The Middle Ground

Daily Life & History of West Bath, Maine

SPRING 2012 • PUBLISHED BY THE WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Top Secret Radar Tower in West Bath

It was late December 1954 when news broke locally that an experimental electronics station was to be built in little old West Bath. It would consist of a tower and a small building. While its exact function was not clearly spelled out, press announcements from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said that the project was part of the Continental Air Defense research being carried out under a government contract by Lincoln Laboratories, an MIT research facility. It was said to be one of many similar stations being built around the US. The structure still looms over old Route 1, behind Dr. Coffin's garage.

The so-called "Cold War" was at its height. During 30 years, from 1945 to 1991, the powers of the Western world, led by the United States and its NATO allies, and the Communist world, led by the Soviet Union, its satellite states and allies, were locked in a continuous state of political and military tension. Remember President Regan's famous characterization of our "enemies" – imagined or real – as the "evil empire"?

All that has become past history with the fall of the Berlin wall and the break-up of the Soviet Union, in 1991. But in the '50's, the threat of nuclear annihilation was taken seriously. Because the radar structure would be so huge, Lincoln Labs had to make some details of the project public, but most of the work was labeled "top secret." Consequently, reported the *Bath Times*, "… the exact nature of the West Bath experimental station will undoubtedly be cloaked in

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The radar tower on "Jug Handle Hill," with its bold orange and white striped antenna, was up and running in the late 1950's. Note the vintage cars!

Radar tower top today (where the radar once rotated).

WB Historical Society Annual Meeting & Pot Luck: June 14, 6 PM

Our regular Annual Meeting will be held at the Old West Bath Meeting House on Berry's Mill Road on Thursday, June 14. It will include a pot luck supper, a brief business meeting and a special program on oyster harvesting by West Bath's "Winter Point" oyster man, Dave Hennessey and his crew. As a special bonus, we will also hold a demonstration (complete with complementary oysters!) of oyster shucking with a wicked newfangled oyster opener invented by Larry Schneider of Damariscotta. (Check him out on his website: www.awshucksoyster opener.com.) We will also be voting for prospective Board member, Beth Brewer.

The meeting is free and open to all in the community, although we encourage everyone to bring a dish – a casserole, salad or dessert – to share. This year, we are also asking that you come with your own plate and silverware, in order to save on paper waste. We will provide napkins, cups and drinks.

Come and bring your friends! We look forward to a great attendance this June!

– WBHS Board

Top Secret Radar Tower in West Bath

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secrecy for some time to come." And, from all reports, it was.

There was very little revealed to the public after that. We do know that by April work had begun with the development, design, construction, and ultimately the manning of the site – all under the general wing of Lincoln Labs. Security was tight. The 3.2 acre site, then known locally as "Jug Handle Hill," was leased to MIT from the land's owner William E. Webster, West Bath. The lease was for 3 years, with an option for three additional years. The area was bounded on three sides by Dark Grove, Bull Rock and Woods Roads. Mostly high, flat ledge, it is one of the highest spots in Midcoast Maine. Reading between the lines, in other words, it was a great place to build a radar tower to track incoming enemy bombers (although neither radar nor airplane tracking was specifically mentioned at the time.) In fact, it was reported years later that the Jug Hill site was chosen as a counterpart for the shoreline radar towers at South Truro, Mass, and Montauk Point, NY.

Bath attorney John P. Carey represented MIT. The general contractor was Bath's J.H. Miller, Inc., while the heating, electrical and plumbing contract was awarded to Northern Electric of Brunswick.

In July of '55, a long-shot photo of the partially finished structure was published in the paper. By late August, the jig was up. The actual radar antenna – one of the largest rotating antennas ever built – was being installed on top of the tower, so a bit more detail had to be released. But not much. According to local news reports, the tower was expected to be ready for "experimental use" in September. "It will be manned by four to six members of Lincoln Labs staff during experimentation with high-power radar waves."

The 120-foot antenna, painted with broad vertical white and international-orange stripes, rotating at 6 revolutions per minute, must have been an impressive sight. The antenna was built by D. S. Kennedy & Co., and the tower and antenna were erected by Robbins & White, Westbrook. (Note: the tower was built to specs that could withstand winds of 130 miles per hour!) Roofing and sheet metal work was done by Hahnel Bros., Lewiston, while Maine Line Fence Co. built the security fencing topped by concertina wire.

Many other details about the project were published much later, in various publications including MIT's science archives, and on a website called alternatewars.com. For instance, it was disclosed that there were many start-up problems with the experimental radar equipment. The radar was jamming mysteriously. The Lincoln Lab scientists figured out why. It turned out to be caused by a several factors: traffic noises from near-by Route 1; disturbances from rare aurora borealis disturbances far to the north, and interference from other radar equipment aboard military aircraft passing through the radar's coverage area. They fixed these problems by replacing the fixed-tuned magnetron in the transmitter with a tunable one. (And if you understand that, you are one fine scientist!)

Also, the rotation of the antenna, which weighed 47.5 tons, caused many headaches. The original design called for the heavy mass to be carried on sets of bogie wheels at the ends of a three-armed spider that were supposed to roll on a level circular track at the top of the tower. But the track was not smooth enough and the wheels soon wore out. Further design tests showed that this problem could be fixed. However, there was government pressure to find a fast fix, so they scrapped the first design and went to a large central ball bearing upon which the entire rotating assembly would ride. There were problems with that too, and they had to shut down for several months while the bearing was re-worked. The experience that Lincoln Laboratory gained in solving all these problems was shared with others in the defense industry, and led to subsequent successful designs in other early warning ballistic missile tracking systems around the country.

The radar tower today. Note the water tank inside, constructed in 1972 as an underwater research facility!

We in West Bath are lucky, because Elliot Rosen, a West Bath summer resident whose father (see page 6) headed the project, has given us some inside scoop. In his own words, *"My dad was the project manager on the old radar site on Witch Spring/State Rd back in the*

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early 1950's. That radar was part of the first early warning radar system built. He used to fly in on some tiny airplane and drive the local guys building it crazy because the track on the top had to be perfectly level for the radar to run around. He used to comment "they built things strong." It was hard to level the rail at the top because the whole thing was so heavily built. It finally worked though and as a testament to the guys who built it, it is still there almost 60 years later. It was because of those radars, and the need to carry data quickly on the phone lines, that he was put to work on the modem, [for which he was later credited as designing]."

Another West Bath observer, Pete Guild, adds his own reminiscence: *"I remember, as a kid, when "they" put up that radar tower, we all used to get a "blip" on our TV screens when the scanner made its rounds."*

The Jug Handle Hill site was closed in November 1962 and the huge antenna dismantled and taken away. In 1972 the tower was re-purposed, oddly enough, as an underwater research facility, with a huge water tank built inside the once-open structure. But that's a story for another issue of *The Middle Ground,* and there is another interesting West Bath connection. Stay tuned!

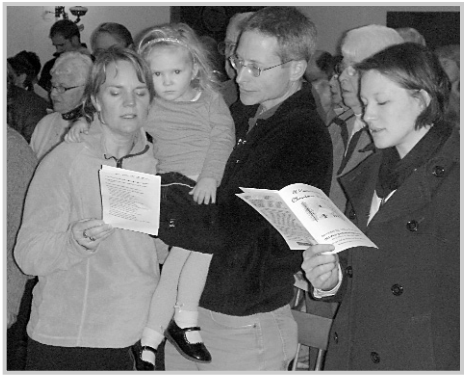
Meanwhile, the tower still stands tall, festooned with assorted modern antennas, used today for cell phones, mobile police and fire communications and data links. As an article in a current Lincoln Laboratory Journal deadpanned, "The old sword has been beaten into a modern plowshare."

Although today the US has no real worries about Soviet aiming weapons of destruction on our shores, *a la* Dr. Strangelove, we certainly do have new worries since 9/11. However, that horrific attack is something a now antiquated and partially dismantled radar tower could never in a million years have been able to predict or detect.

– Avery Meyers

CHRISTMAS SERVICE WAS A BIG SUCCESS

Once again, our annual community Christmas service on December 20th was a well attended affair, drawing more than 75 people of all ages to our festive holiday event at the Old West Bath Meeting House. Rev. Mark Wilson, back by popular demand, presided over the crowd with his usual wit and thoughtful insights. Susie Knowles pumped the old Estey organ to beat the band and everyone sang with gusto. Various bible passages were read by Peter Oceretko, Stephanie Batterman, Abbe Yacoben, Fran Zaborowski, and Sally Graves, while West Bath's resident Buddhist monk, Tim Buckley, offered a Buddhist prayer for peace. Many donated home-baked holiday sweets, which were enjoyed by all. It was indeed a merry evening.



Singing carols at the Christmas service.

Susie Knowles at the organ.

COOK'S KORNER

It's time to talk oysters, especially since the West Bath Historical Society's up-coming annual meeting will feature our own local oysters. How to grow them, harvest them, market them and, yes, even a new fangled way to shuck them! Here are two Maine favorites:

Escalloped Crabmeat & Oysters (from *Cooking Down East,* Marjorie Standish)

1-2/3 cups fresh crabmeat
1 pint oysters
2/3 cup butter
1/3 cup flour
1 pint rich milk, or half and half
1-1/3 cups fine bread crumbs

Directions: Make a white sauce of 1/3 cup butter, 1/3 flour, milk, and salt & pepper to taste.

Clean oysters. Pick over crabmeat, removing all thin, flat bones (canned crabmeat is delicious also in the recipe).

Cook crumbs in remaining 1/3 cup butter, until they are brown.

Grease casserole with butter and arrange layers of white sauce, flaked crabmeat, oysters and crumbs. Top with remaining crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Serves 6.

Oysters Casino (from *Maine's Jubilee Cookbook*)

1 pint oysters, shucked
1/2 cups minced green pepper, ½ cup cooked bacon, minced
1 tbsp lemon juice

Directions: Shuck and drain oysters, arrange on a greased oven-proof platter. Sprinkle with the green pepper, bacon and lemon juice, and a good grind of fresh pepper. Bake in a hot 450 degree oven for 10-15 minutes. Serve hot.

Enjoy!

Mudfog Organ Man Comes to West Bath

Allen Myers documenting the Meeting House organ.

Allen Myers, sole owner of Mud-Fog Reed Organ Revival, is a well-known organ expert in Maine. From his Brooklin home, he travels all over the state and beyond to evaluate, repair and often catalogue organs. His specialty is the old-time pump – or so-called "reed" organs – that still abound in old churches, Grange Halls and private houses throughout New England and elsewhere.

In fact, Myers was the magic man who restored West Bath's historic old pump organ ten or so years ago, thanks to the efforts of Robin and Erik Hansen who delivered it in their truck down to Allen's workshop for much needed repairs. It now resides, fully operational and in grand splendor, at the Old West Bath Meeting House.

Recently, Myers revisited the Meeting House to document our organ, in his official role as national Secretary for Reed Organ Society, which keeps track of such things. He determined, from the dusky original label on the back of the organ, that it was built in 1880, Serial #175788 by the Estey Organ Company of Brattleboro, Vermont, (which still exists as a museum) and our historic organ is now officially registered in the Society's international data base. So far, about 4500 of the 3 million pump organs originally built between 1870 and 1920 have been registered by the Society.

While he was photographing and checking the tuning of our Estey, he was advised of the wreck of another reed organ (having been saved at the last minute during restoration construction) that now resides in the crawl cellar of the Littlefield School.

Next stop, then, for Allen was the school. He determined that it was made by Carpenter Organ Co., the original reed organ manufacturer in Brattleboro which was bought out by Estey in the late 1800's. He diagnosed that the poor old organ (which served many musical moments at the school in its heyday) was probably beyond redemption. But he was quite taken with it because of its very unusual feature: a dial mounted above the keyboard. Myers said he had never before encountered an organ with such a dial, although he has heard of them. So he was doubly thrilled. Following his visit, Myers submitted our information to the Reed Organ Society and we now have ornate certificates of authentication to validate the provenance of both our historic organs.

The organ at the Old West Bath Meeting House.

And here is what he told us in a letter afterward about our old school organs: "The Carpenter is an interesting instrument. Based on the available serial numbers in the Reed Organ Society database, I am guessing a reasonable date would be 1890. The database also includes several Carpenters with the little dial in the middle. There are no cases in the data base as decorated as your instrument.

"Although any instrument can be restored if money is no object, the Carpenter is not a great candidate for professional restoration. It would make a wonderful "labor of love" project for a person handy with tools and possessing lots of patience. Though the top is missing, most of the other case pieces are there, and the action is all present. Stopknobs (there are two missing) can be purchased new. The reeds need to be cleaned – but they, too, are all there. There are several good resources for anyone wishing to undertake such a project (the "Aunt Maude" series on the Reed Organ Society site is one excellent step-by-step guide).

"There is much to be learned through such a project. One caveat is

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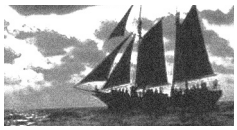
CROSSING THE BAR



Shirley Morong, 93, died Sept 1 in St Albans, Vt. She was born in Bath in 1908, and was a graduate of Morse High. In 1934 she married Clifton Morong, who was a Coast Guard Lighthouse Keeper. She spent most of her married life living in lighthouses, where she raised four children, and wrote prolifically about her experiences. She also had a regular column in National Fisherman's newspaper for many years. Shirley is survived locally by many relatives, including her grandson **Tom Morong** & his wife **Deanne,** and granddaughter, **Melissa Haggett** and her husband **Sam,** of West Bath.

Laura M. Larrabee, 94, died Sept 15 at her son's home in Ellsworth. Born in Wiscasset, she married **Harry S. Larrabee Jr.** in 1935 and they made their home in West Bath. She was a member of the Winter Street Church, and later the UCC Church in Bath; she was also active with the Red Cross, American Heart Association, and the Cub and Boy Scouts. She is predeceased by her husband; survivors include her son, two grandsons, seven great grandchildren and a great-great granddaughter.

Ruth A. Smith, 79, died Sept 23 at Midcoast Hospital. She was born in Swanville, Maine in 1932 to Percy & Gladys Larrabee. Among her many survivors are her four daughters, including **Lisa Young Bumgardner** & her husband **Denton,** of West Bath.

Lauraine Thomas Pluto, 64, of Birch Point, died Oct 1 after battling pancreatic cancer. She was born in Beverly, MA and was raised in Rockport, MA and Brunswick, graduating from Brunswick High in 1965 and Bates College in 1968. She spent many years raising her children and working with the Brunswick Music Theater. She was also active in the Brunswick Skating Club, where she met the love of her life, **Joseph Pluto,** a naval officer, whom she married in 1977. They were stationed in various foreign ports from the Azores to the Philippines. Lauraine continued her interest in skating, serving as a judge for the US Figure Skating Assoc. She also assisted West Bath as an election clerk and often hosted the Birch Point association annual meetings at her home. In addition to her husband, she is survived by their daughter, Laurie Pluto, and her partner Jason Strong of Hebron, as well as her two sons from a prior marriage, Jim and Bill Gameros, of Gray and Dallas, Texas, respectively, and several granddaughters.

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

Donald Scott Meyers, 70, of West Bath, died peacefully on Oct 15 at Coastal Manor in Yarmouth after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's.

He was born in Schenectady, NY, in 1941, and graduated in l963 from the New York Maritime Academy. He sailed freighters throughout the Pacific and Far East until he was drafted by the Navy. He wanted to be a pilot, but the Navy valued his nautical skills and would not promise him an aviation slot. Not to be discouraged, he appealed to the Air Force; took an aptitude test, and was accepted immediately. He earned his wings in 1966 and became a highly decorated fighter pilot, flying almost 200 combat missions in Viet Nam. In recognition of his service, he was decorated

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Mudfog Organ Man

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that reed organs have very little value in the current market, so fixing it up as a fund raiser is not a great idea. On the other hand, the Sedgwick (ME) Historical Society uses their restored reed organ in musical demonstrations at their one-room school – reed organs were common in schools before the advent of cheap pianos."

He also added that it would be useful to him if we could dig up any further information on this organ. Does anyone remember anything about the organ in the school? Better yet, does anyone want to take on the daunting restoration project? If not, Myers has said he would take our carpenter for parts in other restorations.

For more on the Reed Organ Society, I recommend going to their website, reedsoc.org. It is fascinating. Or for a tuneful video of this majestic old organ in play, visit the following site: www.youtube.com/watch?v=shkDFweKLko. (Sorry about the odd capital letters, but apparently they are necessary.)

– Avery Meyers

Reminder to WBHS Members:

Annual Dues of $10 (which helps pay for upkeep on the Littlefield School and Old West Bath Meeting House) are renewable in June. Bring a check, made out to WB Historical Society, or cash, to our Meeting on June 14! Or mail to WBHS, PO Box 394, Bath 04530. You will make our treasurer, Pete Guild, very happy! Note: you may also get an e-mail reminder. Of course, we welcome new members as well. Thanks.

Crossing the Bar

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with 14 Air Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross, which cited "… Meyers' heroism in military operations as an F-4 Phantom II pilot, while he was assigned at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, Vietnam."

After his service, he attended graduate school at New York University, earning an MBA in economics. He worked as an economist for various Wall Street firms during the 80's. Later, he was an investment consultant, retiring in the late 90's.

Don, and his wife **Avery** moved to Maine in 2000, where he indulged in his second love after flying; sailing. He was a skilled carpenter and boat builder, and also a genuine computer geek, having built his own computer in the early 70's. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his brother Michael & his wife Clair of Penfield, NY; two children: Alexandra Schneider & her husband Chris of Simi Valley, CA; Christian Meyers of Seattle, and a close foster son, Richard Snyder & his wife Mary of Milwaukie, OR, and five grandchildren. A celebration of his life is planned for this summer.

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

Phyllis M. Inda, 81, died Oct 18 at Winship Green in Bath. Among her survivors is a son, **Robert Inda** & his wife **Cheryl,** West Bath.

Lucille R. Brillant, 90, of Topsham, passed away Nov 17 at Hill House in Bath, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Among her survivors is her son, **Raymond Brillant** of West Bath.

Harold E. Emerson, 73, of Brunswick, died Nov 21 at Bodwell House. Among his survivors is a son, **Jeff Emerson** & his wife **Gina,** of West Bath, and five grandchildren.

Shirley H. Murphy, 91, of Phippsburg, died Dec 1 at Mid Coast Hospital. Among her survivors are four brothers, including **Richard Alexander** of West Bath, two daughters; seven grandchildren; nine great grandchildren, and a great-great grandson.

Lester D. Oliver, 71, of Phippsburg, died peacefully at home on Dec 9 with family by his side. Among his survivors is his son, **Michael Clinton** & his finance **Liz Ring** of West Bath.

Elwin C. Smith, 89, of Bath, died Dec 15 at Mid Coast Hospital. For many years he worked for New England Tel & Tel in Lewiston, until he was promoted and transferred to Bath, retiring in 1985. He spent much time with his family at their cottage on New Meadows River in

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Paul Rosen, 88, died July 20, 2010 of congestive heart failure at his cottage in West Bath. He and his family have been summer residents on Mountain Road since 1969.

An electrical engineer, he is widely recognized with helping develop the high-speed modem in the mid-1950s, which spurred revolutionary progress in the burgeoning telecommunications industry. Rosen was born in Boston in 1922. His parents were Jewish immigrants from Russia, and he grew up in ghettos in suburban Boston. His father's first job in the United States was washing milk cans at a dairy.

Rosen said he became fascinated with engineering while toying with old crystal radios as a teen. At Tufts University, Rosen said he received a "lousy education" and made money working in the school's machine shop, where he made cast-iron ingots for 40 cents an hour. He graduated with a degree in electrical engineering in 1944 and joined the Navy. After stints as an enlisted sailor and deck officer, Rosen spent the rest of his Navy service in Guam with a logistics company, supervising the loading and unloading of ships. The two supplies that Rosen said they never ran out of were shaved ice and beer.

Rosen began working at MIT in the late '40s, where he later received a master's degree in engineering. He became a leader in the communications and mechanical engineering divisions and oversaw development of radar systems, satellites and data encryption systems at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, and directed the installation and operation of the innovative radar station in West Bath.

Rosen went back to school in the early 1970s for a second master's degree in psychiatric counseling from Boston University and volunteered as a crisis and intervention responder in Cambridge. In 1992, he moved to Deerfield Beach, Fla., and taught courses on existentialism for senior citizens at Lynn University in Boca Raton.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, **Annette Braverman Rosen** of Silver Spring, MD and West Bath; his sons, Mark Rosen of Auburn, Calif., Bruce Rosen of Newton, Mass., and Elliot Rosen of Takoma Park, Md.; a sister; and five grandchildren. *[Editor's note: We regret the omission of Mr. Rosen's obituary in our last issue. His son Elliot, who still summers here, contributed important information about Rosen's involvement with West Bath's old Radar Tower, see pg. 2.]*

Crossing the Bar

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West Bath. Among his many survivors is **Ruby,** his wife of 65 years.

Keith E. Thompson, 56, of Woolwich, passed away at home surrounded by his loving family on Dec 17. Born in Bath in 1955, the son of Edward (Bud) & Barbara (Holderness) Thompson, he grew up on Berry's Mill Road in West Bath, graduating from Morse High in 1974. He then worked for BIW, retiring in December of 2011. He met his best friend and true love, **Debi Brown,** in 2007 and the couple married on Dec 6, 2011 as a symbol of their love. He was a true friend to all and was a great collector of things, especially antique tractors. He was also a history buff – the go-to guy for any information about local history. He was a member of the Bath Elks, Maine Antique Tractor Club, and the Wiscasset Rod & Gun Club.

Keith was predeceased by his mother, and, in February of 2012, Bud also passed away (see his obituary below). In addition to Debi, Keith leaves behind his two daughters, Amanda and Melissa Thompson; two sisters, Karen Allard & her husband and Gail Dill & her husband; three grandchildren; three nieces, and one nephew and their families.

Norman Arthur "Mike" Marriner, 96, of Brunswick died Dec 22. Among his survivors is his niece, **Linda Henderson** of West Bath. (Note: his late wife taught at Littlefield School.)

Shirley Margaret Osborne, 92, of West Bath died Dec 24 in Pembroke, MA while visiting her son for Christmas. Born in Bath in 1914, she was the daughter of John & Ethel Warner and attended Bath schools. She worked for many years at Bath Memorial Hospital until retiring 10 years ago. Shirley was predeceased by her husband, **Charles;** her sisters, Althea Osborne, Barbara Rideout, Marion Reeder, Priscilla Wood, Doris Warner, and a brother, John Warner Jr. She is survived by her two sons and their extended families.

Cora E. Pennell, 89, of Bath, died Dec 22. She was born in West Bath in 1922, a daughter of Frank & Rita White Durant, and graduated from Morse High in 1941. She married Leon Pennell in at Pensacola Naval Air Station in 1944. The next year they returned to Bath and began raising a family. "Grammy Cora" was predeceased by her sister, Edna Lee; her brothers Austin Durant, Gene Libby and Fred Bolduc; her first daughter and a granddaughter. Surviving are her husband "Penn", two sisters and a brother; four daughters and an "honorary" daughter, **Sue Rodgers** & her husband **Phil** of West Bath; 7 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and many relations and friends.

Edward S. (Bud) Thompson, 82, a longtime resident of West Bath on Berry's Mill Road, died Feb 18, 2012. He was born in Bath in 1929, a son of Edward K. and Edna Dunton Thompson. He lived and worked in the area his whole life. An excellent mechanic, he put his skills to work for Bath Bus Service, Dodge Chevrolet and BIW. He enjoyed woodworking, camping, his cats, and just "puttering" around the house. When the West Bath Historical Society was restoring the Old West Bath Meeting House in 2002, Bud carefully restored all the old wooden shutters on the historic 1839 building.

Thompson was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, **Barbara,** and his son, **Keith,** just two months before. He is survived by his daughters (and Keith's sisters, named above); his brother, Perry Thompson of Virginia; six grandchildren: Roger, Jolene, Amy, Cathy, Amanda & Melissa, and 12 great-grandchildren. The family wishes to thank the staff at Hill House who cared for him in his last years. A graveside service and remembrance will be held at a later date at Orchard Hill Cemetery, West Bath.

CHANNEL BUOYS

BIRTHS

Ryan Michael Cunio, born Sept 4, to Matthew & Sarah (Dranchak) Cunio, Bath. His grandparents include **John** & **Linda Dranchak** of West Bath.

Amelia Claire Mitchell, born Sept 28, to **Gerald Jr.** & **Jennifer (Donnell) Mitchell,** West Bath. Grandparents are **Carol** & **Frank Donnell,** also of West Bath.

London Eden Wallace, born Oct 23, to **Madeleine Leona Hill** & **Daniel Louton Wallace Jr.** of West Bath.

Zander Mitchell Willoughby-Bertrand, born Nov 15, to **Jared Bertrand** & **Heather Willoughby-Bertrand** of West Bath.

Peyton Theresa Frohmiller, born Dec 8, to **Joy Michele (Burch)** & **Chad Eliot Frohmiller** of West Bath.

ACADEMIC MILESTONES

Mary Tibbetts Freeman, daughter of **Barrie** & **Lois Freeman** received a BA in art and history from Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., in June of 2011. She graduated *magna cum laude,* and received highest honors for her history thesis. She was also named to Phi Beta Kappa, and awarded the Russell Bostert Summer Travel and Robert Scott Prize for Graduate Study in history.

Kelsey White was named to Dean's List at Wheaton College for the Fall, 2011 semester. She is the daughter of **Robin White,** formerly of West Bath. She graduated from Morse High, Class of 2011.

TOWN CRIER

Spring & Summer Calendar: Election Day this June is Tuesday, June 12th, and will include the Primary Elections to determine each party's nomination of candidates for US Senate and Representative to Congress, and qualified State and County offices. (The Office of President is not included in Primary Elections in Maine; each party's nomination of a presidential candidate is done at party conventions held during the Presidential Election year.) We will also have a ballot for one Board of Selectmen's term and the RSU#1 Budget Validation ballot.

Our Annual Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 13th beginning at 6:00 pm at the West Bath Elementary School.

Reminders: Have you registered your boats, ATVs and trailers? Need a new fishing license or resident recreational shellfish license? Have you renewed your mooring permits? West Bath residents may now renew Boat registrations online with Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Find them online or click the link on the town's web site: www.westbath.org.

Permits are now required to park at the Sabino Boat Landing where designated by signs. Pick up one-year $5 permits at the Town Office – FMI call us at 443-4342 or see the Ordinance on the town's web site.

Please Note: The lien process for unpaid taxes from 2011 begins in June.

Meeting Notifications: Residents who want e-mail notification of any Town or Committee work session or other public meeting may submit their email address to the Town Clerk at townclerk@westbath.org, or call us at 443-4342.

– Rob Morris, Town Clerk

THE MIDDLE GROUND
Vol. 13, No. 1 • Spring 2012
Published by the
West Bath Historical Society
PO Box 394, Bath, Maine 04530

Board of Trustees & Editors:
Avery Hunt Meyers, President
Pete Guild, Treasurer/Secretary
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Ivon Boyer, Cindy Fahay,
Sally Graves, Nicole Nelson
Kerry Nelson, Archivist; Betty Fitzjarrald, Littlefield School Advisor

Contributors: Sally Graves, Kerry Nelson, Rob Morris
Designer: Tim Nason
Distribution: Carol & Bill Hochgesang

We publish researched historical materials, local news and events that may be of later historical interest. We do not print gossip, paid advertising or political opinion.

To provide news items, historical photos or documents, or FMI, contact Avery (443.4449) or Kerry (443.5118)

THE MIDDLE GROUND
West Bath Historical Society
PO Box 394
Bath, Maine 04530

A dramatic shot of the Radar Tower on "Jug Handle Hill" in West Bath in full operation in the 1950's, built by MIT's Lincoln Laboratory as a state-of-the-art secret air defense station.