

Photo: Mickey Macfarlan

Number 16 - November 2009

# Cranberry Chronicle

News of Cranberry House and the GCI Historical Society

## Looking Back... and Forward

GCIHS has come a long way in just five years! When we moved a tired-looking building to an empty lot in November 2004, few imagined it would become the dynamic community resource that Cranberry House is today.

This year 2500 people toured the museum to learn of our island pride and sense of place. Many more hiked our trail to the solitude of the back shore, or just relaxed on the sunny deck, enjoying a tasty treat from the café.

But Cranberry House offers islanders lots more. The Media Room helped make copies, scan slides, and fold bulk mail. The Arts Center hosted 145 activities this year: movies to entertain, and encourage socializing; classes to develop our latent talents; lectures to pique our curiosity; concerts and art exhibits to uplift our yearning spirits.

A wonderfully gratifying response from islanders and visitors alike convinces us that Cranberry House has surely enriched life on the island. Our biggest problem now is how to maintain these quality programs in future years. The sad fact is that museum donations and sales were off by half

*Continued on page 7*

## Where and When

The photo above shows Beal & Bunker's *Island Queen* aground in Spurling Cove—most likely by mishap, as intentional grounding for maintenance would be done beside the dock. She probably slipped her mooring near high tide the previous night. White caps in the cove indicate a fresh breeze that no doubt rocked her loose and blew her ashore.

The Beal & Bunker work Jeep is parked nearby. The old Beal & Bunker (now Shoreward) Dock is in the background. Its two large buildings hide most of the Town Dock, behind it. The gray-roofed building stored bait barrels and marine supplies. The brown-roofed building housed the Porthole Restaurant and a small Beal & Bunker office. A yellow gas pump at the very end sold fuel to passing vessels. The Post Office on the Town Dock is closer inshore, and so too far left to be seen in this photo.

The photo was probably taken around 1968. Beal & Bunker built the *Queen* as a ferry in 1963 but began whale watching out of Northeast Harbor in '76. In '78 Bob Bowman was B&B's captain, but in '82 he bought her and ran the business himself.

## Members (as of Nov. 2009)

A heartfelt **Thanks** to the following folks who helped support GCIHS and Cranberry House this year!

Alson, Dr. Allan & Sue Ann Glaser  
Anderson, Gail E.  
Avery, Richard & Marianne  
Beasley, E.B. & Lorrie  
Bennett, Nancy N.  
Bertles, Helen  
Bileck, Emily Nelligan  
Blair, Edward McC.  
Bradley, James & Virginia  
Bradley, Stephen  
Buchsbaum, Peter & Elaine  
Bunker, Allison & Mary Anne  
Bunker, Pauline  
Bunker, Wilfred & Louise  
Comiskey, Elsa R.  
Corley, Karl & Mary  
Corson, Neil & Candace  
Cumming, Jeanne  
Donald, Malcolm  
Dunbar, Charles & Nelia  
Encarnation, Dennis & Kathryn Graven  
Fuerst, Richard G. Jr. & Joanne  
Fussiner, Barbara  
Gertmenian, Jim & Susan King  
Goldberg, Mark  
Guth, Polly W.  
Harlan, George Jr. & Charlotte  
Harris, Nancy  
Hartley, Holly  
Herrick, Steven & Margaret  
Hinnant, Miriam D.  
Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Orton P.  
Johnson, Jr., Robert E.L.  
Johnston, Chris & Vicky  
Jordan-Fernald  
Komusin, Bruce  
Luteran, David & Leonie  
Madara, Ted & Linda  
Marr, Louise H.  
Marshall, Maurice Joseph  
McShea, Naomi  
Methot, Janice  
Mierke, Charles & Polly  
Miles, Robert & Nancy  
Moore, Nancy Hadlock  
Murray, Virginia  
Nevius, Mary & Garrett  
Newell, Morrison & Johnna  
Newell, Sarah  
Newman, Jarvis & Susan  
Oppenheimer, Jonathan & Jennifer  
Ott, Marvin & Emiline  
Pagels, Capt. Steve  
Pierson, Dr. & Mrs. Richard N.  
Quackenbush, Fred  
Raup, Henry A.  
Richards, Eileen  
Richardson, Amy & Christina  
Roberts, Owen & Janet  
Rome, Dan & Cindy

Rose, Dr. Dan & Martha  
Saltonstall, David  
Selim, Terek, Elizabeth, Sarah, & Laila  
Shaw, Gordon & Joy  
Silvers, Damon  
Singerling, Jim & Molly  
Smart, Winifred  
St. Germain, Robert & Lucille  
Stainton, Barbara  
Strandberg, Louise B.  
Swain, Ruth F.  
Wadsworth, Laurie  
Wallace, William & Lena May  
Webster, Marilyn  
Westphal, Gretchen  
Westphal, Ruth  
White, Chris & Susan  
Whitney-Blake, Judith  
Whitney, Phil & Karin  
Wilson, James & Jane  
Wood, Cameron & Nancy  
Zirkilton, Jane

## GCIHS Board

### Officers

Phil Whitney	President
Bruce Komusin	1st. Vice President
Beverly Sanborn	2nd. Vice President
Wini Smart	Treasurer
Kitty Pierson	Secretary

### Trustees

Elaine Buchsbaum  
Malcolm Donald  
Vicky Johnston  
Charlotte Harlan  
Mickey MacFarlan  
Morrie Newell  
Owen Roberts  
Sharon Wadsworth  
Leslie Watson  
Nancy Wood

## In Memoriam

Cranberry Island deaths, Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to present:

Feb. 5, 2009	Robin Richman
Feb. 17, 2009	John Delaney
March 30, 2009	Betty Hartley
May 19, 2009	Stuart Silvers
May 21, 2009	Louise Marr
Sept. 21, 2009	Isabel Seimer
Oct 1, 2009	Lynn Colby

Cranberry Chronicle Editor: Bruce Komusin

## President's Message

This is my first message since becoming President of the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society (GCIHS) in August. I want to first thank outgoing President Wini Smart for her nine years of service to GCIHS. Many positive changes occurred during these years, climaxed by the opening of Cranberry House on June 15, 2008. It was primarily her vision and dedicated leadership involving thousands of personal volunteer hours which culminated in a new museum, café, arts center, media center and public access shore trail on the property.

We have recently completed our second year of operation. Judging from the numbers of people visiting the property and listening to their comments, we have been successful far beyond our expectations. Thousands of people participated in one or more activities which made up the "Cranberry House Experience." On many days in peak season there were 75-100 people on the grounds. Even with record-breaking bad weather in June & July, there was steady traffic to the museum & café. The bike rack was often full, and the trail had heavy use. Nearly all events were well-attended and some, such as Charlene Allen's birthday party, were overflowing. We hosted 145(!) events in the Arts Center, including movies, concerts, lectures, meetings, art exhibits, various classes, lobster bake, magic show, birthday party, wedding reception – you name it, we probably did it. The new Cranberry House sign was installed the first week of August and provided a beautiful addition. Free Wi-Fi internet service was established on "the Deck." Many smiles were generated this summer among young

and old alike. Later in the season even some chickens joined the festivities and became regular customers to Karin Whitney's café. (Oh well, just watch where you step.)

The Historical Society is currently in a transition period which will take several months of adjustment. Wini Smart, after nine long years, moves from President to Treasurer. Bruce Komusin, after fifteen very long years, moves to Vice-President. Phil Whitney, after six years of relative obscurity and low-level doings as Vice-President, now assumes the hot seat as President and must produce... something.

As we move forward into 2010, I have begun restructuring our organization to manage our operations more effectively, resolve various challenges we face, and encourage more active participation by our membership. To that end, I have established five working subcommittees which operate under the Board of Trustees:

a) Financial Subcommittee: The exciting years of buying, moving and renovating Cranberry House in good economic times with widespread financial support are over. Last year the national economy went south. Donations and grants to offset operating expenses subsequently dropped substantially. This subcommittee will carefully review all potential methods for increasing income, both for short-term projects and long-term endowment possibilities. Cranberry House must become a self-sufficient operation. An initial meeting was held in September and the process of evaluating a lengthy list of ideas was begun. Bi-monthly meetings are anticipated.

*Continued on next page*



(L to R) Fred Quackenbush, Bruce Komusin, and Phil Whitney hang the new sign Aug. 5, after a moment of silence for Louise Marr. Louise was a direct descendant of William Pitt Preble. She and her sister Dot McSorley inherited the Preble House plus lands on Cranberry's west shore from Preble Cove to I-95. Louise never lived on the island; she taught in Boston. But she loved Cranberry House and helped us time and again with large donations and priceless documents and artifacts. Louise died just after her 99th birthday in May 2009. We felt it only fitting to name the museum after her and her family. The museum stands on Preble property, next to the Preble Cemetery.

b) Operations Subcommittee: This group is responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the property. It includes oversight of the privately leased café and the public access shore trail which is maintained in cooperation with Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Recent projects this summer include construction of the Betty Hartley Memorial Garden and placement of memorial rocks with plaques along the front Porch access ramp. One meeting was held in October. Quarterly meetings are planned.

c) Events Subcommittee: Provides support for larger events hosted by Cranberry House (concerts, art exhibits, auctions, etc.). Coordinates scheduling to avoid time and space conflicts. Possible events planned for next summer include an Island House and Garden Tour, and an Arts / Crafts / Photo Exhibit. One meeting was held in October. The subcommittee meets as needed.

d) Publications Subcommittee: This group coordinates the preparation and distribution of publications during the year. These include the Historical Society newsletter, island history booklets for sale, historical films for sale, publicity brochures, and other assorted materials. The newsletter has expanded to include more historical topics and photos. It will be published in November, 2009 and June, 2010. Newly-designed separate brochures are being prepared to emphasize fundraising or publicizing the Cranberry House and its activities. Two meetings were held in October. The group meets as needed.

e) Archives Subcommittee: Identifying and cataloguing our artifacts, documents, photos, and other historical materials donated or loaned to the Historical Society is an important, required duty of our organization. This group will update our records-keeping. Most members are island veterans with great memories of past people and events of the island. Some have library and historical archiving experience. The group plans weekly meetings during the winter months.

We have purchased a teleconferencing service to enable the Board of Trustees and subcommittees to “meet” during the winter months when many members are away. I encourage all seasonal members to utilize this free 800-number service to stay involved year-round in our activities.

We will continue pursuing cooperative ventures with other local organizations. This year joint events were held with the Great Cranberry Library (movies & magic show), the Heliker-LaHotan Foundation (artist lectures, exhibits, islander art history project) and the Islesford Neighborhood House (free ferry tickets to attend theater shows). We will continue to encourage Suttons and other islands’ residents to become members and join in our activities. We will work with the MDI Chambers of Commerce and the local ferry services to promote visitations to the island and to the Cranberry House activities.

I encourage all members of GCIHS to become actively involved in YOUR SOCIETY. Join in whatever may interest you, such as serving on a particular subcommittee, participating in an individual activity or event, perhaps simply promoting the Cranberry House and encouraging new members to join, or helping out by donating money to our cause. REMEMBER—it took years of hard work by many volunteers to make the Cranberry House happen—it could easily wither away without your support. I look forward to working with all of you to improve the quality of life on Cranberry Island through Cranberry House and, in the process, to create some great memories for ourselves and future generations.

-Phil Whitney

## A Note of Appreciation

Sincere gratitude and thanks go to all this year’s Cranberry House volunteers who donated freely of their time and talents. Besides museum and exhibition hosts and auction helpers too numerous to mention, we do want to commend:

**Committee chairmen:** Geoff & Sharon Whitham Wadsworth, Bruce Komusin, and all their volunteer workers; **Lecturers:** Jim Ecker, Janet and Wayne Patton, Nathan Rome, Barbara Stainton, Ralph Stanley, Isabelle Storey, and the Heliker-LaHotan artists; **Workshops:** Helen Bertles and Charlotte Harlan; **Special events:** Sam King, Mel Jones, and Randy Gardner; **Movies & lectures:** Phil Whitney; **Café & cleaning:** Karin Whitney; **Lawn:** Rodney Wimer; **Garden:** Donna Sunday; **Snow plowing:** Blair Colby.

Your support helped make the season a great success. Thank You All.

## A Cranberry Drama Revealed

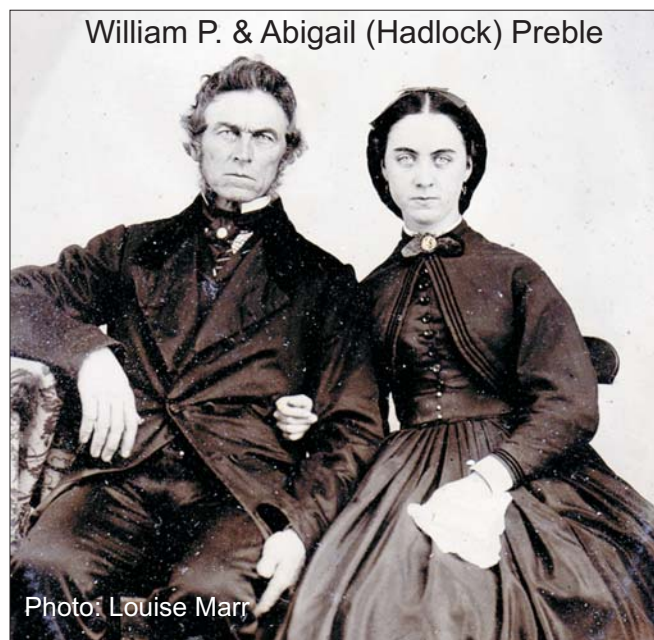
We recently received some Preble family papers after the death of Louise Marr, one of our most generous benefactors. She was a Preble descendant. The gift included depositions from a trial initiated in 1899 by Sammy Sanford against William Pitt Preble, his 88-year-old stepfather. It reveals an unpleasant side of Sammy Sanford.

### Preble History

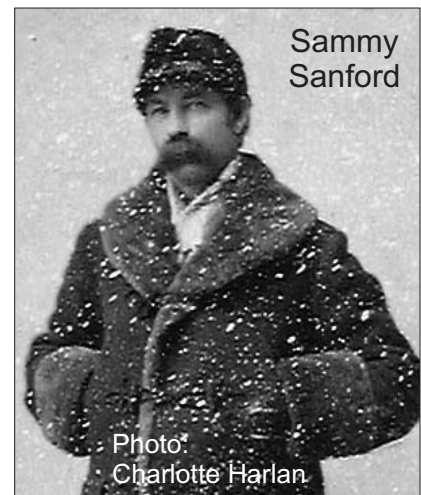
The Prebles were an important family in Cranberry Island history. William Pitt Preble, from an influential Portland family, first came to teach at the island school in the 1830s.

At that time Abigail (Hadlock) Spurling, the wife of Samuel Spurling, a seafaring man, also lived on the island. In 1837, Abigail, then 29, became a widow when her husband was lost at sea. Soon after, a romance blossomed between her and William Preble, and they were married in 1839.

Abigail's brother, Capt. Samuel Hadlock, Jr., was described in *God's Pocket* by Rachel Field. He ran a traveling show in Europe, exhibiting arctic stuffed animals and the kayaking and harpooning skills of an Eskimo couple. But after he met and married "the Prussian Lady" in Germany, he sold his show and returned with his new bride to Cranberry Island. In 1830, when Hadlock longed for the glamorous life again, he set sail for the arctic to gather material for a new show, taking



his son and several Islesford men as crew. They never returned; their ship froze in the ice, with all hands lost. His wife was distraught after hearing this news and left the island with her daughter, Matilda, never to return. Matilda married a Sanford and had a son named Sammy Sanford.



William and Abigail Preble bought Hadlock's large house and proceeded to have seven children; two died young. Preble took over the guardianship of his wife's first five children, keeping their Spurling name. Never a slacker, he was active in island affairs, serving as teacher, Postmaster, Selectman, church elder, fish inspector, shipwreck appraiser, and Justice of the Peace. He was also a farmer, store keeper, and ship-builder. Abigail was first president of the Benevolent Sewing Circle, which became the Ladies Aid.

When Postmaster, he used a small out building on his property (still there now) for the post office. He kept animals and had a large garden for produce to use and sell. His vessels were built at Preble Cove. He raised the original roof of his house and built a third floor to accommodate ship workers. He acquired a sizable parcel of property stretching from the town road west to Preble Cove, then south to Great Head.

When Abigail died in 1874, age 66, William took Matilda Sanford as his second wife. Her son, Sammy Sanford, came to live with them. The old man treated Sammy as one of the family. He gave him a building, "The Smokehouse," and had it repaired and moved to the head of a pond on his property, for Sammy's use as an icehouse. So Sammy had use of Preble's land and outbuildings, plus two fishing weirs in Preble Cove, a lucrative business for him.

When Matilda died, Sammy decided to get his hands on William's money and property. Just a few months after his mother's death, Sammy brought suit against Preble to recover money he had spent on food, what he claimed to have paid Preble's doctors, and a salary for time working about the place. In return, Preble charged Sammy rent and board for all the years he lived in his house. His reason: "I was driven to."

On hearing the rumor that Sammy was trying to evict Preble from his home, and learning that Preble had given Sammy as settlement a large piece of land, Preble's daughter Sarah wrote to him: "Did you understand the dishonesty of people as I? The rogues, both Sam and lawyers could never have taken you in. I have roamed abroad for years, looked into world and faces of people. Not one tenth of the people are honest; defraud for \$5.00 and murder for \$1.00."

But in spite of these troubles late in life, Preble did remain in his house five more years, where he died in 1905, at age 94.

The stories and poems of author Rachel Field present Sammy as a kind, loving person. Perhaps now we see another side of Sammy.

### **The Preble House History**

- Built by Capt. Samuel Hadlock, Jr.
- William Pitt Preble and his wife Abigail bought it from Hadlock's widow, "the Prussian Lady."
- Preble left the house and 38 acres to his son, William H. Preble, who then deeded it to his sister Frances Almira's husband, Benjamin Spurling, of Boothbay Harbor.
- Benjamin deeded it to his daughter, Frances Spurling Marr and Wade Marr in 1937. (Wade Marr was the father of Louise Marr.)
- The Marrs sold to Mrs. Macfarlan in 1946. As both Spurling and Marr lived away, the house was rented out, and fell into disrepair. It was renovated by the Macfarlans and is still owned by their son Mickey Macfarlan.

-Wini Smart

## **Museum Report**

Charlene Allen retired as receptionist after the 2008 season, ending many years of greeting visitors and fascinating them with stories of island life. This year Blair Smith and Gretchen Westphal continued the tradition, and also ably handled additional administrative duties for the Historical Society.

The Preble-Marr Museum operated from June 1<sup>st</sup> thru September 30<sup>th</sup> in 2009. The paid receptionist position is filled June 15 thru Sept. 15, and member volunteers staffed the museum during the shoulder seasons.

The 2009 Museum Theme was "Cranberry Isles Shipbuilding" and offered, among many other interesting items, a large, detailed 3-masted schooner ship model built in the 1930s and considered one-of-a-kind. Just under 2500 visitors wandered through the exhibits, breaking all previous attendance records. However, sales of publications and DVDs were down from last year, possibly reflecting the shaky economy.

The 2010 Museum Theme will be "History of the Cranberry Isles," with displays depicting historical life on all five islands of the Cranberry Isles. We also anticipate hosting an exhibit and related events involving local Indian tribes and their visits to Cranberry Island over the years.

-Phil Whitney

## **Café Report**

The Great Cranberry Island Historical Society sublets the café to a private operator. Kasey Burgess was selected to run the café this season, but was unable to continue working in early August. Karin Whitney took over the operation and carried on seven days per week until closing for the season Columbus Day, Oct. 12th.

The café was hampered by unusually rainy weather experienced in June & July. Even so, business was fairly steady. When the sun finally shone in August, business became very heavy. The café was a popular draw to the Cranberry House property, attracting a mixture of island residents and day-trippers. There were occasions when as many as thirty people at once were "on deck" using the café.

*Continued on next page*

An added attraction this Summer was the introduction of free Wi-Fi internet access. This proved popular with the laptop crowd, who could sit on deck, have lunch or just a drink, and happily keyboard away.

We look forward to another successful season next year (weather permitting) and continued enhancements to the café operation.

-Phil Whitney

## Grants Received

GCIHS received two grants in 2009. We received a \$2500 grant from the Hancock County Fund of the Maine Community Foundation (MCF) to foster cooperation between Cranberry Isles arts and cultural organizations to provide enhanced programming for arts, theater, and music events in the Cranberry Isles. This grant let us partner with the Heliker-LaHotan Foundation to present programs by four artists, who spoke here and on Islesford. The grant also helped pay for two concerts, and for free boat tickets for attendees of the Islesford Theater production.

Our second grant, of \$7500, was from the Maine Arts Commission, an independent state agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts. It was for a project suggested by the Heliker-LaHotan Foundation: to invite two artists, Janet Badger and Becky Buyers-Basso, to spend time this summer sketching, photographing, and interviewing island residents.

The results were a set of print portraits, linked with written interviews, celebrating twelve noteworthy individuals of Great Cranberry Island. The work was shown at a special exhibition at Cranberry House over the Columbus Day weekend (Oct. 10 and 11.) The Historical Society received a matted copy of each portrait.

We gratefully thank the Maine Community Foundation and the Maine Arts Commission for their support for these projects to foster community cooperation in the arts. But we should note that the funds received went mostly to pay salaries, expenses, and materials needed by the artists involved in the programs, with little, if any, help in covering Cranberry House operational expenses.

-Wini Smart

## We need your membership!

Although the building is finished, we do have ongoing expenses. We still need your help with memberships and donations. Please mail in your 2010 dues in the handy pre-addressed envelope we've included.

## ...and Forward (cont'd.)

this year, despite a doubling in visitors. Yet operating expenses did not decline: labor (for the museum host), utilities, regular maintenance, and state-mandated licenses and inspections.

The excitement of the building campaign has finished. Now, with the declining economy, we must redouble our efforts to create new fund raising excitement. We've established a Financial Subcommittee to develop new ideas and efficiencies for next season.

HOWEVER, it's essential to have continued financial support from community members interested in improving the quality of life on Cranberry Island. We take pride in offering varied programs—something for everyone. We want to avoid cutbacks, but that depends on YOU—our members, supporters, and visitors.

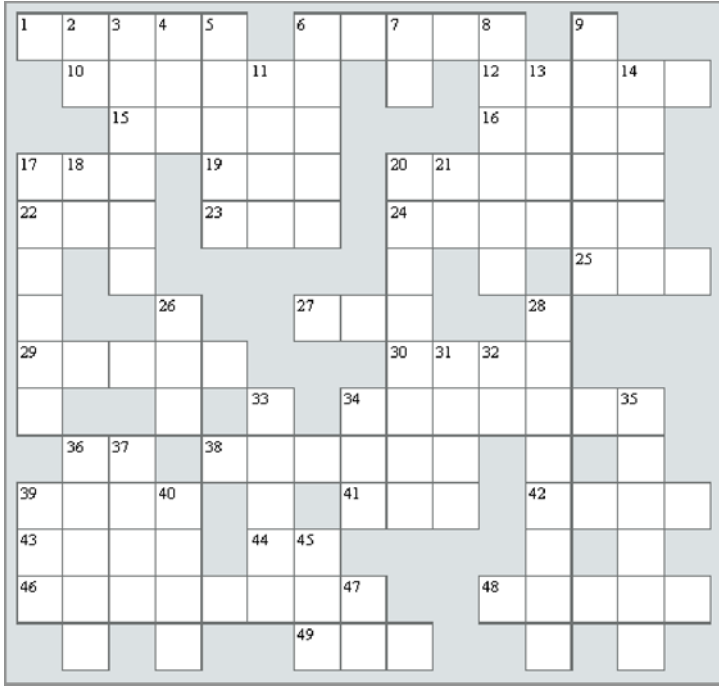
So please remember us, especially during this Christmas season. Remember the good times experienced at Cranberry House. Renew your membership using the included envelope. Donate to several general funds, or to a proposed new project: upstairs heating, a curtain backdrop, or a café shelter awning.

Larger donors can augment the Endowment Fund, or remember Cranberry House in your will. We are happy to work with you to arrange it.

Remember, the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season, and look forward to seeing you at Cranberry House in 2010.

-Bruce Komusin

**Great Cranberry Island Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 12**  
**Cranberry Isles, ME 04625**



*(answer next issue)*

**“Great Cranberry Island Trivia” A Crossword Puzzle by Chris Johnston**

**Across**

1. Boatbuilder Stanley
6. Last name of owner of Dead Man's Point
10. Maine state motto
12. "It's been \_\_\_\_ day's night"
15. Exempt from levy
16. He fiddled while Rome burned
17. Silent OK
19. Text message: "Don't tell me any more!"
20. Small yellowish songbird
22. Center of a storm
23. \_\_\_\_-hah!
24. Word from the French for this area
25. Overhead trains
27. One terminus of the Beal & Bunker ferry (abbr.)
29. Hunter in the sky
30. Maine's advertising slogan: The Way \_\_\_\_ Should Be
34. Floating gunk or trash
36. Canadian's interjection
38. Restaurant started more than a century ago, \_\_\_\_ Pond
39. They're Real in Bar Harbor
41. Brand of TVs
42. Tree in Maine's nickname
43. Important Normandy town in WWII
44. Juan's yes
46. What 38 Across is famous for
48. Snooks Peterson's real first name
49. Letters often following the @ sign

**Down**

2. Thing that pops up in your Internet browser
3. Real first name of Tud Bunker
4. Person paid to play
5. First name of Rachel Field's wooden doll
6. Maine state beverage
7. Note after Do
8. What the Prussian lady, Dorothea Albertina Wilhelmina Celeste, was called on the island
9. Author of the play "Peter Pan"
11. Contest
13. Toilet on a boat
14. Tinker Colby's real first name
17. Angels in pear trees artist
18. Yiddish interjection
20. New water taxi from Newman & Gray
21. Room cooler (abbr.)
26. Junior, to Wesley
28. Resident of May Tom Road
31. Hebrides island important to Christianity in Scotland
32. Part of a yard (abbr.)
33. Maine state animal
34. Initials of the New Deal president
35. One terminus of the Cranberry Cove ferry
36. Real first name of Buster Rice
37. Meaning of SOS
39. Venomous Egyptian cobra
40. Chimney dust
45. Nest-egg option inits.
47. Therefore