



This icon is not located in Newport, or Sullivan County or even New Hampshire; it is located 1,000 miles away in Savannah, Georgia.

THE **STREAMLINER** DINER

A Newport Cultural Icon Is Damaged by Fire, but Rises Again from the Ashes!

By Pamela LaFountain

On the evening of February 11, 2025, the Streamliner Diner that lived in Newport for 30 years, experienced a damaging fire. No one was in the restaurant at the time. Now, known as the StrangeBird Restaurant in Savannah Georgia, it rises from the ashes. Their Facebook posts comfort their patrons claiming “ we can assure you that we will be back.”



On March 13, 2026, the StrangeBird Diner opened again for business, a credit to the ownership, their loyal customers, and the community at large.



NETTLETON HOUSE MUSEUM

EXHIBIT

**Antique Dolls
Found Hidden
in a 1766 Home**

OPEN HOUSE

Come and Visit

**SUNDAY
APRIL 12, 2026**

New Corbin EXHIBIT

NEW SUMMER HOURS

**Open Sundays
11A - 2P**

**through October
or by appointment**

IN THIS EDITION

FIRE: Newport's Streamliner Diner - 20 Years
of The Mill Town Messenger - Website
Search Features Updated - **2026 SEASON**
OPEN - Nettleton House Museum -
Corbin Exhibit - QUIZ Time!, NHS NEWS

*"The Contestants will
all be in top-notch
form."*

In 1987, the Streamliner was purchased by a diner broker and was moved out of Newport, first to Concord, NH; then to Manchester, NH; on to Massachusetts and finally in 1990 to Savannah, Georgia where it sits today. The Savannah College of Art and Design purchased the diner to be part of their college campus along with another similar restaurant, Bobby's. According to an article in the Dartmouth Alumni Magazine, the two diners were purchased for \$260,000 and renovations were completed.

Continued on page 3



Newport's Winter Carnival continues to make HISTORY!

WINTER CARNIVAL GLOW

Winter Carnival 2026 - The 110th or 111th?

Once again, the community of Newport rallied together to enjoy a slate of winter events continuing our stated claim of the longest continuous Winter Carnival in the nation.



This year some Newport mathematicians asked the question, "If the first Winter Carnival was in 1916, then shouldn't this be the 111th Newport Winter Carnival?"

Well, it depends who you ask. It appears that the founders of Newport's Winter Carnival, William Rand, host of the Newport House (Hotel) and Robert E. Gould, New England Commissioner of Hotels & Railroads developed the idea of an "EVENT" in the winter to encourage locals to get outside and have some fun! Most likely they were influenced by a Winter Carnival held in Newport in 1916, that ran for one day sponsored by the local YMCA. Below are some articles in local newspapers referring to the 1916 Winter Carnival.

Winter Carnival Queens Making History

First Queen:

Anne Kennedy (1925)

No information about a queen contest from 1926-1937

Married Queen - Hannah Fontaine (1948)

Prior to 1948

The Queen was the contestant who sold the most buttons and tickets

Queen Who Went on To Win Miss NH:

Monica Rastallis (1979)

Queens With Famous Family Members:

Mary Ann Van (1940) - Daughter of Billy B. Van (vaudeville actor)

Louise Crone Russell (1945) - Mother of Actor Kurt Russell,

wife of Actor "Bing" Russell

Sisters Who Become Queens:

Muriel Chamberlain (1959) & Carmen Chamberlain (1973)

Erin Barnes (2000) & Renee Barnes (2001)

Kristen Touchette (1999) & Brittany Touchette (2003)

Judy Taimi (1956), Timi Taimi (1967), Robin Taimi (1970)

In 2026 - Three Generation of Queens:

1975 - Ann St. Martin Stout - read original poetry for talent

1998 - Maria Stout (Ann's daughter) - performed "The Rose" on the piano for talent

2026 - Leah Palmer (Maria's daughter) - performed a Contemporary Dance for talent

Ann Stout (1975)



Maria Stout (1998)

Leah Palmer (2026)



3 Generations of Winter Carnival Queens

Articles from 2/3/1916 & 3/10/1916 Newport's Republican Champion Newspaper

Winter Carnival
The Y. M. C. A. winter carnival drew an audience of between 500 and 600 people on the Bela II Cutting meadow Saturday afternoon. The parade started from the Methodist chapel at 1.45 p. m., and marched to the scene of action on on snow shoes and skis. The winners of the events were as follows:
Fifty yard snowshoe race: 1st, Roy Odell; 2nd, Kenneth Andler of the boy scouts.
Seventy-five yard snowshoe race, 1st, Ernest Leavitt; 2nd, Ralph Johnson; 3rd, William Martin of the Phi Alpha Pi.
Fifty yard ski race: 1st, Herman Hastings; 2nd, Ralph Jameson of the boy scouts.

Newport: The Congregational older boys organized a Phi Alpha Pi Fraternity Tuesday evening with Merton L. Whittemore as adult leader. The Baptist Boy Scouts held their first supper and social evening, Tuesday, and all the members of the troop were present. Elaborate plans are being laid for the first winter carnival to be held on Cutting's meadow Saturday, Feb. 5. A slide for school children has been opened on Belknap Avenue, to be under the supervision of the local Y. M. C. A. committee.

Two hundred twenty yard ski race: 1st, J. A. Hurd; 2nd, Rogers H. Claggett; 3rd, Jesse Bagley.
Phi Alpha Pi.
Ski jump: 1st, Paulson; 2nd, Carlson and Bowler; 3rd, Frost of Dartmouth college. Paulson gave a clever exhibition of turning a backward somersault on skis.

After the carnival a banquet was served in the vestry of the Methodist Episcopal church to the members of the various societies that participated in the events, and the prizes were awarded by County Secretary Maynard L. Carpenter.

Take our Mill Town Messenger Quiz on our Website at



Newportnhhistory.org

Check out the NHS Window Display at

RADIO - 1010

WCNL
SERVING WESTERN NEW HAMPSHIRE

continued from page 1

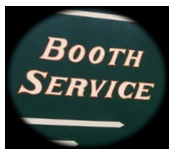
In **2015**, the college sold the diner and it opened as the Shoefly BBQ. In 2020 my husband and I, along with two other former Newporters while vacationing in Savannah, decided to find the iconic diner. My husband who had played football in the 1970s remembers a promise made by owner Melvin Kemp.

Mr. Kemp promised the football team that for every game they won, he would provide them with a free cheeseburger, French fries and a coke. The team went on to win all but one game in three seasons!



With the use of GPS and the internet to find the address, we pulled into the parking lot of the Shoefly BBQ. Unfortunately it was early morning and being a BBQ restaurant our timing was not good. As I approached the front door, I was greeted by a sign... CLOSED! Not wanting to disappoint my husband, I began to knock on the door and peered in the dining car for a sign of someone who might let us in. It was then that I spotted a shadow in the kitchen. My knocking became "pounding." I could hear footsteps from inside approaching the door, I began to yell, "Please let me in! I've come all the way from NH so my husband can sit in the booth he always sat in during high school." We were let in and the pictures tell the rest of that story.

*I was
greeted by
a sign-
CLOSED!*



So Newporters should know that although she has been gone for over 35 years, Our Streamliner Diner is still in good hands, giving people a place to have a good meal and visit with family, friends and neighbors, protected by those same people. And if you happen to be traveling to Savannah, Georgia be sure to go to the corner of Henry and Barnard Streets, walk right in and sit right down! You will be welcomed back.

Historical Society Museum News

NHS Trustees:

Dean Stetson, Laura Kessler, Pam LaFountain, Mike Loftus,
Tom Nulty, Lionel Hebert, Lee Branch,
April Anderson, Donna Menard, Paula Johnson

The Newport Historical Society is just one of many local Historical Societies in our region. Many have come to the Museum to follow their curiosity. We all share the same goal which is to collect and preserve artifacts that allow us to connect with the past. Newport is fortunate to have the the Nettleton House Museum and the presence of a Historical Society. It is a building of historical value to we are fortunate to have; to meet, gather, research, archive and exhibit items.

The Museum is the home of numerous collections and the work of many individuals who have spent countless hours researching a particular topic or member of their family. Donations including scrapbooks, family histories and collections reflecting the passions of the beholder are found in albums and binders – each item a treasure from a moment, a time or a place associated with Newport. None of this would be possible without the individuals who make up our team who share a common goal.

Arnie and Lee have spent countless hours documenting and cataloging these and other items in our database. Mike has constructed new book cases and has been rearranging collections in the Annex opening up new space. Check out his work archiving and making all of our 20 years of Mill Town Messengers searchable on our website. Tom keeps an eye on the finances and memberships and along with Mike manages our website and Face Book accounts. Laura helps with communications and helps maintain deep connections in our historical circles. April is one of our valued "researchers" in the field. Literally digging up information to complement our exhibits. Donna keeps us informed of our hometown friends and neighbors as she is related to many families of Newport generational descent. Paula keeps us connected to our community partners and Pamela writes and researches many of the articles you read.

The personal satisfaction each one of us derives from our work is unique and fulfilling. As the current President of the organization, I am proud to work with each individual member of this team. We welcome those who would like to be part of our mission as a Member, Docent or Donor.

Dean Stetson-President NHS

NEW **MUSEUM** **EXHIBITS**

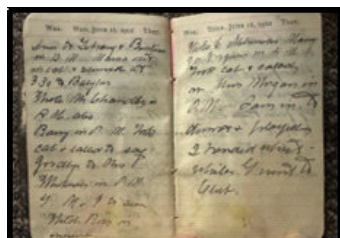
On April 12, 2026
the Newport
Historical Society
Museum will be
opening with two
new exhibits. The
first will be a display
"The Corbins: Their
Home & Family."

The Corbins: Their Home & Family



Thanks to the many family members who have donated items for this display. The exhibit also focuses on the Edgell and Cheronnet-Champollion families.

Included in this exhibit: A complete genealogy from the first Corbins in the New World to Austin Corbin II's great-grandchildren; photos of rooms in the Corbin Mansion with information about the renovations and historical details; birth, death and wedding announcements of family members; family letters; family photo albums with pictures of Newport, Corbin books, linens, and chairs, a Bible; and hand sketches by Andre Champollion among many other items.



Items never before seen, recently discovered items found around the property using modern metal detecting technology will also be on display.

You won't want to miss this exhibit!

MUSEUM HOURS Open Sundays 11A - 2P
through October or by appointment



This summer a discovery was made at 33 Unity Road that has left researchers at the Newport Historical Society asking many questions. On the 3rd floor of the old tavern/inn a box about was found in a crawl space. According to the owner of the home, this box must have been "hidden" here as "you would have had to have crawled your way down the attic space deliberately."

The tavern is one of the oldest buildings in Newport. Last August, John Webster, now owner of the home, brought in the small box that was filled with about 2 dozen dolls. Some of the dolls were similar but there were about seven different types in total. The dolls, all of a miniature size, look well "played with" some still with tufts of dirt on them. A little preliminary research placed the dolls at about the turn of the century, late 1800s to early 1900s.

Finds like these raise more questions than answers. What is the history of these dolls? Why were they hidden? And most importantly, who hid them in the attic crawl space? To see this display and learn more about what researchers have already discovered about this mysterious find, come and visit the Newport Historical Museum this Summer.



**The Mystery at
33 Unity Road**

Like what you see? Want More? - Visit our website for additional photos and information.