

Cranberry Chronicle

NEWS OF CRANBERRY HOUSE AND GREAT CRANBERRY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY • DECEMBER 2019



William Kienbusch and the Summit of Cranberry

CARL LITTLE

*William Kienbusch,
The Notes of Gong Buoy, 1979,
craypas on paper, 11 1/8" by 14",
Farnsworth Art Museum,
bequest of Donelson Hoopes.*

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ALAN LAVALLEE.

Every May, from 1962 until his death in 1980, my uncle, the painter William Kienbusch, would make his annual migration from New York City to Great Cranberry Island. Uncle Bill would retrieve his car, nicknamed “the Blue Monster,” from the garage on Bruckner Boulevard in the Bronx and make his way out of the city. “This is the season,” he wrote in spring of 1971, “in which I rip off sharp precise declarative sentences to my Maine friends (I en route to Cranberry) as if I were hopefully yodeling up the slopes of Everest, to those lovely camps and finally the summit of Cranberry.”

Bill had purchased a turn-of-the-century white clapboard cottage at the corner of Main and Harding Point roads on Great Cranberry Island, following a visit with island artist

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GREAT CRANBERRY ISLAND
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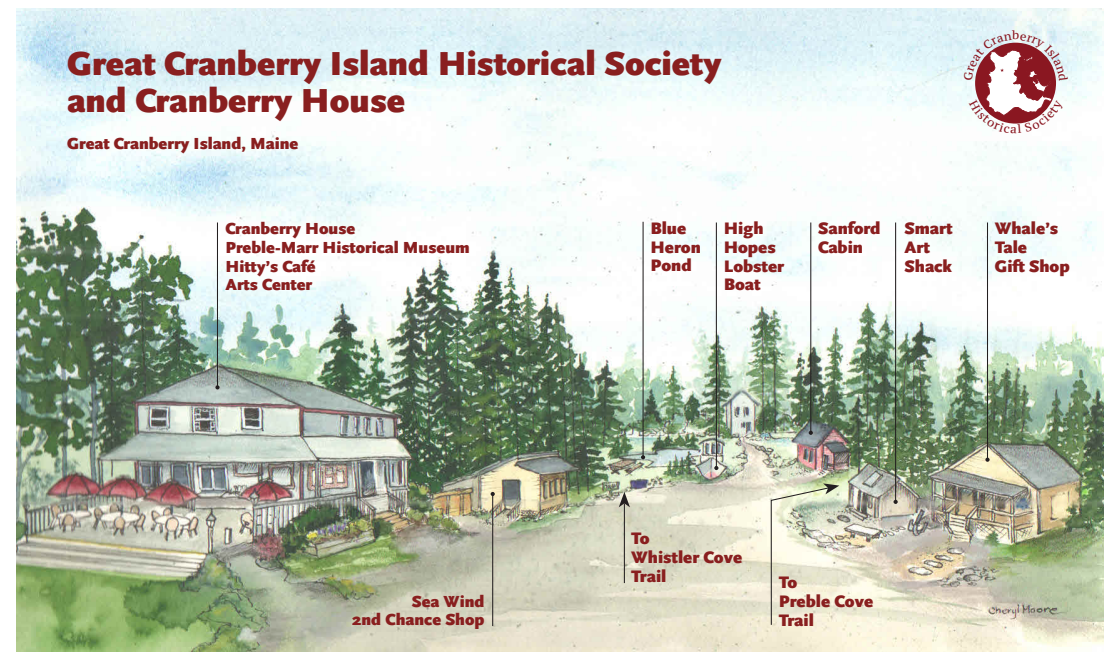
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Below: Volunteer and artist Cheryl Moore completed an amazing drawing which reflects all the buildings, trails and ponds, as viewed from the driveway entrance on Cranberry Road.



Notes of Appreciation

Cheryl Moore

Whose artistic skills deserve more fame and fortune, for creating a detailed drawing of the 'new' Cranberry House campus, and all the good things contained there.

Karin Whitney

Whose food preparation skills are rivaled only by Cezar, and who provided donated food and refreshment support to numerous events and programs this season.

Brad & Lib Woodworth

For their tireless efforts to keep up with the Publicity Committee and Publications Committee requests for printing numerous publications this year, always meeting deadlines and producing quality products.

Dedicated Cranberry Explorer Shuttle Drivers

Who braved cold, rain, wind and sometimes bewildering questions with a straight face to provide access to Cranberry House and other parts of the island that otherwise many visitors

would have never seen or learned about: Chris Johnston, Karin Whitney, Jim Bradley, Jim Singerling, Sharon Morrell, J.C. Camelio, Cheryl Moore, Walter Moore, Katy Kehoe, Jim Gertmenian, Pixie Lauer, Jeffrey Pease, Barbara Ware, Gail Perry, Grace Godinho, Ken Schmidt and Phil Whitney.

All those who tirelessly manned the museum reception desk

For greeting and informing visitors of all stripes about the history and happenings on Great Cranberry: Karin Whitney, Chris Johnston, Mary Corley, Karl Corley, Miriam Hinnant, Sharon Morrell, Elaine Buchsbaum, Phil Whitney, and Nancy Wood.

Transition

Aaron Morrell moved to Great Cranberry Island in September 2019.

Milestone

Passing
8.28.19 Tom Watson

President's Report

PHIL WHITNEY

We experienced a very exciting summer around the Cranberry House property. Extensive renovation work was completed in mid-June. The Whale's Tale Gift Shop, Sea Wind 2nd Chance Recycled Shop and the Smart Shack Kids Recreation Center all had their inaugural openings and reported successful seasons (see separate article on page 5). Much positive feedback has been received about the improvements and additions. Volunteer and artist Cheryl Moore completed an amazing drawing which reflects all the buildings, trails and ponds, as viewed from the driveway entrance on Cranberry Road. The drawing was incorporated into our new Cranberry's Activities Brochure. Additionally, a project involving the paving of a nine-foot wide strip of the parking lot was completed. This update improves the general appearance of the area and reduces dust. Unfortunately, the exceptionally wet spring weather contributed to the worst early summer infestation of huge, aggressive and smart mosquitoes in memory. However, as the dry season arrived in July, the bugs rapidly disappeared.

The Fundraising Campaign for the Cranberry House addition and employees' endowment continued, although donations and construction slowed somewhat during the summer months. Heading into autumn, donation activity picked up substantially and construction was resumed in October (see separate article on page 6).

Other significant accomplishments this season included:

- Relocating and installing additional bog bridging on the Cranberry House end of the Whistler Cove Trail;
- Relocating the Buckboard Building thirty feet back to provide additional space between the compound buildings and add several extra parking spaces; and
- Expanding landscaping around the Smart Shack and Whale's Tale Gift Shop.

We continued to have excellent working relationships with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Seacoast Mission and The Island Institute involving various aspects of our operations.

This year, 59 volunteers, ranging in age from eight to 85, and comprised of both year-round and seasonal residents, provided support to Cranberry House in various areas of interest. Spring season is always the most difficult as there is much work to accomplish in post-winter maintenance and opening up for the busy summer season ahead. Personnel shortages are common, with island residents working many spring jobs, and summer folks having not yet arrived on the island for the season. But everything always seems to work out, albeit with plenty of stress and occasional sleepless nights!

The Publicity Committee was reorganized with very positive results. A new, updated color Cranberry Island map showing organizations, businesses, trails, cemeteries and

GCIHS Welcomes
New Trustee
Ken Schmidt

Ken has summered on Great Cranberry Island his whole life in the house on the Lane built over 100 years ago by Pink Stanley for Ken's grandparents, Harvey and Jennie Stanley. Ken's Cranberry roots include his mother Trudy who grew up in that home; grandfather Harvey Stanley who fished, skipped boats and worked at Uncle Lew's boatyard on the Pool; great grandfather Albion; great-great grandfather Enoch Stanley; and all the way back to great-great-great-great-great grandfather Sans Stanley III who settled on Fish Point in the 1760s.



Ken and his wife, Sue Hallett, retired in 2017 and live on Great Cranberry Island six months of the year, and on Anna Maria Island, Florida the other six months. He worked almost 40 years developing community health centers in Maine which provide access to medical, dental and mental health care regardless of

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Over 7,000 sandwich meals were served this year at Hitty's Café.

Be sure to watch our building expansion project develop on our website and on Facebook.

General Manager's Report

BEN SUMNER

GCIHS Welcomes New Trustee
Ken Schmidt –

Continued from page 3

ability to pay. His last 15 years he served as CEO of Penobscot Community Health Care which he grew from 25 to 750 employees caring for 65,000 patients in 17 locations through the greater Bangor area to Jackman and Belfast. About 25 years ago he developed the telemedicine services program used by Maine Seacoast Mission's *Sunbeam* and Maine's outer islands. Sue taught music in Bucksport Schools for over 30 years. Ken's sister, Jeannie, lives in Southwest Harbor and is a regular part of the household.

Ken said, "So many of us love Cranberry Island not only due to its beauty and community, but because we feel so grounded in the place and history surrounding us - which the Historic Society has brought to life. I'm honored to be a GCIHS Trustee to help keep alive our heritage of this special island, its way of life and its good people."



scenic view locations was prepared and distributed. Also, a beautiful new Cranberry House color brochure was created. It contains all the activities in and around Cranberry House and it was distributed at the museum, café and on the shuttle. New signs were constructed identifying the new buildings and providing directional information. A new, more efficient system for preparing and posting events flyers was implemented. Finally, procedures were fine-tuned to ensure Cranberry House activities were noted in local newspaper columns, occasional separate special articles, and on Facebook. Partially due to these publicity initiatives, the events and programs held in 2019 were generally well attended (*see separate article on page 20*).

Museum attendance and shuttle ridership were down slightly this year. The shuttle was broken down for three days in early August (season peak) which contributed to lowered passenger counts. However, it would appear that the changing ferry schedules and increased ticket prices may have had a significant negative effect on our operation. The reasons would be difficult to prove, but the perception by some was that fewer day-trippers were being seen on the Cranberry Road. Having said this, it should be noted that shuttle donations held steady, including some truly remarkable shifts where drivers brought in over \$100 in three hours! The record for one shift, established by Chris Johnston, was \$205. This record will most likely never be broken.



Hitty's Café, operated by Chef Cezar, had a previously reported record-breaking season in 2018. This year there was a sense early on that café visitation in 2019 would smash that record. That prediction proved accurate. Business increased by 30% with August especially booming. Multiple reports indicated the "buzz" was on in Northeast Harbor, Seal Harbor and even Bar Harbor about Hitty's Café. Off-island celebrities and millionaires, along with many others, made special trips to Cranberry House specifically to dine at the café. Over 7,000 sandwich meals were served this year (not counting ice creams, etc.) It was not uncommon to have the deck and grounds

filled with Mount Desert Island visitors mixing with island residents and the usual number of island dogs lying around looking for tasty handouts. Cezar produced a quality cookbook containing some of his recipes interspersed with snippets of his biography, which has proved a smash hit, selling 60 copies in three weeks. Get your copy at gcihs.org.

In summary, we had a GREAT summer, providing lots of outstanding entertainment, educational programs, experiences, treasures, and cuisine. Many fine memories were created, new friends made, and a satisfying sense of achievement formed in providing a gathering place where many good things happened to benefit not only Cranberry Islanders but also the outside world. Happy holidays and an enjoyable winter season to all.

Chris Morris and his son, Henry in front of The Whale's Tale Gift Shop



This past summer saw the addition of three new regular operations on the campus. Laurie Wadsworth completed her first season operating the Whale's Tale Gift Shop in one of the renovated Wini Smart buildings. The improvements to the building and Laurie's efforts made the new shop the complement to the café that we hoped it would be.

Wini Smart's former art studio, the Smart Shack, was outfitted by Darlene Sumner to provide a variety of kids' activities.

In addition to being a hub for the Youth Activities sponsored by the Events Committee, the building was open daily for anyone to wander in and color or draw, try out crafts, or play games. We were surprised and gratified by the amount of usage the building received (and the condition it was left in). Throughout the summer, two or three kids would be seen burning off extra energy while their parents enjoyed their lunch or entire families would work on items between other activities.

Karin Whitney's work in organizing and sorting the extraneous items that have gathered here over the past few years took a tangible form this year as the Sea Wind 2nd Chance Shop in the renovated Shaw Cabin. Her volunteer efforts yielded almost \$2,000 that have been allocated to the Capital Campaign.



Merchandise in the Sea Wind 2nd Chance Shop

We would like to thank our volunteers and the many people who attended or organized events in 2019. We also would like to thank each of our donors and hope the efforts that have been made this past year are worthy of your support. Our Board of Trustees takes very seriously the confidence our stakeholders put into the stewardship of this organization. Feel free to contact me at manager@gcihs.org if you have any questions or suggestions. We invite you all to come back next year to see the tangible results of your generosity.

Capital Campaign Update

JIM SINGERLING, CHAIR CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE



The Fundraising Thermometer, constructed by Joe Connell and Colleen Bunker, was blown over during an October Nor'easter but is currently being repaired. Ironically, just days prior to the damage, the Trustees had been photographed (see page 7) in front of the thermometer while the buoy was being raised an additional \$60,000. So, the timing of the photograph was perfect.

As we approach the end of the year 2019, I ask everyone to consider a gift of stock or a cash contribution to the campaign to support our Island Community project. For those of you who have been on GCI recently, you see the installation of the windows, exterior trim & moldings and the application of the cedar sidings on the addition to the rear of Cranberry House.

This addition has added much needed climate-controlled archive storage. We have been able to dramatically expand the archivist work space and digital collection equipment for historical documents and items acquired and preserved by your Historical Society. A huge Thank You to GCIHS archivist Anne Grulich for her guidance, inspiration and sharing of knowledge. We are now in a position to share the GCIHS collection with other Maine Historical Societies and expand the history of the Maine island communities around the globe via the internet. This could not have been accomplished without your financial support of this Capital Campaign.

As of November 1, 2019, we have received campaign contributions in excess of \$365,000 of our \$450,000 Campaign Goal. The Campaign was launched July 31, 2018 at a garden party on Long Ledge on Molly's and my front lawn. There is no assumption of any debt for this project. As we look to complete the expansion of Cranberry House (archival storage, museum exhibit area and upper floor restroom, art exhibit, movie theater and educational presentation area) we are reminded that no construction has moved forward until the cash contributions to pay for it was in hand.

We are grateful to Bruce Komusin for the gift of the land which now embraces the Campus on which Cranberry House now sits. This has allowed the Society to move the Wini Smart Buildings to their current location and now provide a gift shop and the Smart Shack children's area.

We must be reminded of our other community-based GCIHS support. This Campaign is not just about the building expansion and the enhanced compound. The Campaign supports the staff endowment that will allow GCIHS to continue to employ part-time staff to maintain the programming for years to come. Employment of the part-time manager to oversee Cranberry House maintenance and operations and the part-time archivist to ensure proper care of the museum's collection is essential.

The GCIHS Cranberry Explorer shuttle has now been in operation for seven years from mid-June through mid-September. The remarkable support of volunteer drivers, scheduling and maintenance of the buggy has allowed the shuttle to average more than 5,000 riders per season over these past five years. This has also allowed Hitty's Café to become another successful island asset. Thank you Chef Cezar for your commitment to the island community. Your willingness to share your amazing culinary skills with so many varied visitors and residents is a gift to us. You have made Hitty's a Maine/Mount Desert "don't miss" destination for all.

Contact us at manager@gcihs.org for assistance or more information about various contribution avenues.

Thank you for all the support we have received thus far.



First visit to Hitty's Café

I ask your support for our campaign as we are now within \$100,000 of our \$450,000 goal. The results of your support are visible and we need to get this Campaign "over the line" so that we can finish the interior of the second-floor museum exhibit area expansion and the interior construction of the stage and presentation area on the third floor of Cranberry House.

I am personally indebted to our Campaign Committee and to all of you who have supported this effort to build and maintain a strong Island Community. What we are doing was recently recognized by Texas philanthropist Charles Butt who visited Hitty's Café for lunch and had a marvelous conversation with Chef Cezar about the positive impact GCIHS is having on the island community. Additional outreach occurred and Dr. Butt responded with a \$50,000 contribution. Not a pledge, but rather a check.

Please consider this holiday season, helping us to meet our goal and being part of the preservation of our rich history by making a generous donation to the campaign. We can provide information about various contribution avenues, such as stock or equity contributions, bequests and other options and assist with the process.

Molly and I wish you all a most joyful Holiday Season and a healthy 2020.



GCIHS trustees, getting ready to raise the buoy, from left to right: Pixie Lauer, Beverly Sanborn, Phil Whitney, Barbara Meyers, Sharon Morrell, Ingrid Gaither, and Chris Johnston



William Kienbusch on the float
at Great Cranberry, late 1960s.

PHOTO BY JOHN W. LITTLE
FROM 35 MM SLIDE

friends John Heliker and Robert LaHotan. An upstairs room served as studio, with windows facing a small meadow, with spruce, white pine, apple trees, alders, and wildflowers.

The move to the Mount Desert Island region followed many summers exploring the offshore islands along the coast of Maine. Bill loved the Maine archipelago, especially the Penobscot Bay islands, with Dirigo, Hurricane, and Eagle among his favorites. They were places of retreat, beauty and mystery. They sustained his spirit and art. On Great Cranberry, Bill turned to a variety of subjects: pine, ledge, sea grass, goldenrod, gong buoy. The sound and motion of the last-named haunted him. In an oil pastel, *The Notes of Gong Buoy*, 1979, made his last summer on the island, the vibrations of the sea sentinel resemble musical notations (see page 1).

Bill's aesthetic drew on the energy of the Abstract Expressionists but his work was nearly always connected to the landscape. "When Kienbusch paints the Maine coast," art historian Susan Larsen observed, "it is not the picturesque vacation spot of tourist postcards, but a wildly animate, unpredictable, noble thing possessed of a power beyond man's most devoted understanding."

Bill enjoyed a lively social scene on the island as part of a tight-knit community of artists: Heliker and LaHotan, Gretna Campbell, Dorothy Eisner, Mark Samenfeld. He relished the comings and goings, from the morning trip to the mail to afternoon boat trips and cocktails at 5 p.m.

Beyond these interactions, the artists nurtured one another, visiting each other's studios to review new work and offer encouragement. In *Painting My World: The Art of Dorothy Eisner*, poet Rosanna Warren devoted several paragraphs to Bill's and Eisner's close rapport. She describes her portrait of Bill: "Dot has exactly caught her old friend, even though she hasn't detailed the features of his face: that's the thoughtful tilt of his head, his thinning hair combed back over the dome of his skull; that's his leggy awkwardness, eagerness, and humor."

With a few exceptions, Bill kept his life on Great Cranberry Island to himself. While he and many of his fellow island artists had studios elsewhere and worked in other places — and were escaping summer in the city — they were not on holiday. A sizeable portion of their most important work was inspired by the island. In introducing a wider world to Great Cranberry, they established a special place for it in the history of American art.

In an elegy inspired by Bill's painting *Sea Gate and Goldenrod*, Rosanna Warren describes the painter lying in his bed with "a patchwork map spread out" over his "failed legs" — an evocation of the crazy quilts he bought at the Ladies Aid that covered and comforted him as his health deteriorated.



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Maria and Serita Barzun
working on an art project at
“Kienbusch.” The painting on the
wall is by Dorothy Eisner.
PHOTO BY EMILY LITTLE



In the poem Warren alludes to “our island” where “alders shimmied in sunlight, deer/browsed through cranberry bogs,” but she concludes:

But there are
other islands, and already, while we sat
here with you chatting of ours with its goldenrod,
what you heard

was the other islands.

Bill passed away in March 1980 and was buried in Ledgelawn Cemetery in Bar Harbor. He left his home on Great Cranberry to my brother David and me. The house became part of a growing family connection to the Cranberry Isles. My mother, Juliana Patience von Kienbusch Little, bought a home in Somesville in 1988 so that she could be near her brother’s favorite haunts. David and his wife Mikki moved to Portland, embracing a Maine life that included trips to Cranberry to paint.

My own family settled in Somesville in 1989, my wife Peggy Beaulac landing the director’s job at the Mount Desert Nursing Association. Growing up, our children, Emily and James, brought their school friends to Cranberry for overnights. From 2014



Carl Little is a poet and
author of many art books and
is communications manager
at the Maine Community
Foundation.

to 2018, Emily and her family stayed in the Cranberry house for much of the summer, escaping the heat of Charlottesville, Virginia.

What pleasure Bill would take in knowing of the legacy he started — and that his grand-nieces Maria and Serita and grand-nephew James refer to the house simply as “Kienbusch.” And what a gift he gave, of art and life, from the summit of Cranberry.

REFERENCES

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Carl Little, “William Kienbusch and the Gift of Place.” *Maine Arts Journal*, Union of Maine Visual Artists, Spring 2018, maineartsjournal.com

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Christie McDonald, Editor, *Painting My World: The Art of Dorothy Eisner*, ACC Editions/ACC Publishing Group, 2009



William Kienbusch rowing, late
1960s, black-and-white photograph
by Frances Hamabe.
COLLECTION LITTLE FAMILY.

Great Cranberry Island Restaurants: Part 2

ROBIN FREEMAN

It was a sad day when the Cranberry Cove restaurant closed in the early 1980s, but within a few years, the island saw a number of young people willing to try their hand at the restaurant business. A charming, outdoor place for lunch, a food truck (before food trucks were a thing), a café inside the general store, even dinners at the town dock parking lot...Cranberry was the place for innovative places to eat!

The Granite Napkin

In the mid-1980s, when Liza Eager inherited her aunt Edith Drury's house, she opened The Granite Napkin. Under the apple trees beside her house, she served a simple but excellent and sophisticated menu for lunch.

The name of the restaurant came from "Aunt Edith's" picnics held on her back shore for family and friends. Lunch consisted of cheese sandwiches cooked over the fire in Edith's little toasting iron, and gooey marshmallows tucked between two chocolate chip cookies. After the sticky meal, if anyone asked for a napkin, Edith was known to reply there was no need of one, "You've got a granite napkin!"

Liza used the name, The Granite Napkin, in honor of Edith who she had been very close to, though for the several years she ran her restaurant, she did provide napkins!

The Lunch Box and The Rusty Anchor

Russell and Maude Wedge operated The Lunch Box for a couple of years in the 1990s. After he found a suitable box truck, Russell renovated and outfitted the inside into a complete restaurant on wheels. From the takeout window cut in the side of the truck, they served up everything from chef salads, lobster and crab rolls to fried seafood and ice cream for lunch and dinner. Even though it was a small space, Maude said it never got too hot because of the big exhaust fan Russell installed. Some of the customers that Maude remembered were the "regulars," Tud and Polly Bunker, and a one-timer, Martha Stewart, who ordered several of their crab rolls. The Lunch Box began its career in the town dock parking lot and later rolled up the road where it operated at Russell and Maude's house.

The Lunch Box moved a little farther down the road to the Bracy's in 2004 when Christina Bracy and her husband Chris bought it and renamed it The Rusty Anchor. Parked next to the real rusty anchor, it was very popular and quickly gained a good reputation. They ran the lunch truck business for three summers.



Edith Drury
GCIHS COLLECTION



The Seawich Café

In 1995, when Sonja Wedge bought the general store and her daughter Tarnya managed it, they started the Seawich Café in one corner of the store. Of course, it is still there today... and what would we do without it?

Back when it was new, Tarnya would take orders for sub sandwiches for the Super Bowl. Later Debbie Bunker came on board and cooked for the café. And then there were those memorable parking lot dinners that Debbie put on. "She used special things that we bought and made fabulous dinners that we served in the parking lot beside the store," said Sonja. "Everyone came with their bottle of wine and had a great time."

Many people still have fond memories of those dinners. Debbie said people would sign up ahead of time for one of the two choices she was offering. The dinners were so popular she had to set a maximum number of 65. Sometimes there was music, she remembered, sometimes not, but there was *always* good weather!

Today, the Seawich Café is the only year-round restaurant on Cranberry. Owned by Janice and Creighton Murch and ably managed by Hollie Stanley, they serve hamburgers and cheese steaks from the grill, cold sandwiches, daily specials and a variety of baked goods. During those long winter months, the store is a warm and friendly place to get a cup of coffee or lunch. In warmer weather, almost every seat inside and out on the porch is packed with people grabbing lunch, enjoying an ice cream cone or just hanging out to watch the action at the shore.

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Customers at Seawich Café at
Cranberry General, left to right:
Polly Bunker, Hal Newell,
Annie Alley, Clara Wedge

...the Café served an average of 100-150 people per day in July and August. The record was set one day when he (Cezar) served 180.



Wini Smart at the window of Hitty's Café with Lauren Gray

Hitty's Café

The Island is very fortunate to have Hitty's Café at Cranberry House. This past fall Cezar Ferreira and Robin Freeman had a conversation on the porch of the Café, sitting at one of the few remaining picnic tables that hadn't yet been packed away.

Green leaves blew down onto the porch from the neighboring locust trees. Cezar says he loves to watch the seasons change from Hitty's deck: the white locust blossoms covering his red umbrellas in the spring, the children's eyes as they take ice cream cones from him in August, the leaves in October; he loves it all.

This last summer was one of his busiest, ever. Besides the fact that he published his first cookbook (what else would the title be but My First Cookbook) the Café served an average of 100-150 people per day in July and August. The record was set one day when he served 180. Another milestone was crossed as well when Cezar sold his 7,000th sandwich.

Below is the complete history of Hitty's Café in Karin Whitney's words. She can tell it like no one else.

How It All Began

KARIN WHITNEY

Hitty's Café first opened its doors on May 24, 2008. Lauren Gray was the Café chef. Lauren had a simple menu consisting of four different sandwiches, ice-cream and freshly baked cookies every day. The Café deck had only three to four yellow wooden tables with wooden folding chairs. There was one window at which to take orders. Since there was no counter top, a yellow table functioned as a resting place for creamer, sugar, napkins, etc. The Café was half the size it is today and working space was minimal. Lauren was a very popular chef and the Café became quite an island meeting spot.

However, Lauren decided that she did not want to continue running the Café in 2009. Therefore, in the Spring of 2009 we advertised for a new chef to run the Café. Things were not looking good until finally a woman named Kasey Burgess called Bruce Komusin and expressed interest in running the Café. Bruce and Phil Whitney went to Trenton to meet Kasey. A contract was signed and Hitty's Café had a new chef.

Kasey opened the Café one week before Memorial Day Weekend, 2009. Rodney Wimer made a beautiful countertop for the Café window where the food was ordered and paid for. Kasey was excited, and she made great sandwiches, salads, soups, cookies and ice cream. Pink lemonade and Ginger Brew were among her drinks.

Karin Whitney often helped Kasey when the crowds lined up and became overwhelming. Things moved along nicely until August 1st when Kasey called in sick and



Hitty's Café's first customer Louise Millar at the window in June 2008 with Phil Whitney and Bruce Komusin



Lauren Gray

Bruce Komusin, Phil Whitney, and Kasey Burgess on the Deck at Hitty's Café in 2009



Karin Whitney, Chef at Hitty's Café in 2010



asked Karin to step in. Suddenly Karin was thrown into the role of Hitty's Café chef. For two weeks no one heard from Kasey and Karin was on her own. Food was running out and no new orders could be made without Kasey. Finally, Kasey called Karin and said she could no longer run the Café because her back gave out on her. Phil and Bruce decided they had the perfect answer: let Karin finish out the season, running the Café until Columbus Day! Karin wasn't happy with the idea but agreed to save the day. A new Hitty's Café bank account was set up at First Bank in Southwest Harbor, a Sysco account was established and finally Karin could begin ordering food supplies for the Café.

In 2010 Karin agreed with Bruce and Phil's request to continue running the Café for another season. She knew it would be a lot of work and was not entirely happy about doing it but we are glad she agreed. Karin continued to be the Chef in 2011. It was that season that the Café was doubled in size and the deck was extended making room for more tables and chairs. Umbrellas were added for shade.



Cezar Ferreira, Chef at Hitty's Café

Karin continued to run the Café through 2013 but finally she said "no more." As Karin, Phil and Bruce began looking for a new chef to run the Café for the summer of 2014, Helen Bertles told Karin she had a brother-in-law, Cezar Ferreira, who was a chef in Florida. Cezar thought he might be interested, said Helen. He flew up to Cranberry in February 2014, and decided he loved the idea of running Hitty's Café. Bruce and Phil signed a contract with Cezar and he has been running Hitty's Café every summer since then. Cezar loves Hitty's, he loves life on Cranberry and everybody loves having him here as well!

Below: A George Savage schooner model from Katherine Shorey Herold (GCIHS 2019.442.2817)

This summer I prepared archives materials for the move to their home in the new addition this winter. We purchased lots of archival boxes and folders so now even the shelves of backlog items are enclosed in appropriate containers.

We received several interesting donations including research materials on Rachel Field from Carl Little (GCIHS 2019.443.2818); a George Savage schooner model from Katherine Shorey Herold (GCIHS 2019.442.2817); and many historic and personal items from the Georgie Ware Estate. Kristin Howard's gift of documents from

Mrs. Clara Rice, Postmistress on Sutton Island, will be catalogued this winter.

This summer, GCIHS began using the new and improved version of the Digital Archive (GCIHS' online catalogue) when George Soules moved us to a cloud server for storage and data retrieval. Thanks to a new search mechanism and other software enhancements, users can now retrieve data from the collections of six of the seven Digital Archives organizations at once. (That's how I found the two photos from Southwest Harbor Public Library's collection that I used with the hurricane article



on page 19 in this newsletter.) Additionally, the improved search mechanism now indexes and searches PDF and text file attachments along with the usual fields in a catalogue entry. This provides a wealth of information to a user that would otherwise have gone unnoticed. Check it out for yourself at <https://gcihs.net/digitalarchive/about>.

Fall storms, power outages, and years of use have finally taken a toll on our reliable in-house NAS server. Even though Jeff Pease and Tom Powell were able to resuscitate it a couple of times, it still needs work. We're so grateful to Tom who continues to provide tech support and pay the annual fee to back up our NAS files to the internet. And we're lucky to have Jeff Pease helping us in technical matters as well.

History Trust Update

On October 25 and 26, the History Trust sponsored a two-day workshop on Preservation Management and Collections Care at the Southwest Historical Society's new home in Manset. Preservation Specialists Stephanie Garafolo and Becky Geller from the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, MA, spoke about everything from the requirements for a building housing an archive to details of pest management, archival supplies, and the need for the Board's understanding of all these elements when budgeting for collection care. Pixie Lauer, Barbara Meyers, and Anne Grulich attended the sessions and came away with plans to tackle a few priority items. GCIHS is fortunate to be on the cusp of great improvements for its collection as the new Archives Room with appropriate HVAC and building materials is completed this winter.

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Join the GCIHS exhibit project!

Faces and Places – Great Cranberry in the 21st Century

Now is the time to add your voice to our brand new exhibit.

Do you have a story, photograph, or artifact you'd like to share?

We are interested in stories of today's Islanders, their families, houses, businesses, and connections to the island.

Send your ideas and questions via email no later than February 1, 2020 to Anne Grulich and Pixie Lauer at info@gcihs.org or mail them to GCIHS, P.O. Box 12 Cranberry Isles, ME 04625



...The next morning was bright and beautiful. Many lobster traps had been washed up on the beach. We kids went down and "rescued" the lobsters that were in them and had them for lunch. Holly Hartley after 1954 hurricane

DOUGLAS MACFARLAN
 CHURCH ROAD
 ARDMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

It was relatively peaceful down there. All that happened was a sail boat parting her mooring and blowing ashore and a mild little commotion as Clarence, Buster, Wilfred and some others ran out on the wharf and scrambled aboard the big seine boat that belongs to Beal & Bunker and grabbed her as she blew past. Actually it was Allison who caught her first with a boat hook. He was able to hold her for a while but she was ~~xxxx~~ heaving up and down and he finally was yanked off balance and landed on her deck.

Wilfred and the others meanwhile had jumped in into the mail boat and were able to swing around and get ahold of her.

The wind was quite strong as you by now must have read. It was a thrilling sight to watch the lobster boats come in one by one to throw their haul on the dock and zoom away from the float under full power. I will never forget the way Carl Wedge roared in in his little boat with the throttle wide open. Just as he got in close - headed straight for the shore - he threw the tiller over and the boat nearly capsized as it spun around and he shut his motor down just enough to skid sideways with the wind for about 30 feet and this brought him just up even with the float.

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DOUGLAS MACFARLAN
 CHURCH ROAD
 ARDMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

Everybody was scuttling as fast as they could for safe anchorage. Buster took the big seine boat with a load of lobster crates down to Southwest or Bas Harbor depending on which he could get into. Hally ~~xxxxxxx~~ was about the first to pull out with Mrs. Hoffman's new boat. But he came back later in the afternoon just when the wind was really starting to freshen up. He had Harold and two others on board and the reason he came back was to deliver one or two messages (that might just as well have been taken care of by phone) for the wives of the four or five lobster men who had run straight for Northeast without stopping at Cranberry. Then he breezed back to Northeast. He has two powerful Chrysler engines in his boat and she is very seaworthy and I have a faint suspicion that he enjoys this sort of thing.

Some of the lobster boats were late getting back and it was interesting to see the play of emotions ~~xxxxxx~~ on the faces and in the behavior of the six or seven who hung around the Beal & Bunker office out on the end of the wharf (I don't know whether you have seen this building). Wilfred, every few minutes would call somebody either at Islesford or Southwest or around by Elisha's old wharf in the Pool to see if they had seen such and such a person down that way.

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DOUGLAS MACFARLAN
 CHURCH ROAD
 ARDMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

When ~~xxxx~~ he got around stern to you could see him standing quite nonchalantly with one hand on his tiller and a cigarette hanging out of his mouth. He just stood and watched while Clarence and somebody else snatched his bow and stern lines and made him fast. He looked as though he didn't have a care in the world. In less time than it takes to tell he tossed his catch of lobsters onto the float, they cast him off and he shot out of the harbor headed for Northeast. I don't believe the side of his boat once touched the side of the float. *and at times the one was 5 feet above the other.*

Not all of them affected this hands-in-pockets attitude but many did in one way or another. Allison, who is always good for at least one adventure no matter what he undertakes, came up with about a half dozen. For one thing he had to take Mr. Eversman over to S.W. this morning. His description of that ride, with Henry and a lot of bags which Henry was taking over to load into their car and the fire extinguisher coming loose and the boat jumping about so that he was being continually knocked in the head was well worth hearing. Later he volunteered to tow the sail boat that had come adrift over to northeast and, as he tells it, had his engine die on him just inside of Greenings Island. Of course he tinkered with it and got it going just in the nick of time.

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DOUGLAS MACFARLAN
 CHURCH ROAD
 ARDMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

Harold Wedge was the last one to get in. They would make fun of the situation by saying that he always is the last one in - "He always has to wash up before coming back" but even so it was plain that they were worried a little. He finally turned up over at Islesford.

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Karl Wedge
 (GCIHS 2018.416.2769)

Back-to-Back Hurricanes Carol and Edna Hit GCI in 1954

"Dear Folks," Mickey Macfarlan began his August 31st 1954 letter to Dody and Bob Freeman (his sister and brother-in-law in Pennsylvania) recounting the exploits of islanders when Hurricane Carol rocked Great Cranberry. Little did Mickey know, Hurricane Edna would slam into the island just ten days later. Category 3 Hurricane Carol killed three people and caused \$10 million damage in Maine; Hurricane Edna caused \$15 million. Together, these two storms destroyed 3,500 cars and 3,000 boats in New England. Carol even toppled the steeple of the historic Old North Church in Boston on her way up the coast.

Enjoy these excerpts (opposite page) from Mickey's colorful letter chronicling feats of derring-do at the shore and the town dock. Heroes in the storm are Clarence Beal, Buster Rice, Wilfred Bunker, Karl and Harold Wedge, Allison Bunker, Hillard "Hally" Hardy, Walter Eversman, and Henry Louie.



Top: Perry L. Lawson's U and I sinking during Hurricane Edna, photo by Roger Clifton Rich taken near 11 Apple Lane in Southwest Harbor with Little Island visible behind the sinking vessel (SWHPL 10066)
 Bottom: Harvard Beal's Bait Scow and Beal's Boat Yard during Hurricane Edna in Southwest Harbor, photo by Roger Clifton Rich, looking east from Clark Point Road (SWHPL 10064)



Elton "Buster" Rice



Clarence Beal

The Bunker brothers, Wilfred, Raymond and Lyndon "Tud"

The Events Committee Report

PHIL WHITNEY

The Events Committee began meeting in February and continued having weekly meetings through August. The intensive planning and attention to individual details paid off, as all events and programs went smoothly. Attendance varied, depending on the type of event and other factors, but overall it was a very successful 2019. The season started slowly, as Building Expansion construction necessitated closing the Arts Center to public events from January thru April. But the summer months were busy as usual, with some days experiencing four or five programs held in and around the property.

Many activities included meetings hosted by the Historical Society, but often other organizations used the spaces, including CIRT, the Town Planning Board, Regional League of Towns and Bethany Church services streamed from New Hampshire. Many smaller programs were presented, often hosted by volunteers regularly throughout the summer, such as: **Movies** - Phil Whitney, **Historical Slides Shows** - Phil Whitney, **Trail Walks** - Peter Buchsbaum, **Health Talks** - Colleen Bunker, **Lobstering Talks & Demos** - Ric Gaither, **Karaoke** - Karin Whitney, **Saturday Kids Movies** - Darlene Sumner, **Beano** - Douglas Cornman, **Kids Talk Show Interviews** - Darlene Sumner, and **Yoga** - Darlene Sumner.

Special noteworthy events included: **DAR Annual Meeting**, **Whale's Tale Gift Shop Open House**, the **Annual Beach Clean-Up Day** coordinated with **Maine Seacoast Mission**, **Maine Coast Heritage Trust** and **Cranberry House**, **Audrey Sumner's wild Birthday Party**, **4th of July BBQ** by Cezar, Eileen Richards' **Post Office History Night**, Bonnie Alpert's **Play Reading**, Peter Logue's film on the *Kellams of Placentia*, Ralph Stanley's new book *The Stanleys of Cranberry Island*, Sam King's **Poetry Readings & Classes**, a **Wine Tasting Event**, a **Heliker-LaHotan Meet the Artist Event**, and a **Maine Seacoast Mission-sponsored Flu Clinic**.

Special mention should be made of the extensive list of **Kids Recreation Programs** designed and implemented by Darlene Sumner, everybody's favorite "Mom." **The Smart Shack** had heavy use, and other activities included **Preble Beach** outings and some larger events upstairs in the **Arts Center**. The season was a great success for Darlene and the kids, and was heartily supported by parents in the community. Many thanks to Darlene for her untiring efforts.

Larger events, which often required planning, were: **The Bass Harbor Yacht Club Visit**, the **Newman & Oltman Classical Guitar Concert** (hosted by Peter & Elaine Buchsbaum), the **Wini Smart Memorial Program** and **Granite Monument Dedication**, the

Maine Seacoast Mission-sponsored Health Fair, the **Maine Coast Heritage Trust-sponsored Trails Walk**, and nationally renowned **Mime Performer, Antonio Rocha**.

The Annual Art of the Cranberry Isles Reception, followed by the week-long art exhibit was, as always, well received. In addition, a **Youth Art Reception**, followed by a week-long exhibit, proved very popular, with some real artistic talent attracting much attention.

Pixie Lauer should also be singled out for special mention. Pixie hosted and coordinated two musical events free of charge, with two different bands. One was the **Contra Dance** at the Longfellow School, which was enjoyed by all. Everyone agreed her band and the Contra Dance Caller were outstanding. The second was a folk music concert in the Arts Center with her group "**Well Seasoned**," which had the standing room only crowd stomping and cheering throughout. If that was not enough, Pixie hosted two dog training sessions and a **Dog Show Finale** with prizes. Pixie's efforts made for a memorable summer of music and dog tricks.

The hectic summer season ended with the **Annual Volunteers Appreciation Day excursion to Bear Island**, courtesy of Maine Seacoast Mission's *Moonbeam*, where they were met by our gracious hosts Charles and Nelia Dunbar (see article on page 21).

The Cranberry House was honored to be selected by the Island Institute to host their Annual Donor Anchor Meeting. The meeting included a moderated discussion with island residents and Anchor Attendees, a catered lunch by Cezar, and tours of the library and school. The emphasis was on island year-round sustainability - the successes and challenges faced on Great Cranberry Island - as a model for other island communities.

Touring Bear Island A Special Thank You Gift to Cranberry House Volunteers

ELAINE BUCHSBAUM

Sunday, September 1st dawned bright and clear. The sky was blue, the air was crisp and two dozen volunteers who had helped at Cranberry House over the summer convened at the town dock at gam.

The new *Moonbeam*, a Seacoast Mission boat, transported us to Bear Island. We were meeting the Dunbars, Charlie and Nelia, whose family owns most of the island. They had invited us to come share a magical day with them. After having gone past Bear Island on the Mailboat many times, we were all excited to pull up to the Dunbar's dock and disembark. Some of us had previously met the Dunbars when Charlie came to Cranberry House a few years ago to talk to us about issues in the Middle East. Charlie was the U.S. Ambassador to Yemen from 1988 – 1991.

Our first stop was their boat house which has a lovely view from the deck toward Northeast Harbor. From there we proceeded to the main house, a structure full of charm and comfort. A breakfast of muffins and coffee and juices awaited us. Charlie and Nelia invited us to explore the house on our own.



Inside the Bear themed bedroom at the Dunbar's - (printed with permission from Nelia Dunbar)

I especially loved a window seat built at a turn in the staircase leading upstairs. It was easy to picture an afternoon reading a good book while stretched out by the big windows.

The best part was the warmth and welcome the Dunbars gave us. Charlie was full of good stories about the history of the island and the house. Nelia showed us many charming aspects of the



Charlie Dunbar entertaining volunteers with stories of Bear Island

house and had stories of her own to impart. Charlie treated us to a hike across the island with views towards Sutton and Cranberry.

Barbara Ware, a longtime summer resident of Great Cranberry, was one of the volunteers who went on the excursion. Her comments sum up how we felt about this remarkable day:

I loved this trip...everything about it was perfect! The memory that has stayed with me most though, was meeting Charlie Dunbar and his wonderful wife, Nelia, and their welcoming hospitality. Charlie's childhood stories and family history just charmed us. He even hooked up the "ole rope swing" so the youngsters could swing off the dock and into the water! Brought back some childhood memories of my own...

Thank you to the Dunbars, the Historical Society and the Seacoast Mission for this very special day. We can't wait to see what next year's trip will bring.



The Boathouse

Great Cranberry Island Historical Society Capital Campaign Pledges and Donors

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- Remember – one forward-thinking person began the process with a single donation.

Whatever you can afford, we will sincerely appreciate it.

Look what's happened in just ten years!



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Small World: From Kenya to Cranberry

PHIL WHITNEY

A couple of years ago I was driving the Cranberry Explorer shuttle with a group of people on board. We were returning from the end of the island and were stopping to drop them off at the Atlantic Shores Trail. During the course of the ride, I had mentioned spending my career in the Foreign Service. Nothing more was said. I dropped the group off at the trail. Before I started up to proceed onward, the leader of the group, who was just entering the woods, turned around and called out, “Did you say Foreign Service or Forest Service?” I said “Foreign Service.” He related he had a next-door neighbor in Florida who had been in the foreign service in Africa. Her husband was killed in a car accident over there. I asked if his name had been Bob Bannerman. He said, “Yes. How did you know?” I replied, “I was there when it happened. He was my supervisor. It was my first assignment overseas as Assistant Regional Security Officer for the Diplomatic Security Service at Embassy Nairobi.” The incident had occurred approximately 30 years ago.

About two weeks later, I was again driving the shuttle with a large group of passengers. We were again returning from the end of the island and they had requested to stop at the Atlantic Shores Trail. Again, in the course of conversation, I had mentioned being in the Foreign Service. A fellow sitting behind me stated that a former fraternity brother of his had been in the Foreign Service. He was killed in a car accident in Africa. His name? Bob Bannerman.

In summary, two entirely unrelated groups of people, two weeks apart, in the exact same location on Cranberry Island, reported knowing my supervisor, Bob Bannerman, who was killed in a car accident in Nairobi during the Christmas season 30 years ago.

**Do you have a small world story
you would like to share?**

**We would love to include it in
an upcoming edition.**

Email us at info@gcihs.org or send a note to:

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

Excerpts from an Interview with Wilfred Bunker in 2011

TRANSCRIPTION BY SHARON MORRELL,
WINTER 2019

Speaking with Phil Whitney and Bruce Komusin in 2011, Wilfred remembered what it was like to land at the town dock in the old days:

I remember one particular day, when Tud Bunker was going back and forth quite often and used to land at the dock down at Cranberry and climb a ladder. They had no floats – had to climb the ladder. No steps...When I was a youngster I'd bring the mail down and I'd have the groceries and I'd have to go up on the dock, you know I was all alone, lower my hook line down, go down the ladder and hook the boxes on, go up on...climb the ladder again, taken them up on the dock, put them in the truck.

Wilfred remembered how in about 1950 he met Clarence Beal who would eventually become his partner in Beal and Bunker:

He used to be a lobster fisherman and he wasn't too far from my age at that time. He was maybe a little older. He come from down east somewhere right down around that area [Beal's Island or Jonesport]. And then he come up with Andrew Alley and those people. They moved up, three or four of them. He was the one to work with I'll tell ya. They had a hard job. Well, one of them, every year, in the fall of the year you'd see a tree coming out through the woods. He'd have it on his shoulder. They'd buy it, take an ax and cut a tree and put it on their shoulder and you'd see the trees coming out before you'd see them. And that's the way they got their [fire]wood.

When asked if he'd ever learned to swim, Wilfrid laughed and said no.

Nearest I come to drowning was, wind in Spurling's Cove blowed the boat, oh probably blowed 30-35 miles an hour down in there. And I went to put, well it was the Island Queen I guess. I went to put her on the mooring and I had the skiff tied on the stern so on the side of her, and I went up on the deck bow, had to haul the chain up to get put in the bow. And about the time I get almost to the bow forward, I felt the rope around the wheel, caught wrapped around and I didn't quite, couldn't quite reach the vent from where I was and I remember I was all alone, at night, and I pushed myself right up and I got ahold of the vent and when I did I shook my leg, and damned if I didn't shake the rope off me. I went back around and come back and put it on the mooring.

The Great Cranberry Island Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Cranberry Isles, Maine 04625



The Pool, Great Cranberry Island, July 2019

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The back shore, Great Cranberry Island, September 2019

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