

# Mussel Ridge News

*A Free Publication of the Mussel Ridge Historical Society*

*Owls Head, Maine*

**Winter 2017 ~ Issue 33**



## “Rusticators” Found Pleasure at Owls Head

In the late 1880s Owls Head became a favorite spot with the “rusticators”, the name given summer visitors who did not travel through communities but stopped off long enough to build a small summer home in a particular area. The typical summer family would come to the Maine coast for one month each year, so the cottages were built only for the warm weather with one thickness of wood, no cellar and rustic interiors despite outside “gingerbread” effects of such things as scalloped shingles. The room or rooms were furnished with discards from the owners’ town dwelling and swimming suits could be discarded on any piece of furniture without protest from mother.

CAMPERS.—Cooper’s Beach and Ingraham Point, on the southern shores of our harbor, are now in the full tide of summer glory. Pretty girls, natty young men, staid matrons and men of business are collected at these popular places of resort, and have for the past few days been enjoying the doubtful pleasure of counting rain-drops and reading almanacs in the hope of finding some authority for a clearing away of the clouds and some cessation of the down-pour of the rain. At Cooper’s Beach, R. H. Burpee, Mrs. Samuel Burpee, Mrs. Geo. C. French and daughter Aimee are domiciled at Burpee cottage. Mrs. Mary Burpee, J. S. W. Burpee and wife, Chas. A. Davis, wife and children and Mrs. C. H. Perry are camping. The cottages at Ingraham’s Point are all filled. A party consisting of M. P. Simon-ton and wife, Misses Addie, Luey and Jennie Andrews and Sime Webb are luxuriating in the Clark cottage. Ed. H. Ingraham, wife and friend are making their usual summer residence in the Orris Ingraham cottage. A party of four youngladies are running a spinster establishment at the Hawkin’s cottage. They are as follows: Misses Brownie Hart and Carrie Barnard of Portland, Miss Willa Haskell of Yarmouth and Misses Jennie Ingraham and Annie Frye of this city. The pleasure and congeniality of this party has been somewhat interfered with by the incessant and unreasonable smoking of a preposterous stove, which has now, we are glad to say, been dealt with and broken of its pernicious habit. The spinsters don’t allow smoking in their cottage. C. A. Henrickson and wife of Waterville and Miss Annie A. Gleason of New Haven, Conn., are at the Cobb cottage. Mr. Henrickson is much pleased with the beauty of this part of the state and the sociability of the people. He contemplates building a cottage somewhere in the vicinity of Owl’s Head. Cooper’s Beach and Ingraham’s Point make two jolly little communities, and in beauty of location and beauty of girls yield not a point to any seaside resort between here and Salt Lake City.



*Interior and exterior view of cottages in the late 1800s*

## OUT OF THE PAST

1925, the Payson family at Lufkin cottage on Coopers Beach from Vera (Payson) Mathieson files.



### Interesting News from Long Ago!!

**Aug. 22, 1876 – AROUND OUR ROCKLAND.** SEIZURES: Marshal Low seized, Wednesday, from Eastern Express office, boxes marked “wines,” directed to E.E. Titus and Mr. Staples. The packages were from Mains’ manufactory, Portland, and upon investigation were found to contain whiskey. Mains is in nice business, using his wine labels to cover, forty-rod.

Wednesday Mr. Low also seized, at the same place, 5 gallons sherry-wine marked J. Hanrahan. He also seized, same day, on Atlantic wharf 10 dozen bottles ale, 2 dozen bottles ginger ale, and 3-gallons rum marked R.D. Rawson, **Owl’s Head.**

**Feb. 28, 1872 – Mr. George Emery** – The Free Press of last week announced the death of George Emery, Esq., of South Thomaston, aged 77 years and four months. Although Mr. Emery held no important station, he so well and faithfully fulfilled whatever trust or duty was committed to his care, and especially that of a good citizen, that his memory demands something more than a casual notice. Mr. Emery was the sixth child in a family of eight sons and four daughters, all of whom were married and raised families save one son, who died at the age of twenty-two. The father of this large and most excellent family, George Emery, Senior, was born in Kittery, in the year 1763, served in the naval service during the Revolution, married Sarah Dean, of New Meadows, New Brunswick, and settled on the south side of Owl’s Head neck, very shortly after the close of the Revolutionary war, where he resided till his decease in 1846. A plain, blunt man, esteemed by all who knew him, for his hatred of all shams and deceits, his known integrity and downright honesty.

Mr. George Emery 2d, the subject of this sketch, was twice married. By his first wife, Nancy Sleeper, he had one son and one daughter. By his second wife, Rebecca Maddocks, he had three sons and three daughters. The daughters are all dead, the sons are all living, two residing in South Thomaston and two in this city.

Mr. Emery's opportunity for schooling in early life must have been limited, but by improving every opportunity, he acquired a good common school education; and taught school a number of winters while a young man. He learned the trade of clothier, but the occupation not agreeing with his health, he turned his attention to farming, which business he followed through life. Mr. Emery was Collector of the old town of Thomaston, from 1833 to 1840, and after the division of the town he was one of the Selectmen. He never sought office, he never refused it; but whatever position he held, however humble, or however important, its duties were faithfully and conscientiously performed.

Mr. Emery was always a man of temperate habits, and for the last forty years of his life a strict teetotaler and an earnest devotee of temperance. A member of the Baptist Church for nearly forty years, he honored the profession that his matured judgment had approved. He was an extensive reader of good books, a close observer of men and things; possessed of a retentive memory and a calm judgment; animated by a highly conscientious and truly Christian spirit; -dutiful as a son, affectionate as a friend, obliging as a neighbor, public spirited as a citizen; a truly Christian man, he has left an example worthy of the warmest admirations and of the closest imitation.

**Aug. 28, 1873** – We have seen, at the office of Messrs. W.H. Glover & Co., the plans for the new hotel to be erected at **Owl's Head** by G.W. Blanchard & Co. The plans embrace a house 40 x 90 feet, 2 1-2 stories high, with verandas and balconies, and a wing 21 x 45 feet. There is also to be a stable 30 x 40 feet. The ground floor of the hotel will contain public and private parlors, billiard room, office, bar-room, dining-room, etc., and in the second story there will be sixteen lodging rooms in the main house and four in the wing. There will also be rooms in the attic story. The buildings are to be completed by the first of May next.

**Mar. 1, 1877 – About Town.** Close's patent surf bell, situated on a rocky reef at the Eastern end of Ash Island, can be distinctly heard in this city during the still hours of the night. The distance is about five miles on an air line. This bell, which was placed in position a few weeks ago, has some essential improvements over the first one erected by Mr. Close at **Owl's Head**.

**May 25, 1886 – FOLKS AND THINGS.** Fred Smith has purchased a large tract of land, which takes in the long circular beach about half a mile below the Ocean House, **Owl's Head**. He is going to build a pavilion and stable, and will furnish fish-chowder, lobsters and baked clams to picnic parties this summer. This is one of the prettiest beaches on the coast and will be a fine place to spend a hot summer's day.

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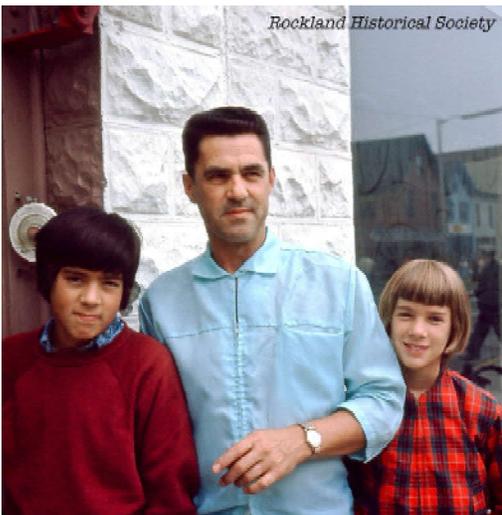
### Eastman's Barber Shop

As a boy, my mother always took me to Eastman's Barber Shop on Main Street to get my "summer" haircut. The barber shop only had two barbers; the shop's namesake, Paul Eastman and his partner, Seth Knowlton. I preferred getting my haircut by Seth because he seemed the nicer of the two men (actually both men were very nice, it was just that Seth had a wide, warm, wonderful smile, whereas Paul rarely smiled at all).

As far as I know, you could only get three types of haircut at Eastman's Barber Shop in 1956. A Princeton, a Flat Top, or a Leave it to Beaver haircut, as I used to call it (a regular haircut where the barber parts your hair on one side of your head and then combs your hair toward the opposite side of your head). My mother, in order to save money and for the ease of keeping me clean most of the time, always asked the barber to give me a Princeton. The Princeton haircut was a pretty straight forward proposition. The barber took a pair of electric clippers, attached a half inch guard to them and then proceeded to shave your head clean leaving just a small tuft of hair at the very front (this tuft of hair was the Princeton feature) to which he applied a waxy type of hair product which made your hair stand straight up. So in essence, you had a U.S. Marine Corp haircut with a 1 inch "snowplow" look in the front. Of course, after a couple of days had passed, in which you didn't have any hair wax to apply to your snowplow, you spent the rest of your summer looking like a guy who just got out of boot camp or had recently been paroled from Maine State Prison.

I remember the first time I got my haircut at Eastman's. I was six years old and scared. My mother had always cut my hair in the past and I didn't understand why she couldn't continue to do it. It may have had something to do with the fact that I never sat still during these home haircut sessions and as she described it, she was tired of wrestling me to the ground just so I could look better than I normally did.

So, as we walked down Main Street one day, my mother holding my hand, we stopped in front of Eastman's Barber Shop. She opened the door and when the bell over the door rang to announce our presence, it seemed to me as if the whole world came to a complete stand still. All of a sudden, the men inside the shop stopped talking, turned and just stared at us. I could tell by the silence that my mother had breached some type of "men only" protocol, but that didn't seem to bother her one bit. She marched right up to Paul Eastman and told him that she was leaving her son there to get a Princeton haircut and that she would be back shortly to pick me up. She then told me to sit down in one of the chairs by the window overlooking Main Street, be quiet, and wait my turn to get a haircut. Then, just like that, she turned on her heel and was gone.



*Paul Eastman and daughter 1965*

All of a sudden I was left behind in a shop filled with smoke and rough looking men. I began to feel really uneasy. All of the men had Flat Top haircuts or Princeton's. No Leave it to Beaver haircuts among these guys. Their jeans were faded and they had suspenders, not belts, to hold them up. Their hands seemed larger than normal - rough and swollen. The tops of their shoes had holes in them where they had been worn out by kneeling over their work all day. They had to be carpenters, roofers or perhaps some type of brick layers I thought.

Everyone, including the barbers, was smoking. Cigar smoke, pipe smoke and cigarette smoke all blended together to create a thick blue haze through out the shop squeezing out most of the breathable oxygen. The

cigarette smokers were the most interesting to watch for me. The cigarettes were always placed in the corners of the mouth so they could talk, inhale the smoke and blow it out through their nose all at the same time without ever having to touch the cigarette again, except to flick the ash off on the floor.

.... to be continued in the spring issues  
*Submitted by Rodney Weeks*

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### BRAINSTEAM- T.V. Sidekicks

We call this quiz "Brainsteam" because the questions are from the 1950s & 60s, pre-computer years. So, with your your brain fired up to a full head of steam, try to match the real names of these supporting actresses and actors with television's leading character. Good Luck. Answers can be found on the back page of this Mussel Ridge NEWS.

#### Supporting actor/ actress

- 1.- Vivian Vance
- 2.- Bob Denver
- 3.- Cloris Leachman
- 4.- Barbara Hale
- 5.- Charley McCarthy
- 6- Francis Smith
- 7- Elinor Donahue
- 8- Ron Howard

#### T.V. Star

- A.- Roy Rogers
- B.- Edgar Bergen
- C.- Lucy Ricardo
- D.- Dr. Jim Anderson
- E.- Lassie
- F. - Perry Mason
- G- Sheriff Andy Taylor
- E.- Doby Gillis

*Answers on last page*

### OUR ADVERTISING POLICY

The Mussel Ridge NEWS publishes four time a year, February, May, August & November. We try to get the printed issues out the first ten days of those months and Email issue follows shortly thereafter. The advertising fee is \$15 per issue, and we'll accept ads for any combination of issues. Some businesses run their ad in the Spring & Summer issues, others run only during tax season. We have one advertiser that subscribes for two years. Tele: 207-594-2438



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## AN HISTORIC SCOUTING EVENT

On the evening of March 24, 1967, several B.S.A. dignitaries and top ranking boy scouts gathered at Owl's Head Central School to award Boy Scouts of America's prestigious rank of Eagle Scout to William (Bill) Philbrook. Everyone nervously waited with Bill and his family, Norma & Robert Philbrook and brother Alan, to see if the Eagle badge requirements had been completed. When Bob Gregory, himself a Silver Beaver recipient and father of two Eagle Scouts stepped forward, Bill knew for sure he'd made the grade.

He began this journey with his brother, Alan, as Cub Scouts in Rockland's pack 203. They graduated into the Webelos and then Boy Scout troop 203. When Scout Troop 204 was chartered to Owl's Head, the boys transferred to that unit. This evening's award ceremony had a special significance beyond any boy's dream. On this night, Bill would become the very first Eagle Scout in the history of the Town of Owl's Head.

After Mr. Gregory had outlined the responsibilities of attaining scouting's highest award, Doug Curtis conducted the ceremony of lighting the Scouting Trail and Dr. Sidney Upham delivered the Eagle Charge. Eagle Scouts Maynard and Milton Dean and John Loker assisted with the ceremonies. Bill's Scoutmaster, Arthur Ballard, presented pins and certificates to him and his parents. At a later date, with brother Bill in attendance, Alan became an Eagle Scout, too.



### TOWNFOLKS- *The Owl Hoots*

January, 1958, Owl's Head Central School's seventh and eighth grade classes published their first issue of *The Owl Hoots*. Each classroom in the school had a reporter that forwarded their items to editors, Bonnie Dyer and Billy Stinson for scrutiny. That first press run of 100 copies had a wide range of newsy pieces relevant to the school along with an editorial titled "Challenge of Sputnik". Shown here is the press crew, (left to right) Bob Walker, Lorna Curtis, Mary Glover, and Steve Kalloch preparing to run their next issue. Mussel Ridge Historical Society would love to have a copy of *The Owl's Hoots* in our archives.

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## Need to Know?? Any Information on these three requests??

The subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he will be at home at Owl's Head for the season at least where he will be happy to wait on all who favor him with their company, .... Fresh Fish, Lobsters, etc. and a refreshing sea breeze, he hopes will be an inducement for his friends and public to try him again. H. Padleford  
Owl's Head June 15, 1938

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Who can tell us about "Ye Anchor Inn" on Main Street in Owls Head. We have the signs in the garage: "YE ANCHOR INN" and "BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER." We have found very little information regarding the inn's proprietors or its operation. We do know the Bray sisters of Main Street walked up the hill to deliver vegetables from their gardens to the Inn. As current residents of 9 Main Street (House adjacent to the Owls Head Post Office) we are very curious about the history of our home during its life as an Inn. Any information you can provide will be most appreciated.

*email us at [cmp@midcoast.com](mailto:cmp@midcoast.com)*

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Article below is from BDW&C 1.1.1896 (I think this is a precursor to the Bangor Daily news.)  
Women's Band In Owl's Head

When women are aroused, a lagging cause begins to move. For several years the young men at Owl's Head had been trying to organize a brass band. One evening last week, the young ladies got tired of waiting for the boys to go ahead, so they took the matter in their own hands and organized one among themselves. Tin horns, fish horns, dinner bells and cow bells were all pressed into service and they paraded the town with torchlights made of brooms soaked in kerosene, with the result that the musical awakening of the community is now assured.

Does anyone have any information about this band? A picture would be great. Please email me with any information at [bonniepost@earthlink.net](mailto:bonniepost@earthlink.net)

### A PUBLIC SERVICE REMINDER

One of our readers suggests that when walking along a road without sidewalks, we should walk against the flow or oncoming traffic, (facing the traffic). This enables pedestrians to hear **and** see the vehicles coming toward them. Any cars approaching from behind will be on their far right and of little concern.

Another reminder. The State of Maine grants all pedestrians the right of way. However, a bit of common sense should be applied when meeting a large vehicles such as bus, camper or eighteen wheeler. They would have some difficulty making quick maneuvers to avoid pedestrians. Enjoy your time outdoors.



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## TAX TIME

During the early years of our nation, taxes on distilled spirits, refined sugar, tobacco products, corporate bonds, slaves and other auctioned properties were the chief source of Federal revenue. High costs of the War of 1812 required a sales tax, (the nation's first) on gold, silver, jewelry and watches.

Fifty years later, with the cost of the Civil War mounting, the Federal government needed money. Congress enacted an income tax of 3-5 percent on individuals with an annual income of more than \$600. The highest rate applied to people with an income greater than \$10,000. Initially, Confederate states weren't taxed, but as they came under Federal control, income taxes were imposed on them also. Additional excise and sales taxes along with a never before heard of "inheritance" tax were also brought into play shortly thereafter.

This same act established a Commissioner of Internal Revenue to assess, levy and collect taxes. The office had authority to enforce the tax laws and seize a person's property or income if their taxes were unpaid. By 1868 Congress was again focusing on taxation of distilled spirits and tobacco products and the Federal income tax was eliminated—briefly. Revived for two years in the mid-1890s, Congress finally declared it was unconstitutional because it wasn't apportioned equitably among the individual States.

The 16th Amendment to the Constitution (1913) made the income tax a permanent fixture in the U.S. tax system. Congress gave themselves legal authority to tax the incomes of both individuals and corporations. By 1918 annual revenue collections passed the billion-dollar mark for the first time, reaching nearly \$5½ billion by 1920. During World War II employment increased and so did tax collection; to \$7.3 billion. In 1943 the practice of withholding tax on wages was introduced and was very instrumental in bumping the number of contributing taxpayers to 60 million by 1945.

**Brainsteam answers:** 1. as Ethyl Mertz with Lucy Ricardo; 2. as Maynard G. Krebs with Doby Gillis; 3. as Ruth Martin on Lassie; 4. as Della Street with Perry Mason; 5. as himself with Edgar Bergen; 6. as Dale Evans with Roy Rogers; 7. as Betty, daughter of Dr. Jim Anderson; 8. as Opey, son of Sheriff Andy Taylor



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