

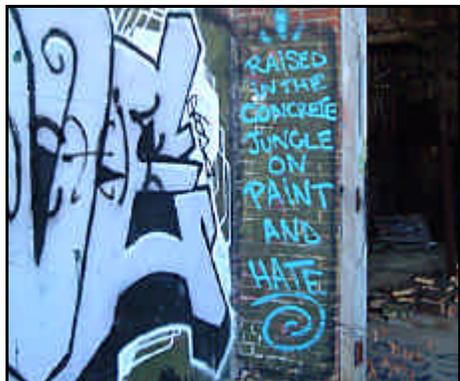


WOMPATUCK NEWS

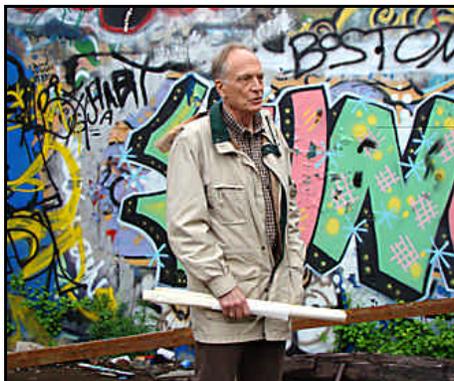
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Friends of Wompatuck State Park

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Grffiti reads: "Raised in the concrete jungle on paint and hate" (Building 54).



George Neat giving history tour in 2009 in front of Missile Test Plant (Building 83).



Bunker N9.

Park Graffiti Makes Its Mark

By Jim Rose, FOW News Editor and Historian

I was shocked and saddened when I discovered the graffiti pandemic has infected our beloved park. Many of the historic powder magazines, bunkers and rock formations have been tagged. Nothing is sacred from the spray can vandals. Not only are walls and floors of buildings marked, but a sizeable mess of paint can trash was left behind.

Park supervisor Steve Gammon has been at wits end to to alleviate the affliction.

"You can't do much other than catch them in the act," said Gammon. "Even then, they get off with a warning.

"One day I did catch a culprit doing his Jackson Pollock (famous abstract artist). I told him at least he could do is pick up the mountain of trash he left behind. By golly, to my surprise, the spray punk did.

"The following day he cleaned up and deposited in a big plastic bag for the dumpster all his so-called art supplies of empty cans and brushes etc."

Now if he and his buddies could only power wash some of that degenerate art work and stop it, Friends of Wompatuck would all be happy.

Grffiti has been on this earth since the Greco-Roman days. Outside of the illegality of the act, some of the stuff isn't that bad...if you're into art.

"If this was put on canvas, it would be another story," said Bill Carroll, a



Bill Carroll

noted fine artist from the South Shore.

"Form, color, line, shape, values, composition, life drawing, calligraphy and good basic design, it's all

there in some cases. It makes me think of the

abstract expressionists, pop artist and cartoonists I studied in art school.

"It's too bad they have to desecrate some of these buildings, especially the famous Bunker N9 that the Eagle



Bill Carroll's painting of rocket plant.

Scouts rehabbed as an exhibit. I would even buy the taggers art supplies if they leave the park alone.

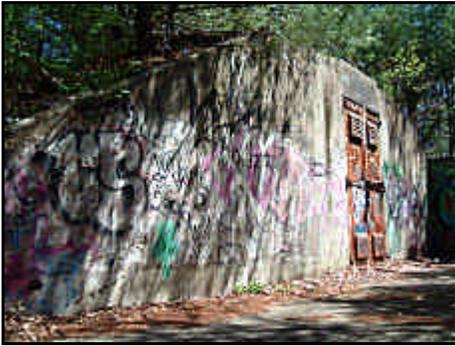
"If I ever catch those rascals, I would teach them a thing or two...like shake them like a rag doll and use them as my own personal hand puppet!"

Presently Carroll is creating a "Wompatuck Series" of paintings drawn from the park's historic landmarks. When complete, he will exhibit them for all to see.

Some of the park graffiti can tell a story as well as contain a graphic. I discovered painted on bunker N8: "Good bye grand pa. We'll miss you. We love you." My interpretation: it was a short elegy by grand kids for a former Annex worker who passed away. A touching remembrance to someone who served in the ammunition depot. It has since been covered over by other graffiti.

The most disturbing graffiti I found was located near the former land mine plant. Someone upset by church sex abuse tagged a building with hurt and hate directed at former priests: Paul Shanley, John Geoghan, and Cardinal Bernard Law.

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Bunker N8 with the once "Grand Pa" elegy.



Paul Shanley church abuse related graffiti.



Graffiti left by Annex train engineers.

Park Graffiti Makes Its Mark (continued)

One inscription reads, "Festival in slamma 4 scabs Shanly." During the 1980s, Paul Shanley served as pastor at Saint John's the Evangelist in Newton. In February 2005 he was found guilty of indecent assaults and rape of a male minor. He was sentenced 12 to 15 years in prison.

The late John Geoghan was a priest assigned to Saint Paul's in Hingham from 1967 to 1974. In 1968 authorities in Hingham started hearing complaints concerning Geoghan's molestations. He was murdered in prison by self-described white supremacist Joseph Druce on August 23, 2003.

Cardinal Bernard Francis Law resigned as Archbishop of Boston in 2002 in response to the church sex abuse scandal after documents revealed he covered up sexual abuse committed by priests in his archdiocese. Law is now retired.

Pedophilia related graffiti can still be found on park property. Perhaps it was painted by one of the victims. Expletives are a plenty. He or she could have definitely used a swearing spellcheck.

The most historic graffiti in the park was painted by former Annex train engineers Herk Henningson, Earnest

Spillane and Joseph Conway. They painted on a rock next to the tracks: "Fri13 1956 Herk Conway Spillane." The rail line now is a bike trail in back of the Transfer Building. I believe all the engineers have passed away.

Obviously some of the graffiti vandals possess artistic talent. I just wish they could express themselves on canvas instead of on park property. But most of all...get a life! Yeah, like go to art school and express your talents in a studio and leave this beautiful refuge alone. ■



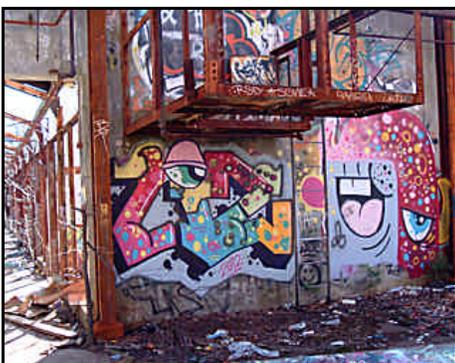
Annex Missile Test Site (Building 83).



Annex Cafeteria (Building 53).



Annex Fire House (Building 25).



Annex Rocket Plant (Building 50).



Annex Rocket Plant (Building 50).



Road near Annex water tank foundation.