

THE MIDDLE GROUND

Daily Life & History of West Bath, Maine

FALL/WINTER 2011 • PUBLISHED BY THE WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Eat Drink & Be Merry in Old West Bath

*Editor's note: Over the years, stories on some of the wonderful old inns and eating places have been featured in The Middle Ground. For this issue, we have woven them together to give a broad picture of the many establishments that used to thrive in West Bath. The research, skillfully compiled and written by our archivist, **Kerry Nelson**, was presented by former Board member **Kathy Totten**, and Kerry, as part of the Patten Free Library Town History series in 2007. We felt it was time to offer as much of this information as space allows, especially for those who were not at the history talk, but also to document this compendium for posterity. We hope you enjoy and are enlightened by this comprehensive story.*

Did you know that West Bath, as early as the 1740's and well into the 1950's, was teeming with inns, eateries, and even a merry dance hall? There were more than two dozen public establishments throughout the town (and probably a few undocumented speakeasies and other shady places too).



Foster's Point House

The earliest was ... **Joseph Berry's Tavern – Berrys Mill Road**

Joseph Berry, an Englishman, purchased a farm which extended from Winnegance Creek to Casco Bay and included the area around today's Mill Cove. There was no bridge across the cove so he built a dam and then a saw mill and grist mill. Around 1740, he built a two-story, gambrel roofed house, 40 feet square, where he lived with his family. Berry also used the building as a tavern, offering lodging and entertainment. It was the first public house in the territory of Bath. The tavern was sold to Rev. Francis Winter for his home in the early 1800's. It was later torn down by his son, Alden, who built a new home on the foundation which stands today as the Ireland farm.

Foster's Point House – Foster's Point Road

An early summer holiday hangout, Foster's Point House was built in 1773. By 1895, it had been expanded several times and was then owned by Ellis Coombs, whose family had owned the property for more than 60 years. Ellis made major repairs and opened his home to rusticators that year. His wife served the suppers, and, while we're not sure how long the boarding house was open, we do have a picture of the guests from about the turn of the century. Ellis, like many West Bath farmers, hedged his business bets and also had a milk route. He died in 1934 at the



Hotel Birchwood

age of 83. The property eventually ended up with Millicent Hamilton who loved nature, especially birds. Upon her death, she deeded the house and land to the Audubon Society, which maintains the property to this day.

Hotel Birchwood – Birch Point Road

William Lord had a small home near the water by the fish-house at Pleasant Point (Birch Point today),

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WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY presents its

*Annual Community
Christmas Service & Carol Sing*



Tues., December 20, 2011, 7:00 pm

OLD WEST BATH MEETING HOUSE

Berry's Mill Road, West Bath

Service led by Reverend Mark Wilson.

Open to all. Donations welcome. Light refreshments.
FMI 443-4449

Eat Drink & Be Merry in Old West Bath

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and he and his wife became known for entertaining their guests with delicious clam chowders and lobster salads. A dining hall was built near the shore and Mr. Lord served fried clams, cunners, and potatoes, all said to be the best offered locally. By 1869 they built a larger place on a hill quite a distance from the water.

The view from the piazza of the Birch Point House extended down to the New Meadows River and then out to sea. Lord built a wharf and provided access to the water and fishing gear for his guests, who came from all over the country.

Over the years there were several owners, but the place was packed with visitors most summers. By 1895, it had morphed into the Birchwood Hotel and the then-current owner had imported sand to create a small swimming beach. In 1901, a promotional brochure declared, "Inside we find everything conducive for one's comfort and pleasure, splendid parlors with piano, a smoking room for the gentlemen, with open fires, fine dining rooms, and large cool chambers. The house has been thoroughly renovated in every particular." Rooms were \$2.00 per day or \$7-12.00 per week.

By 1903 the Birchwood was unoccupied. The next significant mention of the once popular hotel was September, 1904 when news of a fire, which left the Birchwood in smoldering ruins, made the headlines. The official cause was a defective

chimney. All that remains of the Birchwood Hotel is the foundation. Trees have reclaimed the site. Even the view to the river is no more.

Rosedale Music Barn – Foster's Point Road (near today's Town Hall)

In 1894, John Rose purchased a farm (a small house and barn, and about 25 acres of brush land) for his son Henry. He raised chickens and cattle, earning enough money to acquire more land and eventually expand the house to 28 rooms. Several generations of the Rose family lived on the farm, selling groceries, fruits and vegetables, gasoline, oil, and their own dairy products from a store built onto the house.

In 1910, Henry, with help from his sons Fred and Ernest, built a huge new two-story barn near the original one. In order to pay for the roof, the family sold one of the cottages they then owned on the shore behind the farm for \$125.

Ernest's son, George Rose, acquired the farm in 1962, and began to restore the house for his own family. However, early in January of 1965, fire broke out in the vacant building, and by the time the fire department arrived the house was beyond saving. The rest of the farm buildings were spared, thanks to firemen's efforts and the direction of the wind.

George and his wife, Phyllis, began debating what to do with what was left. She suggested creating a dance hall in the hayloft of the newer barn. Since George's father occasionally held square dances there in the early days, they decided that would be a fitting use of the building, which became "Rosedale Music Barn." Dance bands from around Maine were booked; on Fri-



New Meadows Inn

day nights there might be up to 300 teenagers dancing to a rock band, while Saturdays were reserved for adults. George and his wife managed the dances, while daughters, Gerry and Jackie, handled the concession stand.

A 1966 news item reported on Rose's plans for a rustic restaurant to be called "The Red Rooster." The paper went on to say, "It would seem there will always be a Rosedale in West Bath." Unfortunately, that was not to be the case. The restaurant never materialized. The dance hall was only open until the early 1970s, and by the late '70s, horses were once again boarded in the barn.

In 1980 George signed a contract to sell the place. But the transaction had not yet gone through when, in November, a suspicious fire broke out. Despite efforts of West Bath and Phippsburg firemen, when the smoke cleared, all that remained was the chimney. Local fire officials, suspecting arson, called in the state fire marshal, but a cause could not be determined due to the heavy damage. Memories are all that remain of Rosedale Farm.

New Meadows Inn – Bath Road

In 1898, the New Meadows Inn was built on the shore of the New Meadows River on a large plot of land. Owners were Charles Cahill and Scott Frye. They also leased more land that ran along the river almost to the Bull Rock Bridge to prevent any other resort from being built nearby.

The 3½ story inn had rooms for Mr. Cahill to live in, as well as for hired help. There was a main dining



Rosedale Music Barn



New Meadows Inn fire

room that held 60 people, 2 private dining rooms that each held 12, a reception room, and smoking rooms on the first floor.

The Inn officially opened in January, 1899. The first sizable dinner was served to members of the Kennebec Yacht Club. Meals at the restaurant were legendary. Especially on Sundays, it was not unusual to feed up to 800 patrons. The original menu included steamed clams, lobster stew, fried oysters with “tartaire” sauce, potato chips, green olives, lobster salad, plain lobster, Bent’s soda wafers, hot rolls, cheese, assorted cakes, macaroons, tea, and coffee. In those days clams cost 15 cents a bushel; lobsters were 50 cents for 100. A dinner at the restaurant cost 50 cents for all-you-can-eat steamed clams or lobsters.

Another reason for the Inn’s popularity was the relative ease of getting there. In early days many diners arrived on foot or by horse and buggy. During the short time that the inn was open year round, it was not unusual for diners to don their snowshoes and head over there for dinner. Others arrived by train. Maine Central Railroad tracks ran nearby and trains stopped at a flag station which was established soon after the inn was built. For five cents, diners could take the electric cars from Bath or Brunswick; in summer the cars ran every half hour. Another easy access was by water. Private boats tied up at the inn’s float or diners arrived by boats run by the New Meadows Steamboat Company.

In March of 1937, the most well-known dining place in West Bath met its fate. The Inn was closed for

the winter and the electricity was shut off. Again, fire was the culprit. Flames shot 50 to 60 feet in the air. The tops of pine trees fifty feet away were scorched by the intense heat. Within an hour, it was obvious that the inn could not be saved. The cause of the fire was suspicious. Someone either deliberately started it or a trespasser carelessly dropped a cigarette.

Owner Cahill decided not to rebuild. He granted use of the New Meadows name to Samuel Armstrong, who, in the ‘40s, bought the New Meadows Lobster Pound. Several additions were made to the business site over the years until it became what locals remember today as the New Meadows Inn. Armstrong’s family ran the new version of the restaurant until just a few years ago. Today it’s a day care center.

The Quaker Point Inn – Quaker Point Road

Around 1915, a prominent Bath pharmacist, Lewis Swett, had a beautiful summer place built at the shore of the New Meadow’s River on the west end of Quaker Point. It was two stories high with a wrap-around veranda. An unusual “modern” feature of the kitchen was an electric refrigerator. Mr. Swett had a generator installed in an outbuilding to provide power to the building, as electric service wouldn’t arrive in the area for another thirty years. There were several cottages and a bunkhouse, as well as tennis courts and croquet greens.

Early directories make no mention of this inn, but a neighboring family

remembers the place being called the Quaker Point Inn. Since it was not advertised, we suspect that Swett used it more for friends and business associates. Most visitors were well-to-do men, many from Boston, who came for the hunting and fishing. They arrived by boat from Boston to Portland; transferring to a smaller steamer which then went up the New Meadows. Others arrived by train to Bath, and were shuttled by horse and buggy across the hayfields to the Inn. Summer festivities ended suddenly when Swett was tragically stricken, probably by a heart attack, while boating on the river in 1921. He was only 55 years old.

From records we determined that the building was unoccupied in the 1940s. There was a brief period in the 1950s when it was used again, most likely as a boarding house. After that venture failed, the former inn, still fully furnished, sat unused except for the local children who liked to explore it. In 1981 the town condemned the building. The cleared property was sold for \$26,000, a ranch style house built, and then enlarged. The property sold in 2005 for almost \$800,000.

Rock Hill Inn – New Meadows Road

Joseph Larrabee, who hailed from an old West Bath family, lived at Larrabee’s Grove, a property that included 10 homes and cottages along the New Meadows River. In addition to renting his cottages, Joseph was well known locally for his clambakes. With the loss by fire of the New Meadows Inn in 1937, he recognized an opportunity and built the Rock Hill Inn. The original Lowell School was moved to the property and became the new restaurant’s kitchen. He also purchased the original West Bath Grange and moved it down to the shore for clambakes.



Rock Hill Inn

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Eat Drink & Be Merry in Old West Bath

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Rock Hill opened for business in 1938. The 30' by 32' dining room had beautiful hardwood floors. There was an 8' piazza on three sides of the building. The grounds were available for games and picnics, and there was access to the shore for swimming, fishing, and boating. A full-course shore dinner cost \$1.50; a meal of steam clams was \$1.35, and a lobster or a steak dinner was \$1.00.

In 1940, Larrabee closed the Inn, but continued running clambakes, became an insurance agent, and also a State Senator. He died in 1962. The inn, now a private home, is still visible on the New Meadows Road just before the West Bath School.

The front porch remains but the side porches have been enclosed.

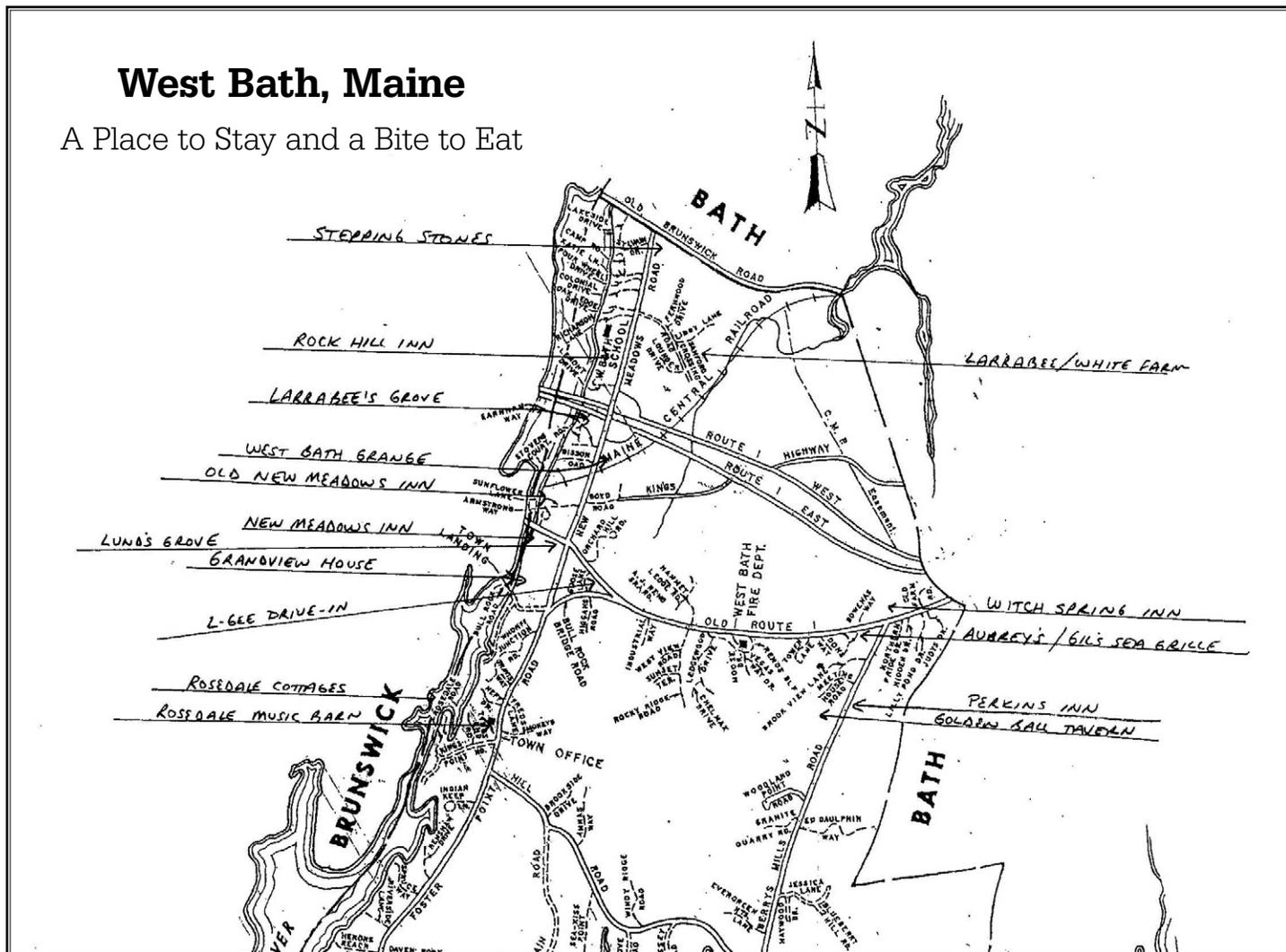
West Bath Grange - New Meadows Road

West Bath Grange #154 was organized in 1875. There were 22 charter members; by 1900, membership had grown and a new large hall was erected at Trufant's Crossing, next to the railroad tracks. The two-story building, 66' by 24', was completed in 1901, with a dining room to accommodate about 180 people. The main hall on the second floor had a large stage.

The Grange was a popular place. In the early 1900s there were about

200 members; by the '40s, there were nearly 800. Meetings were held once a week and delicious suppers were served. In fact, in 1905 the ladies of the Grange put out the *Harvest Feast Cook Book* with proven specialties from those suppers. The West Bath Historical Society held a public supper at the Grange in 2000, using recipes from that old cookbook; it was a huge success.

Entertainment ranged from members reporting on various farm themes, to performing skits and playing musical numbers. Drinking, smoking, gambling, and cussing were not allowed. Despite that, the organization played a huge part in the social fabric of West Bath and there were many holiday parties and dances. Lifelong friendships were forged and marriages resulted from those Grange events.



As many local farms disappeared, and TV and other entertainments evolved, fewer young people joined the organization. Membership had sharply declined until, by 2000, there were less than 100 members. The Grange is still active, but on a much smaller scale. To help with upkeep, it is also leased to a local church.

Sabino Hall – Sabino Road

In 1887 a group of men from Bath started a summer colony at Sabino. They called themselves the Bobtail Club. Their first clubhouse, built near the New Meadows shore, was later sold and converted to a cottage. The colony continued to grow and in 1922 the newly organized Sabino Improvement Association, Inc. held their first meeting in the Sabino Community Hall, built on land donated by the Bates family.

Every summer since, Sabino neighbors and friends have gathered once a week to share a potluck supper and some form of entertainment. Over the years they have enjoyed field days, clambakes, square dances, games, auctions, and more. Each July the association holds Sabino Fair, featuring crafts, baked goods, and flea market items. In 2006 the Sabino Improvement Association printed a cookbook of favorite recipes served at the suppers.

Idle Park Shore House – Brigham's Cove

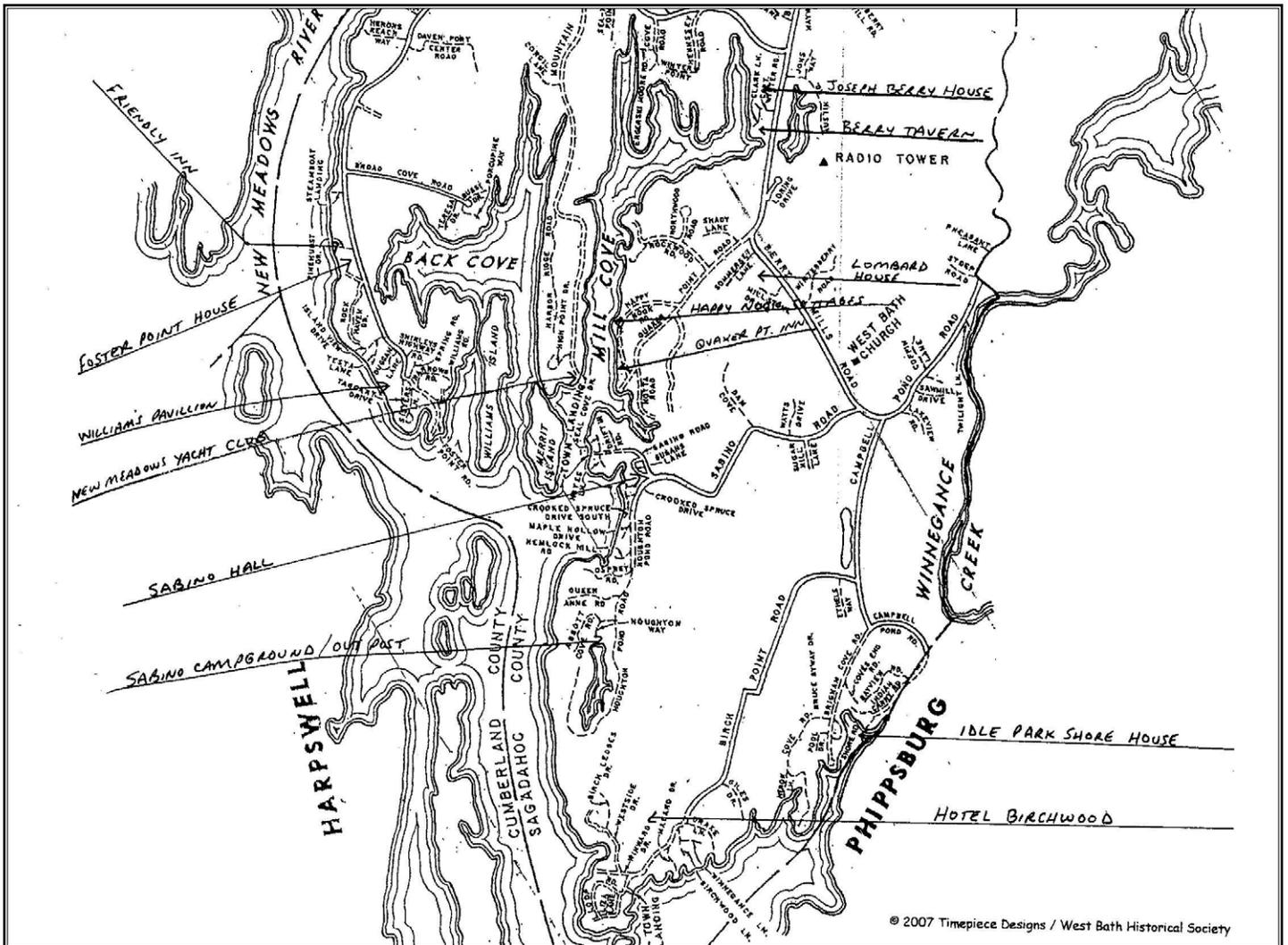
In the early 1900's Idle Park Shore House was listed in business directories. The proprietor was Mitchell Frye, who also ran the Meadow-



Sabino Hall in the 1920s

brook Inn in Phippsburg. Idle Park was open from the late 1800's to about 1908. Although there is little information about the place, it was known locally for shore dinners. At least one of the small steamboats that ran in the area used to stop there. The building was hit by light-

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ning around 1909. Ralph and Lucy Dutton bought the property and built a log home on the foundation; it is now owned by Stephanie Kinne.

Golden Ball Tavern – Berry’s Mill Road

Mr. Thomas F. Perkins was a very successful local farmer. In 1895, the Bath Enterprise reported that Mr. Perkins was building a greenhouse, 190' by 30', with a 60 horsepower boiler to furnish steam heat to grow vegetables in the dead of winter. That gave him a significant edge over other farms, and he delivered both to local markets and the Boston area.

A 1905 news article stated that the Perkins home was one of the finest in the area, with "... grounds about it that give ... the appearance of the country place of some wealthy city man ... At his home Mr. Perkins and his family have all the comforts that money and good judgment procure ..."

With this in mind, it's hard to imagine that by the 1930s the Perkins farm was no more. The house was bought and turned into the Golden Ball Tavern. Local residents remember it as a real "gin joint" and hint at other nefarious goings-on. We were unable to find more information, probably because it was the kind of place everyone knew about, but no one admitted visiting. The Golden Ball lasted only briefly. In the late '30s, it was torn down and later replaced by a small white cape that still stands today.

Perkins Inn – Berry’s Mill Road

Across the road from the original Perkins place was the home of his son, Dorman. In the 1930s Dorman and his wife Ada opened their home as the Perkins Inn, a dedicated restaurant with no rooms available and, probably no booze! Mrs. Perkins did all the cooking, specializing in seafood dinners. It was only open for a few years. Once again a

private house, its dining room and front den were once used as the large dining room for the inn.

The Grand View Hotel – Bull Rock Road

In 1902, a three-story, 40 room hotel was built and owned by George Schoppie of Bath on a former farm property, bordered by the New Meadows River, Bull Rock and Foster's Point Road. The structure incorporated milled lumber from the trees he had cut from the woodlot. Grand View was a very popular summer destination, offering delicious shore dinners, featuring fresh lobster stored in a lobster car floated on the river. The interior was finished in natural wood with hardwood floors. The dining room could seat 100 diners. There was a boat landing for visitors coming by water, and a coach team of horses met guests coming to the New Meadows area by electric cars.

Rumors hinted at the sale of illegal liquor in 1903, although the hotel was searched and nothing found. There were also references to a brothel but, again, no proof. The local paper exclaimed that Grand View was not the only place responsible for the condition of things in the area. Business that had been so good in the early years began to drop off after the Bull Rock Bridge collapsed in 1906, but Schoppie continued to run the inn until his death in 1914 from consumption. He died at the home of Mrs. Mary Belcher, who lived on Water Street in Bath, where she was rumored to run a house of ill repute. She was his mother.

From 1918 to '24, the hotel was run by Mrs. Nettie Morrison of Bath. In 1926 it was purchased by William Webster, Jr. who had some hotel experience in the Boston area. He changed the name to Webster House but only ran the hotel through 1927. For the next several years it sat, still furnished but unused.



Grandview Hotel

Fire seems to run through many of these tales. Shortly after midnight on November 30, 1932, Webster House burned to the ground. Neighbors came to help, but all they could do was prevent sparks from igniting nearby cottages. The hotel was a total loss, including three boats stored on the front porch, the dock landing that had been brought up on shore and the hotel's ice house. By the time the Bath engine arrived all they could do was keep the flames from spreading in the high north-west wind. The fire's cause was never determined, although there was a suspicion of partying teens or careless squatters.

Stepping Stones – New Meadows Road

An old home on the corner of Old Brunswick Road and Foster's Point (now New Meadows Road) was transformed in the 1930's into a tea room by Mrs. Helen Crosby. Aside from a vintage post card, advertising the spot as a place for afternoon tea as well as lobster and chicken dinners, nothing else is known. A 1937 newspaper reported that the attractive dwelling known as Stepping Stones had been sold from the estate of E.S. Crosby to Mr. and Mrs. John H. Grindell of Bath. The home was said to have all the modern conveniences. The Grindells planned to use it as their permanent home while they ran the dining room at the Bath Country Club. Today, it is home to Donna and Sagadahoc Sheriff Joel Merry.

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CROSSING THE BAR



Reid Perkins, 90, of Bath, died Jan 2, at Hill House. He is survived by 3 children, including **Diane Delano** & her husband **Clinton** of West Bath; 17 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren. There was a graveside service on July 17 at his family's resting place off Berry's Mill Road in West Bath.

Barbara (Brown) Roundy, 94, of West Bath, died Jan 10 at Coves Edge Nursing Home in Damariscotta. She was born in West Bath in 1917, the daughter of **Walter & Madelyn (Hunt) Brown**, and attended West Bath schools and Morse High. A Mayflower descendant of John and Priscilla Alden, Barbara was a true Yankee, and spent her childhood between a Bath residence and her beloved saltwater farm in West Bath. She earned a BA degree from UMaine in 1939, and lived with her husband George Roundy of Walpole, Mass in Louisiana during WWII, and then for many years in Walpole, before

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Gil's Seafood Grille – State Road at Berry's Mill Road

At the top of Witch Spring Hill, a tea room called The Oaks was listed in the 1946 phone directory, operated by Mrs. Hazel Robbins. By the early '50s Trude and Aline Gilley were running the restaurant, which they re-named Gil's Seafood Grille. They served basic American food, and a quirky deep fried hot dog, known locally as a West Bath scallop. Open year-round, Gil's was very popular, with standard seafood and steak dinners as well as offering a banquet venue for bowling leagues, Brunswick Naval Air Station parties, etc. The couple ran the restaurant until the early 1970s. Trude Gilley passed away in 1989. ▲

moving to Camden in 1960. Upon his death, she moved back to West Bath to live with her sister, **Ruth Hennessey**. She attended the UCC Church in Bath, and is remembered for her love of reading and opera, her generous spirit, and the high ethical standards she taught her children. Barbara is survived by her sister, Ruth, a brother John Brown, and her six children, including David Roundy of West Bath, as well as 11 grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, a great-great-granddaughter and many nieces and nephews.

George "Bud" Pilgrim, 84, of Bath, died Jan 17 at Mid Coast Hospital. Among his survivors are his son, **Derek** & his wife **Victoria Pilgrim** and their children, **Zachary Pilgrim** & his wife **Nicole**, **Jesse Pilgrim** and **Gia Pilgrim**, all of West Bath.

Eva Carstunis Bottai, 94, of West Bath, died Jan 21 at Mid Coast Hospital. She was predeceased by her husband, **Louis Bottai**, who died in 2001. She is survived by a daughter, a son, two sisters, and many grandchildren and grandchildren.

Margaret E. (Higgins) Williams, 94, of West Bath, died Jan 22 at Hawthorne House inn Freeport. Born in Southwest Harbor, she was a daughter of Fred and Ethel Higgins, and attended Bath schools. She graduated from Colby College in 1938. Later she received a master's degree from UMaine Orono. For many years she taught in public and private schools and universities in Maine and Florida until her retirement in 1977. In her free time, she was active with Literacy Volunteers, a member of the United Church of Christ, and a life member of the Maine Maritime Museum. She was predeceased by her husband of 55 years, **Owen Williams** in 1998. Surviving are two sons, including **James B. Williams** & his wife **Elizabeth of West Bath**; four grandsons, one great-grandson; a sister-in-law and several nieces and nephews.

Merle L. Hathorne, 87, died Feb 1. Among his many survivors are his

daughter, **Fay Labbe**, & his sister-in-law, **Betty (Giles) Richardson** both of West Bath.

Harry D. Hansen, 94, of Stratford, CT, died Feb 7. Among his survivors are his granddaughter **Jennifer Mitchell** & her husband **Gerald**, and a great grandchild, **David Mitchell**, of West Bath.

Marilyn Voorhees Hansen, 74, died Feb 7. Among her survivors is a daughter, **Rachel** & her husband **James Thelen**, of West Bath.

Eleanor Ashby, 73, died Feb 8. Formerly of Freeport, she lived with her daughter **Joyce Mathews** and her grandchildren, **Kimmy, Kasey and John**, in West Bath. In 1960, she married Vernon Ashby, now deceased. Among her four children, in addition to Joyce, is **Vernon Ashby**, also of West Bath.

James Thomas Wyman, 73, of West Bath, died unexpectedly on Feb 14. He grew up in Phippsburg and worked for many years at BIW. Among his survivors is his daughter, **Alice** & her husband **Jonathan Bickford**, of West Bath.

Graydon M. Smith, 84, of West Boothbay, died Feb 13. Born in West Bath in 1926, the son of **Cleveland & Alice Green Smith**, and attended Bath Schools. In his senior year, he joined the US Navy. After discharge in 1946, he returned to school to earn a diploma. He was employed by BIW for many years. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Miller Smith, five daughters; nine grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Virginia Mullany, 93, of Bath Road, died March 6. Among her survivors is her granddaughter, **Tagen Murphy** of West Bath.

Elizabeth Kennedy Bates, 90, of Brunswick, died March 13. Among her survivors: a son, **Byron Bates**, of West Bath.

William Clarence Purington, 81, of Brunswick, died March 19. He was known locally for his written history of West Bath. Survivors include his brother, The Rev. Dr. **James A. Purington** & his wife, **Clara**, of West Bath.

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Crossing the Bar

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Daniel L. Lord, Jr., 90, of Bath, died April 8. An executive for 30 years at Hyde Windlass, and then at LL Bean, Lord was also a trustee and then Chairman of Bath Savings. He and his wife Eva had a cottage at Sabino for many years.

Mary "Betty" Elizabeth Ames, 85, died April 8. Among her survivors are two daughters, **Ann Bradbury** of Washington, DC and West Bath, and **Mary "Beth" Elizabeth Brewer** of West Bath.

Pearl D. Noble Goodwin, 92, died April 9 at Mid Coast Hospital. Among her survivors is a daughter, **Doreen** & her husband **Keith Fitzgerald** of West Bath.

Karen E. Ingalls, 48 of Fosters Point Road, died April 21 at her home. She was born in Boston, a daughter of Richard and Janet (Campbell) Worcester. She graduated from Marshwood High in Eliot, Maine and from USM. A CPA by profession, she worked for firms in Portland, Bath and Brunswick before starting her own accounting business at home in West Bath. She was predeceased by her husband, **Gregory Ingalls**. Survivors include her mother and father, a brother, and two stepchildren.

Norman H. Sanford, 77, of New Meadows Road died May 4 at home surrounded by his wife, family and beloved companion Patches the beagle by his side. He was born in Bath, a son of William and Hazel (Martin) Sanford Sr. He graduated from Morse High in 1954 and was employed as a pipefitter and shop steward at BIW, retiring after 43 years in 1997. He and his wife, **Betty**, traveled extensively in their RV motor home after retirement. He was predeceased by one son, Gregory Sanford, and two sisters. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter **Maria**, & **Lawence "Buddy" Renaud** of West Bath, two brothers including **Donald Sanford** & his wife **Rowena** of West Bath, ten grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He is buried at Orchid Hill Cemetery in West Bath.

Kenneth Guy Harris, 80, of Lisbon Falls died May 13. He was born in West Bath in 1930, a son of **Kenneth and Ruth (Parker) Harris**. He was educated in Lisbon and then proudly served in the US Navy. In 1951, he married Arlene Jones, and operated Ken's Auto sales for many years. He enjoyed antique autos and visiting antique auto shows. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, a sister, a brother, 7 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren.

Seth Harwood, 28, of Bath passed away May 13 in St Luke Hospital in Fountain Hill, Pal, where he was working as a medical assistant. In addition to his wife of two years, Mary (Huber), he is survived by his parents and stepfather, two children, a sister, and two brothers including **Josh Harwood** & his wife **Tara** of West Bath.

Antoinette M. Ross, 85 of Bath died May 19 at Mid Coast Hospital. Among her survivors is a son, **Thomas Ross** of West Bath.

Ethel Pearl Rogers, 89, of Brunswick, died June 21 at Parkview Hospital. Among her survivors is one of her five children, **Methyl Merry** of West Bath.

Robert Foye Berry, 66, of Bath, died at Maine Med on June 28. Among his survivors, his son **Bob Berry** and his daughter **Jacqueline Berry**, both of West Bath, and his stepfather, **Jonathan James Seaman**, also of West Bath.

Catherine J. (Doig) Wyman, 93, of Sunnybrook Village in Brunswick died on June 23. Among her survivors is a daughter, **Catherine W. Powers** of West Bath.

Jerome ("Red") Clement Cloutier, 87, of South Portland died July 1. Among his many survivors is a son, **Christopher Cloutier** & his wife **Lori** of West Bath.

CDR Frank Thelen III, Ret., 72, of Richmond, died July 13. Among his survivors is his son, **James Thelen** of West Bath.

Gerard J. Lavalley, 79, of West Bath, died July 19. He was born in Brunswick, the oldest of 7 children born to Francis Lavalley Sr. and Juliette Therien Lavalley. He attended local schools before enlisting in the

US Army National Guard during the Korean Conflict in 1950. He worked at BIW, retiring in 1994 to spend winters in Florida. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Dorothy (Landry) Lavalley**, four children, 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. A private burial with military honors was held at the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Augusta following a funeral service at the Brunswick Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Thomas George Underwood, Sr., 79, died July 14 after a brave fight with cancer. He was born in Tenants Harbor, grew up in Bath and graduated from Morse High in 1950, an outstanding athlete in football, baseball and ice hockey. That same year he married classmate Josephine McIntire, and then worked for many years at BIW, ending as a First Class designer, and in 1977 became the first Marine Drafting instructor at Morse. He was also Assistant Varsity football Coach for six years, as well as JV Head Coach. He was active in various roles at Morse over the years, including Driver Ed instructor for 18 years. "Mr. Underwood" was one of Morse's most admired teachers. He also helped develop many athletic programs for kids in Bath. Among his survivors is a son, **Todd Underwood** & his wife **Pamela** of West Bath.

Roland Lucien Brilliant, 76, of Brunswick, died August 7. Among his survivors is a daughter, **Maria Morris** & her husband **Rob** of West Bath, who is West Bath Town Clerk.

Martha Helena Carter Davis, 73, of Woolwich, died August 19. Among her survivors is a daughter, **Yvonne Colby** & her husband **Tony** of West Bath.

Mary Ann Elwell, 74, of Port Orange, FL, died Aug 22. Among her many survivors is a son, **Beau Elwell** & his wife **Traci** of West Bath.

Nancy Temple Woodhouse, 69, of Bath, died Aug 29. Among her survivors is her brother, **Bruce Temple** & his wife **Suzanne** of West Bath.

Dudley Howard Leavitt Sr., 82, of Topsham died Aug 27 at his home. His brother, **Patrick Grover** of West Bath is among his survivors. ▲

CHANNEL BUOYS



BIRTHS

Emilia Erin Polizotto, born Jan 25 to Marc & Rosemary (Cunningham) Polizotto, Woolwich. Grandparents include **Mary Cunningham**, West Bath.

Brystal Francis Marie Gallant, born Feb 8 to Jason Gallant & Susan Coombs, Lisbon. Grandparents include **Betty Coombs**, West Bath.

Katherine Elizabeth Rand, born March 3 to **Charlene Elaine** (Chesley) & **Jason Todd Rand** of West Bath.

Hannah Charlotte Gillespie, born April 1 to Peter & Elizabeth (Michaels) Gillespie, Brunswick. Grandparents include **Stuart Gillespie**, West Bath.

Boyd Joseph Rowe, born April 6 to Lonny & Sarah (Fowler) Rowe, Woolwich. Grandparents include **Heidi Fowler**, West Bath.

Keegan Edward Hudson, born May 14 to **Natasha** (Welch) & **Peter Edward Hudson** of West Bath.

Owen Robert Hanson, born May 17 to Michael & Nadine Hanson, Lewiston. Grandparents include **Robert & Cheryl Dawns**, West Bath.

Lucas James Lemont, born June 3 to Amanda Marie (Lemont) & David Michael Desmond. Grandparents include **Jay & Francis Lemont**, and Great Grandmother, **Elaine Lemont**, West Bath.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Thelma Sylvester, who lives at the Plant Home in Bath, turned 104 on May 10. While she spent much of her life in Bath, she lived for many years with her late son **Donald** and his wife at Sabino. A 1926 graduate of Morse High, she was very active over the years at the West Bath Grange. During her teens and early adult years, she faithfully rode the trolley to the hall every Monday for a social gathering at 7 pm. It was there that she met her husband, John. The last trolley left for Bath at 11 pm, and they would often be having so much fun they would have to walk home!

ANNIVERSARIES

Ray & Jean Mann celebrated their 65th anniversary in March of this year. Ray, who grew up in Old Town, and Jean, in Bath, met in 1942 at the Opera House Theater in Bath. Jean was sitting in front of Ray and her hat blocked his view of the movie. Apparently Ray didn't mind because, except for Ray's combat service in WWII, they've been

inseparable ever since. After the war, Ray & Jean were married, and owned Ray's Watch Shop in Bath until they retired in 1989. They have two children, Jackie & her husband Ned Myers of Murfreesboro, Tenn., and **Linda** & her husband **Alvin Howe**, of West Bath. The Manns are living with their daughter in Murfreesboro, but they still have a home in West Bath and a cottage in Phippsburg.

Kenneth Pepper & Harriet Murdock Pepper celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June. Harriet, who was a college professor, and Kenneth, a building contractor, are both retired. They have two children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Francis & Gwendolyn (Godcher) **Zaborowski** of West Bath celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August. Gwen is a retired nurse; Fran, also retired, spent 38 years in the computer industry with IBM and HDS. They have six children, scattered from Maine to Colorado, and 14 grandchildren. ▲



Francis & Gwendolyn Zaborowski

ACADEMIC MILESTONES

Graduates:

Brittany Lee: The College of Wooster, in Ohio, on May 16.

Michelle Lynn Sanborn & Shannon Landry: UMaine Augusta in May.

Corey Underwood: Thomas College, Waterville; also named to dean's list for spring semester.

Heather Card, Robert Howard & Timothy McCabe: South Maine Community College.

Casandra Green: Becker College, Worcester, MA.

Dean's List

Emily Powers, named to first honors dean's list for spring 2011 semester at Clark University in Worcester, MA.

Chelsea Coffin, Amber Kienstra, Kathleen Kienstra, Julia Knowles, Kristin Orr & Maura Walker, named to spring dean's list, U of Maine.

Morgana Warner-Evans was honored with the Student Book Award from the Pejepsot Historical Society, an annual recognition of undergrad students who have "embraced the spirit of inquiry and demonstrated a love of history." A top student at Mt Ararat High, she, along with her sister, researched, wrote and per-

formed a play, "Le Moulin" about experiences of French-Canadians in Brunswick's Cabot Mill. ▲

Morse High Class of 2011 top scholars included **Alyssa Baxter**. She has been a contributing writer to *The Times Record*, and hopes to continue a career in media at either George Washington or Elon University. The daughter of **Mike & Tammy Baxter**, she served as an officer of the school's Interact Club, and volunteered for various local fund raisers. She has worked at JR Maxell restaurant, and earned academic awards in English, French, art, science and math; she also won the St. Anselm Book Award. ▲

TOWN CRIER



Reminder: Dog Licensing renewals for the 2012 year began on October 15, 2011, with a start date of January 1, 2012. Those dog owners who do not renew their licenses by February 1 will be charged a \$25.00 late fee in addition to license fees.

2012 Boat Registrations will begin December 1. Note a new option: Boat re-registrations for West Bath residents may now be done on-line at <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/>! Snowmobile Registrations for 2012 are available now.

Please note that any unpaid 2009 property taxes will go to foreclosure on January 13, 2012.

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@west-bath.org, or call us at 443-4342.

– Rob Morris, Town Clerk

Check Out the WBHS on the Web!

The Town of West Bath maintains an excellent website, which has a special section devoted to the West Bath Historical Society. Restoration efforts for the Littlefield School are shown, along with news and a list of our board members. We are adding historical photos and stories to the site. Most important, all back issues of *The Middle Ground* can be found there. Go to westbath.gov and enjoy!



THE MIDDLE GROUND

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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, paid advertising or political opinion.

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THE MIDDLE GROUND

West Bath Historical Society

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Lund's Grove / O'Brien's Hamburgers – State Road

In the late 1950's, an eatery called Lund's Grove stood at the corner of New Brunswick Road (now State Road) and Foster's Point. It was open only a few years. In 1965, it became O'Brien's Hamburgers. Locals remember both of them as similar to McDonald's. In fact, the arrival of a McDonald's in Brunswick likely led to O'Brien's demise.