

# THE MIDDLE GROUND

*Daily Life & History of West Bath, Maine*

WINTER 2008 • PUBLISHED BY THE WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## THE HISTORY OF HOUGHTON POND

Houghton Pond, located at Sabino in West Bath, was originally not a pond at all, but rather a low swampy area located on a 200-acre farm owned by one Daniel Small. Small sold a large portion of his land to Samuel Flanders who, in turn, sold part of that property to his brother, James. In 1855 James sold his portion of the farm to Charles and Susan Flanders (daughter of Samuel) Bates.

In 1880 Levi Warren Houghton (from the Houghton Bros. ship-building firm in Bath) approached Charles about purchasing 40 acres of land including the swampy area. Houghton wanted to go into the ice business which was still booming at that time, and believed the swamp would make a great pond.

Charles agreed to sell for \$500. Houghton promptly turned around and hired Charles and his son, Samuel, to work on the crew that would dig out the soil to create the pond. This proved difficult because, as they were removing the heavy loam, they ran into ledge which had

**"Houghtons Pond, Bath, ME," from a pre-1907 postcard.**

Kerry E. Nelson Collection

to be drilled and then blasted away. (A stone dam was later built on the remaining ledge.) It was necessary to put up a dam on the northwestern side of the swamp to hold the water. It was likely built using the blasted ledge rock, and ran about 50' long by nearly 30' high and 15' to 20' thick. As the pond filled up, the swamp bottom rotted, floated to the top, and was removed. Not everything in the swamp succumbed to nature, however; some stumps are still visible on the bottom of the pond today.

### The Thriving Ice Business

The completed pond covered approximately 18 acres. It was 2500' long and averaged about 500' in width, and included several small islands and cove areas. The depth ranged from 2 or 3' at the southern end to 15' plus at the northern end. It produced about 2500 tons of ice each winter.

An article in the December 6, 1881 *Bath Daily Times* said that the ice-house at the pond of Houghton Brothers on New Meadows River had been completed under the supervision of Isaac C. Noyes.



The building was 180' long, 80' deep, and 30' from sill to cap. It took 117,000 shingles to cover the roof. A wooden chute, 1065' in length, was constructed down a

### Ice Cutter.

Courtesy Maine Maritime Museum



steep incline in order to move the ice from the pond to the ice house. One day a large cake of ice got away from the workers and sped down the chute. It gained so much momentum that it shot right through the ice house and into the waters of the New Meadows River below! The men then devised a method of using a bolt and a wood plank system that would bend and spring, slowing down the descent of the ice blocks. Later, a cable and

*Continued on page 2*



**Photo: Houghton Pond, looking south, 2007.**

Kerry E. Nelson Photo

## PAST TENSE

*Bath Independent*, March 25, 1882:

*"Rufus Lombard had a narrow escape from drowning by a cold bath at Houghton's ice pond last week."*

## Houghton Pond

Continued from page 1

pulley system was designed so that the weight of the ice coming down the chute was used to pull empty carriers back up to the pond edge. Ringbolts were driven down into the ledge at the shore to anchor the tripods which held the cable, as well as for a place for ships to tie up. One of the rings, which are still visible today above high tide, was 1" thick and 14" in diameter.

The ice, often 24" thick, was cut twice each winter. It was stored in sawdust to keep it from melting. Ships were tied up at the shore, loaded with ice, and then delivered to Portland, Boston, New York,

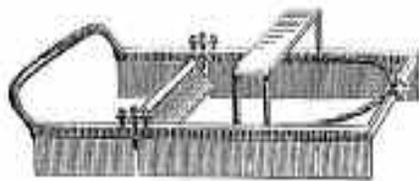


### Ice Marker.

Courtesy Maine Maritime Museum

and beyond. An early news clipping said that the 15' of deep water at Houghton Bros.' wharf offered "unusual facilities for loading ice." A news article on July 23, 1890 stated, "One barge is ready loaded with ice at Houghton Pond and another barge, *Washington*, is waiting to be loaded. This barge was built in Bath some 40 years ago and was once a steamship running from New York to Liverpool, carrying some 1300 passengers."

Levi W. Houghton was listed in the local directories as running an ice works from 1883 until 1895, the year that he died. In 1910 Wilton G. Bates bought the ice house and dismantled it. With help from Charles H. Bates, he loaded it on a large raft and towed it over to their landing at Sabino. He had no immediate plans



### Snow planer.

Courtesy Maine Maritime Museum

## PAST TENSE *American Sentinel*, June 29, 1882:

*"The second cargo of ice for London per the British bark Venice was cleared Saturday by Jarvis Patten. The Venice loaded at the new icehouse of L.W. Houghton on New Meadows river and carried 934 tons. This is said to be a very handsome cargo of ice. A Norwegian captain of many years experience in the Norway ice trade who examined this ice pronounced it a nearer approximation to the crystal like ice of Norway than any he had seen in this country."*

for the wood, but figured it would come in handy for a future building project – probably outbuildings but we don't know for sure.

### Catastrophe at Houghton Pond

Houghton Pond was the scene of a tragedy in July of 1921. Joseph T. Swan, Chief of the Everett, MA fire department, and his family had been summer residents of Birch Point since 1906. They were often mentioned in the personal columns of the Bath papers while staying at their cottage and entertaining friends from Mass. as well as locally. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Huse and their two sons, Ralph and Howard, were up from Everett visiting the Swans that summer. Chief Swan, Mr. Huse, and the two boys took a motorboat ride up the New Meadows River from the Swan cottage.

They tied the boat up at the shore near the ruins of the old ice house and walked up to the pond. There they found an old boat, bailed the water out of it, and Chief Swan and Howard, 17, climbed in and pushed off from shore taking the only two fishing poles with them. Mr. Huse and Ralph stayed on shore until the mosquitoes got so bad that they decided to go back to the river and wait. They came back to the pond several times to check for the other two, but saw no sign of them. They decided to take the boat back to the cottage to see if the others had returned through the woods. However, Chief Swan and Harold had not returned.

An all-night search was conducted, but it was the next morning before the skiff was found washed up on the shore of a small island. It was surmised that the boat had started filling up with water and the

two men either jumped or fell into the pond. Both were fully dressed and wore rubber boots. It wasn't until the following day that the two bodies were recovered near each other in eighteen feet of water about halfway across the pond.

Ironically, Chief Swan had heroically saved a five-year-old boy from drowning seven years earlier. In August of 1914 he was fishing in Winnegance Bay, with his boat anchored, when he noticed the boy slip overboard while the father was busy dealing with engine trouble. Chief Swan, with no hesitation and while fully clothed, jumped in the bay, caught the boy as he was sinking, and swam back to put him in his grateful father's arms. History was not to repeat itself.

### More Recent History of the Pond

In the early 1950s Ralph M. Merry, Sr. purchased a large tract of land around Houghton Pond. He began clearing and improving the area on the north side of the pond. In '68 he opened the 61-acre Sabino Camping Area (also known as the Out Post Campground). While developing the property, Merry discovered many historical artifacts related to the ice industry. One item looked like a large bobby pin. He found several large pulleys and brake drums of considerable size and weight. He included some of the artifacts in the stone fireplaces that he built around the campground. One fireplace had a large bolt once used on a winter ice sledge. Others had the remains of the cable that was used to carry the ice down to the shore. (All have since been destroyed by vandals.)

There were about 30 campsites, as well as access for picnicking,



**The beans are ready! Ralph Merry, Sr. and his Out Post bean-hole.** Courtesy of Ralph Merry, Jr.



**Come and Get it! Campers gather around Ralph to get their beans.** Courtesy of Ralph Merry, Jr.

swimming, fishing, and hiking. Picnic tables, changing rooms, and outhouses were provided. It cost \$2 for overnight camping and 50 cents for a day visit.

There was a sandy beach on one side of a ledge. On the other side was a deeper part of the pond with a raft for the swimmers to rest on. A rock cliff provided a jumping off spot for those brave enough to try it. Bean-hole bean suppers were held on Saturday nights. When the beans were done, Ralph would ring a bell

and the campers would all gather round to fill their plates. *Ed. Note: Ralph's recipe was revealed in a previous issue of The Middle Ground. Call us if you would like a copy.*

Ralph died in 1973 and the family closed the Out Post a short time thereafter. The Merry family sold off some of the land over the years, but still retains a portion. The land at the southern end of the pond stayed in the Houghton family until 1982. The whole area is now private with about 8 homes surrounding the pond. ▲

– By Kerry E. Nelson. (Information gathered from *A Look into West Bath's Past*, by Wm. C. Purington; *Birchwood Chips* by John & Ruth Butts; the *Alice Small Collection of WBHS*; *conversations with Wilbert Small, Ralph Merry, Jr., Amory Houghton*; *Levi W. Houghton, a term paper by Wayne Renshaw*; *Maine Maritime Museum Mark Hennessey Collection*; *Bath Daily Times*; *ice tool clipart courtesy of Maine Maritime Museum*; *misc. other sources.*)



## COOK'S KORNER

Along with hot cider, a special perk for everyone who comes to the WBHS annual Christmas Service and

Carol Sing each year is the table laden with home-baked goodies supplied for post-service refreshment by the Board and some local baking whizzes. This year was no exception. One contribution was very special, though: Apple Sauce cookies made from the heirloom apples on the trees just behind the Littlefield School that have been in that field (now owned by Dr. Wendy Love) for as long as anyone can remember.

The recipe was found in an old *Maine Jubilee Cookbook*, published in 1969 by the now defunct *Courier-Gazette* in Rockland. The cookies were delicious though quite delicate. Note to others: Don't pile them up on a serving plate until they are quite cooled and dry; otherwise they tend to stick together. Stuck or not, they were met with great acclaim.

### **Maine (Littlefield School!) Apple Sauce Cookies**

- 1 cup shortening (butter or margarine preferably)
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 egg

- 1 tsp vanilla
  - 3 cups flour
  - 2 tsp. cinnamon
  - ½ tsp cloves
  - ½ tsp allspice
  - 1 tsp each, salt & baking soda
  - 1 cup unsweetened (but spiced) apple sauce
  - 1 cup chopped walnuts
  - ½ cup seedless raisins
- Cream shortening, add sugar gradually and cream 'til fluffy and light. Add egg; beat in thoroughly, then vanilla. Sift dry ingredients and fold into shortening mixture. Add apple sauce, nuts and raisins. Mix into a stiff batter. Drop from a teaspoon onto lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake 15 minutes (watch out for burning if you use butter) in a 375 degree oven. Turn onto tray & let cool before storing. ▲

# CHANNEL BUOYS



## Births

**Cassidy Brooke Hayden**, born Oct. 5, to Jonathan Mark and Lisa Kaye Ambrose Hayden of Woolwich. Grandparents include **Butch Ambrose**, West Bath.

**Adrienne Elizabeth Sypien**, born Oct. 15 to **Skyler David** and **Colby Colleen Fraser Sypien** of West Bath.

**Madison Nicole MacGown-Sanford**, born Oct. 16 to William Norman Sanford and Brianne MacGown of Bath. Grandparents include **Heidi** and **Gregory Sanford**, West Bath.

**Oliver Aiden Leif West**, born Oct. 20, to **Katherine** and **Erik Hermann** of West Bath.

**Kaitlin Rose Hart**, born Nov. 10, to **Erin** and **David Hart Jr.** of West Bath.

**Elias Lundquist Kelly**, born Nov. 20, to **Daniela Pinto** and **Sean Kelly** of West Bath.

**Brody Edward Overmiller**, born Dec. 8, to Kevin Overmiller and Melissa Elaine Thompson of Wiscasset. Grandparents include **Darrell Overmiller**, and great-grandparents **Barbara** and **Bud Thompson**, West Bath.



**Brody Edward Overmiller**

**Lauren Delaney Walsh**, born Dec. 31, to Brian and Carrie Small Walsh of Hudson, MA. Grandparents include **Wilbert** and **Laura Small**, West Bath.

**Breanna Mae Eaves**, born Dec. 26 at Mid Coast Hospital to **Joel Michael** and **Shenel Marie Kavanaugh Eaves**, West Bath.

## Nuptial Celebrations

**Lawrence** and **Diane (Morris) Reno** of West Bath celebrated their golden anniversary late last summer at their son **Steve** and his wife **Annie's** West Bath home. They were married on Oct. 26, 1957. Their five children, who also include **Kathy Lavallee** and her husband **Dan, Buddy** and his wife **Maria, Debbie** Vigue and her husband, **Tim**, and the late **Robert Reno**, all chipped in to send their parents on an Alaskan cruise.

## West Bath

### Student Notes

**Cody Louder**, son of **Rachel and Chuck Louder**, has been named to the dean's list at Unity College in Maine. He is a first-year student studying law enforcement.

**Jessie Hyde** was named to the dean's list at the University of New Hampshire.

**Hugh Goodfellow** was named to the dean's list at New England School of Communications with honors.

**Jesse Pilgrim** was named to the University of Southern Maine dean's list.

**Brittany Lee**, dean's list at the College of Wooster in Ohio.

**Benjamin Woodworth**, dean's list, Connecticut College, New London, CT.

**Bethel Keith**, dean's list, Dean College, Franklin, Mass.

**Michael Lemont, Chelsey Renaud and Daniel Swinburne** were all named to the dean's list at UMaine, Orono. ▲

## PLANETS to ALIGN in APRIL THIS YEAR: Visible in West Bath

Were you aware that a strange formation of planets will be visible from this part of Maine (clouds permitting) on the morning of the first Tuesday of April? This is indirectly related to the fact that Easter was particularly early this year, and it will probably be your one and only time to see this phenomenon (the next occurrence will not be till the year 2273).

What is this strange phenomenon? Well, as you know there are four major planets (Venus, Jupiter, Mars and Saturn) and on the morning in question they will be "framing" the full moon. That means that these four planets will appear to surround the moon for a short time and be very close to it. The best time to watch will be 3.28 am. This phenomenon has been known about for centuries - the Romans called it the Diurnalis, and in those times it was thought that the gods, for which the planets in question are named, were setting themselves up to remove the moon to a different universe.

At the first sight of the phenomenon the ancient Romans would get their priests to light fires and candles and start praying that the gods would not succeed in this task, and clearly their prayers were answered, as the moon has, until now, remained in our universe. For those worried about the possibility of the moon absconding on this occasion, there will be a short service at the Old West Bath Meeting House, beginning at 3am on the night in question, when all concerned are invited to come and pray for the moon. Bring torches, warm clothing, and picnics for the party afterwards.

*- from our Astronomy correspondent, Buckland, Surrey, England \**

## CHRISTMAS at the MEETING HOUSE

Neither cold, nor blizzard, nor foul wind could keep people from flocking to our traditional Christmas Service and Carol Sing at the Old West Bath Meeting House on Thursday, December 20. It was

touch and go all day as various WBHS Board members pondered whether we should cancel this special event as the snows kept coming. But by noon, the consensus (backed by a promise by Jimmy Whorff and crew that the road would be plowed by four 'o'clock, so people could park) was GO!



**Rev. Mark Wilson.**

Kerry E. Nelson photo.



Despite our trepidations, almost 70 people braved the storm to come out to celebrate the season. Reverend Mark Wilson led the service, a choir of local singers performed, five community members read scripture passages, and everyone sang the usual carols, with the help of Susie Knowles at the pump organ.

**Susie Knowles at the organ.**

Kerry E. Nelson photo.

Refreshments included old fashioned apple sauce cookies (*see Cook's Corner*) made from heirloom apples from behind the Littlefield School. The WBHS, based on the generous donations from those assembled that evening, shared the monies with Family Focus, a Bath area family services non-profit. ▲

## CROSSING THE BAR



**Robert M. Howe**, 88, of Old Bath Road, Brunswick, died Oct. 12 at Maine Medical Center. Among his survivors are a son **Alvin Howe** and his wife **Linda**, West Bath.

**Jacqueline B. Moulin**, 70, of Brunswick, died Oct. 13 at Maine Medical Center. Among her survivors are a son, **Kevin Holt**, and a brother, **Ronald Purdy** and his wife **Susanne**, West Bath.

**Hazel M. White**, 92, of West Bath, died Oct 20 at Hillhouse. She was born in Dorchester, MA, and married Albert J. White Sr. in 1936. The couple moved to West Bath and lived at the White Farm on Foster Point Road for 54 years. Mr. White

died in 1990 and she continued to live at the farm until she moved to Hillhouse in 2003. She was involved in many local organizations and was a life member of the West Bath Grange and served on the West Bath school board for many years. Among her many survivors are three children: **Albert, Jr.**, and his wife **Jean**, **Patricia Percy**, and **Edna** and her husband **Patrick McTeague**, all of West Bath.

**Valerie M. Nickerson**, 79, of Bath, died Oct 23 at Hillhouse. She was a summer resident of Sabino for many years.

**Jean Danforth Goodfield**, 81, of Redding, CT, died Nov. 13 at a

nursing home in Shelburne, Mass. She was born in Bath and enjoyed a long career in education, including a stint teaching at the **Littlefield School** in West Bath. During WWII, she served as a Navy WAVE – and boldly – going with pilots on test flights. She ultimately became supervisor for the Conn. State Dept. of Education.

**Mildred E. Pinkham**, 99, of Dresden, died Nov. 26 at a Brunswick hospital. Survivors include her grandchild **Deborah McAllister** and her husband, **Jeff**, West Bath.

**Sharon G. Wingate**, 64, of Brunswick, died Nov. 27 at Mercy Hospital in Portland with her family by her side. Survivors include her daughter, **Paula Wodatch** and her companion, **Gregory Lozier**, West Bath. ▲

## NEW YEARS PLUNGE 2008

Once again, a hearty band of human polar bears – crazy polar bears, some might add! – braved a quick swim at high noon at the annual New Year’s Day dip from the beach at Shoal Cove. Led by John Van Orden (who coerces a lot of his colleagues from Mid Coast hospital to come along) and Ann Bridgeman, over 25 men, women and a kid or two ignored the 20 degree weather and the 37 degree ocean temperature to shed their warmies and run into the sea. This year was particularly tough because it was a way-low tide, so swimmers

had to run quite a ways though ankle-deep water before they could take a dive. Despite that, a few hardy souls even went in twice. So much for sanity. Survivors and onlookers convened afterwards at the Van Orden house for a potluck lunch of hot soups, homemade breads and sweets.



**Hardy souls brave the cold water at Shoal Cove for New Year’s Day dip.**

Avery Meyers photo.

## TOWN CRIER



Do you want to be a **Selectman**? There is an opening for one new Selectman for a 3-year term. Nomination Papers will be available beginning on March 17 at Town Hall. Deadline for returning the Nomination Papers is April 25th. You need the signatures of at least 25 (and no more than 100) people registered to vote in West Bath. Our Town Clerk suggests getting 30-35 to be sure. The position of Selectman entails meeting the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. There are also 4 to 6 informational sessions at the Fire Hall every year as well as Annual Town Meeting and any necessary Special Town Meetings. The position is very important since this elected official is responsible for making decisions concerning most spending and policies of the town.

Call Town Clerk Sue Look at 443.4342, for more details.

**Town Elections:** June 10th at the Fire Hall – this is a CHANGE OF VENUE! The polls are open from 9am to 8pm. Primary voting for State-elected positions (state reps, etc.) will also take place. **School**

**Budget for Region:** will be another ballot item. Watch local newspapers for details on the process to vote the new Regional School Unit (RSU #1) budget for 2008-09. It is complicated and involves many workshops, but here are the basics:

May 22 – Distribute budget information pamphlet regionally

June 2 – Public “super town meeting” of all regional communities affected, at Bath Middle School, to vote on proposed school budget.

June 4 – Distribute revised information pamphlet if necessary to all communities

June 10 – Community-wide vote on the RSU #1 budget via secret ballot – this is the second, validating vote on the budget, the first step was at the June 2nd Public Meeting.

**Town Meeting** will be at 6pm on June 11th and carry over to June 12th (if necessary) at the West Bath School. This is an important event in the life of West Bath: all decisions concerning finances and ordinances are made at Town Meeting. Please mark your calendar and make every effort to attend. This is an opportunity to voice your opinions and help to shape the direction for the future of the Town of West Bath.

## PAST TENSE

From an early news article in an undated scrapbook:

“The shipping of the ice at the Houghton pond was finished some two weeks ago. C.H. Bates having had charge of the houses, G.T. Storer the weighing, and O. Kittridge the stevedoring. Four barges and two schooners were towed from there.”

*(A stevedore is a man employed to store, or to unload, goods in a ship’s hold.)*

**Town Annual Reports** will be available the last week of May.

**Boat Moorings.** It’s time to re-register your mooring. Stickers are available in the Town Office for \$5. Call the Town Office for information regarding a new mooring request.

**Seawater Testing.** Members of the Marine Resources Board have been assisting the State of Maine DMR with water quality testing in West Bath. For more information, call Warren Swanson, Chairman of the Marine Resources Board (443-4068).

– Sue Look



**Tim Buckley at the Old West Bath Meeting House.**

Kerry E. Nelson photo.

## Talk on Local Native American History a Big Hit at Meeting House

Tim Buckley offered up a fascinating mix of lore and early history of native peoples in our region at the Old West Bath Meeting House on November 3rd. His talk was presented by the West Bath Historical Society. Over 50 people showed up on a nasty rainy Saturday and sat mesmerized for well over the allotted hour, while Tim, a cultural anthropologist who specializes in American Indian studies (and a former WBHS Board mem-

ber), spun his fascinating tales.

Although a serious academic by profession, this was no dry history talk. Buckley gave a down-to-earth, colorful, anecdotal and often amusing presentation.

He used Sabino, a local sachem and regional leader (sachem) on the Phippsburg peninsula, as his starting point, acknowledging that we today know little about his life in the late 1500's, because, sadly, that history is lost to us. But he could offer many insights on the Native people of West Bath and Phippsburg in 1607, when the first English settlers arrived at Popham, placing these people in the wider frame of North Atlantic history. ▲

## January History Talk: Rose Family

This year, the West Bath Historical Society once again participated in the Town History Series, co-sponsored by the Patten Free Library and the Bath Historical Society.

Our session was a slide show and talk on the history of the Rose Family, including its prominent West Bath contingent. Martha (Marty) Rea gave a comprehensive talk about her relatives, entitled "Descendants of Jeremiah Rose of Massachusetts and Maine."

In addition to family portraits and photos of residences in Bath/West Bath, she also included a number of views and stories about Rosedale

Farm and Store, a productive farm and later a popular entertainment venue in West Bath in the middle of the 20th century.

She was assisted by her cousin, Frank Rose, who took care of the technical side of things. Several other members of the Rose family were in the audience.

For those unable to attend, the presentation will be shown on Bath Public TV, channel 14. It is also available for patrons to borrow from the History Room. ▲

### THE MIDDLE GROUND

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\* April Fools

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

We do not print gossip, ads or political opinion.

If you have any news, please contact Avery (443.4449) or Kerry (443.3300).

## West Bath School Calendar, Spring 2008

March 25 – Union 47 art show being held at the Phippsburg school, displaying student art work from all schools in the union, 5-7 pm. No charge!

April 7 – 11th - Scholastic book fair: buy one get one free. Please note: We are looking for parent volunteers.

May 20 – Spring Concert, with performances from both the WBS band and chorus.

June 15 – Bring Dad to Lunch day!

June 19 – Last day of school IF!!!! we have no more snow cancellations.

## Patten Free Library



Our regional Community Read is in full swing. There are plenty of events all around the MidCoast region during March to complement this year's book selection: Robert Kurson's *Shadow Divers*. The book is a riveting true account of two deep wreck divers, one of whom now lives locally. In the fall of 1991 they found a submarine wreck six miles off the New Jersey coast and 230 feet down beneath the deep blue Atlantic. She lay on her side, in a spot where all government experts concluded there could not possibly be a sunken WWII German U-boat. Who was she and what had happened to her? A mass of twisted wreckage, she gave no clue as to her identity.

With nothing to go on except a few tantalizing artifacts, deep wreck

divers John Chatterton and Richie Kohler risked their lives – in many ways – as they embarked on a historic quest. *Shadow Divers* draws us into two very different worlds; the dangerous life of the thrill-seeking deep water diver and the somber last days of the young U-boat crew. This is a page-turner that is as much historical mystery as it is a gripping dive adventure.

### March 28

#### Deep Sea Family Festival

5:00 pm. Explore the depths of the ocean through crafts and books in the Children's Room.

5:00 pm. Book discussion of *Dive: The Discovery*, led by Francie Tolan & Julie Rice (grades 4 – 7).

6:00 pm. *Sub Sandwich Supper* and fixings for the whole family. Anyone wearing a full military service uniform will get his/her

ticket price refunded. (Dinner tickets available at PFL in March.)

7:30 pm. WWII USO Concert led by Paul Rice and other local musicians. Family fun!

**April 29** – Annual Benefit Dinner at J.R. Maxwell's in Bath. Tickets will be available at the library April 1. All are welcome!

**May-June** – As part of a broad environmental awareness effort, the community is encouraged to read a book called *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv. This initiative is spearheaded by the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust and the PFL. The book will be circulated by the library during the month-long reading period, followed by group discussions. Watch for more news and events being planned around this important book. – Sandy Weiss

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West Bath Historical Society

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### The Out Post outhouses (and changing rooms) at Houghton Pond.

Courtesy of Ralph Merry, Jr.