

## OVER THE BACK FENCE

By Jack Fichter

## 'Gilligan' star Denver's life far from a comedy

"The mate was a mighty sailing man, the skipper brave and sure."

You know the song and the television show "Gilligan's Island," but do you know much about Bob Denver who played the bumbling but lovable sailor on the "Minnnow," shipwrecked on a desert island.

His life was not all laughs, coconuts and being the "little buddy." Bob Denver passed away in 2005 of cancer and heart complications at the age of 70 after a six-month stay in a hospital.

Dreama Denver, Bob Denver's widow, is author of the book "Gilligan's Dreams, The Other Side of the Island," the story of their 30-year marriage. The two met in 1977 when she landed a role in a Florida dinner theater production of "Play It Again, Sam." She was informed Denver was her co-star.

"Seriously, I'm going to have to do love scenes and kiss Gilligan?" she recalls asking the play's producer.

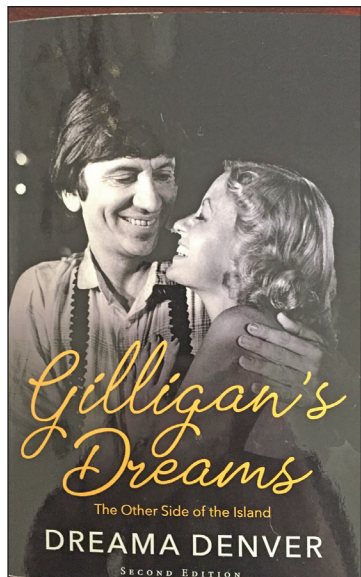
It turned out not to be a problem. She described their first meeting as "electric."

Denver's career was on the upswing in the following year when the original cast of "Gilligan's Island" reunited for a made-for-television movie, "Rescue From Gilligan's Island."

"It was really amazing, it was 15 years after the show ended and people were interested in this rescue," she said.

The movie pulled a phenomenal 52 share in the television ratings. Missing from the cast was Tina Louise as "Ginger," who did not want to reprise the role.

"I know Bob had a moment when he finished 'Gilligan' where as an actor, he kind of railed against being known for that one thing to the point that he was typecast," Dreama



Bob Denver's wife, Dreama, wrote a book about their life, which included caring for an autistic son and cancer for both.

ma Denver said.

"As the years went by, by the time I met him, Bob had really started to understand the impact that show had had," she continued.

Denver created a character that children could understand. Gilligan was someone who could "mess up, make a mistake, you could do the wrong thing and people could get mad at you, but in the end, they loved you and you would always be forgiven," Dreama Denver said.

At home, Denver could be very serious and an avid reader, sometimes finishing five books a week, she said.

In 1984, Dreama Denver gave birth to their son, Colin, who was severely autistic and would require 24-hour care throughout his life.

"As the father of an autistic

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## YOUR VIEWS

## Inderwies' case should be tried in court, not the media

To the Editor:

Former City Manager Jerome Inderwies recently filed a lawsuit alleging he was defamed by the city of Cape May and two of its officials, Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan and City Manager Michael Voll.

An article in the March 2 edition of the Cape May Star & Wave detailed the charges in Mr. Inderwies' complaint arising from certain stipend awards he made to city employees (including himself) in 2020. The awards were made in recognition of the employees' work for the Council on Affordable Housing program administered by the city.

Mr. Inderwies' complaint centers on defendants' attempts to have his conduct in granting the awards characterized as criminal and pressing those assertions with state and local authorities to have Mr. Inderwies investigated and prosecuted.

In the case of Deputy Mayor Sheehan, Mr. Inderwies also alleges her acts were in retaliation for his refusal to re-appoint her brother, who had been demoted under a prior administration, as police chief. Inderwies claims the acts taken to damage his reputation and standing in the local community were part of a conspiracy to prevent him from running for future office.

Despite his long-term contract, Mr. Inderwies effectively was removed from his position at the outset of the new administration in 2021. He has consistently maintained that no criminal behavior was involved in the awards, a position that now seems to have been vindicated after investigations by the authorities last year resulted in no charges.

Thus, considering his long-standing service to the city and his seemingly tarnished reputation over the past year, Mr. Inderwies' filing of a defamation suit is understandable.

My purpose here is not to delve into the merits of Mr. Inderwies' case, as it has just begun. His complaint states a sufficient cause of action for defamation, and if its averments are true, it would demonstrate reprehensible conduct that needs to be redressed.

However, the brief statements in initial pleadings simply establish the legal sufficiency of the claims — they are not meant to provide detailed evidence. If the suit proceeds, fact development will take place in the discovery and trial phases of the litigation.

At that point, additional material will come to light, including testimony given under oath. If the preponderance of the evidence supports Mr. Inderwies' claims, he will win. If it does not, he will

not.

Last week another article on this subject appeared in a local news blog that has consistently echoed the stipend impropriety mantra adopted by the current city administration. Unfortunately, that article misconstrued the nature of the legal process set in motion by Mr. Inderwies' complaint. It also belittled the seriousness of the charges being levelled by characterizing them as a mere "laundry list of grievances," and then it devoted most attention to exculpatory statements from the defendants and derogatory comments about Mr. Inderwies' tactics and his counsel. In short, the article discounted the merits of the suit before it had any chance to unfold.

Mr. Inderwies' case is important if only for the issues it raises about integrity in Cape May government, and thus it deserves the due process of the legal system. His claims should not be tried prematurely by journalists, no matter how appealing that may be to some more interested in spindoctoring than serving justice.

"Trial by press" is inconsistent with our core value that justice is best served through the rule of law.

James A. Testa  
Cape May

## OTHER SIDE

## Blessing of the Waters back at Cape May Harbor April 2

By MARK ALLEN

The annual "Blessing of the Waters" ceremony has been revived and it is now scheduled for next month on Saturday, April 2 at 11 a.m. Some 14 years ago in 2008, the first ever Harbor Fest initiated this tradition whereby a ceremony would be held annually at Cape May's Fisherman's Memorial. The Fisherman's Memorial has been located at the end of Missouri Avenue, overlooking Cape May Harbor since 1988.

The memorial itself is a poignant commemorative edifice consisting of an engraved stone tablet, flagpole, benches and a sculpture inside of a compass rose. The sculpture depicts three individuals all facing east toward the harbor entrance. The central character is a fisherman's wife dressed in a heavy coat, flanked by two children. A girl clings to her mother's left leg while a very young boy, clings to her right. The boy peers up at his mother. He appears to be about to ask a question.

The flagpole incorporates a yardarm so as to permit at least three flags to be presented. In addition to the American flag, the city usually flies a POW flag along with the New Jersey state flag, the Cape May City flag and sometimes the Coast Guard flag on the flagpole and yardarm.

Simply called, the "Blessing of the Waters" this ceremony was conceived first and foremost to commemorate Cape May fishermen who have lost their lives in pursuit of their chosen vocation, and whose names are thus engraved on the white stone tablets located at the memorial, adjacent to the aforementioned sculpture. The names chiseled on the wall memorial range from Andrew Jeffers who died in 1893 to Bobby Aaron who was lost at sea on Dec. 4, 2020. Included among those names are those of the six Cape May fishermen who went to sea and never returned on March 24, 2009. That was the day that the Lady Mary went down early in the morning just 64 miles southeast of Cape May's Other Side.

Secondly, the ceremony offers up prayers for a safe and successful fishing season. Conducted by local clergy, usually with the accompaniment of the Coast Guard recruit band or sometimes only a bugler or bagpiper, the Blessing of the Waters has evolved into a time for solemn reflection and remembrance. In the beginning, the organizers of Harbor Fest had also hoped to offer a degree of closure to those families who had lost a loved one to the sea.

In addition to a brief ecu-

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## WAVES FROM THE PAST

## Air raid rules revised for Cape May schools

The Cape May Star and Wave, the nation's oldest weekly resort newspaper, has been published since 1854. Each week, we revisit stories from earlier editions to give readers a glimpse of what life was like here 50 to 168 years ago. This week we return to our Nov. 5, 1942, edition when revised air raid precautions for Cape May public schools were approved at a conference of school principals and Dr. E.E. Pickard, city school superintendent, and were submitted to the Cape May Board of Education for final approval.

Under the new set of rules, formulated in accordance with recommendations made by the New Jersey Defense Council, the Lafayette Street School is the only one which will be evacuated in case of emergency. According to the present plans, children in the other two buildings are to report immediately to their home rooms. All high school students in the Lafayette Street School, at the time the alarm is sounded, are to be conducted at once to the high school building by the classroom teacher who is in charge.

Pupils who are in the gymnasium will remain there under the direction of Steven J. Steger. They will lie flat on the floor and maintain rigid discipline, Dr. Pickard said. During an actual raid or a practice raid, the Lafayette Street School children are to be conducted to the high school building and distributed in groups to Mr. Steger's office, the boys' locker room, the girls' locker room, the library and the cafeteria. In the Franklin Street School, Mrs. Bounds' class and Miss Porter's class will remain in their rooms. Mr. Wilson's class will be divided between the two classes mentioned and Mrs. Owens' class will be conducted to the first-floor hall in the Franklin Street School building. In the event of an actual air raid, all pupils are required to lie on the floor under their desks and remain silent. During practice raids, pupils will merely crouch beside their desks.

The same edition reported evening services at Cold Spring Presbyterian Church were discontinued due to "traveling inconvenience due to the lack of a bridge across the Cape May County Canal in Cold Spring and due to the necessity for moving

the Cold Spring Presbyterian Chapel to make way for the canal."

"The chapel is being moved from the old Seashore Road to Sunny Hall Road between the Shunpike and the old Seashore Road."

That week, the Acme Market in Cape May advertised two loaves of bread for 17 cents, three cans of "New Victory Formula" tomato soup for 22 cents, Pillsbury Pancake flour for 9 cents, "fancy, fresh killed stewing chickens" for 31 cents per pound and pork loins for 29 cents per pound.

The Cape May Coal and Ice Company announced in an advertisement that "wartime demands on transportation facilities make it necessary to prohibit deliveries of the whole winter's coal at this time. Hoarding of fuel is out for the present. Until orders from the Solid Fuel Coordinator for War, we cannot make further deliveries to those who now have ample domestic anthracite to meet their early winter requirements. There should be an ample supply of anthracite to take care of consumer's needs this winter, but it must be spread out so that all will have a share."

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## How to Contact Your Representatives

## U.S. Senate

Sen. Robert Menendez, 528 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-4744; Go to www.menendez.senate.gov/contact.

Sen. Cory A. Booker, 141 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-3224; Go to www.booker.senate.gov/contact.cfm.

U.S. House of Representatives  
Congressman, District 2, Jeff Van Drew, 331 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C.

20515, (202) 225-6572; (202) 225-3318 (fax), website vandrew.house.gov; District Office: 5914 Main St., Ste. 103, Mays Landing, NJ 08330, (609) 625-5008.

Governor  
Gov. Phil Murphy, State House, Trenton, NJ 08625, (609) 292-6000.

Legislators, District I  
Sen. Michael Testa (R), Assemblyman Erik Simonsen, (R), Assemblyman Antoine McClellan (R) — Contact state legislators at: School House Office Park, 211 S. Main St., Suite 104, Cape May

Court House, NJ 08210; Phone: (609) 778-2012; email: Sentesta@njleg.org, asmsimonsen@njleg.org, asmcclellan@njleg.org.

## Local Government

Cape May: Mayor Zack Mull-ockand City Hall, (609) 884-9535, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Cape May Point: Mayor Robert Moffatt, Borough Hall, (609) 884-8468, ext. 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Lower Township: Mayor Frank Sippel and Township Hall, (609) 886-2005, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
West Cape May: Mayor Carol Sabo and Borough Hall, (609) 884-1005, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.