

Home

Events

Membership

Publications

Newsletter

Photos

Links

Finding Aid

About Us

Order Form

Contact Us

THE SOU'WEST VOYAGE

November 2009

Traditions and Records :

Norwood Cove, Southwest Harbor, Greening Island, Manset, Seawall

Southwest Harbor Historical Society

- Phil Whitney, President
- Janet Patton, Vice President
- Rebecca Carlson, Secretary
- Wayne Patton, Treasurer

Board of Directors

- John & Becky Burnham
- Kathe Falt
- Bruce Komusin
- Bernie Mauger
- Joe Marshall
- Fred Pinkham
- Ralph Stanley
- Warren Worcester

New Members

- Jim & Maxine Carroll
- Pam Priest
- Laura Phillips
- David & Janice Reed
- Bob & Danielle Davis

Monies Given in Memory of

Contributions

Visit us at:
www.SWHHS.org

We Can Identify Pemetic Baseball Team 1952



Front: Bernard Woods, Carlton Dow, Reggie Smith, Lowell Woods, Merton Murphy

Back: Raymond Billings manager, Jay Boomer, John Moore, Jack Gilley, Coach Anibal Oliver, Everett Kelley, Richard Smith, Dave Paine, Edwin Brown.

President's Report

The hectic rush of the summer is over. The Summer Program Series has ended, concluding another popular and satisfying season. We enjoy bringing these nights filled with memories to you, and we especially enjoy the gratifying responses we constantly receive from you, the audiences. These positive comments reinforce our determination to improve and expand our Historical Society, and to continue bringing you the best quality entertainment and memories possible. We encourage you to keep attending our events, but also to offer any ideas or suggestions for future programs that might intrigue you, historical topics of SWH history which we may not have explored yet. We are open to any suggestions.

I have mentioned in other articles in this newsletter our plans for this coming winter. We will be busy as always, as well as having some good times and sharing a few good anecdotes and laughs in the process. There are many worse ways to spend winter nights in SWH than getting together for Historical Society meetings and project workshops. We encourage you to join us. You all have memories of SWH to share. Some of you may have some special skills which could help us with projects. You don't have to be an Officer or Director to participate. You just have to drop by when we have a meeting or workshop scheduled. It will cost you nothing, but the rewards can be substantial. There are a growing number of SWH residents who are dropping by, and contributing in various ways. The preparation of the Manset / Seawall Historical Photo Book has drawn sizeable numbers of neighborhood folks to the workshops, often resulting in lively, laugh-filled evenings full of reminiscing. Isn't that more satisfying than sitting home just watching the tube? Others have provided support for some of our programs, such as the Pemetic Sports Night. They weren't even necessarily members of the Society. Photos were shown from the Patton Collection. Highlights included memories of the 1957 Class M Basketball Championship team, Harold Hatch's dramatic New England Cross-County Championship Run, and the enormously-talented semi-pro SWH town basketball teams who often played (and defeated) bigger city teams around the State of Maine. An extensive collection of school sports memorabilia was on display, including scrapbooks, uniforms, letters and photos. Heartfelt thanks to Maxine Carroll, Pam Priest and all

those who spent many hours preparing in support of this show. A wonderful night was had by all, Pemetic High School came away victorious once again!

Finally, capping another fine season of memories, we presented in October the "History of SWH Fires." The Patton Photo Collection revealed vivid scenes of numerous local fires which occurred from the late 1800's onward, with no section of the town spared. The worst fire (1922) destroyed most of the SWH Business District. Also noted were the dramatic improvements in firefighting capabilities over the years. We look forward to another great season of nostalgic presentations next summer.

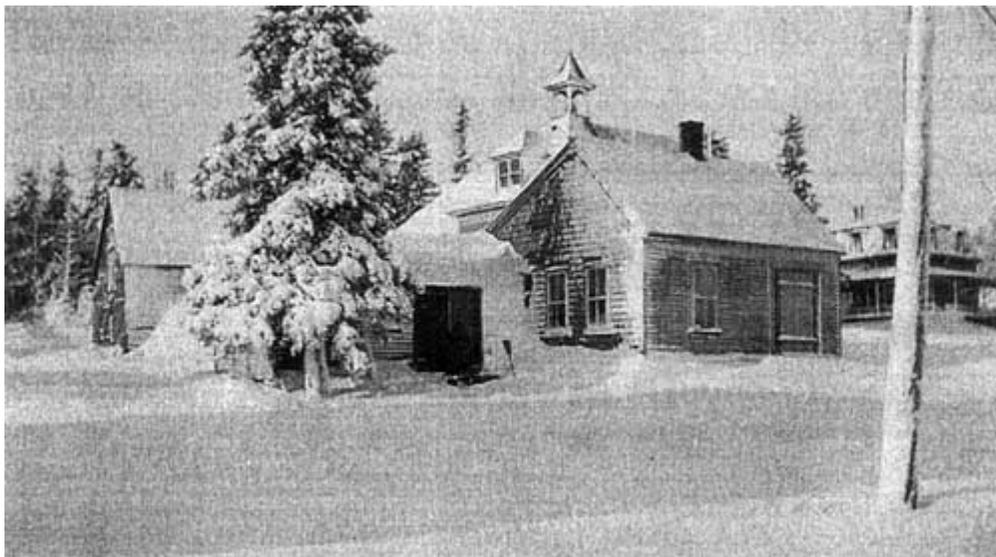
Phil Whitney
President

Last Issue's Where and When?



Dirigo Hotel, which was located at the head of the Dirigo Road on the High Road. It burned during a hurricane in 1960.

Where and When?



The answer will be in the next issue of The Voyage.

This is the final issue of the Sou'West Voyage for 2009. We again would like to thank everyone for their continued support and we hope you have enjoyed our newsletter. A reminder to everyone that your

membership is up for renewal in January of every year. There is a membership form in every newsletter, so be sure to pull it out and send it in now while it is fresh in your mind. See you next year.

In Memoriam

We are saddened by the loss of several members of our community:

- Agnes "Aggie" Butler
- Marilyn MacDuffie
- Russell Pettigrove

We have been receiving emails and mail from people who have questions they would like answered. We have decided to add a new section to our newsletter. We hope you enjoy it, and help answer their questions.

Recent Activities

Since our last "Voyage" we have presented three well-received historical programs to complete the 2009 Summer Program Series. The August show teamed SWHHS Directors John Burnham and Bernie Mauger, an unlikely detective duo, who investigated rumors of the mysterious "Wreck of the Grand Design", which allegedly occurred at Seawall in the 1700's. Their findings revealed no such wreck ever occurred at Seawall, but rather near Grand Manan Island in New Brunswick, much to the shocked disappointment of the audience. After the crowd calmed down, and no further tomatoes were observed being thrown at them, we complimented them for their thorough research, even though the truth sometimes hurts. (They were escorted by security officials safely to their vehicles.)

In September, Director Fred Pinkham led the charge onto the court as the SWHHS hosted a "Pemetic Sports History" night at the fondly-remembered former Pemetic High School Building. A large, emotional hometown crowd was present to relive the glorious sports days of the past. Pinkham dribbled, weaved, and passed the ball to teammates Jack Gilley, Jim Carroll, Harold Hatch, Bob Davis, Dave Benson and many others, who showed their individual skills in relating stories and recalling memories of the high school and town teams we all loved from many years ago. Basketball, baseball, cross-country and cheerleading were all discussed. Many photos were shown from the Patton Collection. Highlites included memories of the 1957 Class M Basketball Championship team, Harold Hatch's dramatic New England Cross-County Championship Run, and the enormously-talented semi-pro SWH town basketball teams who often played (and defeated) bigger city teams around the State of Maine. An extensive collection of school sports memorabilia was on display, including scrapbooks, uniforms, letters and photos. Heartfelt thanks to Maxine Carroll, Pam Priest and all those who spent many hours preparing in support of this show. A wonderful night was had by all, as Pemetic High School came away victorious once again!

Finally, capping another fine season of memories, we presented in October the "History of SWH Fires." The Patton Photo Collection revealed vivid scenes of numerous local fires which occurred from the late 1800's onward, with no section of the town spared. The worst fire (1922) destroyed most of the SWH Business District. Also noted were the dramatic improvements in firefighting capabilities over the years. We look forward to another great season of nostalgic presentations next summer.

Phil Whitney, President

The Southwest Harbor Historical Society wants to bring to your attention the now six-month-old Straus Center Adult Day Program at 16 Community Lane in Southwest Harbor. This wonderful and needed place was created from the hard work of Dr. Julian Kuffler and the generosity of Donald and Beth Straus and friends. Debra Chalmers is the program director, Karen Strunk is the Program Assistant and Peggy Lewis is another assistant. All three do a great job making it a happy, peaceful and relaxing place to be.

They are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM and their daily activities include Coffee Chats, Morning Snacks, News Reviews, Stretch & tone walks, Noon Meal (And the food is first class), Garden Gazing

(a beautiful spot), Music, Reminiscing, Afternoon Snacks, Rest & Relaxation and Personal Care. I can tell you from experience that when you drop in they make you feel so welcome you hate to leave.

Karen Clark Young (Kacy) and I dropped in this week after picking up a bird feeder, pole, and bird feed to keep the birds happy there this winter. Karen & I were representing both the Southwest Harbor Historical Society and our Pemetic class of 1960. There are a lot of wonderful people volunteering there. Wayne Patton stopped by on Thursday morning and spent time visiting and he took along old pictures of the town for the people to look at. Memories can mean a lot to keeping the mind young. Call 244-3267 to schedule a visit, I promise you will be impressed by the wonderful work being done there.

Fred Pinkham

Thanks to all who attended the Pemetic High School-Southwest Harbor Sports show we put on at the Pemetic school in September, and remember we are planning a bigger and better show to be held in June around the reunion time when more alumni will be in town and able to attend. We want to thank everybody that helped us with the show. It was truly a team effort and thanks go out to Jack Gilley for his tireless effort working on this project with us, Dave Benson, Jim Carroll, Harold Hatch, Bob Davis and too many others to mention. A special thanks go out to the Henry Wass family, Audrey, Pat, Leighton, Janet and Stan for letting us borrow the Henry Wass album and 5 of his basketball shirts including a 1923 Southwest Harbor High School Jersey to display. Don Reed sent us a 1948 SWH town team baseball uniform to display at the show also. Maxine Carroll, Susan Newman and Diana Pinkham did a tremendous job helping us set things up. Janet, Wayne and I as well as all the rest thank you very much. Dick Allen, Warren Worcester and Maryann Carroll Minctons were very helpful in the planning stages. Audience participation was fantastic. Among the many that helped identify pictures or related stories from the past were sisters Barbara and Ruth Kenney, Jarvis Newman, Junior Beal, George Jellison, Reggie Smith (who by the way pitched a no hitter against Bar Harbor in high school). There are more but my memory fails me. I want to give Harold Hatch a big thank you for traveling here to participate. It was very much appreciated and a LOT of people were glad to see him. Anybody that has scrapbooks, articles or anything on Pemetic and Southwest Harbor sports can send them to Janet at PO Box 243, Bass Harbor, ME 04653 or Fred at 273 Seawall Road, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679, or e-mail either one of us pinkham396@adelphia.net or janetpatton03@yahoo.com

We are searching very hard for any info on baseball, either high school or semi-pro. Any pictures or stories from the years of baseball in the gravel pit turned baseball field in the Seawall Campground would be treasured. Also any info on girls basketball, cheering etc. we would love to have. Our hope is to come out with a beautiful Pemetic-Southwest Harbor sports book within the next couple years. We want to cover both boys and girls sports and cheering and cover also the great history of Southwest Harbor semi-pro baseball and basketball teams. Thanks to everybody. See you next issue.

Fred Pinkham

Future Events

Now that the Summer Program Series is over, we are beginning to settle in for the long, quiet winter. No, that does not imply your Board of Directors goes into hibernation. To the contrary, we will now continue our workshop series, beginning Nov. 18th, to complete work on our Manset / Seawall Photo History Book. These sessions are always open to the public, and we especially encourage residents of Manset and Seawall to attend and offer any background information you may have concerning the photos we want to utilize.

We are also putting the finishing touches on the Jesse Parker Family History Book, professionally compiled by John & Becky Burnham. The book should be sent to the printer early in 2010, and available for purchase early summer.

Finally, we plan to conduct workshops early in 2010 to develop timeline histories of each building in the SWH Business District. A challenging task no doubt, but we look forward to enjoyable times spent on cold winter evenings conjuring up warm memories and forgotten pieces of history about these buildings and the people who worked and often lived in them.

Phil Whitney
President

The Southwest Harbor Historical Society is working very hard to get our first history book done for a spring sale. This first book will be about the Manset and Seawall area, featuring many pictures and stories. We will be having several work shops over the winter to finalize the book. We are inviting anyone who might have history to add to attend any of these meetings. The next one will be December 16th at 7:00 PM at the Southwest Harbor Chamber of Commerce. For more information, you can email us at swhhistory@yahoo.com. If you would like to talk but can't come to the meeting, please get in touch with us at 479-6361 and we will see if we can set something up. We do continue looking for pictures that will be good for our publication.

Your Memories Shared With Others

At Christmas season one thing I enjoyed doing was going over to my parents store, Vine's Radio & Electric Company, after school where my dad had set up a speaker outside the store. There I would play, for the enjoyment of the whole town, lots of the 78's with Christmas music. Most of the businesses would decorate their picture windows with lovely colored cellophane, yards and yards of it, and have Christmas decorations galore along with a nativity scene. I enjoyed helping with that.

Becky (Vine) Underwood

I walked to school, I walked to my grandmother's house at the head of the Harbor, I walked to church choir practice on Wednesday evenings with never a thought to safety or distance. We held church suppers, had wedding receptions with tea cakes and tiny sandwiches and fruit punch in the church vestries or at the legion hall. We played Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, built forts in the woods and had battles - were out all day and only came in to eat. We had a minimum of 25 kids per grade and the desks were all lined up in rows and the teacher was in charge. We didn't know we had rights, so we pretty much did what we were told. Friday nights we had pajama parties and ate junk food and stayed up as late as we dared. When one of the mothers had the one family car for the day, we would all pile in and go to Echo Lake or Ike's with a picnic and stay all day, splashing, jumping and leaning to swim. In the winter we always went to school - the town trucks had the streets cleaned up before we were up in the morning. We built snow forts - threw snowballs at everyone and wore heavy wool leggings, rubber boots with snaps and never went out without a hat and mittens. We slid down the hill in front of the house, and up at the Pollywog Pond, right out into the parking lot! We walked in waist high snow to visit friends and drank lots of hot chocolate and skated on Chris Lawler's pond. We were self contained. We had our groceries, gas stations, post office, hardware store, electrical and plumbing stores, gift shops, churches, lodges, movie theater, a dentist, two local doctors who made house calls - what more could a kid need growing up? I loved it!

Carol Reed Walsh

I remember when we first started coming to SWH in 1983 and Carroll's Drug Store was on Main St. and had an old fashioned soda fountain. We thought how neat it was, a preserved bit of Americana.

Bernie Mauger

Please send us your memories-it is a great chance to share with others and to bring back old times when life was different.



Clark Point Road looking toward Main Street. The photo was taken after the 1929 fire that burned a lot of Southwest Harbor, but before the 1939 fire when the Masonic Building burned. Photo donated by Agnes (Dolliver) Carr, from photos from her mother Elena (Hamblen) Dolliver.

There are many people who attended Pemetec High School until its doors closed in 1968. There is a site now where you can reminisce the years spent there. Go to: www.daagy.com/clients/pemetec and check it out.

Queries

A member who is documenting the Richardson families traces from Steven Richardson to a son William, who married Lucy Hadlock. William and Lucy had one daughter, who married John Galley, a young man whom William Richardson brought home from the poor house in Salem, Massachusetts. Eventually John Galley married Hannah and they had fourteen children. Our member is wondering if anyone has any pictures of this Galley family.

Doug Diehl has recently purchased 30 Journey's End Lane which is off the Dirigo Road. He is trying to do a history of his home and wonders if there is anyone who has pictures or knows anyone who lived in this house, he would like to be in touch with you. The house was built by Albert Bee and was later owned by Barton H. Grundy. If you can help him with his search, contact him through us or directly through him at Doug.Diehl@erm.com.

Dr. Richard Hays writes: My wife and I live in a summer cottage on Connor Point Lane which once served as a carriage house for the legendary Grandma Brown. The horse and chickens are long gone, but many Southwest residents remember Grandma Brown, and her parties for the children, who played in the hay loft. We would be most grateful for any old photos of the carriage house, of Grandma Brown, or any reminiscences of this remarkable lady, or her horse "Lady." Kindly e-mail me at hays@aecom.yu.edu. My mailing address is: Richard M. Hays, M.D., 24 Stanwich Lane, Greenwich CT 06830; telephone 203-869-0686.

From the Collections Department:

- Copy of *The Four Winds* menu, a restaurant that was located in Manset, from Becky Burnham
- A box of Pemetec High School memorabilia, given by Maxine Carroll from Don Reed & Harold Beal
- Scrapbook of Pemetec Sports, from Buddy Sawyer
- A microfiche machine from an anonymous donor
- Photos from Eleanor Robbins & Doug Diehl

From the Archive Collections Committee

If you have something that would help preserve the history of Southwest Harbor and can part with it, please let the Historical Society know:

Mail: PO Box 272, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679

Tel: (207) 244-1104

E-mail: swhhistory@yahoo.com

Rebecca Carlson

 [Print](#) | [Sitemap](#)

© Southwest Harbor Historical Society