Editor's Note
FROM THE EDITOR

The United States Navy has been a major factor in Newport's history since the Civil War. The history of the Navy's presence in Narragansett Bay is quite involved but underlying it all has been the importance of Newport both as an educational as well as a research and development center for the Navy. The two articles in this issue show the importance of education for both the Naval War College and the Torpedo Station. Two of the most important men in the Naval War College's history, Alfred T. Mahan and William McCarty Little, who are the subject of R.Adm. John R. Wadleigh's article, were primarily teachers. In addition, as Dr. Evelyn Cherpak points in her article, the courses at both the War College and the Torpedo Station were coordinated until 1890.

The educational functions of the Navy in Newport were, by and large limited to Navy personnel. The research and development activities, on the other hand involved broad sectors of the civilian population, as they continue to do today, and gave many Newporters extraordinary opportunities. No one's career at the Torpedo Station was quite as extraordinary, however, as Chester T. Minkler, the subject of Dr. Cherpak's article who began work at the Station as a high-school drop out and ended up known throughout the world for his inventions and developments in underwater ordnance.

When the Torpedo Station geared up for World War II, it became a major industry. As the Historical Society's oral history of the Torpedo Station revealed, it was a remarkable place to work, with an atmosphere all its own. The photographs which follow Dr. Cherpak's article capture that atmosphere and provide a glimpse of some of the men and women who worked there.

— D.S.