

THE MIDDLE GROUND

Daily Life & History of West Bath, Maine

SPRING 2007 • PUBLISHED BY THE WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On February 3, 2007 the Town History Series, co-sponsored by the Patten Free Library and Bath Historical Society, featured a talk entitled "A Place to Stay and a Bite to Eat in Old West Bath." The topic was researched by our Archivist Kerry Nelson and presented by Trustee Kathy Totten. The standing-room-only crowd enjoyed stories and slides about clambakes, lunch rooms, drive-ins, restaurants, hotels, inns, campgrounds, cottages, taverns, and even a gin joint. Some establishments were well known, while others were a complete surprise to audience members. West Bath once served as something of a resort town, catering not only to the surrounding communities, but also to visitors from Boston and other areas. A few of the businesses lasted only one season, while others went on for years.

WBHS has received several requests to repeat the program. It will be presented to the Sabino Colony this summer and will also likely be offered as a full Society program some time this fall. In this issue of the Middle Ground we will "reveal" a part of the story – to tell the history of one of those popular restaurants.



Postcard view from the late 1940s. Courtesy of Aline Gilley.

Gil's Seafood Grille

By Kerry E. Nelson

In the local 1946-47 directory there was a listing for The Oaks, a tea room located at the top of Witch Spring Hill that was run by Mrs. Hazel M. Robbins. The Oaks, which was only open for a year or two, was actually a restaurant that served full meals including shore dinners. It was purchased in the late 1940s by Aubrey Steen who ran it with his wife for several years. It was known as Aubrey's Sea-Grille and later, when Mrs. Steen ran it alone, it was called the New Sea Grille.

By the early 1950s Trude and Aline Gilley were running the restaurant. They renamed the place Gil's Seafood Grille and served American food, specializing in both seafood and beef steaks. The Gilleys built an addition which greatly enlarged the seating capacity. There were two connected dining areas which made it easy to accommodate regular patrons or hold two banquets at once, as well as a counter and stools for those looking for a quick meal. It was a very pop-

ular place, open year-round, offering standard meals, and serving as a meeting place for organizations, bowling leagues, Brunswick Naval Air Station parties, and others.

The menu stayed pretty much the same throughout the years. There were several steak dinner combinations offered. For the princely sum of \$4.00, a customer could get (believe it or not!) "a Plate of Lobster Stew or Clam Chowder, Fruit Juice, Dinner Salad, Broiled T-Bone Steak with Three Green Vegetables,

Onion Rings, French Fried Potatoes, Homemade Rolls and Butter, Dessert, and Beverage." A shore dinner might have included, "Lobster Stew, Pickles, Crackers, Steamed Clams, Drawn Butter, Dinner Salad, Fried Clams, French Fried Potatoes, Large Hot or Cold Boiled Lobster, Homemade Rolls and Butter, Dessert, and Beverage." The price was \$3.75. For breakfast, the steak and eggs combo cost

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Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Suppa' – May 10

Hold the date! Thursday, May 10 at 6 o'clock. For the first time ever, we will be holding our meeting at the Old West Bath Meeting House! (Usually held in late April; it had to be postponed because of recent storms and resulting power outages.)

It promises to be an exciting evening, with a pot luck supper and brief business meeting, followed by a program inviting members of the audience to participate in sharing their memories of West Bath. Per-

haps you have some stories to share about the Littlefield School? Or the Meeting House? Or boating on the New Meadows? These are just a few of the possible topics. Please also bring any photos you might like to share.

Archivist Kerry Nelson will provide notebooks of West Bath history – mostly pictures and old news clippings and documents – for everyone to peruse and perhaps trigger even more memories.

– The Board of Directors

CHANNEL BUOYS



Weddings

Deborah Hennessey and Scott Price were married August 12, 2006 on the bride's family's property in West Bath. The service was officiated by the Rev. Madelyn Hennessey. The bride is the daughter of **David and Joyce Hennessey**. Her maid of honor was her sister, Sarah Curran.

Katherine Warburton and Brendan Lake were married on December 22, 2006 at the Robinhood Free Meeting House in Georgetown. The bride's parents are **Linda and John Dranchak** of West Bath.

Joanne Wallace and Daniel Carlton were wed August 12, 2006 in Bath. The groom is the son of **Jeff and Sue Darling** of West Bath and **Norman Carlton** of West Bath.

Jamie Pagurko and Lessie White, Jr., were married August 26, 2006 in Boothbay Harbor. The groom is the son of **Lessie, Sr. and Mary White** of West Bath.

Births

Hannah Elizabeth Card, born April 10 to Robert Clifford & Lisa Devon McPherson Card, Lisbon Falls. Grandparents include **Pamela Bourget** of West Bath.

Janelle Lanae Moore, born March 29 to **Lawrence Moore III & Thara Dakin** of West Bath.

Sadie Kathryn Swenson, born March 29 to Bryan Thomas & Julie Johnson Swenson, Woolwich. Grandparents include **Hank & Carole Swenson**.

Madison Jean Moody, born March 12 to Michael Moody & Ashley Spicer, Bath. Grandparents include **Debbie & Tom Vigne** of West Bath.

Alyssa Rose Hyson, born February 9 to Katie Cray & Neal Hyson of East Boothbay. Her great-grandmother is **Nancy Alexander** of West Bath.

Malerie Ann Lehman, born December 24, 2006, to **J. Michelle & Patrick Lehman** of West Bath.

Claire Amelia Clifford, born December 18, 2006, to **Courtney Ann & Derek Clifford** of West Bath.

Kai Hunter Anderson, born December 14, 2006 to **Patricia & Edward Anderson Jr.** of West Bath.

Wyatt Everett Kimball, born December 10, 2006, to **Rebecca & Walter Kimball III** of West Bath.

Arianna Noelle Hodsdon, born November 29, 2006 to **Heidi & Robert Hodsdon** of West Bath.

Ryan Jacob Gatti, born November 1, 2006 to Matthew John & Debra Marie Gatti, Woolwich. Grandparents include **Robert Sherwood** of West Bath.

Chloe Elizabeth Simmons, born October 22, 2006 to Brandon Simmons & Courtney Guth, Bath. Her grandparents include **Thomas & Elizabeth Guth**, West Bath.

Gil's Seafood Grille

Continued from page 1

\$1.25. For 85 cents more, you could order baked beans and bacon.

There was one food that was popular with the local men who stopped by Gil's that was not listed on the menu. When someone came in and ordered West Bath Scallops they would receive the treats breaded and deep-fried. Only it wasn't scallops that they were requesting; it was cut up hot dogs. What likely started as a joke became a favorite with some of the locals.

The Gilleys ran the restaurant until the early 1970s. Trude Gilley passed away in 1989. Aline still

Aubrey Elina Smith, born October 14, 2006 to Ron Smith & Amanda Thompson, Wiscasset. Grandparents include **Edward (Bud) & Barbara Thompson**.

WEST BATH

Student Honors

Brittany Lee was named a recipient of the 2007 Maine Principal Association Principal's Award.

Alexandra D.B. Cressey was named to UMA's dean's list for the fall '06 semester.

Michael Lemont and Chelsey Renaud were named to the dean's list for the fall '06 semester at the University of Maine, Orono.

Ashley Rogers, was named to the dean's List at St. Joseph's College for Fall '06 semester.

Mary T. Freeman, a senior at Morse, was named a commended student in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship program.

Army Pvt. **Robert A. Lloyd** recently graduated from basic combat training at Ft. Sill, Lawton, OK.

Special Birthday wishes to **Selma Sylvester** who turns 100 on May 10. She lives with her son **Don** and his wife **Jackie Sylvester** on Sabino.



An interior view showing the counter at Gil's. Courtesy of Aline Gilley.

lives on the second floor of the building. Her son, William, runs Gil's Body Shop on the first floor. ▲



COOK'S KORNER

Old West Bath was chock full of good places to eat. In a community history talk at the Patten Free Library this winter, WBHS members Kathy Totten and Kerry Nelson offered up the dish on over twenty establishments throughout the town that once had folks coming from miles around to savor West Bath food. Here are just a few of the recipes we found, with credit to the cooks.

Bumpa's Beans

Ralph Merry, Sr.,
The Out Post

- 4 lbs. beans (red kidney or pea)
- 1 lb. salt pork, in chunks
- 2 lg. onions, rough chopped
- 1½ cups molasses
- ⅔ cup brown sugar
- 2 tsp. dry mustard
- 2 tsp. salt

- ½ tsp. pepper
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- Worcestershire Sauce, to taste
- Gravy Master, to taste

Soak beans overnight. In the morning, parboil beans in water to cover for 20 minutes. Drain, then place in cast iron or stainless steel pot. Mix all seasonings and add to beans; mix well. Top off beans with boiling water. Add salt pork. Cover bean pot.

When fire in bean hole is ready, remove hot coals, leaving a good bed of coals in the hole. Place bean pot in the hole. Add reserved hot coals to sides and top of bean pot. Cover hole with some sort of metal cover. To keep moisture from escaping, soak burlap bags and lay over metal cover. Layer sand over bags. Cook beans for 8 hours.

Nor'easter Lobster Stew

Aline Gilley,
Gil's Seafood Grille

- ½ lb. fresh lobster meat (or one can lobster, including juice)
- 1 cup medium cream
- 3 cups whole milk
- 3 or 4 saltine crackers, finely ground
- ¼ lb. butter
- Salt and pepper to taste

Pick lobster over and into small pieces with fingers. This is to ensure removing all small pieces of shell. Melt butter over direct heat and fry lobster meat until a rich "lobster red" color, then add juice from can, cream, cracker crumbs, milk and seasonings.

Cook in a double boiler, slowly, for half an hour. Set aside to cool.

This is better if kept in refrigerator at least to the next day. Makes 3 to 4 servings. Heat before serving.

TOWN HALL NEWS

• Report on Town Revaluation:

Letters advising of the preliminary valuation amounts are expected to be mailed to all West Bath property owners in mid to late June, according to Pam Hile, Town Administrator. There will then be a 4-6 week period during which owners can make an appointment with Vision representatives (the outfit which conducted the reval) to "informally" review & discuss their assessment. Specific information on this process will be included in the letter.

• **Property Taxes:** For those who haven't yet paid, 30-day lien notices will be mailed June 14th for outstanding 2006 property taxes.

• **Resident Recreation Shellfish Licenses** are available - \$10 if you

are 16 or under, or 62+; \$20 for all others.

• **Mooring Permits** must be renewed for 2007. Cost is \$5 per mooring.

• **The Town Office will be closed** in observance of Memorial Day on May 28th.

TOWN MEETING WRAP-UP:

Election Day is Tuesday, June 12th. The polls will be open from 9am to 8pm. Positions** to be voted:

- 1 Selectman for a 3 year term
- 1 Road Commissioner for a 3 year term
- 2 School Board Members for 3 year terms each
- 1 School Board Member for a 1 year term

**note: all are uncontested positions, but there is a space for write-in candidates. Also for vote: Statewide Referendum on 2 bond issues.

Our **Annual Town Meeting** is Wed., June 13th, beginning at 6pm at the West Bath School. If necessary, it will continue on June 14th.

West Bath School Calendar

May 17th – Talent/variety show by students and staff at WBS

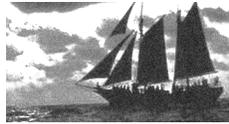
May 19th – Community yard sale to be held at the West Bath School. Tables are available for \$20 each. Call 443-9145

June 18th – Field trip to Thomas Point Beach

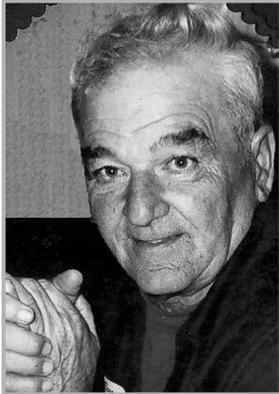
June 18th – Step up day for 6th graders - 5pm

June 19th – WBS walks the bike path

CROSSING THE BAR



Arthur J. Reno Sr., 81, of Bull Rock Road, died Friday January 19, following a lengthy illness, with his loving family at his bedside.



Arthur was a bit of a leg-end in West Bath, where he was very active in town government, serving in many different posts. In 2000, he received the Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award in appreciation of his service to the town for more than 60 years.

He was born in Bath in 1925, the son of Albert J. and Helen Turcotte Reno and attended local schools. He worked hard all his life, and started his own excavation construction business in West Bath which he ran for more than 55 years until illness recently forced him to retire at age 80. His wife told the Times Record that his hobby was his work and that he loved doing it.

He also enjoyed hunting and loved the family's pets. He was often seen in one of his trucks on the job with a dog or two right up there with him. Arthur was Road Commissioner for West Bath over a span of 51 years – until 2002. He had his hand in most every project the Town did during that time – from road improvements to building projects, including spearheading the Salt Shed project, building the West Bath School, and the Town Office. Former Selectman Ralph Merry recalls: "As selectmen we had several filing cabinets stored full of information for our needs at the Town Hall. However, if we asked Arthur to check something for us as Road Commissioner he would immediately reach into his file

(which was a crammed shirt pocket) and there it was. I have never seen a man with so much information in one shirt pocket!"

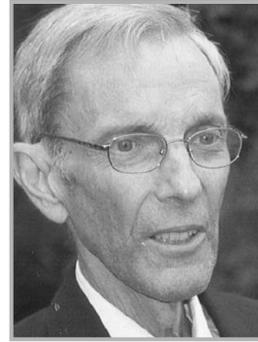
Lobster Chowder was Arthur's specialty and he would annually make a batch to bring in to the Town Office staff. Not only would he bring his delicious chowder, he would also supply the soup bowls, spoons, and chowder crackers to go with it. His chowder will not soon be forgotten by anyone who tasted it!

In 1990, he married **Patricia S. Perkins**. He was predeceased by a son, Arthur J. Reno Jr., and two brothers, Joseph and Philip. In addition to his wife of 16 years, survivors include two sons, Arthur J. ("A.J.") Reno and his companion, Maegan Rice, of Bath and **John E. Reno Sr.** and his wife **Laurel**, of West Bath; a daughter **Dede** and her husband, **Alex Lyons** of West Bath, a stepson, **Larry Babine** of West Bath; two sisters, **Virginia Ambrose** of West Bath and Demorise Swain of Bath; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

The Town of West Bath sent a contribution in his memory to the Coastal Humane Society.

Edward D. True II, 67, of Washington Street, Bath, died Saturday, January 20, peacefully at his home, surrounded by his family. Eddie, as he was known, was born in New York City in 1939, a son of Edward and Anna Eilertson True. He graduated from Morse High in 1957, and the Mass. College of Pharmacy in 1961.

In Oct. of '61, he married **Lynne M. Ryan** and they made their home in Bath, as well as a family camp on Birch Point and at Sugarloaf. He enjoyed skiing, snowmobiling, and especially treasured his time at Birch Point and boating on the Kennebec. (See memories of Eddie & his pals in a related story on Page 6.)



Edward D. True II

Upon graduation, Eddie joined his father and grandfather in the family drugstore, A. Hallet & Co., whose clock still remains a landmark on Front Street in Bath. He

served not only as pharmacist but also the maker of the justly famous Hallet's Ice Cream. In 1982, he joined Wellwood and then CVS in 1985, where he continued as pharmacist in the Bath Shopping Plaza store until his death. He was a member of the Phippsburg Congregational Church and proudly served as Chairman of the Board of Old Bath Custom House.

He was predeceased by a granddaughter, Anna Friend. He is survived by his wife of 45 years; five children, Kristine True Friend of Marlborough, Conn., Ellen Lee True of Portland, Karen True Winslow and her husband, John, of Falmouth, Edward Dale True of Woolwich, and **Abigail True Delano** and her husband, **Jeffrey**, of West Bath; a sister, **Sally Haggett** and her husband, **William**, of West Bath; five grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Phippsburg Congregational Church, P.O. Box 301, Phippsburg, 04562.

Ida C. Stover, 91, a 74-year resident of West Bath and recently of the Plant Memorial Home in Bath, died Thursday, April 19 at Hillhouse Assisted Living in Bath.

She was born in East Vasselboro in 1915, a daughter of Jerry and Bertina (Johnson) Colby. She attended Morse High School. In 1932, she married **Courtney E. Stover** in Bath, and they ran a dairy farm for 32 years until an exit from Leeman Highway was sited directly through their dairy barn, forcing an "eminent domain" sale to the State of Maine. The couple built a home



Ida C. Stover

across the road, where they lived until 2001. While they never farmed again, they devoted their energies to public service. He served in various posts in West Bath,

including chairing the West Bath School Building Committee and Road Commissioner, as well as Treasurer of Sagadahoc County for 18 years (a post Ida held after him), and as State Senator for 9 years. [See *The Middle Ground*, Oct-Dec 2003.] Ida served on the West Bath School Board for many years, and was Town Clerk from 1958 to 1978.

Ida was also a trustee of the Bath Memorial Hospital, a member of MidCoast Hospital Auxiliary, and of the West Bath Grange for 67 years. She was active in the Bath Garden Club and a member of the Cosmopolitan Club in Bath.

She was predeceased by her husband in September of 2003. Survivors include her son, **Jerrold Stover** and his wife, **Elaine**, of West Bath; her daughter Joyce Freeman and her husband Wendall of Dayton, OH; her sister, Charlotte Mitchell of Haverhill, Mass.; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Ida's life was not easy, her son, Jerry, told the *Portland Press Herald*. But she found love in a marriage that lasted 71 years, and the difficulties she encountered - first as a child and again in middle age - forged her "unusual determination." She was orphaned at 13, and after bouncing between various homes, she moved in with an aunt in West Bath during her teen years. As a student at Morse, she began

taking piano lessons from a local farmer's wife. It was there that she met Courtney, who was working on the farm. They fell in love, married and eventually took over ownership, caring for over 40 cows. The Stovers were true partners. Courtney delivered his farm's milk, but when he couldn't, Ida would make the rounds. The family didn't have much money, so Ida sewed her children's clothes. Even though neither she nor her husband had gone to college, there was no question that their children would. "It was just a great marriage," Jerry says, "and they were a team."

Other 2007 passings ...

Laura F. Racine, 85, died April 25 in Brunswick. Survivors include her sister, **Lorraine L. Johnson** of West Bath.

Magnhild C. Winter, 98, of West Bath died April 5. She is survived by her son, **Steven Winter**, of Foster's Point Road.

Shannon S. DeHahn, 62 of Brunswick died March 12 at a local hospital. Survivors include her daughter **Tracey Ellen DeHahn** of West Bath.

Julia "Judy" Avis Hilton Connors Hinkley, 84, died March 6 at Winship Green Nursing Center in Bath. Survivors include her sister, **Jeanette Kenney** and her husband, **Warren**, of West Bath.

Gerald Westley Brown, 75, of South Portland, died February 25 at Maine Medical Center. Survivors include his daughter, **Laurie E. Whitmore** and her husband, **Gregory**, of West Bath.

Helen E. Emerson, 84, of Topsham and West Bath, died February 1 following a long illness. Survivors include her daughter **Leslie Kalisz** and her husband, **Steven**, of West Bath.

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Raymond L. Schram, 68, died January 30 at a Jacksonville, Fla. Hospital. He spent the majority of his years at the Brunswick Naval Air Station, retiring in 1979 as a master of arms chief. Survivors include his daughter **Maria Renaud** and her husband, **Bud**, of West Bath.

Edward J. Jenks, 94, of Foster's Point Road died January 21 at Winship Green Nursing Center. He is predeceased by his wife, Marcella Lozier Jenks. Survivors include his daughter, **Tolanda E. Jenks** of West Bath.

Lester G. Munsey Jr., 90, died January 20 at his home in Phippsburg. Survivors include his brother **Russell Munsey** of West Bath.

Ann Miller Bowman, 65, of Ellington, Conn. died January 11 at her home. Survivors include her brother, **Donald W. Miller** and his wife, **Brenda**, of West Bath.

Dolores Celine Fournier, 67, of Brunswick, died January 7 at home after a two-year courageous battle with cancer. Survivors include her brother **Ben Favreau** and his wife, **Kathy**, of West Bath.

Lilliance M. Galuza, 85, of Woolwich died January 6 at Amenity Manor in Topsham. Survivors include her daughter **Juanita Jean Ponsiani** and her husband, **Raymond**, of West Bath.

Sally A. Nichols, 62, of Bath died January 7 at a Brunswick hospital. Survivors include her brother, **David P. Ladd** and his wife, **Barbara**, of West Bath.

Robert "Bob" T. Coffin, 90, of Brunswick died January 12 at Mid Coast Senior Center. Survivors include his son **Wayne Havey** of West Bath.

Harry B. Wood, 75, of Portland died unexpectedly while skiing on January 11. Survivors include his daughter **Susan Knowles** and her husband, **John**, and four grandchildren, including **Julia** and **Peter Knowles** of West Bath.

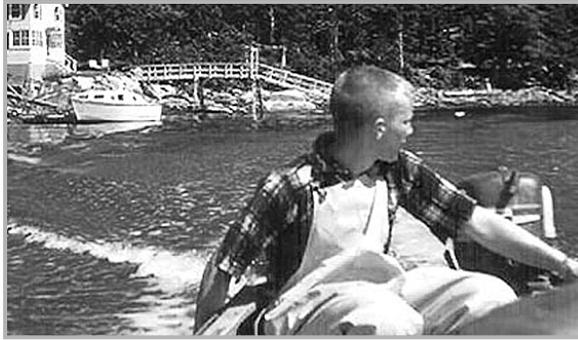
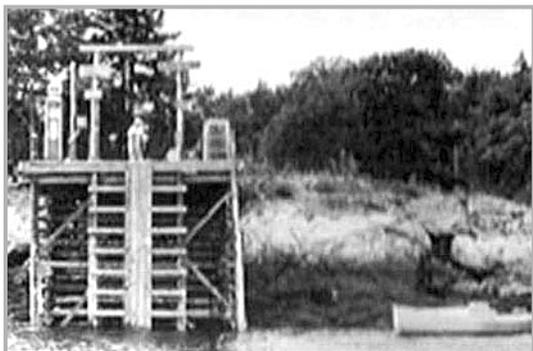
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Charlie & Eddie's Excellent Adventure

Dr. Charles (Charlie) Burden was a long-time Birch Point summer kid, as was Eddie True. Charlie was something of an entrepreneur even as a youngster; toting trash from the neighbors in a wheelbarrow, among other things. Eventually, while in college at Yale, he became a lobster fisherman and also built and ran a little wharf out at the end of Birch Point, to help fund his education. Recently, he shared a whole bunch of memories about those days, which he titled "The Rise & Fall of Burden's Marine Services." In this issue we will concentrate on Charlie's "partnership" with Eddie in the lobster/dock business. We will publish more of Charlie's stories in our next issue.

I started lobstering when I was 10. I built the wharf when in college. By 1953, Burden's Marine business was booming ... Enter Eddie True, III, son of Ed Jr. and "Grampy" True who owned and operated Hallet's Drug Store on Front Street in Bath. The Trues have had a cottage at Birch Point for many years, as well. At some point during this period, Eddie's family bought a genuine Hampton lobster boat, with an in-board gasoline engine (a 4-cylinder flathead out of a Jeep as I recall) which also powered a belt driven gypsy head for pulling traps; no more pulling traps by hand!

I don't remember all the details, as this was back in the 50's, but



Ed, in July 1959, on his first lobster boat, a West-pointer with an Evinrude on the stern.

Courtesy of Sally Haggett

Eddie and I ended up partnering one July. We used his boat and my traps. In the end, we had about 150 traps. The flat bottom skiff with the 25HP Johnson that I had been using up to this point (with no hauling winch by the way) was sold to another young upstart fisherman, Wayne Shaw I believe. I had been buying trap parts from an outfit in Yarmouth and assembling them in my cellar during vacations. Mrs. John Murphy knitted the heads for us in Sebasco; she was one of the finest persons I ever met (and a descendant of the Malaga Island folks). We usually got bait at the Sebasco freezer plant, mostly hake and herring.

Our joint venture went towards Ed's pharmacy schooling (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy), and my medical training at Harvard. However, lobstering was never great in Winnegance Bay and between expenses and taking girlfriends out to eat, my contribution to my education was meager, even though it cost only about three thousand a year for tuition, room and board back then.

Eddie, his Boxer, Jiggs (who always sat in the bow), and I would pull traps nearly every day. In later years, I would fish in the afternoon, as I had started working at the Bath Memorial

Hospital mornings. Once in a while we would take along a girl friend, so poor old Jiggs got replaced on those days.

My brothers, Bruce and David, tended the wharf while we were fishing; selling lobsters, gas, oil, sodas and any-

thing else they could find. All the local kids around Birch Point used the wharf as their club house for Hell-raising, playing cards, diving off the wharf, and maybe once in a while actually helping out. Their boats were always tied all around the float. One season we had built up a large saw dust pile, so we stored ice there for sale. However demand wasn't so good, so most of it melted before being sold. For a few summers we even managed to be featured in the Gulf Oil Cruising Guide as a place to buy fuel and oil.

Some of the lobster fishermen bordered on outlaws in those days, and I read in the paper that even today there are some lobster wars out around Matinicus. One summer, one of the local lobster families (names deliberately deleted) accused Ed of cutting their traps, which Eddie would never have done. In any case, the unnamed family showed up at Ed's Birch Point home, and threatened to burn it down. No shots were fired, at least not during that incident!

My brother Bruce, who departed us in 2006, made and painted up a "lobster for sale" sign for us; it is now on display in the lobstering exhibit at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath. The sign:

*"Lobsters 4 for \$1.00 one claws,
3 for \$1.00 small,
2 for \$1.00 large*

*Sold by Charlie Burden
Down on the Point"*

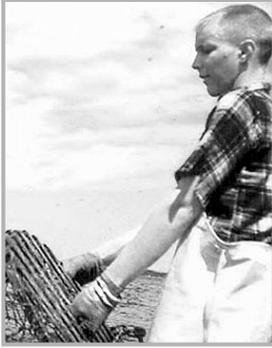
was nailed to a tree on Elbow Hill, a couple of miles up the road from the wharf.

Eddie and I got along super. We never quarreled, and frequently enjoyed a rum and Pepsi in the evenings. However, one Fall while unloading the traps from the boat up to the wharf for the season, Ed

Charlie's wharf. Reprinted from the Gulf Oil 1954 Cruising Guide.

Ed, at age 20, hauling a lobster trap.

Courtesy of Sally Haggett



did drop one on my head from about 10 feet above. I suppose I needed a few stitches. I don't really think he was aiming at me!

My third year in med school required more clinical experience which gave me little time for lobstering, so I finally gave it up. I don't remember if Eddie continued to fish, or not. But Ed True went on to finish pharmacy school and run the old family drug store. Sadly he passed away early this year. He was a great partner and life-time friend. ▲

Map Man Gets Help from WBHS

There is a fellow from Appleton, Tay Vaughn, who is creating useful and unique street maps of all the towns in each Maine county, with a labor-intensive process involving GIS databases. So far he has published complete maps for Lincoln, Knox, Waldo - and soon, Sagadahoc counties. The books are oversized at 11 x 17 inches, and are printed on high quality paper. The covers are heavy glossy stock and the inside pages are printed in 4 color high resolution - a town street map to each page. In addition to a complete street reference guide, he fills any extra space on the map for each town with photos, anecdotal tidbits and relevant illustration.

Right now, Vaughn is working on finishing the map book for Sagadahoc County, and expects to wrap things up in the next couple of weeks. Copies should be available for sale in early summer.

In the course of his research for West Bath, Vaughn came across a copy of "Flossie's Ginger Cookies", complete with a brief history of Flossie, her cookies and her friends, on our Town website. That recipe, in turn, came from our very own *Middle Ground* (with credit to the WBHS, of course!). Vaughn then contacted us to see if we had any more interesting graphics. Indeed we did and Kerry Nelson helped him out. It seems he will be showcasing our special line drawing of the Old West Bath Meeting House.

So we have helped provide a real West Bath flavor to the Sagadahoc County Street Maps! ▲

CROSSING THE BAR

Continued from page 5

David R. Reil Sr., 73, of Bowdoin, died February 18 at Brentwood Manor, Yarmouth. Survivors include his daughter **Cheryl Kreidler** and her husband, **Fred**, of West Bath.

Linda Woodward, 56, died January 3 in Scarborough. Survivors include her brother **Larry Garside**, and his wife, **Ginger**, of West Bath.

Joseph E. Brilliant, 42, died January 28 at home. He is survived by his parents, **Elzear E.** and **Jo Ellen Brilliant**, and a sister, **Jerrie Jo** & her husband, **Shawn Williams**, of West Bath.

And 2006 deaths ...

Elmer A. Avery, 87, died December 12. He is survived by his wife, **Barbara T. Avery** of West Bath.

Marie "Connie" Staples, 79, of Yarmouth, died December 7. Survivors include her daughter **Sybil Staples** and her husband, **Patrick Grover**, of West Bath.

Bernard R. Fraser, 81, of Bath died December 5. Survivors include his

daughter **Janet Cloutier**, and her husband, **Maurice**, of West Bath.

Ellsworth A. Brockett, 47, of Brunswick, died December 3. Survivors include his daughter **Tasha Welch** and her fiancé, **Pete Hudson**, of West Bath.

Alan S. Gardner, 56, of West Bath, died suddenly on November 9, 2006 at Mid Coast Hospital. He was born March 2, 1950 in Lynn, MA to Alfred and Alice Mooradian Gardner. He attended Bates College, taking a year to study at the Berklee College of Music. He was an accomplished musician, excelling at the G clarinet and the oud. He played a variety of Armenian, Arabic, Greek, and original music with his band, the Alan Shavarsh Bardezbanian Middle Eastern Ensemble. Al was also a professional martial arts instructor for more than 31 years and studied Karate and Kung Fu. He started his martial arts school, Wu Hsing Shan, on Front Street in 1975, teaching hundreds of local adults and children. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, **Suzan Steer**, of West Bath, as well as his father,

brother and sisters-in-law, several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Reta R. LeClair, 92, of Bath, died November 10. Survivors include a daughter, **Geraldine A. Braun** of West Bath.

Helen M. "Ollie" Sewall, 79 of Bath died November 3, at her home. She is predeceased by her husband Edward Sewall. Survivors include her son **Mark Sewall** of West Bath.

Dorothy E. Roderick, 81, of Woolwich, died October 26 at her home. Survivors include her daughter, **Dorothy Vachon** and her husband, **Ron**, of West Bath.

Shirley A. Robie, 57, of Topsham died October 24. Survivors include her brother, **George McLean** and his wife, **Bette Ann**, of West Bath.

Richard C. "Barnie" Barnes, Sr., 60, of Bath, died October 8. Survivors include his daughter, **Julie Simkins** and her husband, **Jason**, of West Bath.

Cindy J. Arthur, 46, of Battleground, WA, died October 1. Survivors include her brother **Ken Burnette** and his wife, **Laurie**, of West Bath.

Patten Free Library

New "Used Bookstore" to open May 12

The Friends of the Library are off on a new adventure - running a used bookstore open 6 days a week. It will be located just down the hill from the Library at 194 Front Street, making it easy to recycle the community's books. All donations can be carried in during store hours - even in summer. Volunteers will staff the store on four-hour shifts. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact Sandy Weiss at 443-5141 x 14 or sweiss@patten.lib.me.us.

Patten Free Library 30th Annual Book Sale

At the Winter Street Church
June 28, 5-8 pm Friends Members Preview Sale (\$10 membership will be available at the door)

June 29 & 30, 9am - 6pm
July 1, 11- 5pm
(Volunteers needed for sorting, transporting & selling. Please call: Jane Kresser 443-1535)

Book Discussion Series

In partnership with Midcoast Senior College, the library has been selected by the Maine Humanities Council to offer a book discussion series, "Defining Wilderness, Defining Maine." The series begins Tuesday, June 21 at 6 pm and continues every other week, ending August 16. Check with the library for the list of the six books to be read (which include *The Maine Woods* by Henry David Thoreau).

Although the program is free, attendance is limited to 25 participants. Advance registration is required. Please visit or call the Patten Free Library (443-5141, Ext. 11) to register.

THE MIDDLE GROUND

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To provide news items, historical photos or documents, or FMI, contact Avery (443.4449; or Kerry (443.3300).

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Gil's Seafood Grille, seen here after the expansion.

Courtesy of Aline Gilley