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NEWS RELEASE
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NEWPORT BRIDGE IS FOCUS OF
UPCOMING "EDUCATION VIA RADIO" ON WADK

The Newport Bridge, a tribute to man's architectural ingenuity, will be the subject of the upcoming "Education via Radio" program Wednesday, November 24, from 9 to 10 a.m. on WADK, radio 1540. Francis G. Dwyer, Newport real estate and insurance executive and a key individual involved in the planning and development of the 2,974-foot suspension bridge linking Newport and Jamestown, will be the guest speaker.

Construction of the bridge was begun in 1967 after years of studying plans to determine specific requirements for the bridge. A tunnel to link the islands was discussed briefly, but was ruled out because of the depth of the bay. Height was also an important consideration; it was set at 225 feet to allow Navy aircraft carriers to pass safely

more...

underneath.

New construction methods had to be used to build the bridge piers which were as deep as 160 feet below the water level. In addition, 400-ton steel foundation boxes were used to form the base of each pier to prevent possible damage from scouring at the bridge footings in the event of a hurricane.

Completion of the bridge effectively eliminated the Jamestown ferry line established by Caleb Carr. From 1670, this same line was in continuous operation until the bridge's opening in 1969.

"Education via Radio" is sponsored by Salve Regina - The Newport College in cooperation with WADK. It can be heard every other Wednesday from 9 to 10 a.m. through May 4.