

# THE MIDDLE GROUND

*Daily Life & History of West Bath, Maine*

FALL 2012 • PUBLISHED BY THE WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Radar Tower – Redux

In the last issue of the *Middle Ground* we told the story of the top secret radar tower sited on “Jug Hill” in West Bath, said to be one of the highest spots in Midcoast Maine. It stood 110 feet tall, above and behind what is now “DR Coffin’s Garage” on Old Route 1.

Many of the great engineering minds at Lincoln labs, the research division of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, teamed to design and build the sturdy steel tower, topped by a rotating antenna with a 120-wing span, weighing in at almost 48 tons. The year was 1954,

the height of the cold war. Its purpose? To track incoming enemy missiles in an era when the threat of nuclear annihilation by the Soviet Union was taken seriously.

The structure, which was built to last, outlived its cold war usefulness as a radar tracking station. It was decommissioned in 1962 and the huge antenna was dismantled and taken away. Built to withstand winds of 130 miles per hour and to support up to three inches of ice, it was waiting for someone to figure out a new use for it. Sure enough, ten years later, still standing tall, the

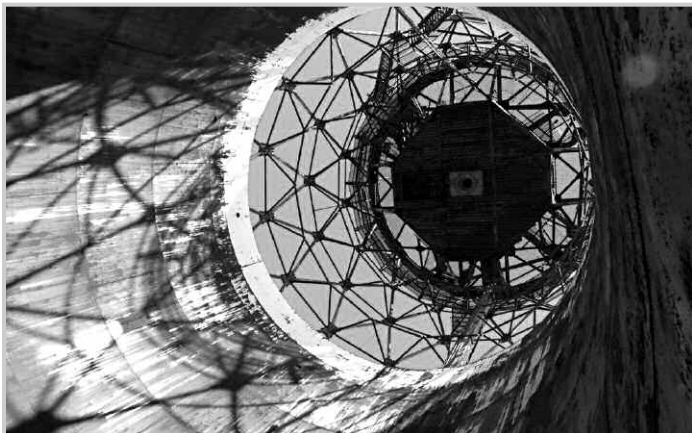
tower was re-purposed to become an underwater (yup!) research facility. From tracking the movement of missiles in the sky to testing underwater equipment seems quite a stretch but that is exactly what happened. And in fact, the two functions have some-



**Top of tank with tower superstructure above it.**

thing in common: they basically track sound waves. Well, actually, underwater monitoring can track both sound waves (SONAR), and very low radio frequency (RF) waves (still used by our subs from stations like the one in Cutler, ME). Radar, of course, only tracks RF reflected “waves.”

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**Shot inside tank looking up.**

## West Bath Annual Christmas Service December 13

The Christmas season is ‘a-coming in, and once again, the West Bath Historical Society will be hosting our annual Christmas Service and Community Sing at the Old West Bath Meeting House. Thursday, December 13 at 7 pm. This year’s ecumenical service will be led

by Rev. Janet Leighninger. Traditional carols will be sung, backed by the tunes on our historic pump organ. There will be six readings, including passages from the bible, a book of poetry and an excerpt from the Buddhist prayer for loving kindness.

Come and embrace the holiday spirit, enjoy some spirited singing, and gather afterwards for hot cider and assorted homemade goodies. As part of our tradition of commu-



nity service, we will share our offering with a deserving non-profit: this year, the Bath Area Food Bank. ▲

## Radar Tower – Redux

*Continued from page 1*

In 1967, the then-obsolete tower was taken over by VAST, Inc., based in Newcastle. VAST was an acronym for the company’s research efforts: Vocaline (aka “squawk box” – the company’s first success), Air, Sea Technology.

By 1972, the engineering firm was preparing the tower complex to use as a corporate and military research facility for underwater testing. In an announcement to the press on May 15th, Carroll T. Cooney Jr., then VAST president and CEO, said that his company was preparing to offer it “...for use by professional, institutional and corporate search and development organizations and by government agencies on a negotiable-fee basis.” He added that “...this unique facility offers a wide range of applications for quality assurance testing in a captive marine environment.”

Specifically, the facility was designed for underwater testing for various research and development project. The first contract was to evaluate helicopter-suspended Navy sonar equipment under simulated conditions for both hovering and flight.

In order to create such a water simulation, a giant tank was built inside the fret work of the existing tower. This tank (a bit rusty today but still in place) could hold up to 450,000 gallons of water and was open at the top. A 328- square foot “control penthouse” was built 30 feet above the top of the tower, and

a one-ton electric hoist was also mounted on the top --considerably lighter than the previous 48-ton radar antenna! The hoist was used for lifting test equipment to the penthouse and then lowering it into the research tank.

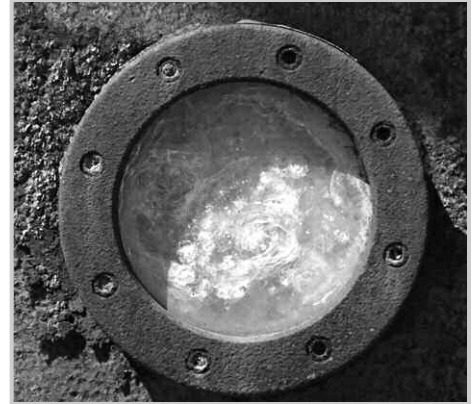
For direct viewing into the tank, there were 12 portholes built into the sides at four different levels, and a circular stairway built to surround it on the outside. Eight fixed 500-watt quartz-iodide underwater lamps and one portable 250-watt lamp were used for underwater illumination. A filtering system with a 650- gallon-a-minute capacity enabled researchers to make a complete change of water in only 16 hours. There was a heating element inside as well, which prevented freezing during the winter.

The water to fill the tank was pumped from a small pond across the Bath Road. As a community bonus, local fire department tank trucks could siphon water from the tower through special fittings placed there for fire emergencies.

At peak periods more than half a dozen men worked at the tower. An adjacent building served as an office, testing room and a workshop. Nearby, a much smaller testing tank was installed. It was only 26 inches in diameter and 12 feet deep, but also was equipped with view ports, a filtration system and turbulence generating nozzles.

As Verdi Tripp, then regional correspondent for the Bath Times, concluded in his May 15, 1972 story on newly-revived tower, “Oceanographic research is increasing and the big tower here will be right in the swim of it.”

But the whole effort lasted less than two years. By 1974, the Navy, which had contracted the underwater research with VAST, decided to pull up stakes and take all their equipment back to Maryland, deciding they needed the work there. Lawrence



**Rusted port hole.**

Wold, then of Bath and now a Brigham’s Cove resident, was an engineer with VAST who was brought in to direct the dismantling. Wold, who worked at BIW on the famous DX program until the shipyard lost the contact to the Mississippi yard in the late 60’s, brought his skills to the tricky project of getting all the hoist and platform equipment safely on the ground. It was quite a job, he remembers. The Navy took all the salvageable bits, and left Wold and his team to get rid of the rest. Most went to the dump, he remembers, although the tank and its portholes are still intact.

There was still a small Navy contract, overseen by Wold, to evaluate underwater communications cable, but that was done in the small testing building at the base of the tower.

The whole shebang, what’s left of it, was turned over to Donny Sanford, who still owns the land and runs an auto repair shop out of the old outbuildings. Several towers have been added on top of, and beside, the old radar tower, as modern communications equipment for Sagadahoc police and fire emergencies, as well as a cell tower for various wireless companies.

While the functions of the old tower are now a distant memory, Wold remembers what his last task at the site. He got one of his guys to blowtorch a hole near the bottom of the tank to drain all the water, which ran off into a stream behind the tank. That hole is still there.

– Avery Meyers



**Radar tower top today with penthouse.**

## Special “Old Glory” Donated to Littlefield School

WBHS Board Member Ivon Boyer came up with a nifty surprise “gift” for our historic Littlefield School. He ordered a special US flag from Washington, DC, to be flown over the White House before being shipped to West Bath. It came packaged with an official certificate of authentication, and specific instructions on how to raise and lower the flag with proper reverence.

In late summer, a bunch of us gathered to help raise the new flag. And we have a few pictures to prove it. However, there was one major hitch: the flag was just too big for our little old wooden flagpole. So Ivon took it down and replaced it with a regular hardware store flag,

with the notion that we would create a new flagpole soon and re-raise the big flag.

Little did we know that a mega-storm called Hurricane Sandy would hit us in late October. While Maine survived relatively unscathed (especially when looking at the severe damage in New York City and environs), we did have one West Bath casualty: our temporary flag. It was ripped in half and had to be taken down. Once again, Ivon came to the rescue, lowered the torn flag and took it to be properly disposed of. Come spring, we will fix that flag pole! Meanwhile, Ivon has put up yet another temporary flag. (Thanks to Cheryl Osmond Oliver of Phippsburg who spotted the flag in tatters as she was driving by, and notified us. She said her late husband was a career Navy veteran and she wanted to make sure the flag was properly honored.) ▲



Setting up the new flag.



Flag ripped by Hurricane Sandy.



## COOK'S KORNER

*Thanksgiving is almost upon us and it's time to think about some Maine “sides” to serve with the traditional turkey meal. Following are a few unusual recipes that have a long Maine heritage.*

From *Wild Maine Recipes*, by Kate Gooding ...

### Maple Ginger Roasted Pecans

- 3 cups pecans
- 3 inch piece of fresh ginger, peeled & sliced thin
- 1/2 cup dark Maine maple syrup
- 3 tbs warm water

Combine ginger, syrup and water in wide heavy saucepan. Heat through, turn off heat and let ginger steep for 1/2 hour. Add pecans and simmer over low heat, until nuts have absorbed the liquids, stirring continually. Make sure nuts are not on top of one another. Spread on greased cookie sheet and bake about 10 minutes in preheated 325 oven.

Stir while baking to make sure nuts don't stick together. Cool & store in air tight container.

From *Maine's Jubilee Cookbook* ...

### Onion & Apple Casserole

- 3 large onions
- 4 large apples
- 2 cups chicken or beef broth
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1 tbsp butter
- Salt & pepper to taste

Peel and slice onions and apples. Layer them, with crumbs in between, in greased 3 quart casserole. Pour broth over top. Sprinkle with more crumbs. Dot with butter. Bake, uncovered for 1 hour at 350.

From *Cooking Down East*, by Marjorie Standish, here is a dessert from the 18th century. It uses two ingredients that would have been staples in any Maine kitchen:

molasses and corn meal. It could be served instead of – or in addition to – the usual pumpkin and mince pies. Be warned: it is very rich.

### Baked Indian Pudding

- 1 quart milk
- 1/2 cup cornmeal
- 1 tsp salt,
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ginger

Scald 1 pint of milk. Mix cornmeal, salt, molasses and spice together. Slowly add to scalded milk, continuing to stir and cook until the mixture is thickened. Turn into well-buttered casserole dish. Bake 1 hour at 300 degrees. Pour remaining pint of cold milk into casserole. Stir well together. Continue baking at 300 degree for another two hours. Serve warm with thick cream, whipped cream or vanilla ice cream. [ed note: here's a modern technique, not available in Standish's day: use a crock pot and bake slowly on low, covered, for 6 to 8 hours, stirring cold milk in half way through.] ▲

# CROSSING THE BAR



**Shirley Margaret Osborne**, 92, of West Bath died December 24, 2011 in Pembroke, MA while visiting her sons at Christmas.

**Virginia M. Ambrose**, 91, of West Bath died April 15 at Mid Coast Hospital with her family by her side. She was born in Bath in 1920, the daughter of Albert Sr. and Helen Reno. She loved family gatherings, yard sales and was an avid NASCAR fan. She was predeceased by her first husband, **Erwin Whorff**; her second husband, **Donald Ambrose**; a son, **Donald Whorff Sr.**, brothers **Albert, Phillip** and **Arthur Reno** and a sister, **Mrs. Chester Swain Sr.** She is survived by her sons, **William J. Whorff Sr.** and his wife **Sandra** of West Bath; **Chester Ambrose** of Bath; daughter **Arlene** and her husband **John Coffman** of Sandusky, Ohio; 14 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren and a special nephew, **Elzear Reno** of West Bath.

**Robert B. Perkins**, 70, of Largo, FL died May 2. Among his survivors is his sister, **Pat Reno** of West Bath.

**Rev. Dr. James A. Purington**, 77, of Bath and West Bath died May 6 at Winship Green. He was born in Brunswick, a son of Clarence Merrill and Alberta Fae Purington, and attended Brunswick Schools. He received his BA in Divinity from Providence Barrington Bible College and his Doctorate in 1980 from Drew University. He served as minister in various states from Maine to Pennsylvania and most recently, Carthage, NY, before retiring back to Maine. A talented woodworker, he enjoyed making models, including two remote control boats that he delighted in sailing near his West Bath cottage. He was predeceased by his brother **William Purington**, who wrote a definitive history of West Bath. Survivors include his wife, **Clara (Wentworth) Puring-**

**ton**, a son, two daughters and a sister and nine grandchildren.

**Sally G. Coffin**, 75, of Campbell's Pond Road died May 9 at Mid Coast Hospital. She was born in Woolwich in 1936, a daughter of Floyd W. and Catherine (Hiscock) Goodell, Jr. She married **Carroll Coffin, Sr.** in 1959 and helped her husband with many businesses that they owned. She was also employed at BIW as a clerk for many years. She was predeceased by her husband in 2000 and her son, **Gene Coffin**, in 2008. She is survived by two sons, **Carroll "Wil" Coffin II** and **Carroll "Billy" Coffin III**, both of West Bath; three daughters, four brothers, two sisters and many grandchildren, great grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

**Emily (Dolly) Rial**, 84, of Bath died May 11. Among her survivors are her son, **John Reno** and his wife **Lolly**, and her daughter, **DeDe Lyons** and her husband **Buzz**, of West Bath.

**Louise M. Bellows**, 87, of Topsham and formerly West Bath died May 12. She was born in Providence, RI, the first child of **Norman Alexander** and **Mary (Kimbark) MacColl**. Following her 1946 graduation from Pembroke, she taught crafts at a settlement house in Providence. In 1947, she married **William Bellows** of Pawtucket, RI, a combat pilot in WWII whom she met in New York City just after the Japanese surrender. In 1951, the couple moved to Grosse Pointe, MI where she raised five sons: **William "Jerry"**, **Geoffrey**, **Dexter**, **James** and **Edwin "Ted"**, while **Bill** taught history at a private school. In 1964, they moved



**Lou Bellows**

to Lexington, MA where she taught at the Pilgrim Nursery School. She loved birds, gardening, tough jigsaw puzzles, and knitting annual Christmas gifts for her family, which included beloved daughters-in-law, 8 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. **Bill** and **Lou** retired to West Bath in 1966, where they rehabbed an 18th century farmhouse and built a barn by themselves. Both were very active as local volunteers in the Red Cross, the Maine Maritime Museum and the Plant Home, where **Lou** took pets to visit the elderly.

**Charles J. Turcotte**, 78, of Bath died May 13 at his home. Among his survivors is his daughter, **Teresa Pinkham** and her long-time companion **David Brewster** of West Bath.

**Bernice H. Brawn**, 96, of Bath died May 14 at Mid Coast Hospital. In 1942 she married **Stanley Brawn** and, as a graduate nurse, was OR supervisor for 20 years at Bath Memorial Hospital. Among her survivors is her son **Bruce S. Brawn** of West Bath.

**John "Jack" W. Waterhouse Jr.**, 78, of West Bath died peacefully on May 19 at Mid Coast Hospital with his family by his side. He was born in Bath in 1934, the son of **John W.** and **Susie Waterhouse**, and graduated from Morse High. In 1954 he joined the US Marine Corps and proudly served his country for 20 years, including Beirut, Bay of Pigs and three tours in Vietnam. After his service, he was a house husband and owned his own repair business. He also worked for Mayo & Son Funeral Home for many years. He is survived by his loving wife of 39 years, **Edna King Waterhouse**, and three children, including his daughter **Melinda Theriault** of West Bath, and eight grandchildren.

**Lloyd G. Merrill**, 77, of Woolwich died June 8 at his home. Among survivors is his daughter, **Terri Lynn Streevey** of West Bath.

*Continued on the next page*

## Pump Organ Donated to Littlefield School

A period pump organ, in good working condition, has been donated to the West Bath Historical Society for use in our historic one-room schoolhouse. It replaces the original organ which now sits in the cellar of the school, in woeful, unplayable condition.

This generous gift was offered by Karen and Bill Gallagher, who spend much of their time at the head of Brigham's Cove, off Indian Carry Road. In winter, they live in Wellesley, MA. Karen was part of the restoration committee when the WBHS began the rehabilitation and restoration of the school. This effort has since garnered many kudos through the state.

Karen shared with us her memories of the organ: "From the time I was a child I remember my Dad being interested in classical music.

That led to his going to organ concerts, then to churches to see how the various organs operated, and then to buying and bringing home (much to my Mom's delight) four reed organs, one player piano and one large, complete pipe organ that had belonged to a church. Dad

played the smaller instruments, and my younger musical sister also had fun learning how they worked. (I didn't get the musical gene.) The pipe organ was eventually given to a local college, where it is still in operation.

We three daughters were each given one of the reed organs, and the rest went off in different directions. Without the musical ability, and not having much space for more furniture, I thought that the Littlefield School might be interested in having mine. I knew that one room school-



**Volunteers carrying the pump organ into the schoolhouse.**

houses often had one which was used to teach music to the children. It seemed like a perfect fit, as my Mom had attended such a school as a child.

I hope that visitors will be able to enjoy seeing how the organ was used, long before ipods and other musical technology existed. I am sure that it must feel right at home in the Littlefield Schoolhouse." ▲

## Crossing the Bar

*Continued from page 5*

**Clara E. Leeman**, 72, of Harpswell died June 15 at Hospice House in Auburn. Survivors include her sister, **Rosalie** and her husband, **Terry Malcolm** of West Bath.

**William Hanson Voorhees**, 85, of Sun City, Fl and Bath died at Hillhouse on June 29. Born in Bath, the youngest son of Wilmer "Ike" and Eleanor Foote Voorhees, he was educated in Bath and served in the Navy during WWII, retiring from active duty in 1968. In 1991, he and his wife **Mary** relocated to Florida and then split time between Florida and their Quaker Point cottage. He is survived by his wife, his son, John Voorhees of Bath and several nieces and nephews.

**Marjorie Powers Bartlett**, 101, of Bath died July 3 at Freeport Nursing

Home. Among her survivors is her daughter, **Susanne Purdy** and her husband **Ronald** of West Bath.

**Marilyn Jackson True**, 87, formerly of Oakland and Jefferson, ME died July 4 at Chase Point in Damarascotta. Among her survivors is a son, **Daniel True** of West Bath.

**Katherine Mary Jennings**, 51, formerly of Bath died July 9 in Orange Park, FL. Among her survivors is a sister, **Kim Svien** and her husband **Mark**, and her son, **Benjamin Brown** and his wife **Erin**, all of West Bath.

**Marcia H. Halterman**, 81, of Bath died August 1. She was long time of resident of Birch Point. Among her survivors is her eldest son, **Hank Halterman** of West Bath.

**Albert Leroy Alley Sr.**, 93, of Bath died August 9. Among his survivors are his daughter, **Catherine Hart**

and her husband **Richard** of West Bath.

**Janice M. Gallagher White**, 58, of Columbus, OH died Sept 10. Survivors include her husband, **Peter White**, formerly of West Bath.

**Velma Emily Madore**, 86, of Richmond died Sept 21. Survivors include her daughter, **Jo Ellen Brilliant** of West Bath.

**Doris P. Cookson Alexander Messer**, 75, died Oct 8 at her home in Bowdoinham. Her survivors include her son, **Patrick Alexander Sr.** of West Bath.

**Priscilla Ann Petterson Belanger**, 77, died suddenly on Oct 15 in Port St. Lucie, FL. She graduated from Morse High in 1953 and kept up with her classmates over the years. Survivors include her brother, **Larry Garside** & his wife of West Bath. ▲

# CHANNEL BUOYS



## BIRTHS

**Laney Evelyn Wallace**, born April 24 to **Blaine & Mary (Gaul) Wallace**, West Bath. Grandparents include **Blaine & Debbie Wallace** of West Bath.

**Michael Tyler Lyford Jr.**, born April 24 to Michael Lyford & Jami Oliver, Bath. Grandparents include **Paula & Mark Nelson** of West Bath.

**Graham Anderson Morse**, born May 10 to Eric & Erika Morse, Durham. Grandparents include **Ed & Joyce Morse** of West Bath.

**Silas Rafael Hernandez**, born July 1 to Rafael Hernandez & Saraann Gray, Brunswick. Grandparents include **Donna Gray** of West Bath.

**Mackenzie Jane Byrnes**, born July 24 to Patrick & Megan (Crevier) Byrnes, of Bath. Grandparents include **Joe & Pam Byrnes** of West Bath.

**Bradley Owen Ambrose**, born July 26 to William & Christina Ambrose, Woolwich. Grandparents include **Chester Ambrose** of West Bath.

**Josie Ellen Spicer**, born Sept 16 to Joshua & Sarah Spicer, Bath. Grandparents include **Joyce & Robert Spicer** of West Bath.

**Kenzee Marie King-Votra**, born Sept 24 to **William King II & Nicole Votra** of West Bath. Grandparents include **Keith & Lisa Fraser** also of West Bath.

## WEST BATH STUDENT NOTES

**Rachel Stuart**, daughter of **John & Michelle Stuart**, was inducted into the Golden Key International Honor Society in May. She was a second year English major at USM.

**Robin White** received a master's degree in education in literacy and language arts on May 12 from New England Collage in Henniker, NH.

Twin West Bath sisters, **Morgana & Hilary Warner-Evans** were named among the top 10 seniors at Mt. Ararat High. They are the daughters of **Marianne Warner** and **Glenn Evans**, and both attended the West Bath Elementary School.

**Morgan**, ranked 3rd in her graduating class, was a National Merit Finalist, Wellesley College Book Award, AP Scholar and Pejepsco Historical Society Book Award. She was active in the Civil Rights Team for which she received a Brunswick Rotary Club service award; Mt. Ararat Stage Company, for which she and her sister wrote a local history play, **Le Moulin**. She won the Poetry Out Loud contest in 11th grade, in which she was a Southern Maine regional semi-finalist, and is also a political singer-songwriter. She attends Haverford College and notes that she would like to go into the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps and perhaps attend law school some day.

**Hilary**, ranked 6th, received many academic honors, including Best Freshman in English, German and History; Wesleyan University Book Award, and Science Olympiad awards including first place in fossils and third place in ornithology. She was also active in Mt. Ararat Stage Company, Science Olympiad, and Civil Rights Team, for which she received a Rotary Club "Service of Self" award. She is attending UMaine Orono, where she will major in anthropology and a minor in Medieval Renaissance studies. She plans to study Folklore in graduate school.

UMaine Farmington May graduates include **George Boynton II** and **Kayla Krech**.

Dean's List: **Argia Pilgrim** and **Tyler Rose**, UMaine Farmington, Spring 2012 semester. **Rachel Stuart** and **Mollie Underwood**, USM, Spring 2012.

**Kyle Hietala**, Class of 2014 at Morse High, has been honored as School Citizen of the Year by M.W. Sewall Company for his contribution to school and community. Kyle, the son

of **Heather and Tom Hietala**, Class president for the last 2 years, he is an active member of the Morse Interact Club and School Community Liason Council. He also restarted the



**Kyle Hietala**

Debate Team and began an on-line school newspaper, *The Morse Tribune*. He has developed and led a mentoring program for elementary students in RSU#1, matching them with a high school mentor. He also coaches the Bath Middle School debate team. He is in the top 10% of his class, and is also an avid kayaker. After graduation, he plans to attend a small liberal arts college and then graduate school. His commendation from Sewall reads in part, "Kyle is a rare and excellent young man – mature beyond his years, deeply intelligent, uncommonly committed to excellence and making his peers and community better in the process."

## MILITARY NOTES

**Ryan Baxter** of West Bath was promoted in July by the Maine Army National Guard to the rank of Private 2nd Class in the 251st Engineer Company.

## NUPTIALS

**Ashley May Collins & Darren Arthur Collins** of North Bath were married on June 9 in Bath Library Park. The bride is the daughter of Lisa Green, Bath, and **Mark Green**, West Bath. She is a 2002 graduate of Morse High and Southern Maine Technical College and is a nursing assistant. The groom, son of Arthur & Debbie Collins of Litchfield, holds a B.A. in math and an associate's degree from UMaine, Farmington.

*Continued on the next page*



## Lillian Cutler, Littlefield School teacher

*Editor's note:* From time to time, especially when we get information from family and friends locally, we try to profile some of the many teachers who toiled, usually for just a year or so, at our historic Littlefield School. (See *Middle Ground*, summer, 2008 issue: Faith Sherwood, a more recent teacher at the school, was still alive and able to tell of her experiences in her own words.) Here is another fascinating story....

Lillian Cutler was born and raised in Lincoln, Maine. Her parents died when she was quite young and she came to live in Bath with Themla Sylvester's large family for a number of years. She attended Morse High and also a normal school afterwards to prepare for a teaching career.

According to her daughter, Frieda Legard Gaudette, who now lives in Bath, Lillian "eloped with my dad, Forrest C. Legard, but it was kept a

big secret so that she could teach at the Littlefield School." (It was forbidden for married women to teach in public schools at that time; go figure!)

My mother, says Frieda, lived on Court Street in Bath when she taught at the school, and she would walk from there to Berry's Mill Road every day, and often walked home after school each day.

But nature intervened and Frieda's older sister, Barbara Legard (Foley), who now lives in Manchester, ME, was born on March 15 1930. So the secret was out and Lillian had to leave her teaching position.

Frieda recalls that she was told that her mother, as a child, would bring her friends home from school. Mostly, their game was to play "school", and of course Lillian was always the teacher!

Sadly, Lillian's life was cut short following the birth of Frieda, her second daughter, on May 17, 1932. She became ill, probably with some sort of infection which was, sadly, more common in those days, and she passed away on July 16.

Frieda and Barbara recently came together to visit the Littlefield



**Lillian Cutler**

School, which neither had ever been in before. They were thrilled to see the lovely restoration and among the history graphics that are in the school today, they were able to point out their mother's name on the long list of teachers over the years.

They also donated an old school desk (probably not from the Littlefield School, but of the same period) in memory of their mother, whom they sadly knew for such a short time. ▲

## Channel Buoys

*Continued from the previous page*

Jessica Totte & Christopher Card were married on Sept. 10 in Nahant, MA. The groom is the son of Donald & Betsy Card of West Bath. He attended Morse High and UMaine, and is currently employed as a web developer. The bride is the daughter of Brian & Toni Totte of Hillsborough, NH. She attended Anna Maria College and is a dental assistant. The couple lives in Marlborough, MA.

## SPECIAL KUDOS

West Bath town officials honored Peter Oceretko with a 2012 "Special Recognition Award" in the annual town report in June. The award was signed by current Selectmen Abbe Yacoben, David Bourget

and Paula Nelson. As the Brunswick Times Record reported,

"When it comes to stepping up to the plate in this tight-knit community, Oceretko usually answers the call. He's served on just about every town board imaginable." The town report said in part, "We are very fortunate to have Peter serving the town in these many capacities. He has always brought to each position intelligent and valuable contributions, enthusiastically working toward the town's best interests."



**Peter Oceretko**

Here is a quick list of his service record: planning board, finance/budget committee, revaluation task force, ordinance review task force, the panel for Gateway I, board of assessment, board of appeals, county budget committee and administrative review task force. He was also a West Bath selectman from 2005 to 2008.

Volunteering, he says, is integral to the welfare of a community. "We're all just a collection of people ... Generally, if anybody's able, they should find a way to give back to the community, whether it's a small thing or a big thing." We at Middle Ground would say Peter has given in a big way! Oh yes, he has also served as official greeter at the West Bath Historical Society's Annual Christmas service. Thanks Peter. ▲

# TOWN CRIER



Dog Licensing renewals for the 2013 year began on October 15th, with licensing due by January 1, 2013. Those dog owners who do not renew their licenses by February 1, 2013 will be charged a \$25.00 late fee in addition to license fees. The Town of West Bath will host another Rabies Clinic (for dogs & cats) on Saturday, December 1, 2011 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the West Bath Fire Hall.

2013 Snowmobile Registrations are now available. 2012 Boat Registrations will begin 1 December 2012. Snowmobile, ATV and Boat re-registrations for West Bath residents may now be done on-line

at <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/>! West Bath now participates in Maine's Rapid Renewal program where you can re-register your vehicles and trailers on line. Go to the Maine.gov website <https://www1.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/>.

Please note that any unpaid 2010 property taxes will go to foreclosure on January 8, 2013.

Meeting Notifications – Residents who would like an e-mail notification of any Town or Committee work session or other public meeting may submit their email address to the Town Clerk at [townclerk@westbath.org](mailto:townclerk@westbath.org), or call 443-4342.

– Rob Morris

## THE MIDDLE GROUND

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**Board of Trustees & Editors:**

Avery Hunt Meyers, President  
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Ivon Boyer, Cindy Fahay,  
Sally Graves, Nicole Nelson  
Kerry Nelson, Archivist; Betty  
Fitzjarrald, Littlefield School Advisor

**Contributors:** Karen Gallagher, Sally  
Graves, Kerry Nelson, Rob Morris

**Designer:** Tim Nason

**Distribution:** Carol & Bill Hochgesang

We publish researched historical materials, local news and events that may be of later historical interest.

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## THE MIDDLE GROUND

West Bath Historical Society  
PO Box 394  
Bath, Maine 04530



The pump organ, donated by Karen and Bill Gallagher, proudly awaits entry into the school. Pictured from left: Raisa Bittner, Karen, and Pete & Sandy Guild. See story page 5.