH ACCIDENT OCCURRED <u>Bellevue Ave / outside the entrance to the Doris Duke est.</u> <small>Give name of street or highway number (U.S. or State). If no highway number, give name.</small>																			
Check and complete one <input type="checkbox"/> AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH: OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT AT INTERSECTION: <u>300 feet North</u> of <u>Sharp Turn Bellevue Ave</u> <small>Name of intersecting street or highway number. Show nearest intersecting street or highway, house, number, curve, bridge, railroad crossing, alley, driveway, culvert, milepost, underpass, or other identifying landmark. Show exact distance, using two directions and two distances if necessary.</small>																			
TIME Date of Accident <u>10/7/66</u> 19 <u>Fri</u> Day of Week Hour <u>5:07</u> A.M. P.M.																			
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DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OTHER THAN VEHICLES <u>Iron fence CHartiers Real Estate. Two section destroyed</u> <u>Iron Gate Rough Point States</u> Name object, show ownership, and state nature of damage Approximate cost to repair \$ <u> </u>																			
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Page 1 of The Newport PD official report into Eduardo Tirella's Death.

CITY OF NEWPORT, POLICE DEPT.		LOCATION OF INCIDENT		PAGE NO.	TIME REPORTED	DATE	COMPLAINT REPORT
CLASSIFICATION	CODE	Bellevue Ave Opp. Doris Duke Est.	2	5:00	10	7 66	848
COMPLAINANT		phone Call		PHONE		INSP. CASE NO.	
						4096	

If available, get full name, age, sex, address, parent's names, school, grade, initial disposition, time ordered back:

NATURE OF INCIDENT:

Officer Angel Reports:

STATEMENT OF JAMES HANLEY

" I was driving South on Bellevue ave . I noticed a car that had crashed into a tree. I did not see the accident take place. I got out of my car to assist a woman whom I noticed was bleeding from the mouth. As I approached her she said her friend had left. She then started walking around looking for her friend. I then left to call the police. Another passerby stayed with the woman who was bleeding from the mouth."

STATEMENT OF LOUIS THOM

" I stopped to help the woman who was bleeding from the mouth. She kept yelling for someone named Ed. She then went up the driveway and into the house and shortly thereafter came out saying she had run over him."

STATEMENT OF ENS. JUDITH THOM

" I got out of the car to help her. She went into the house (referring to the Doris Duke Estate) I followed her. She appeared to be in a state of shock. She walked rapidly through the house looking for someone named Ed. Then she came down the stairs saying she had run over Ed. and she had to go find him. She then walked back to the scene. I tried to comfort her."

NOTE:

None of the above actually saw the accident take place.

Officer Angel Reports:

When I arrived at the scene I saw a woman whom I later found out to be Doris Duke, sitting on the front seat of a car that had been involved in an accident. She was being comforted by a young man. I asked her if she was alright, and if there was anyone else injured. She replied "A friend I can't find my friend. I then looked under the car and saw a man lying on the ground under the car. I went to my radio and asked that a wrecker be sent to the scene immediately and to rush the rescue wagon. I then tried in vain along with Mr Hanley to lift the car by means of our bumper jacks. The rescue wagon, Middletown & Newport, arrived and they tried to lift the car with their jacks. They were working on the car when the wrecker arrived (Pelham St Garage). The car was then lifted off the victim and he was taken to Newport Hosp. in the Newport Rescue wagon. Doris Duke was taken to the Newport Hosp. by the Middletown Rescue wagon for treatment of Shock and a laceration of the mouth. I then proceeded to take statements from witnesses, and to take measurements.

Officer Costello Reports:

There was a piece of glass found in the driveway to the estate. Specimens of glass from the headlight and Parking lights of the vehicle involved were taken and placed in the evidence locker in separate packages. Photographs were taken at the scene also.

Note: I rechecked with James Hanley as to the position of

The woman he saw bleeding from the mouth. He stated behind the steering wheel and the door was just slightly opened.

Reporting Officer	C. C. in	Imp.	File	New Record?	Comp.	Sign	Sig. O. in C.
Angel		Rev.	Other		Map.		C. S. C.

Report of Officer Edward Angel

CITY OF NEWPORT - POLICE DEPT.		HOW RECEIVED		<input type="checkbox"/> COMP. <input type="checkbox"/> BIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> DISP. <input type="checkbox"/> ARREST	
CLASSIFICATION	CODE	LOCATION OF INCIDENT	TIME REPORTED	DATE	COMPLAINT NO.
		Bellevue Ave	5:07 P.M.	10 7 66	D-818
COMPLAINANT	ADDRESS	PHONE	DATE	TIME	NO.
Phone call Fire Dept.					409C
FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST NAME	STREET	CITY	STATE
ALIAS	AGE	DOB	<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/> WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> NEGRO <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	TIME ARRESTED A.M. P.M. MO. DAY YEAR
ARREST BOOK PAGE NO.	CELL NO.	PROPERTY	SEARCHING OFFICER	WHERE ARRESTED	DATE OF CASE IN COURT
IF N. Y. VIOL. GET BELOW DATA			IF AUTO ACC. THIS DATA NOT NECESSARY AS IT IS ON ACC. RPT.		
OPER. LIC. NO. & STATE	REG. NO. & STATE	OWNERS NAME & ADDRESS			
		Avis Rent A Car Sheraton Biltmore Prov RI			
DESC. OF VEHICLE	ROAD CONDITION	WEATHER	ATTITUDE OPER.		
66 Dodge	Dry	Clear	Good		

Accident: Vehicle (Auto) - Vs * Ped.

The station received a call from the Fire Dept at 5:07 PM requesting a car be sent to the end of Bellevue ave to assist at an auto accident. Car # 4 was sent.

The injured parties were removed from the scene and I then proceeded with the investigation. (See my report page #2). The vehicle involved had come to rest at the base of a tree on the West side of Bellevue ave on the Chartier Real Estate property. Tire marks and the position of the vehicle indicated the car () had entered Bellevue ave from the entrance way to the Doris Duke Estate through Point. The Gate to the Estate had been badly damaged and there were parts of the gate spread over the road. The vehicle involved had travelled across Bellevue ave mounted the sidewalk, ripped through an iron rail fence, and was resting at the base of a tree. There was extensive damage to the front end of the vehicle. Point of impact appeared to be approx. 12 ft west of the gate to the Estate. The victim was then dragged across Bellevue ave and was lying under the vehicle when I arrived. The vehicle involved was a 1966 Dodge (Automatic Transmission). Tagged and placed in the evidence locker were the bars from the iron fence that were knocked out of the gate from the impact.

The vehicle was towed to the pelham st garage and impounded and a pocket book belonging to Miss Duke was tagged and placed in the evidence locker. It was inventoried by Officers Angel & Watterson, see attached inventory.

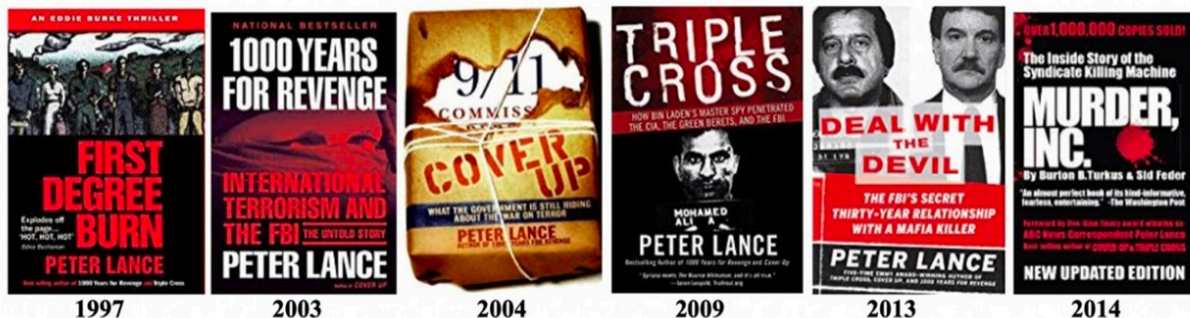
Lewis Perotti of Reg investigator

REPORTING OFFICER	ARRESTING OFFICER	DC	INSP.	BICYCLE	SIB O IN C
Angel <i>Angel</i>		TO	JUV.	OTHER	C.S.C.

Report of Officer Edward Angel cont'd.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter Lance, a graduate of Northeastern University, Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism and Fordham University's School of Law, won five Emmys for his work as a producer and correspondent for WNET and ABC News. In addition to The Sevellon Brown Award he won The Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, The Scripps Howard Prize and The National Headliner Award. Mid-career he worked as a writer, producer or showrunner on multiple network television series including *Crime Story*, *Miami Vice*, *Wiseguy*, and *JAG*. Between 2003 and 2013 HarperCollins published four of his investigative books, *1000 Years for Revenge*, *Cover-up*, *Triple Cross* and *Deal With The Devil*. Lance's first novel, *First Degree Burn*, sold out of its print run of 55,000 in 1997 when first published by Berkley; earning a page-one story in the WSJ and a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly*. In 2014 he wrote the forward to a new edition of *Murder, Inc.*, the true crime classic by Burton Turkus and Sid Feder first published in 1951. *Homicide At Rough Point* emerged from his investigation chronicled in the July/August 2020 edition of *Vanity Fair*. His website is peterlance.com email: pl@peterlance.com



Murdered “On the night before the rest of his life.”



HOMICIDE AT ROUGH POINT chronicles ex-ABC News correspondent and best-selling author Peter Lance's investigation into one of the least known, but infamous unsolved homicides in recent American history: the brutal death of gay interior designer and war hero Eduardo Tirella, outside the gates of Doris Duke's Newport, R.I. estate in October, 1966.

“**HOMICIDE AT ROUGH POINT** is a page-turning epic for our time. Proof that when a narcissistic billionaire assumes, they can get away with murder, there's a reporter out there willing and able to expose them.”

— Nicholas Pileggi, author of *Goodfellas* and *Casino*

“**HOMICIDE** is the best true crime book I've read in years; solving the horrific cold case murder of Eddie Tirella, a gifted Italian-American war hero who didn't deserve to die. Peter Lance is the most tenacious reporter I know. A must read!”

— John A. Gotti

COVER UP: “Without a doubt... had Mr. Lance been a special agent with the FBI working international terrorism cases in the 1990s, the al Qaeda terrorists who attacked America would either be in U.S. prisons or deceased.”

— Joseph F. O'Brien's FBI special agent (ret.) and co-author of *Boss of Bosses*

DEAL WITH THE DEVIL: “A blistering account of a cunning and brutal Mafia capo who triggered some of New York's most violent gang wars, all while serving as an informant for the FBI. Packed with revelations. It offers the most penetrating look into the inner workings of the Mafia since *The Valachi Papers*.”

— Nicholas Gage: former organized crime correspondent for *The New York Times*

PETER LANCE authored four investigative books from HarperCollins published 2003-2013: *1000 Years For Revenge*, *Cover Up*, *Triple Cross* & *Deal With The Devil*. A former correspondent for ABC News, he covered 100's of stories worldwide for *20/20*, *Nightline* and *World News Tonight*. Winner of five News & Documentary Emmys, his first account of this story was published in the July/August issue of *Vanity Fair*. peterlance.com

