Letter

As always, I enjoyed the summer 2010 issue of Spritsail. The articles are well-done and informative.

However, in "Living off the Land" in the current issue, the author states (page 26, photo caption) "As recently as the 1920s, Falmouth selectmen offered a bounty of 50 cents for the ears of a woodchuck".

Actually, the Town paid bounties on woodchucks and foxes at least up until 1970 (Annual Report of the Finances of the Town of Falmouth for the year ending December 31, 1970, page 252). The bounty undoubtedly ended shortly thereafter due to changes in the legal status of those animals by the Division of Fisheries and Game.

As a youth in the 1950s, I well remember claiming the 50¢ bounty for the occasional woodchucks that my mother shot in our home garden, aiming her .22 rifle out the kitchen window. At that time, it was the tail, not the ears that was required to be presented to claim the bounty.

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