

# Yesterday's News

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Volume 17, Number 3

Summer 2010



The original boathouse at Camp Mudjekeewis

*Photo donated by Beverly & Jack Bassett*

## Mudjekeewis A Camp For Girls

Mudjekeewis offers to a limited number of girls the joy of a summer in the great out-of-doors, where they may store their minds with beauty, their bodies with strength and their hearts with the knowledge of real friendship born around the campfire and strengthened by common experience in discovering the secrets of the woods and the lure of the trail.

1922 Camp Brochure

*For 50 years Camp Mudjekeewis was a landmark on the eastern shore of Kezar Lake's Middle Bay. Common summer sights included girls hiking on Route 5 or large canoe trips up and down the lake. What was not obvious during that time, 1919-1969, was the lasting impact the camp would have upon the town of Lovell. Ever since Mudjekeewis closed, an unusual number of campers and counselors have become year-round or seasonal residents in this area. Today, these residents speak passionately about the enduring influence the camp had on their lives, instilling a spirit of friendship and loyalty and a love for Kezar Lake and the White Mountains.*

## From the President

As we have in previous years, our summer edition of the Society's newsletter is being mailed town-wide. If you have not received the previous quarterly editions and enjoy reading this publication, we hope you will become a member of the Lovell Historical Society.

Our Annual Dinner this June was a lot of fun. With seventy people in attendance, the food was delicious and the atmosphere wonderful thanks to members Chris & Jen Lively of Ebenezer's Pub. During a brief business meeting at dessert time, we were given the opportunity to thank many of the people who have contributed so much to our town's history and the Society. In particular, honorary life membership was bestowed upon Ron McAllister. Beside being a wonderful contributor to our organization, Ron's impact has been felt in most town-wide endeavors and it was a pleasure for the Directors to honor his service.

On Sunday July 18th, we will be hosting our annual Antique Sale. Included will be a live auction of contemporary items. There will be dealers displaying their wares, delicious food and live music. Additionally, Bruce Buxton, nationally acclaimed appraiser from Portland, will be on site for antique appraisals from 10am to 1pm. The live auction will begin at 2pm, conducted by Jay Hanson.

Auction items are: 2 Red Sox Tickets for Aug. 24th; 2011 Season Membership to Lake Kezar Country Club; 2 Cords of Split Firewood; Week Stay at Samoset Resort Beginning July 30th; Decorative Sign Bracket by Rod Blood; Heating Oil Fill-Up; Week Stay at Cabin on Farrington's Pond; Historic Cocktail Party Cruise for 4; Original Ebenezer Kezar's Pub Sign; 30-Minute Flight Over Kezar Lake; Day Rental of a Pontoon Boat; Dinner & Show at Quisisana for 4.

We also have three exciting raffle items: Victorian Mirror with Gesso Frame donated by William Doyle Antiques; 14k White Gold Cameo Brooch/Pendant donated by North Country Fair Jewelers; and Cathedral Pickle Bottle donated by Kezar Antiques.

On Sunday August 8th at 5pm the Society will host it's first Lovell Classics Show at Pleasant Point Inn. Tickets for this event will be available for sale at the Society beginning the weekend of Lovell Old Home Days and the price will include admission with reserved seating if requested and limitless hors d'oeuvres. Classic boats will be available for viewing as will antique automobiles. Additionally there will be a vintage fashion show which, in the words of the organizers, "may not be as historical as hysterical but we promise you it will **not** be your ordinary runway". Items from our collection and assorted borrowed vintage garb will be modeled. Please let us know if you would like to include your boat or car and if you have clothing we can borrow such as camp uniforms, fishing/hunting/outdoors clothes and vintage dresses.

We hope you will join us.

*Catherine Stone*

## Antique Sale 10-3

## Antique Appraisal Day 10-1

## Live Auction 2pm

**Sunday, July 18th**

Free Admission

Delicious Food

Live Music

## Lovell Classics

## Cars, Boats & Clothes

**Sunday, August 8th, 5pm, Pleasant Point Inn**

### 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 2010-2011

Catherine Stone, President

Beverly Bassett, Vice President

Mary Heroux, Secretary

Bonnie Fox, Treasurer

#### Directors:

Renee Dutton

Lou Olmsted

Stan Tupaj

#### LOCATION AND HOURS

The Society, located on Route 5 in the 1839 Kimball-Stanford House, is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9am to 4pm, Saturdays from 9am to 12pm and by appointment. All are welcome to visit our museum and research collections. Business meetings are open to all members and are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 2pm. Our phone number is (207) 925-3234 or (207) 925-2291. Our collection can be viewed at our web site—[www.lovellhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.lovellhistoricalsociety.org)—and our e-mail address is [lovellhist@fairpoint.net](mailto:lovellhist@fairpoint.net).

# A Brief History of Camp Mudjekeewis

By L. Leotus Morrison



Prydee and Perkie wearing the proper 1920 attire—long sleeve middie blouse, voluminous grey flannel bloomers and high laced sneakers.

*Photo donated by L. Leotus Morrison*

Margaret Perkins (Perkie) was a graduate of Julliard, taught music at Bennett Junior College and at Birch-Wathen School in New York City. She was an accomplished pianist.

Ena Pryde (Prydee) grew up in Peru and graduated from Sargent School, which was an outstanding Physical Education School of its time and is now a part of Boston University. She taught physical education at Dwight School in Englewood, New Jersey for many years.

In 1918 Prydee, Perkie and another woman started a camp, Maskoma, in New Hampshire near Route 4. The third director proved to be a “third wheel” with little interest in the educational aspects of camping so Perkie and Prydee looked for a new location for the next summer.

They wanted a site on a large lake in a secluded section, not too far removed from medical and shopping facilities, and the Kezar site fulfilled both these qualifications. Another point in its favor was the extremely steep hill over which the road wended down to the lake—only food trucks and the camp station wagon could manipulate over its ruts and rocks—hence campers were saved from the problem

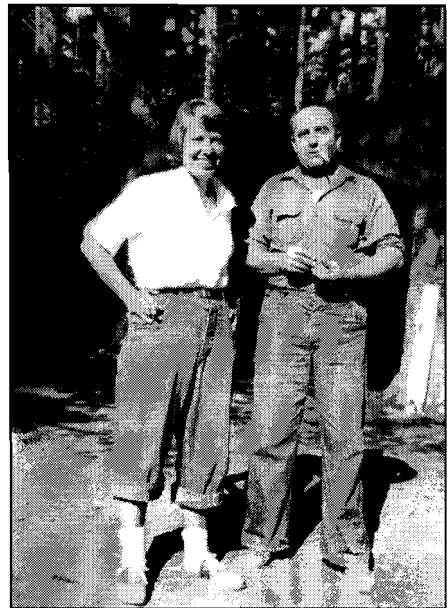
of cars driving into camp proper at all hours. The hike down and up the hill also discouraged too many frequent visitors.

That winter, after having viewed the property on a snowy day, as the tale goes, Perkie and Prydee bought the property in Center Lovell. Mudjekeewis opened in the summer of 1919 with seventeen campers, six counselors (including the two directors) and according to Prydee, twenty-one animals!

Through its forty years under the direction of Perkie and Prydee the camp grew to include some 110 campers, 28 counselors and a support staff of 6 persons. The increase in size necessitated some changes in the organization of schedule and grouping of campers but the program emphasis and philosophy expressed in the catalog and implemented on site remained constant.

In 1959, Kris Hansen from New York and Margie Hood from Tennessee, who was head of Tennis at Mudjekeewis for several years, bought the camp. Later Margie became sole owner. Unfortunately, the 1960's proved to be a difficult time for many camps as opportunities for travel increased and an era of more specialized camps developed. By 1970 Camp Mudjekeewis was closed after fifty years of operation.

*Lee “Leo” Morrison was a counselor at Mudjekeewis for 12 years, teaching riding and swimming. She taught physical education at James Madison University for 35 years and was a pioneer in the women’s sports movement, increasing opportunities for women in sports. She visits Kezar Lake every summer and in 1994 she helped organize a Mudjekeewis Reunion, held at the old camp site. Almost 100 people attended.*



“Leo” Morrison, camp counselor, with Leewood Norton, camp caretaker.

*Photo donated by L. Leotus Morrison*



One of the Mudjekeewis “homes”—a canvas tent on a raised platform, accommodating one counselor and three to five campers.

*Photo donated by Mariuna Morrison*

Who can soon forget the glimmer of a sunset through the trees as we come down the hill from the day’s last evening class—the strains of chamber music rendered each Wednesday and Sunday night by the camp trio—songs around a blazing campfire after an active day in the open—nights under a clear blue sky—northern lights reaching into the sky like the fingers of a hundred searchlights—the feeling of complete independence when hiking over a rugged trail—the lingering notes of a bugle echoing over the lake—the lullaby-like lapping of the water against the shore—the flicker of 27 candle lanterns as the camp prepared for bed. Life was simple but life was good at Mudjekeewis!

From *Mudjekeewis, A Camp Community*  
by L. Leotus Morrison, 1951

I was a sheltered little girl raised in the midst of a big city by an English governess and a father who loved me not wisely but too well. Mudjekeewis gave me dirt under my feet, a lifelong love of horses and many, many people who helped me understand the real world. For those all important teen years (13-17) Mudje was the most important thing in my entire life. I owe more than I could ever say to those golden summers and people on the shores of Lake Kezar.

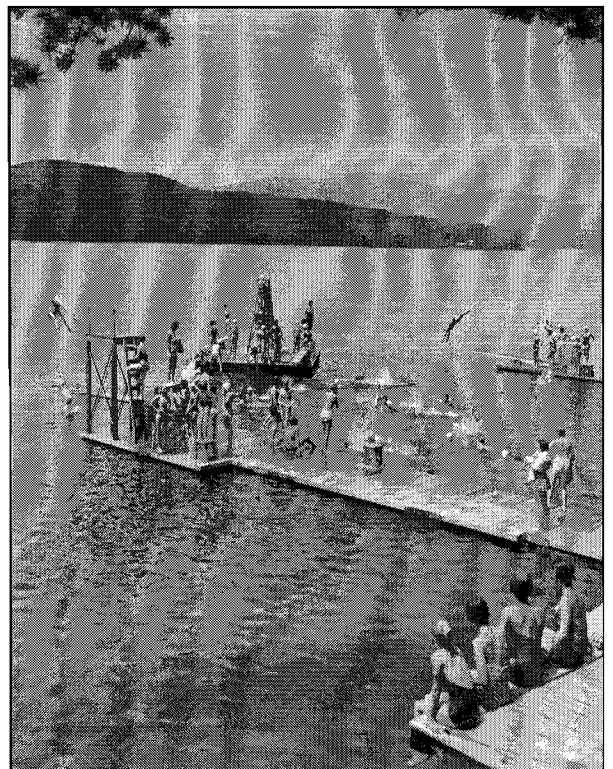
Margo (Payne) Leithead, 1994

How to encapsulate the five summers spent summering on the shores of Kezar Lake at Camp Mudjekeewis? *C’est IMPOSSIBLE, ca!* Mudjekeewis was everything my home life as a young girl growing up with a single parent during the war years and afterward, was not: warmth, caring, belonging, happy and healthy activities, wonderful guidance from exceptional women who were our counselors, an introduction to classical music, and wonderful, wonderful friends . . . some of whom last to this day. The magic that is Maine became lodged in my soul from the time I boarded a troop train in Grand Central in June of ‘45 until, many years later, I moved to Maine full-time in the fall of ‘89.

Jane (Ward) Steinau, 1994

In thinking about those two summers (‘56 & ‘57)...I see us in our floats, a highlight of the summer, but also the sign that soon we’d have to go home. I can still feel the lump in my throat as we stood looking out over the lake the last night and singing, loud and beautifully, “The summer’s gone ...”. I spent only two summers at Camp Mudjekeewis, but those 16 weeks are among the most precious of my early adolescent years!

Judith Friedlander, 1994



*Photo donated by L. Leotus Morrison*

# Recollections of Mudjekeewis Through the Thirties

By Page (Grosenbaugh) Rowe



"Grosie" at Camp  
*Photo donated by the Rowe Family*

The thirties saw some major changes at Camp. When I first came in 1929, we were still in pleated gray wool bloomers, middies and yard square silk ties, high sneakers with gray and green argyle socks—all green—by the 50's to white. The "rickety boathouse"

cited in the tent sign song was replaced in '30 or '31. The camp changed from Junior-Senior to Junior-Middler-Senior divisions, with the ages getting younger, and even the Middler group divided later (older middler, younger middler).

My father came as an assistant to Prydie and Perkie in 1929 and was partially responsible for the replacement of the former farmer with the ever dependable and memorable Leewood Norton. There were the days of the four-day canoe trip, with a second night at Pine Point on Moose Pond, between Lovewell Pond and Lower Kezar. There was a three-day as well, but gradually the beachheads disappeared. The Gypsy Trip to Baldface was a fixture; Perkie told me it had originally been to Kearsarge. In the early thirties there were still meets with Camp Cohechee in midsummer, with camp teams and competition in all sports. The second day Cohechee would give an exhibition with their beautiful southern thoroughbred horses.

There were always great staff members: tennis people often from Bermuda during Edith Smith's time; Peg Payne with a large southern swimming staff; riding people from Montclair and many other points—Joe Gibbs, Helen Robinson, Camilla Nance, Lyda Jewett; crew counselors usually from Wellesley, like the shell; crafts, nature and paddling people also fine. Trio, of course—Leslie Dewing and Marion de Ronde at first, then Sonya Byron and Madeline Foley and later Ruth Keueger. Turning pages for Perkie

*(continued on page 6)*



A three-day "Gypsy Trip" to climb Baldface Mountain. Dressed in gypsy-like clothes, the campers would alternate between sitting on the hay wagon, riding the horses and hiking 17 miles to the base of Baldface.

*Photo donated by Isabel Freeman*

was always exciting—she always apologized for omissions or alterations, but the effect was always lovely. Camp programs gave me a taste for chamber music I've never lost; the Brahms, Mendelssohn, Loeliet and Schubert trios "carry be back" in a trice.

Sings always rounded off a day happily—Janet Miner took the pre-banquet ones, Perkie all the rest. I think, with effort, I can remember all the verses of all the songs of the thirties and early forties. I remember a small bunch of campers and counselors singing for a benefit show at the Town Hall in Center Lovell one summer.

Two things which were later abolished, fortunately—"shampoo day" at general swim, when campers were to remember to bring soap with them, and laundry done at the crew dock (not sheets and towels, but small items) on Sundays.

Meets at the end of camp were much the same from the twenties to 1969, when my younger daughter was at Mudje, and always exciting—swimming meet usually cold, rainy and windy, paddling meet often the same. I remember one glorious day in the thirties when some campers competed in canoe races at Brown's (later Severance's) and pretty well blew away the competition. I was much set up at 12 to beat the current Mrs. Don Dickerman in the "Ladies Singles" and to get my come-uppance when our victorious four-man canoe ignominiously tipped over off Wright's Point on the way home. Nights out changed over the years, involving a walk or boat trip to Boulder Brook Tearoom in my first few summers, with lovely gloppy sundaes; later, Stearns' Tearoom, when we could sometimes go skinny-dipping off a raft near the tearoom road. In my childrens' day, it was the basement of the Center Lovell Church.

Getting ready for banquet was half the fun—boating across the lake in search of ground pine and other greens; doing the walls, table and railings; making table favors. Reunion (at the old Hotel Shelton in the thirties, with a fine pool) likewise was preceded by paste parties at Perkie and Pryde's house. These were to get the pictures into the yearbooks.

I enjoyed a very nice group of tent counselors—from Franny Lawton in '29 though Mary Moore Deaton, two years in "Little Tent" (great independence here, but Peg was fairly nearby if needed), to the final thrill of being in Perkie's tent looking out over the lake. I haven't mentioned the first Katahdin trip, on which I remember carrying two borrowed cameras across the Knife Edge (one being Perkie's movie camera) and heaving a sigh of relief at the bottom) and all those wonderful Washington trips with Joe Dodge. Time to stop—no more room. •••

*Page "Grosie" Rowe (1919-1995) began attending Camp Mudjekeewis in 1929 while her father, Royal Grosenbaugh worked at the camp. Her last year to work there was in 1942, accompanied that summer by her new husband, Bob. In 1952, she and her husband bought a cottage on Kezar Lake, across from the camp, which is still owned by the family. They raised five children—two daughters (Judy & Ellen) attended Mudjekeewis and one son (Randy) worked as Kitchen Boy.*

### Goodbye Song

The summer's gone and homeward we are turning,  
Oh Mudjekeewis we must bid adieu,  
The friendly pines, hills and smiling waters,  
To soon, alas, all vanish from our view.  
But we'll come back when summer's in the meadow,  
And all the lake's aflame with sunset glow,  
Oh Mudjekeewis camp to you we're singing,  
Oh Mudjekeewis camp we love you so.

But when in spring the pine trees softly whisper,  
And seem to breathe your name upon the air,  
Our thoughts go winding back to Kezar's waters,  
And fill our hearts with longing to be there.  
Oh leaders dear, whose inspiration guides us,  
And helps to keep our spirit fine and true,  
Oh dear Miss Pryde and Perkie how we love you,  
Where ere we go throughout our life we think of you.

Lyrics set to the tune of "Danny Boy"

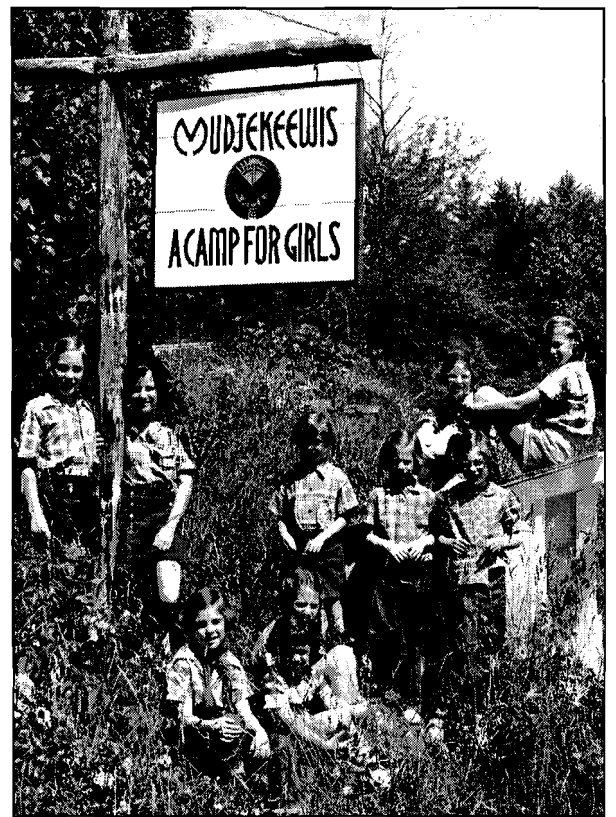


Photo donated by L. Leotus Morrison

## **In Memoriam**

*We note with sadness the death of the following friends and neighbors.*

**Roger C. "Bud" Brown Jr.**, 81, of Hiram, ME and Zephyrhills, FL, passed away on April 23, 2010. He was born in Lovell, the son of Roger and Marion Brown, and attended local schools. He served in the Navy during World War II, worked for United Airlines as an operations planner and later started a painting contracting business. Bud was a member of this Society and was very active in the Masonic Lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star. He was predeceased by his by his twin children Steve-Leigh and Bonnie-Jo and is survived by his wife Joan.

**Perley E. Downs Jr.**, 72, of San Diego, CA, passed away on April 4, 2010. He was born in Naples, the son of Perley and Frances Downs, and was raised in Lovell, attending schools here. Perley served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War and, upon returning, lived most of his life in Arizona.

**Rev. F. David Fisher**, 81, of Wilton Manors, FL and formerly of Lovell, passed away on June 26, 2010. He was born in Indianapolis, IN, the son of Edward and Edith Fisher. He served in the Army, received his M.D. from the University of Rochester School of Medicine, his Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina and his Master of Divinity from Thomas Starr King School for the Ministry. He practiced internal medicine, was an assistant professor at Yale University School of Medicine, worked as ward psychiatrist with Northern New Hampshire Mental Health Services in Berlin, NH and was an ordained minister with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes in Conway, NH. He is survived by his partner Paul Albert, two children—Dana Ashrawi and Kent—and five grandchildren.

**William C. Hollett**, 78, of Oxford, CT and formerly of Weston, CT, passed away on June 6, 2010. He was born on Long Island, the son of Norman and Elizabeth Hollett, graduated from Marietta College and served in the Army. He had a long and prolific career working for Union Carbide, JC Penney, Baxter Travenol, Drake Beam Morin and Thomson Reuters. He spent summers at his cabin on the eastern shore of Kezar Lake and was a life member of this Society. He was predeceased by his daughter Wendy and is survived by his wife Alice, two children—Robin Wilcox and Doug—and five grandchildren.

**David A. Knights** of Portland, ME and formerly of Marblehead, MA, passed away on January 24, 2010. He was born in Cleveland, OH to Alonzo and Gretchen Knights and was raised in Wayland, MA. He attended Brown University and served in the Army during World War II. He later became president of his family's business, Massachusetts Machine Shop, Inc. He spent summers at his home on the north shore of Kezar Lake and was a life member of this Society. He is survived by his wife Sally, four children—Heidi Adams, Gretchen Geddis, Nina and Jeff—six grandchildren, one grandchild-in-law and two great-grandchildren.

**Robert L. Phillipe**, 75, of Lovell, passed away on May 30, 2010. He was born in Portland, ME and served in the Army as a paratrooper. He was a Master Electrician and was very active with the Elks and the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by his wife Ruth, two children—Samantha and Peter—two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

**Eileen Marie (Connors) Rowe**, 86, of Fort Walton Beach, FL and formerly of Lovell, passed away on April 12, 2010. She was born in Saint Francis, ME, attended Husson College and spent much of her married life moving from one of her husband's Army assignments to another. Upon his retirement they moved to Lovell and Eileen worked as head chef at Conifer, dining room hostess at Severance Lodge, and cooked at Eastman Hill Stock Farm and Camp Susan B. Curtis. She was predeceased by her husband Harlan and is survived by her two children—Jim and Keith—and four grandchildren.

**William "Bill" M. Smith**, 66, of Lovell passed away on April 17, 2010. He was born in Newton, MA, the son of Norman and Isabel Smith. For eleven years he owned and operated the Center Lovell General Store and later was employed by the town of Lovell. Bill was also an active member of the Lovell Volunteer Fire Company. He is survived by his wife Sheila, one child—Christine Bolt—two step-children—Richard and Christine Greer—three grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

**Mary L. (Pulkkinen) Woods** of Lovell passed away on April 22, 2010. She was born in Norway, ME, the daughter of Oscar and Edith Pulkkinen and attended Norway Schools. She was employed for many years in different shoe shops. She was predeceased by her son Weston and is survived by her husband Albert, two children—Donna Pepper and Arthur—eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

## Gifts and Donations

*We are very grateful for the following gifts received since the last newsletter:* **Jose Azel & Anna Romer**—*Early Families of Newfield, ME* by Ruth Bridges Ayers, 4 photo albums; **Sandra Bell**—"Schoolhouse" sign; **Linda Drew**—permission to scan photos, copy of George L. Drew's account book 1935-1936; **Debra Flynn**—permission to scan Fox family photos; **Ben & Pat Foley**—chair with rush seat; **Sharon Gilman**—1964 Lovell Grammar School graduation program & Annie Heald class photo; **Rachael Kuvaja**—Lovell souvenir dish; **Leotus Morrison**—Camp Mudjekeewis photos, merit badges, correspondence and research material; **Frances Pollitt**—copy of a map titled *Plan of Lovell for 1871*; **Rebecca Ring**—photos; **Irene St. Germain**—cemetery photos; **Paulette Serbin** (in memory of Granville Watson)—photo of the Barnett Sawyer family; **Al & Jacky Stearns**—permission to scan photos; **Carol Stewart**—photos and permission to scan photos; **Hal & Carol Taylor**—account book for Brown's Camps 1933-1941; **John Vinton**—permission to copy a large collection of home movies; **Fred Wilson**—grain cradle.

*Cash donations have been gratefully received from:* **Bruce & Susan Adams; John & Esther Atwood; Priscilla Beckloff; Kathy Bessette** (in memory of Bill & Irene Pitas); **Donald & Gertrude Blanchard; Mercer & Mary Louise Blanchard; Lt. Col. William Brooks; Ann Chick; Arthur Cormier; Charles & Sharon Dager; Charles & Joan Dattelbaum; Lizbeth Ferris; Peter & Cary Fleming; David & Elizabeth Freund; Theda Gilman; Jane Gleason; Elinor Goodwin; John Kaplan** (in memory of Leon Kaplan); **Ann Leberman; Norman & Charlotte Lee; Linda Legere; Raymond Littlefield; Philip & Phyllis Marsilius; Barbara McAllister; Colleen Nunnely; Sarah Miller; Leotus Morrison** (in memory of Margaret Perkins & Ena Pryde); **Marion Osman; Loren & Barbara Rosenbach; Ellen Rowe** (on behalf of the Rowe family); **Carol Stewart; Robert & Mary Tagliamonte; Hal & Carol Taylor; James & Nancy Van Metre; Herman & Nancy Voigt; Betty Webster; Robert & Susan Winship.**

*Auction and raffle donations have been gratefully received from:* **Jack & Beverly Bassett** (Kezar Antiques); **Alan & Annette Bennett; Rod Blood** (Rod Iron Designs); **Robert & Robin Chiarello; William Doyle** (William Doyle Antiques); **Ben & Nancy Eshleman; Kezar Lake Marina; Lake Kezar Country Club; Chris & Jen Lively** (Ebenezer's Pub); **Bryan & Meryl Molloy** (Molloy Energy Services); **Harry & Meghan Nyberg** (Lovell Logging & Tree Service); **Jane Orans** (Quisisana); **Virginia Roriston; Bruce Smith** (North Country Fair Jewelers); **Hal & Carol Taylor.**

The Lovell Historical Society  
P.O. Box 166  
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If your mailing label doesn't say "6-11" or "Life",  
it is time to join or renew your membership. Thanks!