

President's Letter . . .

As I look forward to the holiday season and Christmas-By-The-Sea here at the Ogunquit Heritage Museum, I'm overwhelmed by the growth and change during the past season. It's been remarkable with nearly 500 visitors and an increase in our membership.

This fall brought some changes in leadership. Along with a new slate of officers of the Friends, a more significant change is the retirement of our Curator, Barbara Woodbury. It closes a major chapter in the museum's history itself. As you probably know, Barbara was the visionary and main force in seeing the very existence of our museum. She had the foresight to preserve the legacy of the history of Ogunquit, and stewarded the building donation and restoration through to the opening of our quality museum. With the help of her Museum Committee, she presented exhibits and got support and funding. Her time, unswerving dedication and investment in this museum will be evident and greatly appreciated for years to come. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts, Barbara.

Our most able Carole Lee Carroll, who has been with the museum since its inception and the Vice President of the Museum Committee, will serve as Curator in the interim. Other members of the Woodbury family, Peter and Chris, have shown great dedication to the functioning of the museum and building of the Dory. Our thanks also go to Paula Cummings, Assistant Curator, for her dedication and superb tours of the museum. Not only does she give you a complete tour with solid basic information about all the exhibits, but also her special tidbits are frosting on the cake.

The Curator and her staff, Carole Lee Carroll, Ellen Dannert, Susan Levenson, Susan Meffert, and Stuart Nudelman made this year's featured exhibits, the Marginal Way and the Trolley Exhibit outstanding as always. The exhibitions were great and brought back wonderful memories of more natural views on the Marginal Way (1950). I'm amazed that there was actual trolley service from York and beyond, years ago.

We had a spectacular night for the Ghostly Tours, October 23rd. About 100 people were treated to spooky stories and poems at the Dorothea Grant Park, the Baptist Church and the Locust Grove Graveyard. The story I liked best was about the Kennebunkport-built Barque *Isidore* which sank in a storm at sea on her maiden voyage off Bald Head Cliff. Very spooky.

The Friends continued its fundraising activities to support the museum through our membership drive and annual Antique Show. Again this year Susan Meffert did a phenomenal job planning and coordinating our successful Antique show with quality vendors who pleased a wide variety of interests. Next year we are

planning a one-day show on Saturday, September 18, 2010. The Ogunquit Heritage Museum Endowment Fund is growing with some specific donations this year to honor a loved one or friend. (*See Endowment Contribution List, page 4.*) A donation to the Heritage Museum Endowment Fund is a special way to remember and/or honor someone you care about, and at the same time show a special appreciation for your museum. It ensures continued financial support to sustain the Heritage Museum for many years to come.

We have enclosed membership envelopes for 2010 to encourage you to sign up early for next year's membership. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and essential to the functioning of this fine little gem of a museum in and about your town

As I finish my term as your President, I'm reminded of the wonderful people and significant projects I've witnessed come through the doors! It's truly been a pleasure. I'm looking forward to another term as a member of the Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum while Mary Littlefield bangs the now familiar gavel that calls the meetings to order. She was born and bred here in Ogunquit and is our town librarian. We are very enthusiastic about her leadership.

Best wishes for the Holidays. Christmas-by-the-Sea open house is both afternoons of December 12 & 13. We look forward to seeing you there and your visit to the museum next summer.

With appreciation,

*Marilyn Eimon
Past President*

Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum Board of Directors

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Carole Lee Carroll, *Museum Curator*



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Peter R. Woodbury, *Editor*

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Curator's Report . . .

I want to acknowledge the efforts made by everybody this past season and thank all our volunteers. Early on we placed informative brochures in many motels and hotels as well as the Dunaway Center.

Our spring opening reception went well with plenty of good food and company. Up to 500 visitors, including some in large groups, gathered in the Museum during the summer and were very interested in all the exhibits. They praised them to the hilt!

Our self-designed and self-built Ogunquit Dory was launched again late in the season, with several outings being made when interested folks took advantage of the good rowing and sailing weather. We plan to put the boat inside for the winter to keep the snow and ice out of it and preserve it as best we can.

Due to an error in calculating the right amount of salary for our Assistant Curator, we had to look for other sources to cover the budget. We turned to the Friends, which granted us Paula's final month of salary for 2009. We all greatly appreciate the bailout!

I have resigned my Chairmanship of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum Committee as of November 11, 2009, and wish our new Chair, Carole Lee Carroll the best. I will, however, remain on the Committee and continue to contribute whenever needed.

Thank you all for the excellent support over the years and I hope that everyone has a good season!

Sincerely,

*Barbara Woodbury
Curator, Retired*



Story Time conducted by Diana Abbott during OgunquitFest, was held this year at the Ogunquit Heritage Museum. About 20 youngsters and almost as many parents attended the session.

We Remember Blanche...

We continue the series of interviews with the late Blanche Hutchins Staples, beloved docent, story teller, teacher and major contributor to the Ogunquit Heritage Museum. These recordings were carefully transcribed by Bill and Judy Baker in 2004 and 2005. The full transcript is on file at the Museum.



Blanche H. Staples

The Beach

There were sand dunes from the buildings [on Moody Beach] to where the bathhouse used to be; where the pavilion is now, was a bathhouse. There were no restaurants or anything like that yet. There was a bowling alley and a dance hall, and then, of course, they started to add on a lot more.

The owner threatened that he was going to sell it to a corporation like an amusement park, like Old Orchard Beach. And the people here said, 'We don't want that on the beach.' And I can hear my mother and father now discussing it. I was quite young, and they were going to assess the people in the town beyond their regular taxes.

There was a newspaper in Ogunquit and it was published by John Kendrick Bangs' son, Buster [Frank Bangs]. He was very adamant about Wally selling the beach. So he wrote a big headline in his newspaper, 'BATHHOUSE CHARM: THE HIPPOPOT, WHO WANTS THE BEACH AND WHO KNOWS WHAT?!

Well, the town was not a rich community then, the way it is now, and it meant an awful lot to these people. But my mother said, 'I suppose we should go and vote against the sale of the beach and authorize the town to buy it.' Which the town did. I'm not positive how much they paid for the beach, but it was something like \$30,000 for the land and they paid for some other compensation; it amounted to some \$40,000, which doesn't seem like much now, but at that time that was a considerable amount.

And then the town built a parking lot, and the Norseman put a metal breakwater there, and when the ocean hits that, it just undermines the sand. There was a very bad storm and the water came up and washed out a lot of the sand dunes. The parking lot was put at the entrance to the river; it

(Continued...)

(*Blanche... continued*)

made a great deal of difference in the currents and flows when the parking lot was built, because it was an obstruction. Of course it was much deeper at one time. They built the parking lot there and when they did, you see, the sands started to build right there.

But in my opinion, they (the dunes) should have been left and the sand dunes would have built themselves up eventually; it would have given the water a chance to go through the sand dunes and into the river. But they voted to have a berm there and build it out of just gravel. Isabel and Sandy fought against it; they organized the Clamshell Committee and they fought against the introduction of this gravel into the beach sand; they did lose, but they tried desperately to stop it.

Since then, of course, the tides have come in and gravel is mixing with the beach sand. The consistency of the gravel they put in is nothing at all like the sand dunes, so every time a storm comes, it undermines a little bit and the gravel comes and mixes in with the beach sand. They should've left it alone, and let nature take care of building the dunes again!

Anchor Found

A huge old anchor was found by Reggie Jacobs on the beach one day at low tide as he was walking down there. He decided he was going to bring it up to the town, but he had to get a truck to put it in. He left it and my husband and some of his cronies went down and they dug a big hole and they put the anchor in the hole and buried it in the sand. Reggie came down and the anchor was gone, and he said somebody had stolen his anchor! And he raised hell!

Well, I guess the waves uncovered part of it and he found it again and when he found it he brought it down and gave it to Henry Strater at the art museum. After being there for many years, Henry got rid of it and I think Mike Horn took it. It seems an odd place for it to come to shore on the Ogunquit beach. You'd have to ask Mike if there is a name on it to see if it was from the *Dixie III* or the *Isidore*, or some other unknown schooner or ship. There was also a huge old anchor on the lawn at the Library and I don't really know where that came from or where it went to. Was this perhaps the same anchor? Somebody knows the answer...

Endowment Contributions

- Robert and Marena Bragg Endowment \$250
In Memory of **Blanche Staples**
- Peter and Barbara Woodbury Patron/Endow. \$200
In Memory of **David** and **India Woodbury**
- Georgiana Gallagher Endowment \$100
In Memory of **John F. Gallagher**
- Early Risers of Houston, Jaye Anderton Endowment \$75
In Memory of **Norman Nickerson**
- Bernard and Elaine Stein Senior Couple/Endow. \$50
In Honor of **Herman Stein**
- Yolanda Rossi Endowment \$25
In Memory of **Norman Nickerson**
- Marilyn Eimon Endowment \$25
In Memory of **Norman Nickerson**
- B. Fryer Littlefield Endowment \$15
- Robert and Erika Becker Endowment \$10
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Welcome . . . New Members!

Rosalynde Langworthy
Kenneth City, FL

Daniel McGary
DeKalb, IL

Marybeth Petschek
Scarsdale, NY

Yolanda Rossi
Cape Neddick, ME

Alice & Neal Schmidt
Cape Neddick, ME

Anthony Tarleton and Judith Clayton
Ogunquit, ME

Enid Topchik
Ogunquit, ME

Harriet and Alan Yaffe
Ogunquit, ME



Chris Woodbury out for a sail. (Photo by Regina Ryan.)