Anne Simon

For her books The Thin Edge and Neptune's Revenge, she was praised in reviews by Ted Kennedy and Governor Francis Sargent for their powerful arguments that survival on land and sea depend on functioning oceans. She was likened to Rachel Carson in the Boston Globe and the New York Times. But, it was No Island is an Island that captured the origins and energy of the Kennedy bill with its passionate plea for regional and federal solutions to rampant development and the destruction of nature. Anne Simon excelled in scholarship, literary accomplishments, and igniting passions. Her Vineyard book was praised in reviews by Ted Kennedy and Governor Francis Sargent and her book signing following a signing of the Red Cat book was celebrated at a party hosted by Sca'Hart's house by a group including William Styron, Jules Feiffer, Vannevar Bush, David McCullough, Henry Hough, Carly Simon and Ann's sister Barbara Tuchman. Yet, following her piece in the Boston Globe, Home rule is "a lot of crap" and a zealous "insiders are too close to the seeking dollars of short-term growth" piece in the Globe arguing that the nation, not a few thousand to recognize the rumble of long-term disaster" locals, should determine the fate of a nation the Vineyard her gardener were trampled and she was vilified in local and national media.

But, when it comes to her Am Beyond With the remove of time from the acrimony and battles over conservation these two emergent qualities of Anne Simon's work shine brightly. Though its focus is entirely the Vineyard, a national treasure, serve as a microcosm for the country at large. What ails the Vineyard
will spread and inflect the nation as a whole. Achievements and perhaps lessons forged here offer hope for a broader determination and ability to grapple with larger environmental issues. And then there is her prescient ability to capture the intriguing diversity and rich qualities of the Vineyard itself. Though Detractors and some reviewers criticized her for caring more about nature than her fellow man. Yet, no write has exceeded her ability to appreciate and convey the Island's natural and cultural variation and the attraction that this instills in so many different people. Her book sheds great light on the early days of conservation but her depiction of Island qualities resonate today.
She was referred to in the Boston Globe and New York Times due to her strongly researched arguments that human activity was undermining life in the ocean and on land. But, no writer has approached Anne Simon's appreciation of the natural and human diversity and appeal of the island, which she made her summer home for nearly fifty years. The book that captured microcosm — but national treasure — Red Col


There is a passion to tend one's own garden, and the struggle against the damage caused by development on the island to focus on a general evil:

"Dilemma of life on this small island of MV amorous mugrise, threatened by pollution of the nation's documentation. Books assembled an amazing assortment of information, perspective and guidance but are rooted in a passion for love of nature. On MV this love of nature extends to the wildlife,

historical and aesthetic qualities of the island and the way of life supported. "Uncompromising love for one of the most beautiful places in the world"

Home rule - "a lot of crap"
Anne Simon

Anatole Broyard

The Thin Edge 1978 rev. NYT "tidal wave of a book"

ocean not immune to man - if we put our mind to it we may

destroy anything - man's struggle - long + short view

ecosystem - man's soft answer to storms; role of marshes, wetlands,

beaches - hard structure exacerbate

Rachel Carson wrong - ocean - metaphor of illimitability

amazing assortment of facts, ideas, advice; legal aspects of preservation

to biology of ocean + wetlands.

Behind it all: beauty; nature; alone; background music

No island is an island - Ted Kennedy 1973 NYT

compelling + urgent lesson. Quality of life dependent on balance

irreversible destruction of unique + quiet beauty

CCNS preserved some of wild beauty of HDT but not designed to cope w/sprawl

clear + strong control measures needed - beyond local + state

IT bill partnership Fed-state-local all focused on Island-wide Commission

Book describes reactions to bill; destruct change; strong local control

Russell Train - "unthinking abeyance to home rule"

formulas F-S-L will preserve beauties of moors, marshes, dunes, ponds

AS: "dilemma of loud use on this small island of MV in turn suggests,
in miniscule, the outsized problem of the nation

Obit - NYT 82 Manhattan + Chilmark

Working on book - changing nature of MV - how to save it. July MVMag

also Neptune's Revenge: The Ocean of Tomorrow

Smith College, Columbia Univ School Social Work
Writer - The Nation, Good Housekeeping, McCall's

Stepchild in the Family: A View of Children in Remarriage, 1964

she was stepchild + stepparent 3 marriages

Walter Werner Wides Mrs. Simon NYT 5.23.1974

Daughter of Mauric Wertheim, Barker + philanthropist

and Mrs. Alma Morgenthau - granddaughter of Henry M. Ambassador

Neptune's Revenge - People, McKaughan

Destroying the ocean threatens our survival.

Sister of historian Barbara Tuchman

Neptune's Revenge NYT - Curtis, 1984

Opposes the Bass Derby - endangered species

Home overlooks Central Park West

AS BG MV Temper Tantrum

Praises IT Bill - new innovative form of land planning, 1st opp to protect

islands scientific, historic, aesthetic qualify - shall a few thousand rule or not

One housing starts a day

No island-wide goal, ability. Forces independence issues. No regional plann. No thinking of

K asked for commutes - islanders respond W investor

BG MV Party for AS book - No Island

HBI - K bill - last chance we have

Stygien, Feiffer, Vana packed at Stan Hart party. Hart - retired NY Lawyer -

runs Red Cat bookstore. All property owners crusade for K bill

HBI, Carly Simon, B Tuchman, D McCullough, Gerry Kelly - editor of Grapevine

Peter Simon,
Booksighting at Red Cat in Tisbury followed by party at Hart's house in Edg.

BG Book may burn islanders
Gardens trashed after BG article
National treasure - new 2 house starts play - All across America
Disturbed by compromise - pros vs cons.
Book - love letters to MV nature not people, little warmth for its people
Stubborn, backwards, greedy. Not up to people of NV
"a lot of crap" home rule loss

Whitman Review Thin Edge
Comparable in patient documentation to Silent Spring
argues that survival on land and sea depend on a functioning ocean.
Overdevelopment - estuaries, quarries, power plants, dumping, offshore drilling, human excrement, toxic chemicals, waste oil
"Restoration to optimum natural function" A blockbuster

Globe Obit
"The Rachel Carson of the East Coast"
MV - national treasure with such geographical and geological variety that it has
great scientific, archaeological and historical interest as well as natural resource
of enchanting beauty -- wild ponds, twisted oak woods, long curving branches
below clay cliffs" from 86 '71.
"Turned or developed, this vineyards hundred square mile will make no significant
drift in the first or second home market. Preferred, it is a remarkable asset be
a society struggling to be civilized."
Man-land balance is erupting. About to sink under the weight of progress. Unless proposals: first nightclub, trailer camp, beachfront condominium, subdivisions of old farms into quartermiles

Vinylated American phenomenon - but national trauma. There is no definitive local or regional plan in effect here. "The people business - the summer tourist trade plus a growing retirement fashion - is creating an explosive paradox." The people come for character that they are destroying.

Purchase expert: studies to forget or ignore - CCNS, I Trust

Comprehensive plan gives MV 2 yrs to limit people, acquire DS, restrict expansion. Regional authority or IT

Enviro cover by 1975:

Commission unanimously rejected the plan, fired the firm, decided to short over w/ resident planner. "Islanders are too close to the clinging old idea of short-term growth to recognize the rumble of long-term disaster."

MV: Could be a peaceful

Sargent Review of N Island: Boston Globe

uncompromising love for one of the most beautiful places in the world preserve land + character - she shapes the land but focuses on land born intense participatory, writes with immediacy

demands regional as paved by paved foot path

property rights second to land - Indian concept, land - momentarily property

MV: microcosm of larger phenomenon: Cape, Berkshire, Franklin Co

K-Bill "has forced the island's people to face up to the difficult decisions of permanence."

Complementary step: the people or AS on one ph - ultimate decision must lie with MV citizens.Govt. forum + tools: residents decisions + commitments to preserve.
Anne W. Simon. 1973. No Island is an Island. The Order of Martha's Vineyard. Doubleday, Garden City NY

miniscule of outsized problem in action
PU refer to M+E study - doomsday at 1976 - when US celeb
Great quote on varnish
National Coverage - Frank Sinatra's yacht in V harbor, James Taylor & his musical cohorts, Ptsk & wife w/texture Chipp
HBH star-studded memoir - Escape in Aug to MV Town's Camp

"The power to stop destruction of the island can best come from a consensus, some sort of all-island plan"
... or stronger still a regional plan for all islands

Quote p. 9 - "But the character of the Vineyard

"Everyone has his own Vineyard, whether divided all must fall,
or can unite, remains to be seen"

Francis Scovill handled Menemsha Neck controversy well - build road
but leave scenery undisturbed "limit-access road"

SMF-CTN from Emma, Robert, John Daigle. CTN name from 1818
200 ac. #165K - fraction of value. HBH + GH 50+ ac.
adjocing 50-ac Alexander Red Bird Refuge
17 weeks - #175K

Describes other success - Felix Neck, Wapack, Menemsha Hills

"There is a continuing shrublet of individual gifts and
Zac Dodger Hole - donated by Alvin Strock

Prof. Haar "Why don't the rich summer people buy the damn island?"

Private land protection = red herring: distraction from basic dilemma
VOLF ultimate red-herringmanship
Loew: "At least you'll still be able to drive along island roads as
though nothing has happened."

Hedgehogs + Gardu Club fight over billboards

V-H-E Rd - 1960s first federal highway on MV

Quote p 81 "The V's Six towns

1960s - move toward all island planning "Although the plan failed, the
effort did not."

reigning sentiment = local control: islanders prefer town over local
terrors of unknown authority

Dean Swift - court commissioner 1962; spent 5 yrs organizing
Duke's G Planning + Economic Development Commission
1st act: hire M+E 2 yrs 6 prelim reports + final summary

Vineyard's Pentagon Paper

End of M+E and 1971 hired Alexander Fittinghoffs from CA
Spring 1972 1 house starts, 800 houses 1972 vs. 1960s 644
Gossip over non release of report
"Don't the Commissioners have confidence enough in the people who elected them to trust these same people to judge the report?"
Grapevine letter from citizen

AS obtained copy - Logue extremely thorough. Way out ahead of the clients (Dean Swift + DCPEC)
Suppressed key suggestion for public org w/ power + fines to protect envir + create economic opp.
Would supplant its creator w/ DCPEC

Anne Hale - husband VH by now, MS Landscape Architecture Harvard
She became DCPEC director at inception

Her story of M+E
Study is 3-cornered: DCPEC, M+E, MA Dept Comm & Affairs
Money from HUD required commission of a county commissions
one select man each town, 6 require affirmative votes.

DCPEC met monthly w/ H. Calvin Cooke M+E - CC could talk to scholars
Nobody read reports as coming out - 5 - compendium of facts - LU, physical
features, pop, towns, housing, natural resources

6th - CC accepts the projections of 50,000 by 1990 - proposes greenbelt, new town etc. Few questions - as pro-growth commission
General public didn't focus on popn projections. 1st person to talk to Hale about it = AS

Then M+E assigned James Woplem to write summary report + CC received
More insightful & inflammatory - called a thousand island just that.
6 of 131 pp - called for organization to replace DCPEC, June 1971
Unanimously rejected.
Woolom attacked people. AH - bombshell, divisive

N+D & D+s upset - N+D not fully paid. Asked to hold Summer

DCPEC worried about losing HUD $30k implementation asked for more copies

of 6 reports from rewritten summary; looked for resident planner to work

up working paper

August editorial VG - John Osers, NYT editorial page editor - a founder of VCS-

pointed to summary - quoted report, promoted protection, questioned hiding it.

claimed it was suppressed.

Duke Count f rom Provincial Assembly NY - Kings (Brooklyn), Queens (LE) &

Dukes - ACK, NV, EJ, New Man's Land; few years Charter of Wm t Han moved

to MA; 1695 - ACK separate Co.

Mayor Matthew Mayhew resisted move to MA - challenged by Simon Athearn

Transfer of power to a larger unit (Commission or Feds) seen as divisive

Planning for future - too far ahead of people

AS - wrote about issue in NYT - appealed to Kennedy, Brook, Keith

explosive response - VCS president wrote to VG against federal action

Shirley Frisch asked for release of summary

Grapevine published summary in Nov, Swift announced it would be public

W/o implementation so DCPEC could get onto business

People questioned DCPEC - accepting pop'n projection, new town - Growth Good

but suppress regional governing body

Navy began wasting Feds - Kennedy bill

NYT artha, Study bill supplanted by K bill

"As it turns out, the secret county plan by its very existence may save

the island from itself after all."
Go ac along beach + Wequabsque childless widow

Chilmark Librarian 30 yrs

Roger Baldwin, Leona Baumgartner + others urged her to conserve

Leslie Flandin - LV executor + VP MVNet Bank

LV- leave to nephew + cousins but wanted town to have some

Selectmen wanted to buy but keep for residents

Blacksmith Valley Association - 1950s for 20 families

Horace B B Robinson - Blacksmith Valley S Rel bought land

+ divided for summer houses. Wanted to do that for LV land + sell rest to town

VOLF just organized - modified version of Rural Land Fdn. Lincoln

but not quite ready to handle it. By 1972 VOLF became a

land development, planning, fee charging service to put buyers, sellers and plans together with Anne Helt as exec secretary

Limited development idea stuck - hours Freiburs - 11 house + farm

Ralph Meyer, Jerome Wiscar, Leon Baumgartner, Peter Hornbeck

at suggestion of RD with Kevin Lynch

Bob McNamara + Ralph Meyer + Richard Hodgson (ITT) + David Czemborski

de Allen

Town lease beach - so limited to residents

Chilmark Community Fund would receive 0.5 gift from McNamara +
purchasers; rent to town for 41 w/ 99 yr lease renewable

McN et al bought 40 ac + 1900 feet beach gave rest to town

Chilmark Town Association (be 4th name)
Seven Gates 1921 WWI bb - communal living -
Corporation 36 building sites of 2.5 ac with none selling
Others 2 ponds + beach commun 24 owned

Discusses late 1800s boom - left people in bankruptcy, shock for
RR in sheriff's hands and paper lots
Today 208 house lots WF VG "Design for the Future Reflects
Spirit of the Past"

Today's boom will not disintegrate 19th C - summer boom just started

Methodist church began - W Chop with John Adams - week of meeting
near Lighthouse 1837
Edg Methodist led by Jeremiah Pease - grove of oaks "largest in NE"
acc to Hill Aug 1836 1st meet 9 total 1000 people

1972 Chappy - had 1 acre zoning but mid 1800s plan allowed Ben
Bolds to buy 43 1/2 to 1/4 lots + market them

1950s Alvin Stock + Moses - Love Farm in Hart Harv (largest dairy farm
on island), Katama Farm (largest field), GH adjoining Homblower,
Island County Club (only 18 hole course) + dozens others - 2200 by '72
Waterview Farm - half open space 2 1/2 mi water front island property
Vilified thoug motto "Preservation of environment, approach to
conservation and proper land use"
Stock plans "Investment in non-developed"
Aug '71 long secret development plans emerged. Published in VC & Grapevine

Promoted zoning - Garden Club had pushed this in 50's

Edg zoning bylaw 1969 "if all are built & occupied 1972 "enough developments to completely change MV"

Zoning = self fulfilling prejudging MV future; builds scare & they will come

Julia Sturges + Eleanor Pearlson

Mr & Mrs 23,000 new yr round residents by 1980

James Reston - pre-zoning column - going to get people

AS - everyone builds into inevitability of growth. SSA, talk of sewers, zones, huge tourist base

Woodruff - need to compromise; need business community

VCS - not dynamic

Holdouts - Concerned Citizens for MV - 1970 airport issue started them, Gerald Kelly - Grapevine editor, James Alley expanded airport for jets

Emerging loud ethic: Resources for public good - public include the environment. Man needs to be part of environment

Planning - move from zoning to regional control & LU fitting long-term plan

Examples: Cumberland Island, GA; Boulder, VT (Act 250); Bolinas

Letter to William Drayton 1786

George Washington "Nothing, in my opinion, would contribute more to the welfare of these states than the proper management of our lands. And nothing... seems less understood." in this state particularly,
Autumn '71 - New phase for MV

Kennedy - MV 3 options: CCNS, extension, or First National Island Trust; or combination. 10 yrs since CCNS

National Park Scared MV - horde of people.

Mary Wakeman wrote to TK - must be ignorance of efforts to protect.

TK - then having big impact on 5 fronts: Chair of Health + of Refugees

K Dun Gifford - worked for real estate firm Cobalt, Cobalt + Forbes

 TK wanted to pick up DOI's Island Trust preliminary studies

6 wks after study bill he brought it back up + filed memo from Charles Haar (nation's expert in land-use controls) + 3 studies.

Fan of K proposal in memo

ACK - more homogeneous + unity thought itself impenetrable

entire place a Historic District. Moors + all extended after 1st condo.

Charles Forch See of Env. encouraged plans for island, did so
and defined sensitive areas. Read + acted on by Roy Larson (VP
Time + Pres. Nan Foss Fohn), Walter Beinecke (Green Stamp heir),
Arthur Dean (NY A1!).

No Man Is An Island button - with green stamp background Anti-B button

Beinecke bought by properties waterfront, Dave Coffin House.

NPS director George Hartrey not enthusiastic about MV; nor was Nixon or
Sec. Interior Morton.

Bill - single most important event on MV since Geogram 30 ft 570 yrs ago
comes as VG "Larg scale real estate transactions" and bill for
bridging MV, ACK + mainland - last chance to rescue MV.
Governor commisioner
Land divided into use categories
Beaches forever wld
Freeze new construction from date of bill introduction
Land acq - easements, direct fee, threat of eminent
Erosion + pollution control
Asked for $20m land acq + $5m development
MV claimed not consulted - but study bill, Harmed report
also design not to be viewed as for personal son

NYT editorial Supported by Roger Baldwin, Paul Warreke
Bill - April
Vineywards to Ammad + Support the Bill - John Alley, firstPres of Concerned Citizens, brother of founder ⇒ V to Ammad Bill
May - VG editorial The K bill Must be Enacted

Alvin Strott - Strong supporter of Bill, also MV News 2nd Bar
Pres Wm Horney
DCPEC developed its own plan w/ its M&E replacement planner Alexander Fittinghoff. DCPEC wasted function whatever happens
Republicans in DC opposed - aka after Chappaquiddick blunder. But this brought support from DC enviros

Shall the island become Anyplac USA?
Maps

Overleaf Map of Island

Glacial Legacy

Development under way June 1972
Nantucket Sound Islands Trust

Flood tide - First proposed trailer park, night club, condos, on beach, more advertising, pond pollution, 1/4-acre developments

National coverage 60s - Frank Sinatra's yacht in VH, James Taylor, Jack Kennedy taking Jackie west skiing, Cheppy tragedy.
1971 H&B - Town & County "Escape in August to MV"

"The power to stop destruction of the island can best come from a consensus, some sort of all-island plan . . . ."

1839 Heath hen extirpated everywhere except MV
MA closed season 1831 Mar - Sept, again 1844, 1860
1907 reservation

West Basin; Friends of the Island became VCS

1965 - Road proposed across; Friends sought it

Richard Pough, Thos Hart Benton, John Oelke NYTimes
Gov. Sangwet - compromise. Build but no disturbance to birds, swans. Limited access road = State road.
(would stop private landowners reaching land)

1966 - Built. Houses proposed. Uncertain outcome
SMF - Beltz worried about pond. Used $3500 Habib royalty check for $7500

Cedar Tree Neck - name 1918; VG leadership for contributions.
1959 Cape Regal Wildlife Preserve
1969 Waquoit
1965 Menemsha Hills
Felix Neck 200 ac.

Bob Woodruff "Since giving land has been completely haphazard, its diversity is amazing"

OLF - Edward Logue, planning wizard for NY state
"At least you'll still be able to drive along Island road as though nothing happened"
Buy large parcels, protect roadsides, and hide development behind them

Gardu Club to Edg ladies 1925. "The Island is Our Garden"
1926 - anti-Glennboard campaign, just pressure required!

1950s Moshup Trail Road - oldest known way on island
1960s Ferry Road (1700) - between Great Harbor and H.H. (1851) - County Road. First federal highway - 2nd US road so 66 feet wide w/10 ft shoulders, 12 ft from tree.

Reign = auth = - local control

1962 Dean Smith surveyed. Established Dukus
County Planning and Economic Development Commission
1969 First meeting. Swift as chair
Hired Metcalf + Eddy for comprehensive study + plan
kept internal with its terminal cancer reference
DCPEDC - terminated with Metcalf + Eddy

1972 Spring
One house/ start per day, 500 houses built
1960s 644 houses built total

Anne Hob became DCPEDC Exec. Director at outset
M+E report assumed Dukus County pop'in as 50,000
by 1970

John Oakes, NYTimes editor wrote VG front page article
calling attention to M+E report + argued for protection of
MV as whole. Showed how M+E report could lead to
that. Called it suppressed

Grapevine printed report

Kenned, Bill S. 2605 quoted NYTimes article by Anne Simon
who appealed for federal help

Lucinda Mosher Vincent died 1970, VCS and other.
VOLF  Anne Halt Exec Secretary.
"land development, planning, fee-charging service to put
buyers, sellers, and prairie together with Anne Halt as
exec sec."

Shaler - Frederick Moore (lives in his house) - Willoughby
Webb in 1921 persuaded 6 families to join in "an
experiment in communal living - sort of an idealistic
Utopian idea". Corporation laid out 36 building sites
of 1.5 acres so that no one site would be in view of
another. Rest of land communal, owned by corporation.

Boom 1860-70s

1971 - 208 WT houses VG "Design for the Future
Refresh Spirit of Past". Similar lots, streets as
OB in 1870.

1970 250 Chilmark acres in lots (?Abel's Hill or Farm?)

Modern boom will not disinter
t
First Camp meeting August 1835

1972 Benj Boldt Lentinon bought 43 1/2ac lots Ob Camp
put on market as plan from 1870. succeed 1-25-20
1950s Alvin Stock & Moses Strawl bought Lee Farm (Hart Haven), Ketama Farm, spectacular Gan Hed land above Hornblower, Israel Country Club

Total 1972 - 2200 ac. "Island Properties, Inc"

First project - Waterview Farm over Senge. Half open space with 2 1/2 mi waterfront, free of houses

Fenney Campground & trailer park, Tisabug 1972

Gardn Club ran 20 yrs. Facts column & polled voters in 1959, found zoning high

Edg 1969 (choppy earlier, also Wickop)

WT 1971

Chil 1971

Mid 1972 17 developments underway in Edg

1974 James Baston editorial "We are going to have more people and more business regardless of what anybody says. No editorials in the Gazette, no matter how loud we are going to stop this trend"

Everyone given in to The Trend. Even VCI

Holdout - Concerned Citizens of MV, Includes Grapevine

former editor - Gerald Kelly & John Allen also

1972 sets to MV - cut down 80 ac. State Forest to accommodate
Kennedy - 3 possibilities - exclusion of CCNS, 1st of DOJ's National Island Trusts, or some combination.

K. Dun Gifford - former TK legislative aide, hired to do study

S. 3486

April 1972 TK bill - combined Island Trust, CCNS, Gary Hart ideas on Sleeping Bear Dunes, and other lands.

Single most important event in MV since Conserv set foot on island - "one last chance for the rescue of MV" includes freeze on new construction.

Wild beaches - hostility target

may assume mobs would come

May supporters to amended bill

Regional land plan
APPENDIX 1(b) : DEVELOPMENTS UNDER WAY ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD, JUNE 1972