

Photographs are Feasts for the Eye

By JASON GAY

Peter Simon seems ubiquitous these days. Between developing a record album, promoting rock concerts, deejaying dances, signing calendars at flea markets, giving friendly backrubs and roaming Lucy Vincent Beach, it's possible to forget what put him on the map—photography.

If you need a refresher course in Mr. Simon's magical eye, look no farther than the Feasts restaurant gallery in Chilmark.

All of the Feasts show — rolling Vineyard vistas, quirky snapshots and celebrity portraits — is vintage, indelible work from one of the Island's premier photographers.

The exhibit features a mix of color Cibachrome photos, black and white prints, and pictures hand-tinted by Mr. Simon's wife, Ronni. Feasts has devoted an entire floor to the photographs, and each piece is given ample space to breathe. Few Island photographers can fill such an arena without getting a tad repetitive, but that's not a problem for Mr. Simon. His show is fresh, original, and always technically correct.

For those who think Vineyard photography begins with the Gay Head cliffs and ends with the Hines Point scallop shack, spend a few moments with Peter Simon's eyes. In this show, he has cleverly captured scenes we have strolled past hundreds of times without taking second notice.

Spring Texture, masterfully hand-tinted by Mrs. Simon, is a deep, organic rendering of a classic stone wall. Island Communication, a festoon of multicolored mailboxes, is a scene as uniquely up-Island as any Menemsha fishing shack.

But the fishing shacks do not escape Mr. Simon's creative eye. Menemsha Wisdom is a photo of a simple home with a tender phrase painted on a sign: "O Lord, help my words to be gracious and tender today, for tomorrow I may have to eat."

While some photographers shy away from large prints, Mr. Simon isn't afraid of a little grandness on occasion. Two large landscapes stand out — Chilmark Skyline and Sunrise at Windy Gates. The latter, which captures waves cresting at the Windy Gates cliffs, is enveloped by a blush of rich orange hues.

Several of the prints in the Feasts col-



PHOTOGRAPHER PETER SIMON.

lection are more than 20 years old, but they are still timeless. Summer's End, Edgartown dates back to 1973, but with Mrs. Simon's tinting, it seems bright and fresh.

Some Vineyard fans may be surprised to learn Mr. Simon was one of reggae music's preeminent photographers during the 1970s. Dance hall diehards will enjoy the hand-tinted portrait of the late Peter Tosh holding a colorful ganja pipe between his lips. And for those still following the creaky

Rolling Stones, Mr. Simon presents a classic Mick Jagger profile, cheekbones, lips and all.

It all adds up to another classic show by one of the Vineyard's most adored and accomplished photographers.

Don't let dinner at Feasts be the only reason to see Peter Simon's impressive new show. The gallery is also open from 9 a.m. to noon every day, and a viewing will help complete a perfect Beetlebung morning.

Vineyard Haven Band Performs at the Gazebo

The Vineyard Haven Band will perform the most recent of its Vineyard repertoire at its concert in Ocean Park

waltzes, provided in sheet music by the band historian, Tom Bardwell Sr., in a new arrangement called "Tivoli

built for the arrival of another Untied States President. It has been noted that almost as many adults as children