

Number 18 - November 2010

Photo: Mickey Macfarlan

Cranberry Chronicle

News of Cranberry House and the GCI Historical Society

Capital Improvement Project

The GCIHS Board of Trustees has voted to look into expanding the overcrowded Cranberry House deck, café kitchen, and museum store. The aim is keep Cranberry House an attractive visitor destination by making the café a more viable business for any future operator.

Initial plans call for:

1. Widening the existing deck by 8 feet on the Parsonage (south) side, and extending it, 8 feet wide, on the south side of the building toward the fire escape.
2. Building a roof over the new south side deck, matching the existing roof on the north side.
3. Pushing out the south wall of the kitchen and museum store by 4 feet (under the new roof).
4. Providing removable canvas walls to protect patrons from cold, wind, and rain typical of off-season dining.
5. Building a lower level patio deck on the south, with steps up to the current deck, and down to the lawn.

On completion, diners will have more table space—some sheltered from wind and rain, some with an excellent view of the beautiful new garden. The building would gain a more spacious kitchen, making it possible to hire a food prep helper and expand hours of operation—important points for any potential café operator. Though the plans haven't been finalized, we foresee a cost of about \$25,000.

If you support this proposed project we ask your financial help to make it happen. Our normal income and donations can't cover this capital improvement; we must raise it in a separate funding campaign. With a positive response we could do it by next summer. We have worked miracles before!

We'll have artist drawings of the project in our next newsletter. But please don't wait if you approve. Early funds are very important to help us move forward before the 2011 season. Thank You for Your Support.
-GCIHS Board of Trustees

Where and When

The photo above, from Mickey Macfarlan, was taken in the winter of 1977-1978. It probably shows remnants of the Great Blizzard of '78 (Feb. 6-7, 1978) which dumped a record 27.1 inches of snow on Boston. As the storm passed Cape Cod it turned to rain.

On Cranberry, damage from this Nor'easter was worsened by a new moon on Feb. 7, causing unusually high tides. Waves washed over the town dock. The freight shed was shifted across to the opposite side of the dock. The parking lot was flooded, and littered with kelp, rocks, and whatnot from the sea.

This could be the same storm mentioned in *The Westphals' First GCI Winter* (pg 7), which blew down Jack and Bob's large boathouse and dock.

Current Members

Dues of \$15 (individual) or \$25 (family), or any donation of \$25 or more starts or extends your GCIHS membership for 12 months. Members get this newsletter, 10% discount at the museum store, invitations to special receptions, lower admission prices to paid events, and a free tour map on museum entry. Memberships help keep Cranberry House operating. A heartfelt **Thanks** to the following folks who sent in their dues in November 2009 or after:

Allen, Larry, & Kristen Blodgett
Alson, Dr. Allan & Sue Ann Glaser
Bailey, Patricia
Bass Harbor Yacht Club
Bennett, Nancy N
Bileck, Emily Nelligan
Bradley, James & Virginia
Bradley, Katherine
Bradley, Philip & Julie
Bradley, Stephen
Brady, Jim
Brawner, James N III & Julianne
Brunault, Ruth
Bryan, Ashley
Buchsbaum, Peter & Elaine
Bunker, Allison & Mary Anne
Bunker, Wilfred & Louise
Butt, Charles
Campbell, Charlotte R
Carter, Alice G
Comiskey, Elsa R
Corley, Karl & Mary
Corson, Neil & Candace
Cox, Dick & Cheryl Hogg-Chapman
Donald, Malcolm
Dunn, Susan A
Dwelley, Hugh & Shirley
Fernald, Anna
Fuerst, Richard G Jr. & Joanne
Gaither, Richard & Ingrid
Glaser, Michael & Kathleen
Glidden, Suanne
Goodwin, Max & Victoria
Gray, Ed & Jane
Guth, Polly W
Harlan, George Jr & Charlotte
Harris, Nancy
Hartley, Holly & Oscar Anderson
Herrick, Paul W
Herrick, Steven L
Hook, Janet A
Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Orton P.
Johnson, Robert E.L. Jr
Johnston, Chris & Vicky
Jordan-Fernald
Kane, Cap & Anne Eldridge
Komusin, Bruce
Liebow, Dr. Paul & Evelyn
Little, Juliana
Lorence, John & Treg
Lyman, Lincoln P
Macfarlan, Mickey
Madara, Ted & Linda
Marsoobian, Armen & Fulvia
McShea Family (Sarah, Diane)
McShea, Naomi
Methot, Janice
Miles, Robert & Nancy

Millar, Louise
Moore, Nancy Hadlock
Moss, Jan
Murch, Creighton & Janice Smith
Murray, Virginia
Nevius, Mary & Garrett
Newell, Morrison & Johnna
Newman, Jarvis & Susan
Ott, Marvin & Emilie
Pew, Arthur E. III & Judith
Pierson, Dr. & Mrs. Richard N
Polky, Adrien & Diane
Porcaro, Eugene & Frances
Quackenbush, Fred & Wini
Raup, Henry A
Richards, Eileen
Richardson, Amy & Christina
Richman, Michael
Roberts, Owen & Janet
Rome, Abigail
Rome, Dan & Cindy
Rome, Nathan & Bonnie Alpert
Rose, Dr. Dan & Martha
Saltonstall, David
Sanborn, Beverly
Schmidt, Kenneth & Dana
Selim, Terek & Elizabeth
Shoemaker, Paul & Susanne
Shorey, Ev & Joan
Sillers, Dorothy
Spencer, June B
Spingarn, Patrice
Spurling, Leslie & Norma
St. Germain, Robert & Lucille
Strandberg, Louise B
Sullivan, Richard & Ann
Taylor, Clay
Town of Cranberry Isles
Tyrrell, John & Veronica
Uihlein, Lynde B
Wallace, William & Lena May
Watson, Thomas & Leslie
Webster, Marilyn
Weibel, David & Tracy
Weinreich, Don & Barbara
Wells, Donald
Westphal, Gretchen
Westphal, Ruth
Whitney, Phil & Karin
Whitney-Blake, Judy
Wigatow, Dan & Sally
Williamson, Mark & Sarah
Wilson, James & Jane
Wood, Cameron & Nancy
Wood, Jonathan & Robin
Wood, Wendy
Yorke, Robert & Judith
Zimmerman, Steven & Sarah

GCIHS Board

Officers

Phil Whitney	President
Bruce Komusin	Vice President
Beverly Sanborn	Vice President
Vicky Johnston	Treasurer
Wini Smart	Secretary

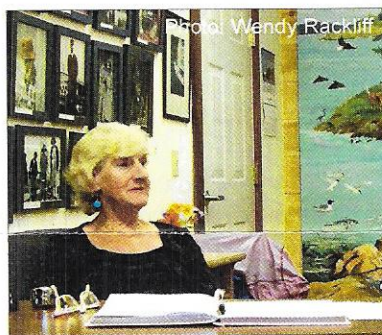
Trustees

Jim Bradley	Elaine Buchsbaum
Malcolm Donald	Charlotte Harlan
Mickey Macfarlan	Morrie Newell
Kitty Pierson	Owen Roberts
Leslie Watson	Nancy Wood

In Memoriam

We sadly lost the following friends and members:

May 15, 2010	Gertrude Stanley Schmidt
July 29, 2010	Charlene Bunker Allen
Sept. 1, 2010	Renna Colby
Oct. 7, 2010	Marilyn Fredrickson



Charlene Allen

Cranberry House
Museum Hostess
2000-2008

Art Exhibits & Web Sales

The Cranberry House Arts Center will host small art exhibits by individual artists next summer. We're looking for local artists who've already had an exhibit at the library. Exhibiting at Cranberry House offers a second opportunity for islanders and visitors to view your works. Exhibits would generally run one week, between June 12th and September 17th. Plus, during and after the exhibit, works can also be shown on a special art exhibit page of the GCIHS web site. Artworks can be sold, both from the floor or the web, with a 20% commission to GCIHS. Please contact Laura Bolton (244-0779) or Phil Whitney (244-5933) to arrange an exhibit, and Bruce Komusin (244-3682) for web details.

Cranberry Chronicle Editor: Bruce Komusin

President's Message

We've just concluded our third Cranberry House season, filled with memorable events and activities, and welcome support from neighbors and friends. Thousands of day trippers and islanders visited the grounds, some regularly, to hike the trails, reminisce about island history, relax on the café deck with a tasty treat, or attend a concert, movie, lecture, or class. It's been especially gratifying to hear the many positive comments from folks simply having an enjoyable time on Cranberry Island.

We were blessed with outstanding support from many volunteers and workers. Some were regulars: museum hosts or café cashiers; others supplied extra hands at special events; still others worked behind the scenes to maintain the building and grounds, produce publications, and catalog our historical archives.

We're especially grateful that a Unity College environmental class chose to donate five days of their time in August to help GCIHS. They cleaned up the Preble Cemetery, built a small pond, did trail maintenance, and helped at the Home, Art & Garden Tour. Their youthful presence and energy were deeply appreciated by the entire island community, and we hope this visit will become an annual event.

Laura Bolton arrived in late June to help out at the museum and café, and eased into her Island Institute Fellow duties in September. She's been a truly welcome addition, not only to the Historical Society and Cranberry House, but to the entire Town of Cranberry Isles.

The Historical Society's family has continued to grow. We now have about 178 members, a big increase from last year. Our membership is broad-based, a healthy balance between year-round and seasonal residents, off-island friends with ties to the island, and general supporters nationwide. We continue to urge others to provide support in any way they desire: membership, financial donations, archival donations, volunteer skills, etc.

Though 2010 is still fresh in our memories, we've already begun looking ahead to next year. Another full slate of programs and events is being planned—not only to engage islanders, but to promote the island as a 'destination'. When visitors spend their vacation dollars here it helps sustain the island economy. To attract them, one major event being considered is a **Rachel Field Day**, aiming to bring a sizeable number of Rachel Field and Hitty fans to enjoy a potpourri of related activities. Details of this and other events will appear in our February and June issues.

As the holiday season approaches, please remember Cranberry House and the fine memories we've shared. Our basic yearly operating expenses (host salary, lift and café licenses, insurance, and utilities, must be met each year, not

even including any capital improvements. We're making every effort to keep operating expenses low while maintaining the same quality programs and services, but it all depends on **YOU**.

Please make every effort to assist with a tax-deductible donation to help Cranberry House continue offering the programs you've come to enjoy. You can contribute to our long-range Endowment Fund, specify a favorite program or project, give a gift membership, or donate in memory of a loved one. **Any amount is deeply appreciated.** On behalf of the Board of Trustees of GCIHS, I wish all of you a joyous and safe Christmas season. -Phil A. Whitney

Museum Report

The Historical Museum again proved a popular attraction this summer. Total attendance of about 2800 was 300 more than last year. On the day of the Home, Art & Garden Tour, we were overwhelmed with hundreds of visitors inside. The new exhibits: *History of the Cranberry Isles* and *Maine Indians on the Cranberry Isles* combined well with the established displays: *Rachel Field and Hitty* and the unique *Islander* three-masted schooner model.

The expanded Museum Store offered many historical-related gifts for sale, featuring our newest publication, *House Histories of Great Cranberry Island*, filled with photos and background information of island homes.

The *Wall of Fame*, our most popular and sentimental display, shows photos of fondly-remembered year-round and seasonal islanders no longer with us. This fall Laura Bolton and Bruce Komusin spent many hours upgrading and expanding it. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised to see the results when you visit the museum next year.

Individuals continued to donate valuable photos, documents, and artifacts to GCIHS. Descendants of John and Sadie Hamor gave a wonderful collection of items about Hamor House—the restaurant and hotel at the end of the island which operated for several decades, until 1942. Many of those items were on display this summer.

If you have any materials you'd like to donate or loan the museum, please contact Phil Whitney (244-5933) or Bruce Komusin (244-3682). The Media Center has facilities to easily scan your old photos or slides so you can retain the originals. If you have friends or relatives who aren't yet Historical Society members, please encourage them to join. We're making great efforts to preserve our memories and heritage. We welcome their support. -Phil Whitney

Café Report

The Cranberry House Café operated daily from Memorial Day weekend to Columbus Day weekend. Karin Whitney was Manager this year, and established some kind of endurance record, working 136 straight days under considerable pressure without a break. She was ably assisted by her friendly cashiers: Laura Bolton, Abby Singerling, Kelly McGrath, and Bruce Komusin.

The extensive menu attracted thousands of customers to enjoy lunch or dessert on the (usually) sunny deck. Karin and the cashiers could often be seen mingling on deck with the diners, and many new friends were made. The 'Swedish open-faced shrimp sandwich' became locally famous within weeks of its debut. During movie nights, and some special events, the café sold popcorn, soda, and ice cream.

Free Wi-Fi internet service saw growing use. Often as many as four tables were occupied by users tapping away while sipping a drink. Some dedicated souls even worked at midnight under the bright Cranberry moon.

The high point of the season was Home, Art & Garden Tour day, when the haggard chef served about 140 meals.

Experience this year shows that the kitchen is too crowded to admit a second food prep worker, yet the volume of business certainly could support one. This underscores the need to expand the kitchen and optimize its layout to allow a second chef. The presence of such a person would also permit a more human schedule for both. See the *Capital Improvement Project* article (pg 1) for our plans to this end.

Karin thanks everyone who visited for their support and kind words of encouragement this season. -Phil Whitney

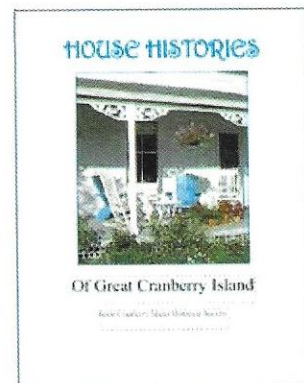
Karin Whitney with 'famous' guest Gaile Colby



Photo: Wilson & Maryanne Bunker

House Histories

We hope by now you've all seen our beautiful new publication: *House Histories of Great Cranberry Island*. It's our largest to date. We include a 1- or 2-page history and photo of the 65 houses we had information about, some old, some new.



Now we'd like to make a second volume to include the 79 remaining houses listed below. We can take a photo, but we desperately need house information. If your name appears, please send us all you know: house name (if it has one), when built, previous and current owners, and any history or stories you know about the house, property, or early owners. Send info to Wini Smart or Bruce Komusin at GCIHS, POB 12, Cranberry Isles, ME 04625. Thanks for your help. -Wini Smart

Allen, Hall, 50 Cabin Creek Road	Levin, 242 Mink Brook Road
Avery, 31 Boat Yard Drive	Mountain, 217 Cranberry Road
Baldwin, 281 Cranberry Road	Murch, 60 Dog Point Road
Bancroft, Murphy, 681 Cranberry Road	Newell (Sarah), 256 Harding Point Rd
Beal, 43 McSorley Road	Noether, Eldredge, 68 Harding Point Rd
Beal & Bunker Office, 9 Shore Front Rd	Perry, 416 Cranberry Road
Bracy, 202 Cranberry Road	Peterson, 186 Cranberry Road
Bradley, 78 Harding Point Road	Pierson, 353 McSorley Road
Brown, 456 Cranberry Road	Pierson, Roberts, 378 McSorley Road
Buchsbaum, 75 McSorley Road	Richardson, 44 Jimmy's Point Road
Carter, 43 Shore Front Road	Robinson, 26 Ocean Road
Cocker, 9 The Lane	Sampson, 26 The Lane
Colby (Blair), 308 Cranberry Road	Sanborn (Norman), 8 Blue Bucket End
Colby (Sonja), 33 The Lane	Sanborn (Beverly), 102 Cranberry Rd
Colby (Trailer), 54 Dog Point Road	Savage, 307 Cranberry Road
Colby, Savage (Barn), 24 Dog Point Rd	Savage (Arvard), 21 McSorley Road
Comiskey, 396 Cranberry Road	Shaw, 152 Harding Point Road
Corley, 207 McSorley Road	Shorey, 46 Rocky Road
Corson, 269 Cranberry Road	Silvers (Dorothy), 287 Cranberry Road
Cranberry Club, 21 Rocky Road	Silvers, Paterson, Hook, 171 McSorley Rd
Cranberry Isl. Trust, 579 Cranberry Rd	Singerling, 254 Harding Point Road
CIRT (Bracy), 88 Cranberry Road	Smith, 195 Cranberry Road
CIRT (Colby), 5 Elwood Spurling Lane	Sordyl, 299 Cranberry Road
Cumming, 78 Cumming's Road	Stainton, 474 Cranberry Road
Cumming (Thrumcap), 844 Cranb. Rd	Sullivan, 390 Cranberry Road
Day, 207 Harding Point Road	Swain, 132 Cranberry Road
Frazzitta, 91 McSorley Road	Uillein, 246 Harding Point Road
GCI Fire Club, 192 Cranberry Road	Wadsworth (Geoff), 42 Jimmy's Pt Rd
Goldberg, 42 The Lane	Wadsworth, (Laurie), 34 Jimmy's Pt Rd
Gray, 195 Harding Point Road	Ward, 557 Cranberry Road
GC General Store, 12 Cranberry Road	Ward, 217 Mink Brook Road
GC Post Office, 10 Shore Front Road	Ware, 82 Jimmy's Point Road
Hawes, 71 The Lane	Wedge (Clara), 90 Cranberry Road
Haydock, 433 Cranberry Road	Wedge (Deborah), 105 Cranberry Rd
Horvath, 10 The Lane	Wedge (Kevin), 99 Cranberry Road
Jackson (Sanford & Shaw cabins)	Wedge (Russell), 162 Cranberry Road
Johnston, 45 Preble Lane	Weinreich, 82 McSorley Road
Kane, 52 The Lane	Westphal, 9 Woods Road
Keegin, 252 Harding Point Road	Williamson, 73 May Tom Road
Komusin, 300 Cranberry Road	

New Fellow Laura Bolton

Heyo Cranberry House enthusiasts! I want to thank everyone for such a fun summer. It was a pleasure getting welcomed into such a friendly community and having the opportunity to meet so many good-natured folks. If we haven't met yet or chatted about what I'll be doing on the island I'd like to take a moment to give a little more background about myself, and a quick overview of things I'll be doing on Cranberry.



This past May I graduated from the University of Maine, Farmington, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography, and a minor in Political Science. Throughout school I worked with LEAP, Inc as a direct service professional, providing one-on-one direct care services to mentally handicapped adults. I also worked as a special project assistant with the Women and Gender Study Center at UMF, and the local coffee shop, Java Joe's Café.

My most recent endeavor however has been on Great Cranberry! Through the Island Institute's fellows program I've been given the opportunity to live on Great Cranberry and work both here and on Islesford.

This past summer I worked privately at Cranberry House part time. On September 18th I officially started as a fellow. This winter I'll be spending my time at both libraries and both historical societies on each island. I'll be archiving Historical Records, preparing grant applications, making historical documentation by way of interviews, and creating publications. At each library I've been entering books onto an online database for quick access. This coming summer, however, I'll mostly be at Cranberry House facilitating the coordination of events, classes, and concerts. If there's anything in particular you'd like to see at Cranberry House this summer, or if you'd just like to chat, feel free to email me at Lbolton@IslandInstitute.org or telephone 244-0779. I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

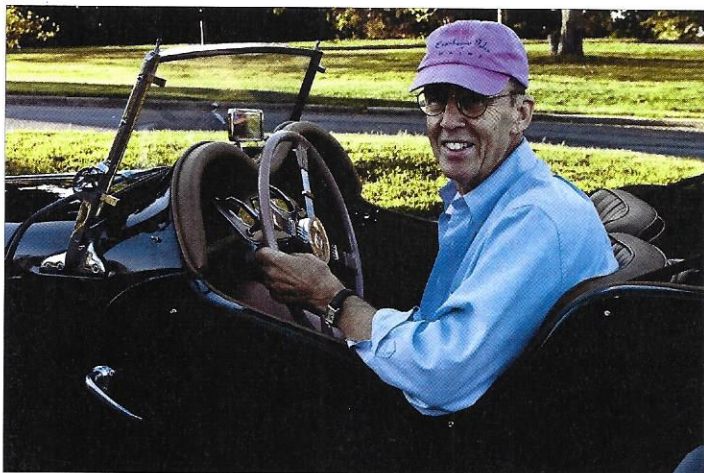
-Laura Bolton

New Trustee Jim Bradley

Born in 1940 and raised as a Quaker in southern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, then very rural. In our one-room schoolhouse (grades 1-4), each day two 4th graders would take a pail and stick to fetch water from a nearby farm.

As a teenager, worked all summer, and Saturdays during school, on my grandfather's farm: 14 cows and a cash crop of cigar wrap tobacco. Then—culture shock!—with a Navy ROTC scholarship, went to the University of Pennsylvania in the big city of Philadelphia, often getting there after semester breaks on a milk truck delivery to Abbott's Dairy. Received a mechanical engineering degree in 1963 and immediately went on duty as a US Navy Supply Corps Officer. Spent 20 years in the Navy: on a destroyer out of San Diego, a submarine out of Holy Loch, Scotland, and a submarine tender in La Madellena, Italy. Shore duty at Stanford University for an MBA, four years in Charleston SC at a Navy Supply Center, two years with the Royal Navy at HMS Dolphin (a Portsmouth, England submarine base), and five years with headquarter type commands in and around the Pentagon. Retired in 1983 with the rank of commander. While on active duty married Virginia Pugh and we then started a family with Philip arriving while in Charleston and Katherine while in England.

Upon retirement, passed the CPA exam and started as accountant with Gould Property Company—a family real estate business in Washington. Worked as their controller for the next 26 years. Retired for good in 2010.



My interest in history is probably due to my childhood in an old-fashioned community where family and family history were important. While in Charleston, that interest led us to buy and restore a circa 1845 brick Single House. It also attracted us to the little cottage on Great Cranberry which we purchased in 1994. Initially we spent only about two weeks on the island as vacations permitted. Now, retired, this is increasing, and I have time to contribute to island activities such as the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society. I look forward to doing so.

-Jim Bradley

Recap of 2010 Events

From the first movie April 3rd to the last October 30th, Cranberry House hosted a wide range of events this season: concerts, lectures, art activities, poetry, and children's activities—not to mention a gourmet café. To recap, we had:

- 71 movies screened in partnership with the Library; ten were Islander's Choice personal favorites. Tell Phil Whitney your choice for viewing next year!
- 2 live concerts: Acadia Chamber Players classical, and Audrey Noether's band with popular & original songs.
- 8 general lectures: *Observations on Afghanistan & Pakistan* by Charles Dunbar, *Robert Kearns' Flash of Genius* by Tim Kearns (his father invented intermittent windshield wipers), *Volcano Studies in Antarctica* by Nelia Dunbar, *History of Baker Island* by Hugh Dwelley & Ralph Stanley, *Vietnam: Past & Present* by Fred Benson, *Towns Family 1940s Slides* by Phil Whitney, *Grand Canyon White-water Rafting* by Eliza Greenman, and *Alaskan Cruise* by Chris Johnston.
- 4 artist talks/receptions in partnership with Heliker-LaHotan Foundation artists.
- 2 art exhibits: a reprise of October 2009's *Islander Portraits*, and a week-long Exhibit & Sale.
- 4 art/craft classes: Helen Bertles taught watercolor and family arts & crafts; Gail Grandgent, ceramic tile painting; Christie Benson, basket weaving.
- 2 poetry readings/book signings: Sam King at the Home, Art & Garden Tour, and Michael Glaser, a week later.
- 2 children's events: Islesford School visited Cranberry House to perform *A Road-side Story* skit, enjoy a cook-out on the lawn, and donate a woven art piece incorporating trash culled from roads and beaches. Charlotte Harlan taught a 3-day crafts workshop.
- 136 days in a row of gourmet café food—Thanks, Karin!

One of the most memorable events this summer was Wilfred Bunker's 90th Birthday. Islanders shared their memories of retrospective photos shown to a standing-room-only crowd at the Arts Center. —Vicky Johnston

Home, Art & Garden Tour

It's fair to say the first Home, Art & Garden Tour, on Wednesday, August 11, was a rousing success, with more than 400 people attending. Dozens of volunteers turned out to welcome our guests, who could visit 12 stops on the island: Wini Smart's art studio; the gardens of Jan Moss, Graven-Encarnation, and Cranberry House; the Church; the Whale's Rib; the Heliker-LaHotan Foundation; and the homes of Mark & Sarah Williamson, Johnna Matthews & Morrie Newell, Mickey Macfarlan, Nancy & Cameron Wood, and Clay Taylor. Clay also greatly added to the event's success by her generous donation of a new garden

at Cranberry House, planted and maintained by Master Gardener Donna Sondag of Cranberry Gardens.

Visitors enjoyed box lunches made by volunteers led by Laura Bolton, or delicious offerings from the café, where Karin Whitney served scores of open-faced shrimp sandwiches and grilled panini. After lunch most visitors went inside Cranberry House to see the Museum and Arts Center, where an exhibit was hung. Geoff Wadsworth and friends entertained with music at the Church, interspersed with Sam King reading poetry from her latest book. We were truly fortunate to have the Unity College students on Cranberry that week. They made sandwiches, sold tickets, and guided visitors. We're not sure we could have done it without their help.



At the Whale's Rib, Leslie and Ann Watson helped Polly Bunker on Tour Day. Most visitors did what everyone's been doing on Cranberry for 40 years: Stop by the Whale's Rib to meet friends and learn what's new.

Phil Whitney and Bruce Komusin coordinated the ticket sales that filled two round-trip boats each, from Beal & Bunker and Cranberry Cove—and those companies offered discount tickets for the event. Wini & Fred Quackenbush made and installed "sunflower signs" at each stop, and other key points on the tour. Tom Watson organized transportation: Eight cars making continuous loops—a particularly welcome convenience on that warm day.

We were blessed with great weather this summer; the sun shone on Tour day. We had countless compliments on the lovely homes, gardens, and art, the thoughtfulness of our volunteers, and the organization of the event which was widely publicized on tourism websites, the MDIslander, Bar Harbor Times, Ellsworth American, and the Bangor Daily News. Morrie Newell and Johnna Matthews were pleased to provide overall coordination and look forward to an encore in the summer of 2012. —Morrie Newell

The Westphals' First GCI Winter

Our family arrived on the island the day after Thanksgiving in 1970. Earlier that week Wilfred Bunker had already brought over all our household furnishings in one trip of the *Island Queen*, and arranged some island men with trucks to move everything into our new home.

Back then there were only about 15 trucks on the island in winter, and very few summer vehicles. We had no car. When we brought groceries or other items to the island, someone would volunteer to transport our things, and we'd jump on the back of the truck for a free ride up the road. We soon learned that men and hardy women were expected to line up on the dock stairs to help pass up boxes and bags.



The Westphals on Dec. 5, 1970:
(l to r) Joan, James, snowman, Rolf, Mike

We had our first snow on Friday, December 4th. It was soft and wet, about 2" deep, turning the island into a white wonderland. Rolf, who was in first grade, came riding his bike home from school that afternoon, calling out to me, "Happy Christmas, Mom!"

We had several more snowfalls in early December, but Mother Nature waited until early on the morning of the 24th to bring us a real Downeast Nor'easter. We don't feel the brunt of a Nor'easter at our house, being protected by a few acres of trees to the north east. But when we went to get our mail, and turned toward the dock by the Brooks house, we knew we were experiencing a very special kind of storm. The wind was blowing a gale and the ocean looked very angry, with high gray waves and whitecaps galore.

Wilfred ran the 8:45 am ferry to Southwest Harbor that day, and when it came time to return at 11 am, he found the Wadsworths, and Doris and Clyde Sanborn waiting to go aboard. Wilfred told them he was going but, "If they came along, they'd be coming at their own risk." I remember

stories of that ride—passengers sat on the floor due to rough crossing, and the Wadsworth's two little dachshund dogs became seasick.

When the *Island Queen* reached Cranberry, Wilfred brought it to the south side of the Beal & Bunker Dock. Many island men were there to assist passengers, mail, and packages up the dock ladder. Then he brought it around Spurling Point to a winter mooring he had at Preble Cove.

The storm cut off electric power around 11:30 am. But the kerosene end heater stove in our kitchen functioned well, and we stayed warm and cozy indoors.

The storm continued throughout the day and several feet of snow fell. Robert Alley and Tinker Colby were kept busy snow plowing all day and into the night.

It was always our Norwegian tradition to open Christmas gifts on Christmas Eve, so we gathered about 7:30 pm in the living room, lit by candlelight and a small kerosene lamp left by Richard and Alice Stanley, the previous owners. We all longed for the Christmas Tree to be lit—and then, as if by magic, power returned, our tree lit up, and we had a magical first Christmas on Cranberry Island.

December 25th dawned clear, cold, and sunny. But another big storm came in early the next morning, and many more snows fell that winter. The kids held sliding (sledding) parties starting on Schoolhouse Hill and down to the Murch's. There were still snow piles along the roadsides in early April. I don't recall another winter with so much snow, except perhaps 1978, when the old dock at Bob and Jack's blew down in another savage February Nor'easter.
-Ruth Westphal



Thinking of Christmas?

You still have time to order stocking stuffers for your family or Island-loving friends, plus with **free shipping**, items are \$2 less than the usual mail order price.

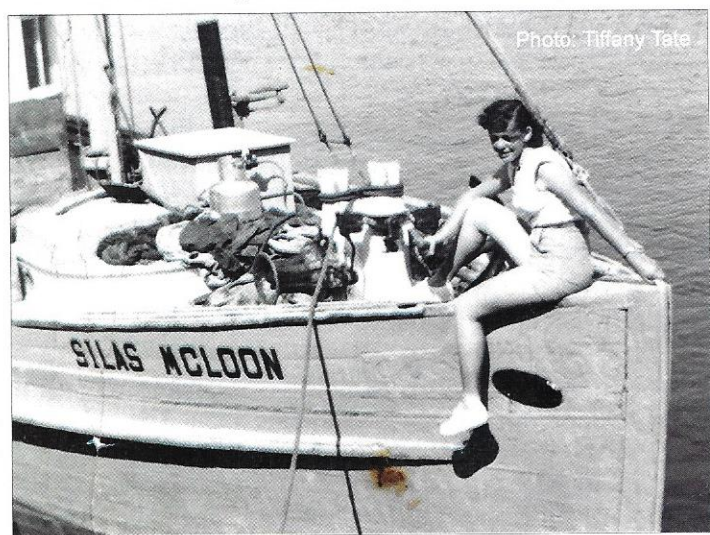
For the true scent of Maine: beautiful **Balsam Pillows**, 6" wide, with a painting by Wini Smart, and labeled "Gardens of Cranberry Island". Specially priced at \$10 each, or 3 for \$25.



Or give an assortment of our popular publications: the new *House Histories* (\$30), or old favorites like *Cranberry Road* (\$20), *Hitty Preble* (\$23, including a flat wooden doll), *Winter: The Other Season* (\$20), etc. See the back of this newsletter for a full list of available videos and publications, with special year-end prices.

Some Photos from the Archives

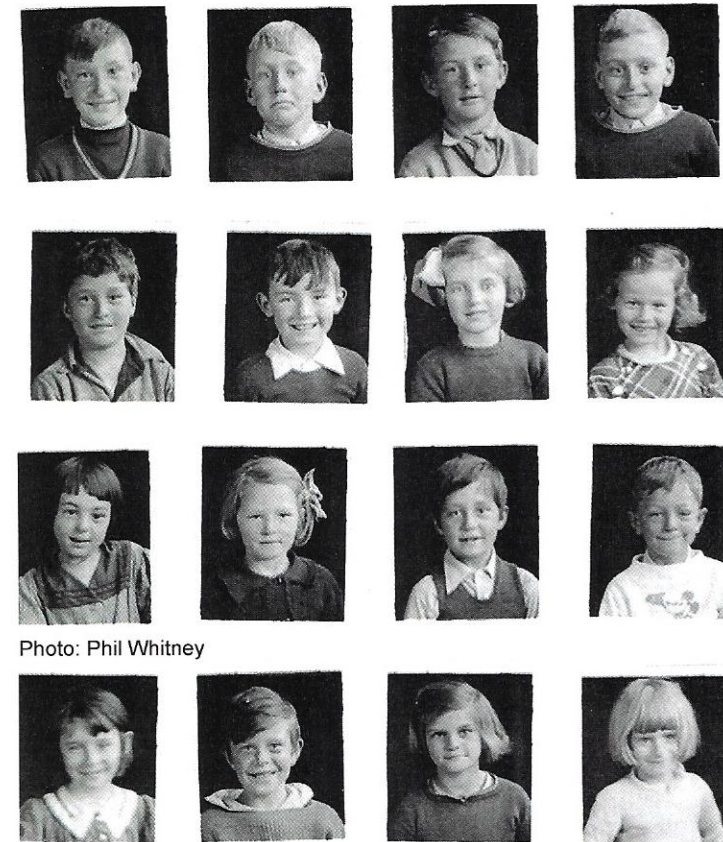
Donna Beal on the Silas McLoon, 1955.
This vessel delivered gasoline to the Beal & Bunker Dock.



Islesford School outing at Cranberry House, June 9, 2010,
mentioned in *Recap of 2010 Events* (pg 6).



Longfellow School, Class of 1936.
Dorothy Spurling Whitney was teacher, grades K through 4.



Three of the Bunker Brothers.
(l to r) Wilfred, Raymond, and Lyndon "Tud".

