

Yesterday's News

Published irregularly by the Lovell Historical Society



Volume 13, Number 3

Summer 2006

LOVELL OLD HOME DAYS



Newspaper Photo of the first prize winners in the 1954 Grand Parade, Troop 1, Lovell Girl Scouts

This July Lovell will celebrate its thirty-sixth "annual" Lovell Old Home Days. First organized in 1954, the event proved tremendously popular but was discontinued after 1979. It was not until 1996 that a group of townspeople reformatted and revived the tradition. This edition of Yesterday's News looks back at the history of this town celebration.

Lovell Old Home Days was originally organized by the Lovell-Fryeburg VFW Post and the Lovell Volunteer Fire Department as a two-day fundraising event. The first year's events were held on August 13 & 14, 1954. Friday evening's activities began with a Children's Parade, complete with doll carriages, bicycles and carts. The parade traveled from Church Street (Christian Hill Road) to the VFW Hall, where a midway with various games and booths was set up. Saturday's activities began with a Little League baseball game and horse pulling events followed by a "Grand Parade" in the afternoon. The parade disbanded at the locally-operated midway where numerous prizes were awarded to parade participants and there were hourly drawings of donated raffle prizes. In the evening, a well-attended baked bean supper was held.

For the next twenty-five years, this popular event continued to be held every August. There were slight modifications over the years. Band concerts were added after Friday night's Children's Parade and Saturday's Grand Parade was lengthened, beginning beyond the top of the hill in Lovell Village. Otherwise, the general format remained the same.

All of these activities required an enormous amount of planning and volunteer hours, but it allowed these two organizations to raise a lot of money and, as Maynard Craig said, have "a pretty good time" in the process. They made money selling raffle tickets with sizable prizes from which to choose. Beano and the baked bean supper were profitable as were the various midway games. They also received money from all the organizations that were advertised in the flyers.

The two days of activities always began with the Friday evening opening of the midway and the Children's Parade. Maynard Craig, whose children regularly participated, recently recounted his favorite story regarding this parade: *"Don Andrews said the kids all ought to have a silver dollar for being in the parade, whether they won*

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From the President

For some of you, receiving this newsletter may come as a surprise because it is being mailed town-wide. If you enjoy reading this publication, we hope you will become a member of the Lovell Historical Society!

The Annual Dinner this June was highly enjoyable. With about 65 people in attendance, we had an excellent meal and wonderful atmosphere thanks to Chris and Jen Lively of Ebenezer's Pub & Restaurant. We also were given the opportunity to thank a few of the people who have contributed so much to our community and the Society. Honorary Life Memberships were bestowed upon Donald Kilgour, Dave & Peg Mason, and Gary Crowell.

On July 9th we hosted our 7th annual Antique Show & Sale. As in previous years, this event proved extremely popular and our most successful fundraiser. Special thanks go to Beverly Bassett for chairing the show and Renee Dutton and Jacky Stearns for organizing our own very profitable sale booth. Our thanks also go to the many volunteers who helped that day, those who donated antiques for our sale booth, and the people who contributed the wonderful raffle items. The fortunate winners of the raffle were: Gerry & Meg Nelson (Richard Rice's circa 1890 cut glass compote), Alan & Nettie Bennett (Sandra Bell's 1948 painting of a New England scene by Richard Packer), and Paul & Theresa Kelly (Peter Worrall's circa 1950 German mantle clock).

By the time you receive this, we will have hosted (on July 16th) the opening of our special exhibit on "Lovell Old Home Days", featuring artist Roger Williams. The exhibit will be open this summer on Tuesdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 pm (or by appointment), and we hope you will stop by! Come and see our permanent exhibit plus the special exhibit featuring a number of artifacts, art works, and photographs relate to Lovell Old Home Days.

Other upcoming events include Sue Black's talk and demonstration on July 18th at 7 pm. She will be discussing the history of textile tools, focusing on what women in the early to mid 1800's would produce in their home. On August 8th we are holding two events. First, at 2 pm we are hosting the monthly meeting of the Pequawket League, an area-wide association of historical societies. At 7 pm that evening, Tom Huptka will be speaking about his book Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn, a study of northern New England's connected farmhouse. We hope you can attend!

Once again, I want to thank all of our wonderful donors and volunteers. We hope you will stop by the Kimball-Stanford House soon, either to visit, conduct research, or just to enjoy the museum display. Our regularly scheduled summer hours of operation will be every Tuesday and Sunday from 1 to 4, or by appointment. Enjoy the summer!

Catherine Stone

August 8th
7 pm
at the Kimball-Stanford House

TOM HUPTKA

Author of
Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn

A Conversation with the Author
and Refreshments!

THE LOVELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MISSION

The Lovell Historical Society exists to collect and preserve historical and genealogical records, property, and artifacts, and to encourage and support interest in and study of the history of the Town of Lovell and its environs. Its collections are available for consultation by its members and other interested parties. In fulfillment of its educational mission, the Society presents public programs on relevant topics, publishes documents and the results of research, maintains an archive, a library and a museum, provides information and guidance to interested researchers, and collaborates with libraries, schools, and other organizations to carry out historical projects.

OFFICERS 2005-2006

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Catherine Stone, <i>President</i> | <i>Directors:</i> |
| Beverly Basset, <i>Vice President</i> | Renee Dutton |
| Claudia Bengé, <i>Secretary</i> | Ruth Mitchell |
| Meghan Nyberg, <i>Treasurer</i> | Louis Olmsted |

LOCATION AND HOURS

The LHS Building, located on Route 5 in Lovell, is open on Tuesdays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. and by appointment. All are welcome to visit our museum and research collections. Our phone number is (207) 925-3234. Email is lovellhist@pivot.net



Anita, Gary, and Stephen Craig as the Three Little Pigs

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any prizes or not. And some of the people said that was an awful lot of money to be paying out for nothing. Don said, 'Don't worry; we'll have that back in the first half hour when they get back to the Hall'. And they did!"

The midway games brought back vivid memories for John Fox, as recounted in an interview conducted by Jo Radner and Gladys Littlefield in 1996:

"I ran a beat-the-dealer game. You stay there long enough, you'd lose whatever you had, that's all there was to it. Some people, like Jim Wilson, up on Eastman Hill, he'd come along, and he'd plan to leave a hundred dollars for the fire company, you know. And sometimes he'd be pretty lucky You weren't supposed to be putting down big money; he'd put down a five dollar bill. So that's the way we really made money, with more the goodness of the people than anything else."

"Most everything there was hand made; there wasn't anything that they ever bought. Well, they bought a little train ... to give the kids a ride They bought that ... and they bought a chair ride, too, for the little kids They had it quite a number of years I had an old snow machine ... and we used that motor and running gear to run the chair ride - and it was good, because you could just feed it a little more juice and it would go a little faster, and if you cut the motor way down, it would stop."

"They'd get some of the more prominent fellows into (the dunking machine), you know, and that worked. They could make money on that They never got me into it (They got) some of the summer people, some of the younger men - and then, of course, that's where you made some money, because all the rest of the summer boys, who couldn't throw a baseball at all, wanted to dunk him, you know. Just get one of them in there, you could make money."

Donation 25c

Lovell Old Home Days, Inc.

August 13-14, 1971

Winner Gets Choice Of . . .

R. C. A. 14" Portable Color TV
Whirlpool Trash Masher, Whirlpool Air Conditioner
Remington 30-06 Automatic, Commando 5 H. P.
Outboard Motor & 12' Aluminum Boat

No. 3120

Perhaps the best memory of Lovell Old Home Days is of the Grand Parade. Townspeople, summer residents and guests would line the streets from the top of the hill in the Village to the VFW Hall, closing off part of Routes 5 and 93. The long parade included floats, old cars, two or three bands, fire trucks, visiting political figures, and farm animals. Local businesses, summer resorts and organizations contributed floats as did some individuals just for the fun of it. And it was fun. And there were some memorable floats. Craig's Village Store submitted annual entries that often drew a lot of laughs (see accompanying story by Maynard Craig) as did Dennis Emery's Market in Lovell Village. Dennis described one of his favorite entries during an interview in 1996:

"For one of my floats that I was quite proud of, we rented a costume of a horse, and it took two people. I took a sleigh and had wheels put on it, and decorated it up, and ... Arnold Harmon was the other one, was the back end of the horse, and I was the front end, and we pulled the sleigh - it wasn't a sleigh really, it was a wagon-sleigh, from the top of the hill down across by the store, across the bridge over to what is now the VFW Hall, that's where all the folks went. And believe it or not, we went in the back, had a pail of horse droppings that every once in a while I'd stop and whinny and he'd throw a few out I think I won first prize that year, but when we got over there, it was so hot in that costume that I passed out. We finished the parade, but I did pass out, just for a short time, oh, probably, seconds The horse died. It was a hot day. I was young, too, but it was more than anyone should do."

No discussion of the Grand Parade would be complete without mention of Don "The Pirate" Dickerman's antics and entries. Don was a well-known night club owner in the 1920's and 30's and summered on Kezar for more than sixty-five years. He loved participating in the Grand Parade. He created "Wanted" posters advertising the event and submitted some remarkable parade entries over the years, such as his 1978 float with veteran members of his pirate crew band playing Dixieland jazz. He was a veteran showman and he brought these skills to Lovell Old

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Dennis Emery and Arnold Harmon as the horse, with Greta Kyllonen and Jan Emery in the sleigh.

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Home Days, much to the delight of the townspeople and spectators.

In 1980, after twenty-six years, the Old Home Days celebration ended. There were no more parades that year, nor was there a midway, concert or bean supper. Stub Eastman later explained why:

"It was a lot of fun there. Very hard work though and the group sort of stayed the same. They didn't expand and the same people got to do the work all the time. Eventually, as most of these things are to happen, why, it sort of faded away. But we did, in the beginning especially, we had excellent numbers of people helping out."

In 1996, Lovell Old Home Days was revived, thanks in large part to the vision and leadership of Heather Sawin and Dave Mason. Heather had recommended at a Lovell Rec meeting in 1995 that Old Home Days be revived. Lovell Rec was not interested so Heather decided to call Dave Mason, *"the other person in town crazy enough to do this with me."* It took a year of planning, but a reformatted celebration was held on July 27th. The Grand Parade, organized by Dave, lasted for 45 minutes, ending at the Athletic Field where afternoon activities were planned, including performances at the gazebo, games and food for purchase.

Every year since then (except 2001) the town has celebrated Old Home Days. This year's events will be held on July 21 and 22. There no longer is a midway or bean supper but changing activities such as dinners, concerts or road races have been scheduled during the weekend celebration to raise funds for town organizations. And, for some most importantly, the tradition of the Grand Parade continues. As Heather said in 1996, *"A parade in Lovell doesn't happen very often!"* Thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers it is now an annual event. ♦♦



WANTED BY THE F.B.I.

Five and six in reward
\$50,000.000 REWARD

"DON the PIRATE"

CRIMES Craig & Market Safe Cracker Bank Robber Chicken Thief Horse Thief Sneaking into Hammond Brothers Runfloor Stomping Bill Vinton's Clay Sunday Cussin John Fox's Bedroom Window Peepor Kiwanis Membership Counterfeiter Damn Dam Dynamiter Double-Nose Thumber Jack Bassett Goose Selling Town Dump Sea Gulls for Shake & Bake and Gigantic Multiple Rape

Recently Escaped From Sam Quaffle — Believed To Be Wearing Sam Quaffle Stripes (Also Red & Green, Impossible To Detect)

Expected to Crash the Lovell Old Home Week Parade Where He Would Hope to See many Old Friends Before Being Recaptured and Placed in SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

5 ft. 10 1/2 in. Tall. 210 lbs., Big Belly. No Fake. Causing Slight Stoop. Habitual Silly Smirk. Gray At Temples. 81 Years

WARNING!!

Considered Very Dangerous. and Armed With A Rock-Pile Sledge Hammer. Stolen When Escaping

Can Be Identified By An Overpowering Odor of Scotch, Gin, Dark Rum, Flea Chaser, Sewer Gas, "Draino" & Dead Horse Glue

1974 Don Dickerman Poster



Don "The Pirate" Dickerman in 1976



The 1996 Lovell Old Home Days Committee

Eihel Hurst, Joan Irish, Shirley Danforth, Peg Mason, Dave Mason, Gini Snyder, Heather (and Sarah) Sawin

Memories of Lovell Old Home Days

By Maynard Craig

As owners of Craig's Village Store, Carolyn and I would look forward to Lovell Old Home Days each year, especially the parade. Each year we would ponder over what to do for a float. We always had suggestions from the sublime to the ridiculous. The one that stands out in my mind was called "Business Ain't Dead at Craig's Village Store".

Years ago, prior to our ownership, the store actually sold wooden coffins. There were many of these in various sizes still on the second level of the store. Our theme started with a dark convertible with mourners dressed in black followed by a trailer with one of our coffins. In the coffin was yours truly, dressed in a top hat and tails, throwing candy out to the kids.

As we approached, people were dead quiet as they read the signs. Then the laughter would start and this followed us down the street. This was one of the few floats we did not win a prize for. The judges said it was too morbid.

The year we opened the Laundromat we had an 18 wheeler flatbed with an old wringer washer, set tubs and clotheslines with people riding the float hard at work doing their laundry.

Another year we featured our "Famous Store Cheese". This was on a flat bed truck with people dressed as mice enjoying crackers and cheese.

The parade was quite large with all kinds of floats. There were the marching bands, fire trucks, logging trucks and many old cars.

One year the driver of one of the logging trucks was taken ill and said he could not drive the truck. A 10 year old boy said he could drive the truck, which he did all the way to the VFW area. Most people did not even know. ♦♦



Left - "Alive N Kick'N"
Lobster Float in 1969.



Right - "Try It You'll Like It"
Cheese Float in 1972.

Gifts and Donations

We are very grateful for the following gifts received since the last newsletter: **Ethel Hurst** – missing issues of The Independent Observer, participant ribbon from the 2000 Lovell Old Home Days Parade; **Patricia Foley** – antique chicken carrier; **Bev & Jack Bassett** – 2 notebooks of Waldo Seaveys describing real estate ownership in Lovell in the 1930's and 1940's, photo of Roy Smith, permission to scan assorted photographs, assortment of newspaper clippings, 10 Oxford Country Parish calendars from 1938 to 1955 (with 2 featuring the Center Lovell Christian Church and 1 featuring the Parsonage), copy of 1917 map of region near McKean Cove on Kezar Lake, framed collage of photos of Don Dickerman's Lovell Old Home Days parade float The Jolly Rogue; **The Family of John R. Fox** – canoe built by George Stephenson (on loan), Town Reports for 1928 & 1938, "Some Personalities I Have Known" by Frederick W. Dallinger, program for the 2nd Winter Carnival of the Saco Valley United Parish Lovell (1930), Program for "A Minstrel Show" (1953), Maine Inland Fishing Laws (1948), Waldo Seavey's Map of Proprietor's Lots done in 1943, drawings for Narrows Bridge (1952), plot plan of Northeast Lovell (1927); **Ruth & Fred Mitchell** – cobbler's last; **Meghan & Harry Nyberg** – silver engraved cane top once owned by Charles A. Garcelon; **The Family of Gordon Eastman** – Olive Eastman Palmer's war rations and wallet; **Ladies Auxillary of the VFW Post 783** – permission to scan photos of a Boiled Dinner at the VFW Hall; **Mary Atkinson** – permission to scan the Leavitt family photo album of vacationing at Farrington's in 1920's and 1930's; **University of Southern Maine** – various items from Hewnoaks and the estate of Jessie Volk, including 2 watercolors by Jessie Volk, 2 watercolors by Wendell Volk, early photo of the main house, handpainted ceiling tile of a fish, "History of Waterford 1775-1875 published in 1879, and print by Patricia Thurston of the Center Lovell Post Office; **Peg Mason** – 2002 Lovell Old Home Days T shirt; **Carol Stewart** (in memory of Gertrude Scasserra) – oak hanging clothes dryer; **Donald Kilgour** – account book of Daniel W. Warren, a cobbler in Lovell, beginning in Jan. 25, 1851. Cash donations have been gratefully received from: **John & Esther Atwood, Sandra Barty, Joan & Milt Brown, Ann Chick, Edward & Audrey Clout, Arthur Cormier, Gary Crowell, Charles & Joan Dattelbaum, Gerald & Evelyn Davis** (in memory of Lewis Davis), **Arthur & Cathy Duggan, John & Clara Farquharson, Andy & Kathy Feld, Robert Fenn, Maxine Fisher, Theda Gilman** (in memory of Wayne Gilman), **Jane Gleason, Elinor Goodwin, William & Alice Hollett, Marilyn Jones, Hortense Magee, Philip Marsilius, Dave & Peg Mason, James & Virginia McBain, Leotus Morrison, William & Janet Nichols, Jane Orans, Anne Pilsbury, John Roberts, Frederic Sater, Robert Schmidt, Jean Schoch, Peter Schoch, Todd & Sarah Smith, Arthur Sumbler, Betty Webster, Neil & Donna Wilson** (in memory of Lillian Anna Chandler). The following donations have been given in loving memory of Gordon "Stub" Eastman: **Glenn Allison, Paul & Martha Armington, Martha Barrow, James & Carol Bicket, Stephen & Gail Blood, The Bluff School, Wilma Buchanan, Helen Doucette, Durward & Joanne Eastman, Lianna Eastman, Robert & Mary Eastman, Thomas Eastman, Dennis Emery, Irving & Ruth Goldenberg, Stuart Goodwin, Gary & Mary Heroux, Phyllis Hetzler, Dave & Peg Mason, Vivian Merrill, George & Peeps Olive, Juanita Perkins, David & Ruth Pilling, Susan Lanser & Joan Radner, Raymond & Louise Seames, Charlotte Smith, Dean & Pat Stearns, Joseph & Laurie Yvanauskas.**

If you have made a donation or given an artifact or other form of historical material and it has not been listed here or previously noted, please contact us immediately. We appreciate the thoughtful generosity of our members and friends, and most certainly want to acknowledge and list gifts properly.

IN MEMORIUM

Lois M. Beaudoin of North Lovell passed away on June 2, 2006 at Central Maine Medical Center as a result of an automobile accident on February 23rd. She was born in West Paris, ME on October 1, 1927, the daughter of Esther Harriman. She attended schools in Lovell and Fryeburg and graduated from Bridgton Academy in 1945. Lois worked in Lewiston before moving back to North Lovell where she married Henry Beaudoin and raised three sons, Gordon, Henry Jr. and Scott, and one daughter, Bonnie. She is survived by all four children and two grandsons.

Stephen L. Chandler passed away on May 20, 2006 at Mercy Hospital in Portland. Stephen was born on October 11, 1968, the son of Irving and Phyllis Chandler of Lovell. He attended several schools and had a great love for the outdoors. He enjoyed hiking, walking on the beach, swinging and music. He is survived by his mother and two sisters, Deborah Jones and Kathleen Adams.

Lewis A. Davis of Bridgton passed away on May 26, 2006. Lew was a member of the Lovell Historical Society and a significant contributor to our collection. He was born on August 13, 1918 in Limerick to George and Celia (McAllister) Davis. He grew up in Lovell and lived here most of his life, graduating from Fryeburg Academy in 1935. He was a World War II Army veteran and a member of the Fryeburg-Lovell VFW. Before retiring, he was a self-employed logger and excavator. He was predeceased by his wife, Hazel (Hodsdon) Davis in 1980, and is survived by his daughter Sandra Merrill, a brother Jed Davis, and three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Richard King III, a lifetime member of this Society, passed away on June 9, 2006 in Corpus Christi, TX. From 1978 until 1998 he and his wife Sissy were the owners of Fairview (Conifer). Dick was a direct descendant of King Ranch founder Capt. Richard King and spent 43 years in the local banking industry. He also was a community leader, serving as chairman of Christus Spohn Development Foundation, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Corpus Christi Area Economic Development Corp., among others. He was recently predeceased by his wife and is survived by two sons, Richard King IV and James King; a daughter, Kathrine King; two stepdaughters, Lica Layton and Amy Ryder; a stepson, Benjamin Eshleman III; and eight grandchildren.

June R. Roth, formerly of Lovell, passed away on April 22, 2006. She was born on June 25, 1920 in Swampscott, MA to William and Olive (McKinley) Rourke. She married William Roth in 1950, worked in many department stores, and moved to Lovell in 1982 after her husband's retirement. June was known for her doll collection and her animal rights advocacy. She was predeceased by her husband in 1995, and is survived by her daughter, Linda Began, three granddaughters and four great-grandchildren.



An early float from Emery's Store, with Roy Smith, Mary Watson, and Jan Emery

"Well, we always just put a float in, to represent the store. I always had signs on them that we deliver groceries. I tried to make the float look like an old-fashioned store On one of them, I even took cardboard and over the cab I constructed a building to look like a building - had a roof on it and all that - but it still was a flatbed or a truck body ... with the back opened up so you could see what was going on We put a lot of time into it, but we had a lot of fun."

Dennis Emery in a Historical Society interview, 1996

IN MEMORY OF GORDON "STUB" EASTMAN

By Joel Eastman

Gordon M. Eastman died at age 89 on May 12, 2006 at his home on Sabbatus Road. Gordon was born in 1916 and lived his entire life in Lovell. Known from an early age as "Stub", he took over the family farm about 1940 when his father Max could no longer run it alone. He began his involvement with town government at that time and was one of the founders of the Lovell Volunteer Fire Department. Stub joined the Maine Forest Service in 1948, but he continued to live at and work the farm until he and his family were required to move into Forest Service housing near the golf course. Stub returned to the farm after his retirement. He turned his full attention to the town he loved, serving as a selectman for a total of 23 years.

Although Stub was always looking to the future, he never forgot the past. He continually regaled his family and friends with tales of what it was like to live in the days before electricity and was interviewed about it by Maine Public Television. He was a life member of the Lovell Historical Society, and was a strong supporter of the acquisition of the 1839 Kimball-Stanford Homestead, serving on the fundraising committee. Stub and the selectmen called a special town meeting to consider a loan to purchase the house, which was approved and paid back in three years. He was extremely proud of the Society's new home in the renovated building. Stub is survived by his younger sister, two granddaughters, a niece and five nephews.



*Stub outside the Town Meeting House on March 4, 1940,
the day his son Gordon Jr. was born*



2006

In 1995, Jonathan Hatch interviewed Stub as part of his senior project for College of the Atlantic. In response to the question "What is your occupation?" Stub gave the following response, summing up his year's of dedication in public service:

"I worked for the Maine Forest Service for twenty eight years, retired from that. And previous to my retirement things looked tough in the town – in getting people to take part. And that was the selectman's concern. And at the time I went in, everything was sort of scattered all over town; the town clerk was in one area, the treasurer in another. So I had been a selectman before I was working for the state. The other members on the board came to me wanting to know what was getting done and that's just the way it developed. I was not that anxious to get involved. Anyway, I finally said if I do go on, and if they want me, there will be changes. And we have made those changes and most of them are in place. There are a few still to be done, as far as I'm concerned, you understand. But that is where I come from. I do this not for the glory. You understand, that when you're involved in town affairs you don't do it for the glory of the thing. You have to have some self-satisfaction in doing these things and that's where I come from. I could care less basically as to whether I win or lose so far as popularity contests are concerned, that's the way it is. And if they don't want me tomorrow I would walk away, do you follow that? You don't do these things for winning popularity contest., You do it because you feel it should be done and you get your satisfaction seeing it progress."

Special Exhibit

**July & August
Celebrating**

**Lovell
Old
Home
Days**

**at the
Kimball-Stanford House**

**Tuesdays & Sundays
1 - 4 p.m.**



LOVELL OLD HOME DAYS
July 22 - August 11
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

*Print by Roger Williams Commemorating the
2006*

Lovell Old Home Days Celebration

The Lovell Historical Society
P.O. Box 166
Lovell ME 04051

FIRST CLASS

DO YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE LHS NEWSLETTER?

If your mailing label doesn't say "6-07" or "Life," it is time to join or renew for the current year. Thanks!