

Portland, OR, 97219

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10 APR 2008 PM 1 T



Jeanne Bultman
176 E 95th St.
New York, NY 10128

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John Benecki
8324 SW 65th Ave.
Portland, Or. 97219

4/7/08

Dear Jeanne-

You might perhaps remember me and my family- I was a physician assistant with Brian O'Malley in Provincetown from 1983-85 and wintered 2 years at your place on Miller Hill Road. My son, Paul was born in the November of our first winter there- he called the place "Happy Home" and was heart-struck leaving at age 2 for the west coast and the unknown.

If you still have a bit of trouble placing me- I came and gave Fritz a flu shot as a house call- I remember Dr. O'Malley grumbling at the idea but I was happy to see the two of you. When the shad trees bloomed in the spring we sent some blooms by mail to Fritz in New York, he loved the shad trees so. My wife was a ceramicist and taught summers at Castle Hill.

If you can't place me at all it doesn't really matter. I only wanted to tell you that I think of you and Fritz from time to time, and admired the home and way of life you made for yourself on the Cape so much that I set up a similar arrangement of house, studio, shop and garden out here in the west- as a compound looking inward, sheltered from the street. I planted three shad trees- one for each of us in my family.

I am still working as a physician assistant with our county health service; my son Paul is 24 years old and has just graduated from Cornell- he plans to go into urban planning. I have no other children. Paul's mother divorced me 10 years ago- Paul cares for the house and studio when he is home summers.

I want to thank you and, through you, Fritz for the kindness you extended to me when I was just starting out in life with a young child- I will always remember the beauty of the place on Miller Hill, of the shad trees blooming, creosoting the wooden gutters on Fritz's studio, the single little grass path to your house from the street- how lightly you tread upon that place- and what a gracious couple you were together.

Sincerely,

John Benecki

John Benecki

I sent a copy of this letter to the
Cape - not sure if either will find you -

j.b.