

Mainsheet

*The Newsletter of the Woods Hole Historical Museum
P.O. Box 185, Woods Hole, MA 02543*

Fall 2006

“Hear Woods Hole”, an Audio Tour of a Cape Cod Village Now Available at the Museum and on Our Website

This summer, Ian Gray and Elizabeth White, both radio journalists who have worked at WCAI in Woods Hole, proposed to the Museum Board that they prepare a number of audio tours of Woods Hole which could be made available to the public from our Gift Shop.

During the late summer and early fall, Ian and Liz did research on a number of subjects in our archives and at the *Enterprise*, listened to selected tapes from our Oral History collection, recorded interviews with local residents and created 10 presentations of Woods Hole’s history with WCAI’s Dan Tritle as the host: WHOI’s Marine Mammal Bioacoustics, Sam Cahoon’s Fish Market, the Leaside/McDonald’s Controversy, MBL & Squid Axons, How Woods Hole Got its Name, National Marine Fisheries, the Pacific Guano Company, St. Joseph’s Mary Garden, the Nautilus Dome and Rum Running Around Woods Hole.

A map was designed and produced by Dan Steinburg of the Woods Hole Research Center. The Audio Tour has been downloaded on MP3 players which were purchased with money donated by local businesses and are available on loan. A CD will also be available for loan or purchase. A photo gallery for each subject was designed and installed on our website where one can listen to the Tour or download it. This last effort was in large part due to Jacki Forbes who devoted hours of intense work to get the Tour up on the website. Visit our site: www.woodsholemuseum.org

A number of Woods Hole businesses and organizations supported and contributed to the cost of the Tour: the Friendship Fund, Coffee Obsession, Shuckers, Landfall,

Phusion, Pie in the Sky, Jimmy’s, Cap’n Kidd, Liberty House, the Estate of Buckminster Fuller, the Cape and Islands NPR Stations and the Falmouth *Enterprise*.

The inaugural presentation of the Tour was made at the Community Hall on Saturday October 21, 2006. An enthusiastic audience of about 45 people attended and saw some photos from each subject covered and heard samples from the wonderfully produced Tours.

The Museum hopes that the Audio Tours will prove popular with visitors (and members) who wish to walk around Woods Hole and learn more of its history without relying on our July-and-August-only walking tour guides. During the winter the MP3 players will be available at the Woods Hole Public Library as well as from the Archives upstairs in the Museum.



2006 CHRISTMAS PARTY



At the Museum
Friday
December 8th
5 - 7 P.M.

Please join us for a festive time!

SUMMER AT THE MUSEUM 2006

Summer was a lively time at the Museum with many new programs. There were gallery talks on three Wednesdays. Every Wednesday in August Gerald Ross demonstrated building ships-in-bottles. And every Saturday there was a children's program put on by our energetic interns. The interns also designed a scavenger hunt for families visiting the exhibits at other times.

WINE TASTING A SUCCESSFUL JOINT FUNDRAISER FOR THE MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

In mid-October we held a very festive fund-raising event with the Woods Hole Public Library, our parent organization. It was a wine tasting from the Fitz-Ritter Vineyards which have operated for the past 220 years in Bad Durkheim, Germany. There is a strong connection between this winery and Woods Hole. Ruth Alice Fitz, the wife of the present owner, who is the eighth generation of his family to run the vineyard, spent all her summers growing up in Woods Hole, as had her mother, Sally Johlin Loessel, the child of an MBL scientist. Now the Fitz family continues that tradition, coming from Germany with their children and grand-children to spend some part of every summer vacationing in Woods Hole.

Ruth Alice led the tasting by showing photographs of the vineyard, telling a little of its history, then talking about the specific grape and methods of harvest and production. Then all ticket holders sipped a sample of that wine. Mrs. Fitz introduced each of five wines in this fashion, providing an informative and delicious travel talk in the tradition of the Library's annual series. Several lucky winners won yet more wonderful wines in a raffle, as well as special Fitz-Ritter bartender's corkscrews and CD's of classical concerts recorded at the wine estate.

STEERING COMMITTEE

of the

**Woods Hole Historical Collection
& Museum**

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Jennifer Stone Gaines

Assistant Curator and Archivist

Susan Fletcher Witzell

Archives Open

Tuesday and Thursday

10—2

And by Appointment

Year Round

Exhibits Open

Mid-June—Mid-October

Tuesday—Saturday

10—4

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Woods Hole Historical Collection

P.O. Box 185

Woods Hole, MA 02543

508 548-7270

From the Archives....

During the summer we were presented with a wonderful collection of photos taken by Elizabeth (Betty) Eaton. Mrs. Eaton passed away in the early summer of 2006. The photos she had taken over many years were collected from her house and donated to us by her friends and neighbors, the Densmore family.

Betty Eaton was the wife of Bill Eaton, the Boatman for Naushon Island from 1961 to 1987. She was a talented amateur photographer, working with a 2 ¼ x 2 ¼ format camera. Her images of the scenes before her were acute and well-composed. She apparently had a darkroom or the ability to have custom 8 x 10 black and white prints made. In addition to the black and white photos, she also took many 2 ¼ x 2 ¼ slides. Betty was very interested in gardening and hybridized daylilies. A dark red lily was registered as 'Naushon'.



Naushon cedar tree



Mansion House in the snow

Betty and her husband were very interested in maritime and scenic beauty. They traveled to Nova Scotia, Maine and the Chesapeake Bay area. During their tenure on Naushon, Betty photographed many island scenes: Hadley Harbor in all seasons, including beautiful winter images, nature scenes around the island, the Naushon horses, the blacksmith and numerous views of Naushon sheep. During Bill's time as Boatman, the delivery of the ferry *Cormorant* resulted in many photos.

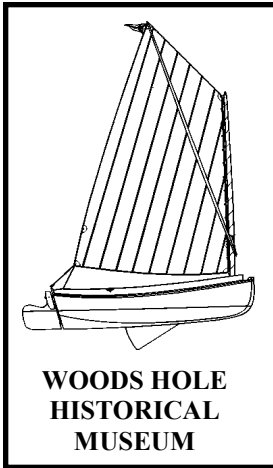


Naushon sheep

The Woods Hole Historical Collection will retain most of the images of Naushon and share a portion of them with the Naushon Archives.

Other recent donations were ephemera and papers from The Calico Players, a theater group who performed at Woods Hole Community Hall in the late 1930s and 1940s. Madeline Peck (Broadbent), who grew up at 14 School Street, was active in this group. The material was donated by her son, David Nailor.

Patricia Morse, who also grew up on School Street, came to Falmouth in September for her 50th high school reunion. Her grandparents, the Look family and the Phillips family, were owners of the Woods Hole Garage (on Railroad Avenue) and The Woods Hole Market, located on Water Street where Pie in the Sky is currently. She donated a number of pieces of correspondence, ephemera, bills and other items from the Market during the 1920s.



P.O. BOX 185
WOODS HOLE, MA 02543

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**2007 Model Boat Show
PATRIOT'S DAY WEEKEND
Saturday and Sunday APRIL 14—15, 2007
*To volunteer, call the Museum 508 548-7270***

New Boat to be Auctioned

The most recent boat to be built at the Woods Hole Historical Museum's Boat Shop was just launched. The extremely light-weight canoe was built by Boat Shop regulars Ted Tavares and Bob Spates. Each man spent about 25 hours working on this little vessel. It is 12 feet long, translucent, and weighs only 15 pounds, yet is extraordinarily strong, as Mr. Tavares delights in demonstrating by smashing a sample square of its fabric against a nail, with no damage! The boat, a Nimrod 12, was built from a donated Geodesic Aiolite kit, and has a simple wood framework, overlain with a Kevlar roving applied in a pattern of triangles. This structural shell is covered with a Dacron fabric also used for lightweight airplane wings. The fabric was heat shrunk to make it fit tight and then urethaned to make it water tight. Although seemingly delicate, this type of boat has a great track record; a sister craft placed second in a 16 mile white water race.



Bob Leary in the canoe

This boat will be available for sale in a silent auction, starting at our Christmas Party on December 8th and finishing in time for Christmas. Minimum bid: \$300.00. Come see the boat at the Museum Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 to 2 or Saturday 9 to 12. Place your bid either in person or by phone (508 548-7270).

The boat shop program runs every Saturday morning from 9 A.M. to Noon all winter long. New people are welcome to join the informally taught sessions. For more information, stop by on Saturday morning or call the Museum at 508-548-7270.