

Mainsheet

The Newsletter of the Woods Hole Historical Museum

P.O. Box 185, Woods Hole, MA 02543

www.woodsholemuseum.org

Spring-Summer 2017

Exhibits

Our exhibits this summer both focus on our coastal setting. "Navigating the Seas in the Age of Sail" will give our visitors a sense of what it was like to sail the shores of Cape Cod before the age of electronics. How did whaling ships and fishing boats find their way through fog, storms and shifting winds? The vintage charts that Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution has loaned us for this exhibit, together with navigational tools, all explained by Steve Wagner, retired captain of the *Albatross IV*, provide a fascinating look at the era of "dead reckoning" and coastal piloting.

"Man and Mollusk – A History of Shellfishing on Cape Cod" looks back at the historic uses and importance of shellfish for the survival and economics of Native people and European settlers. Tom Chilton has curated this exhibit to show the tools and techniques used today by recreational shellfishermen to collect oysters, mussels, softshell clams, bay scallops and quahogs.



Walking Tours

The museum is pleased to be offering again two walking tours this summer. These tours have been highly rated by locals and visitors alike. If you haven't taken both of these tours yet, be sure to do so this season! It is a great way for your summer guests to spend time in the village.

History of Science in Woods Hole

July 11 - August 25, Tuesdays - Fridays 10-11 a.m.

August 30 - September 30 Wednesdays - Saturdays 10-11 a.m.

October 7 - 28, Saturdays only 10 - 11 a.m.

This one-hour guided walk around the village features an insider's view of what is really going on now, and in the past, within the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Marine Biological Laboratory and National Marine Fisheries Service. Participants will learn about the institutions' roles in saving the environment, finding the Titanic, discoveries in marine biology and shark research. The walking tour starts at the museum, offers access to the touch tanks at the Buzzards Bay Coalition, views of the docks and research facilities, and ends at the Fisheries aquarium just in time for the seal feeding at 11 a.m..

Tours depart from the museum 10 a.m. Plan to arrive by 9:45 for tickets. No advanced reservations are taken. Admission is \$5 per person, free for children under 10. No admission fee for members of the Woods Hole Historical Museum or patrons of the Woods Hole Business Association (see merchant list at woodshole.com).

This tour is made possible through the generosity of the Woods Hole Business Association.

Tours continue on page 6

Please join us for our Opening Party in the Courtyard!

Friday, June 16, 2017 5 to 7 p.m.

Catch up with friends.

Be among the first to visit our 2017 exhibits.

Message From The Chair May 2017

It's spring and the Museum will soon be in full bloom – literally and figuratively. Our staff, Steering Committee, and volunteers are preparing wonderful exhibits, special events and programs for your enjoyment and education. Be sure to check out the calendar on page 7 and save the dates!

I hope you had an opportunity to attend our 11th Biennial Model Boat Show last month. We had a wonderful weekend with modelers coming from as far away as Pennsylvania, attendees from five states, and 50 volunteers! A special thank you to Jennifer and Arthur Gaines for co-chairing this great event and to the hard-working committee that put in so much time and effort to make this event a success.

This year we celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Spritsail*, the museum's historical journal. At the end of June, Museum members will receive a special anniversary issue including articles about 200 years of the Old Stone Dock in Falmouth, the 60th anniversary of the Falmouth Theatre Guild, and a review of the last 10 years of *Spritsail*. Special thanks to co-editors Olivann Hobbie and Len Miele and the entire editorial board for their outstanding work on this and all issues. At the conclusion of our Annual Meeting at Fisher House on August 2, 7:30 p.m., we will host a special Conversation featuring a panel of *Spritsail* editors and writers. You'll want to be there for this special program.

Just a few thoughts about volunteering at the Museum. First, you couldn't have more fun! I began my involvement six years ago as a docent. I spent just three hours a week during the summer season welcoming visitors and interpreting the exhibits. I had the privilege of meeting fascinating people from all over the world. The Museum counts on volunteers throughout the year, especially during the summer. I hope that as a supporter of the Museum, you will consider 2017 as the year that you become more involved! Whether you would like to participate as a docent, help out at a special event, or join the Boat Shop folks on Saturday mornings, I encourage you to consider donating just a little time this summer to our favorite museum in Woods Hole!

As always, thank you for belonging to the Museum family. I look forward to sharing another wonderful season with you.

Arlene R. Lowenstein

Chair, Woods Hole Historical Museum Steering Committee

Woods Hole Historical Museum

*A Division of
The Woods Hole Public Library*

STEERING COMMITTEE

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Executive Director and Curator

Deborah Griffin Scanlon

Archivist

Susan Fletcher Witzell

Archives Open

Tuesday and Thursday

10—2

And by Appointment

Exhibits Open

Mid-June—Mid-October

Tuesday—Saturday

10—4

Mainsheet

Published by the

Woods Hole Historical Museum

P.O. Box 185

579 Woods Hole Road

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www.woodsholemuseum.org

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Leonard Miele

Designed by Susan F. Witzell

Contributors:

Kathy Cooper, Bob Grosch, Arlene Lowenstein, and Debbie Scanlon

Celebrating 30 Years of *Spritsail*

The first issue of *Spritsail*, a journal of the history of Falmouth and vicinity, was published by the Woods Hole Historical Collection during the summer of 1987. For 30 years, our Museum has been the guiding force behind the success of this historical journal. This bi-annual publication has featured such diverse articles as “Hollywood Comes to Falmouth,” “The Woods Hole Geodesic Dome: A Synergetic Landmark,” “The Greeks Add Flavor to Falmouth,” “Life in Woods Hole During World War II,” and “Maria Mitchell—Stellar Scientist.”

Spritsail was the brainchild of W. Redwood Wright who organized the first editorial board meeting on January 5, 1987. Mary Lou Smith was named the founding editor with assistance from editorial board members W. Redwood Wright, Bruce Chalmers, Floyd W. McCoy, Jane A. McLaughlin, and Judy Stetson. It is remarkable that Jane and Judy still remain editors after 30 years of publication. In fact, Jane wrote the first article for *Spritsail* titled “Baldwin Coolidge, Photographer (1845-1928),” a biography of the noted New England/Cape Cod photographer.

This summer issue of *Spritsail*, the 61st, marks the 30th anniversary of the journal. The editors have prepared a retrospective of selected articles from the past ten years as well as a celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Old Stone Dock written by your *Mainsheet* editor Leonard Miele and the 60th anniversary of the Falmouth Theatre Guild written by Joanne Briana-Gartner.

Members of the current Editorial Board include Tucker Clark, Steve Chalmers, Kate Eldred, Jane McLaughlin, Judy Stetson, Maria Ward, and Co-Editors Olivann Hobbie and Leonard Miele.



Right: long-time editors Jane A. McLaughlin and Judy Stetson. Photo by Len Miele.

Director's Message from Deborah Griffin Scanlon

I'm excited for my first view of the museum's summer season from my perch upstairs in Bradley house. We've been hard at work on our upcoming exhibits, and our galleries will soon be ready to open.

Tom Chilton has used his design expertise once again to curate “Man & Mollusk – A History of Shellfishing on Cape Cod.” And we are pleased to partner with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to showcase some of their collection of old navigational charts in “Navigating the Seas in the Age of Sail.” Steve Wagner, retired captain of NOAA's RV *Albatross IV* and *Delaware*, and current member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, has used his vast navigational knowledge to help us curate this exhibit, and assemble and explain a display of navigational tools.

There will be talks throughout the summer, as well, to further enlighten us on these topics. Stay tuned to social media, our Constant Contact emails, and your local newspapers to learn more!

Special events this summer include our annual Oyster Tasting and Talk and the Woods Hole Science Stroll. And when the New England Museum Association holds its annual meeting at the Sea Crest in North Falmouth, a field trip to Woods Hole will feature WHOI's exhibit center, MBL, NMFS aquarium and the WHHM. Volunteers will be greatly appreciated to help with this event!

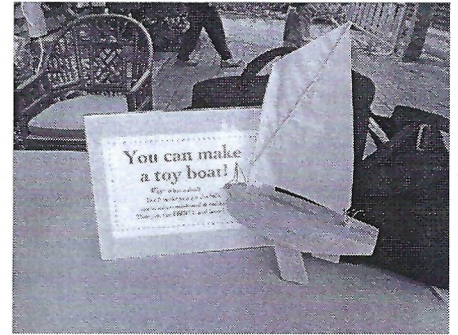
Our walking tours that feature science and history will again be offered. We are pleased that we will be able to extend our science walking tour schedule through September.

2017 Model Boat Show

On April 22 and 23, the Museum sponsored the 11th biennial model boat show throughout Woods Hole Village. Six venues along Water Street were the setting for this popular springtime event that was co-chaired and organized by Museum stalwarts Jennifer and Arthur Gaines. Approximately 375 model boat enthusiasts viewed the boats displayed by 60 exhibitors from five different states. Visitors to the show also enjoyed the radio-controlled sailboat races in Eel Pond, the Dockyard consignment sale in the Community Hall, and the four nautical lectures given at the library.

One of the more popular activities during the show took place at the children's fresh water pool set up on the front lawn of the Museum. Committee member Tom Chilton and co-chair Arthur Gaines made 33 small boat kits for children to construct and sail in the pool. The entire supply of these boats, priced at \$5.00 apiece, was sold to the young, future sailors attending the show.

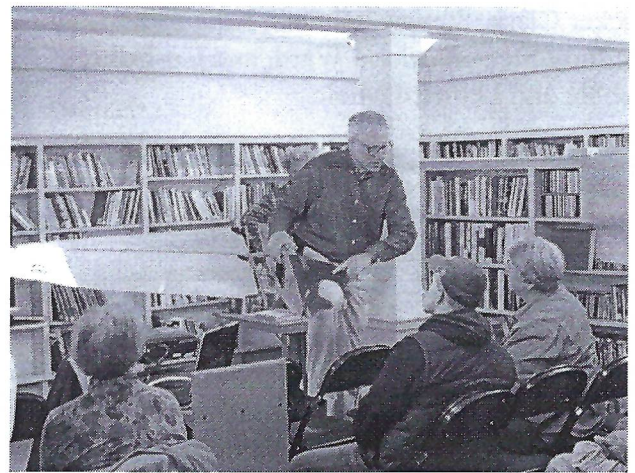
The model boat show is a major revenue source for the Museum and its success is the result of the time and effort put into the show by Jennifer and Arthur Gaines, their committee members Tom and Christie Chilton, Jay Burnett, Bob Grosch, Kathy Cooper, P.K. Simonds, Laura Reckford, and Debbie Scanlon, and the 50 volunteers who assisted them during the two-day event.



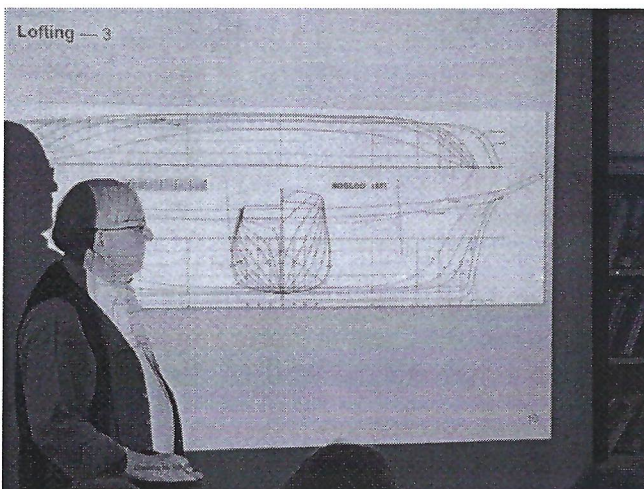
Popular small boat kits made by Tom Chilton and Arthur Gaines. Photo by Len Miele.



Exhibitor Margaret-Ann Rice is a collector and boat restorer from South Dartmouth, MA. Photo by Len Miele.



Lecturer John Stoudt explaining *Tritonia*, a Marblehead pond yacht. Photo by Bob Grosch



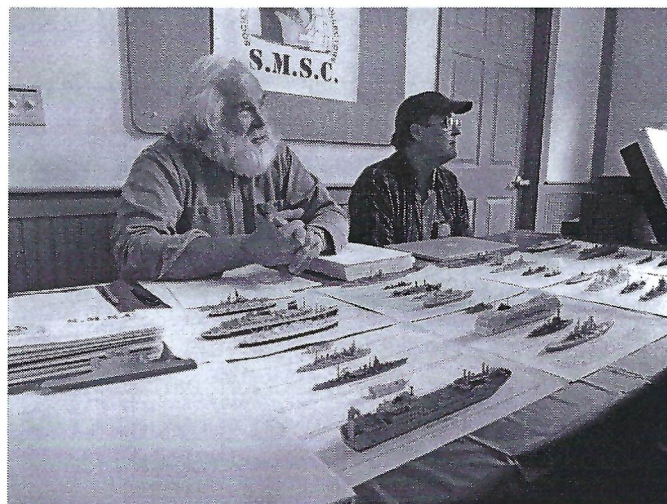
Bob Napier discussing the design of half-model boats. Photo by Bob Grosch.



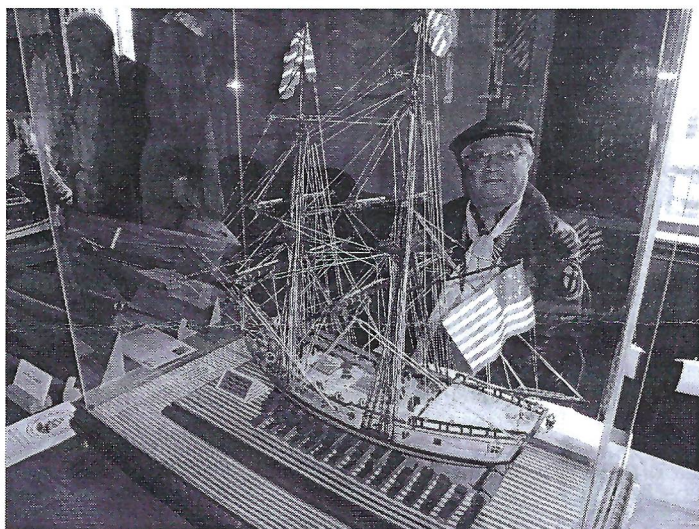
Tom Lauria lecturing on *Alice S. Wentworth*, the ship and the model. Photo by Bob Grosch.



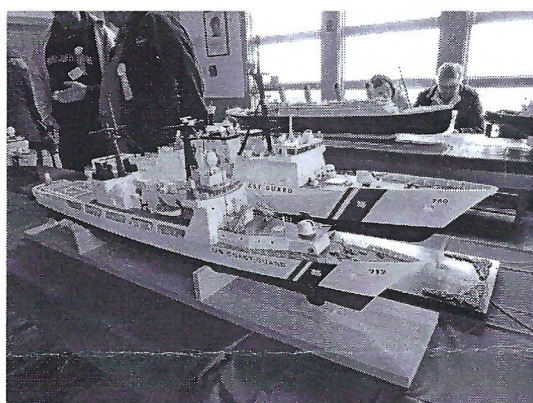
Eleanor and Henry enjoying sailing their boats in the children's pool.



Miniature ship collectors Richard Chase, left, and Bruce Stewart. .



William Leong of New Bedford displays his model of *Fair America*.

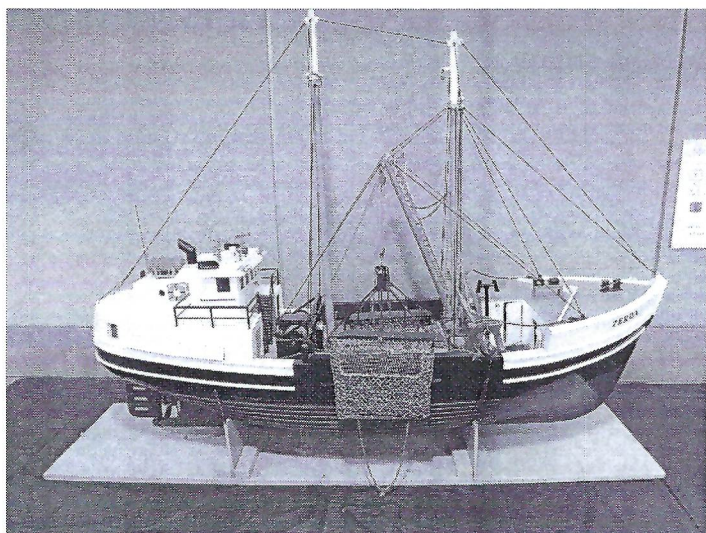


Beautiful Coast Guard cutters.

Photos by Len Miele.

Thank you to the following businesses for their generous donations to the 11th Biennial Woods Hole Historical Museum Model Boat Show:

Brian Switzer Video
 Cap'n Kidd Restaurant
 Coffee Obsession
 Eight Cousins Books
 Falmouth Jewelry Shop, Dana & Jan Freeman
 Hamel Roofing
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 Landfall Restaurant
 MacDougalls' Cape Cod Marine Service
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 Sands of Time Motor Inn
 The Wood Lumber Company
 Windfall Market
 Woods Hole Inn
 Woods Hole Market
 Woods Hole Passage Bed and Breakfast Inn
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Bob Lister's sea scalloper with mesh scallop dredge.

Archivist, Susan Fletcher Witzell

Susan Fletcher Witzell, our valuable archivist, has been an active participant at the WHHM for 25 years. She started as a volunteer in 1992 working on exhibits and archives and then serving as a member of the steering committee from 1993 to 1998. In 1998, she became the assistant curator and archivist of the Museum working with longtime director Jennifer Gaines. Officially employed only two days a week, Susan can be found every Tuesday and Thursday in her cubbyhole of an office amid the overcrowded archives of Bradley House where she juggles multiple tasks as the guardian of our Museum archives. She works as a partner with new Director Debbie Scanlon assisting in the day-to-day operations of the Museum; she is constantly cataloging the archive collection and fielding research questions from Museum members and visitors; she provides text and photos for Museum exhibits; she does the layout and writes historical articles for the *Mainsheet*, this newsletter; and she assists in editing and writing for *Spritsail*, our major journal of Falmouth and vicinity.

Susan grew up in Newark, New Jersey, moving to Summit, New Jersey when she was 11 years old. She began taking private art lessons when she was 12, being awarded a scholarship to study painting at the Summit Artists Guild. It was only natural for Susan to attend Milwaukee-Downer College to receive a B.A. degree in Art and Art History. As a sophomore, Susan received the Elizabeth Richardson Art Award for the best piece of art created that year for her painting "Industrial Scene."

Throughout the years, Susan has been an art editor, layout and book designer, and photo editor for such well-known companies as Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc., the MacMillan Company, and Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc. From 1973 to 1991, she worked for WHOI as a photographer, lab assistant, and research assistant in the Department of Geology and Geophysics and the Department of Applied Ocean Physics and Engineering.

Using her writing and photography skills, Susan has published the following nine books familiar to the Woods Hole/Falmouth community: *A Garden in the Woods*, *Forty Years of Gardens on Evangeline Road, Cape Cod*; *The History of the Falmouth Coal Company and Dyer's Dock, Woods Hole*; *Joseph Story Fay (1812-1897)*, *The Life of a Modest Man*; *Steam, Trains and Structures*; *Farms and Landscapes*; *Foreign Color*; *Walking Tour of Woods Hole village, Including a Brief History*; *New England Views, The Photography of Baldwin Coolidge (1845-1928)*; and *Our Cats*, a collaboration with her husband Nick (Warren E. Witzell, Jr.).

Susan and her husband Nick share a passion for history, photography, travel, trains, gardening, agriculture, and feline friends, as is evidenced by the books they have published. These interests have contributed to Susan's success as a talented, prolific writer and enthusiastic, knowledgeable archivist. The WHHM is fortunate to have had her as a member of its Museum family for the past quarter of a century.



Susan Witzell displays her latest book.
Photo by Len Miele.

Walking Tours, continued

History of Woods Hole

July 5 - August 23, Tuesdays

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Susan Pennington leads the tour, focusing on the history of Woods Hole. The walk will go down Water Street and around Eel Pond, and lasts about an hour.

Tours depart from the museum at 3:30 p.m. Plan to arrive by 3:15 p.m. for tickets. No advance reservations are taken. Admission is \$5 per person, free for children under 10. No admission fee for members of the Woods Hole Historical Museum.

Additional tours may be added based on demand.

For more information on these tours, please contact the museum at 508-548-7270 or email info@woodsholemuseum.org

Woods Hole Historical Museum Calendar of Events—Summer 2017

- June 13 **Docent training**
- June 16 **Opening Party:** 5-7 p.m. *Members only.*
- June 17 **Exhibits open:** 10-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. *Free to the public.*
 Gallery 1: Navigating the Seas in the Age of Sail
 Gallery 2: Man and Mollusk: A History of Shellfishing on Cape Cod
- August 2 **Annual Meeting:** 7:30 p.m. Fisher House. *Members only.*
- August 12 **Woods Hole Science Stroll**
- August 25 **Sixth Annual Oyster Talk and Tasting:** 5-7 p.m.
- September **Exhibit Opening:** “Nature Drawing” by students of Julie Child.
- October 6: **Docent thank-you reception**
- October 28: **Galleries close for the season.**

Walking Tours: History of Woods Hole.

Tuesdays, July and August, 3:30-4:30 p.m. with Susan Pennington.
Free to members, \$5 for non-members. Ticketing begins at 3:15 p.m.

Walking Tours: Science in Woods Hole.

July 11 - August 25, Tuesdays - Fridays 10-11 a.m.
 August 30 - September 23, Wednesdays - Saturdays 10-11 a.m.
 October 7 - 28, Saturdays only 10 - 11 a.m.

Supported by the Woods Hole Business Association. *Tickets \$5 per person or FREE with dated and signed ticket from a member of the Woods Hole Business Association (go to WoodsHole.com). Ticketing begins at 9:30 a.m. Tours start promptly at 10 a.m. Tour is limited to first 20 guests. No advanced reservations accepted.*

Museum Gift Shop 2017

We have new items in the 2017 Museum Shop. Come see our all-season, indoor-outdoor Rope Wreath. It is a real hit and our first order has already sold out before the museum doors opened! This wreath will welcome you home all year long. It is available in 2 sizes: large – approximately 20” in diameter, and small – approximately 15” in diameter. It makes an outstanding house warming present. With assorted decorative ribbons/themes, it is adaptable to every season.

Other new items will include Sea Bags (of Portland, Maine), nautically themed hors d’oeuvres plates and placemats with authentic local waters charts.

Bring your summer house guests in to acquire a memorable souvenir of their Quissett/Woods Hole visit.

Favorite items from last season will continue to be available.



Photo by Kathy Cooper

From the Archives: The Pie In The Sky
by Deborah Griffin Scanlon

“Stock up on popovers! Demolition is starting soon!”

Social media was abuzz with Pie in the Sky’s rebuilding this winter as the bakery and café, in operation on Water Street since 1982, closed mid-December. The old building was razed and replaced, and re-opened mid-April, as promised by owner Erik Gura, who has owned the business since 2002.

The new building is essentially the same footprint, maintaining the size and structure of the old restaurant and outdoor bar. What is new, Mr. Gura said, is that there is more than double the amount of storage and work space available to employees with the addition of a basement. There is also a new public bathroom in front of the building.

An addition to the building is a flat rooftop lined with wooden railings. There is no customer access to the roof, which is used for a new generator and an afterburner. The afterburner is separately housed, Mr. Gura said, and is used to remove the smoke and smells emitted by the coffee roaster on the first floor.

Project architect was William Roslansky.

A brick floor and a heated granite pathway were added to help melt snow and ice.

What hasn’t changed is the furniture, much of it built by former Falmouth resident Ron Smith for previous owners Manny Dias and Denise Dias, and the original signs.

The idea for Pie in the sky came when the Diases were on their honeymoon in Europe and were impressed by the great coffee shops and bakeries there. Mr. Dias’s parents had owned Jean’s Bakery in Teaticket for years.

They hadn’t found a good site for a café until one day when they went to visit a friend at the kite shop that artist Joan Kanwisher had at the old EG&G building.



The new Pie In The Sky. Photo by Bob Grosch.

Originally the site of Howes Market, by the early 1960s the building and the “flatiron” building behind it that housed Wilhelm’s Hardware had been demolished. A modern structure on a concrete slab had been built and a restaurant, The Promenade, was opened.

After several years, the restaurant was for sale and the company EG&G, which had bought Geodyne, a WHOI spin-off company, purchased it. Paul Ferris Smith of Woods Hole worked there until EG&G decided to move their corporate headquarters to Wellesley.

Joan Kanwisher opened a kite shop and sold her prints of local scenes for a year. The following year, the Diases came into the shop. For a year they leased it and sold Ms. Kanwisher’s prints. Then in 1983 they bought the building from EG&G. It was an office with two rooms with space for two tables only, and no windows in the back, Mr. Dias remembers. The entrance was off a deck to the right. They changed the entrance to its current location, added the window between the kitchen and the customer area, as well as a window overlooking the Steamship Authority. They also enclosed the deck to add more seating along with the renovations.

Pie, continued on next page (9)

In Memoriam: W. Redwood Wright

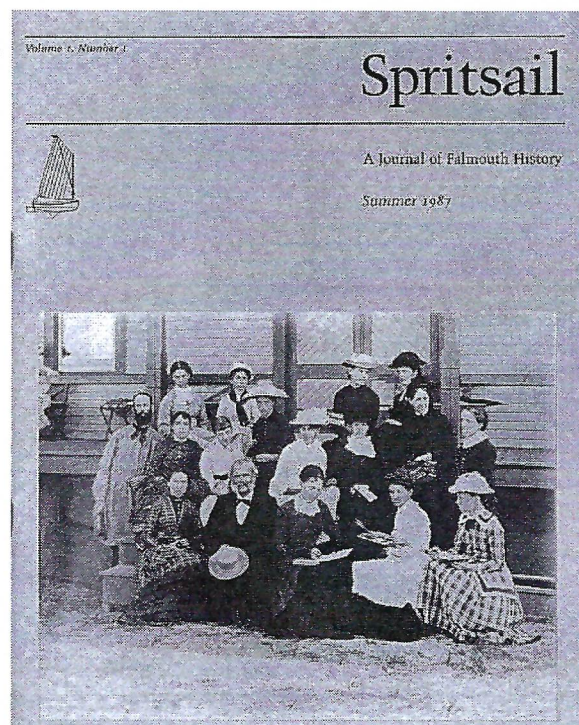
It is with sadness that we note the passing of W. Redwood Wright on May 8. Red Wright was the visionary force behind the formation of *Spritsail*, convening the first editorial meeting and serving as the first chairman of the editorial board. His wisdom has guided the philosophy of *Spritsail* for the past 30 years and is best expressed in his own words in the inaugural issue of *Spritsail* in summer 1987:

“Falmouth residents and visitors have long demonstrated their interest in the colorful tapestry of the town’s history, as attested through the years by newspaper chronicles, books, and other writings, pageants and celebrations, and organizations devoted to preservation of the historical record. This activity reached a pinnacle in 1986 during the Falmouth Tricentennial which brought forth among other projects the enormously valuable and successful volume, *The Book of Falmouth*.

“*The Book of Falmouth* and its predecessor *Woods Hole Reflections* made clear that Falmouth also boasts a large supply of historically-minded individuals with talents as rich and varied as the town’s past: scholars, writers, poets, artists and photographers. These are people who know how fascinating and instructive history can be and who have the dedication and skill to dig out the story and present it accurately and in lively and attractive form.

“The new publication – the only regular journal of local history on Cape Cod – will provide an outlet for those talents. *Spritsail* was created to encourage the continuing discovery and presentation of historical material about our town and the people, places and events which have shaped it. *Spritsail* will also provide news of acquisitions and other activities of local historical groups.

“We hope that you will enjoy this new journal and will want to support it also, by supplying ideas, comments, manuscripts and new friends. Welcome aboard, *Spritsail!*”



The first issue of *Spritsail*, Summer 1987.

Pie, continued



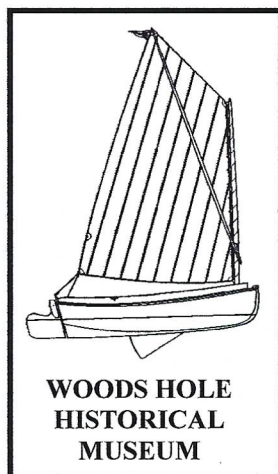
There was a parking area in the front, which Mr. Dias modified to allow two cars facing the bank and one car straight in.

They were trying to think of names for the shop and not getting anywhere until one day Mr. Dias had the radio blasting the Jimmy Cliff song, “The Harder They Come.”

“Well they tell me of a pie up in the sky...”

“It was the perfect name,” Mr. Dias said, and it still remains.

Howes Market, originally on the site of the Pie In The Sky. Courtesy WHHM Archives, Florence Howes Gordon Collection.



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Membership Renewal—The WHHM Needs You!

We're looking forward to another wonderful summer season at the WHHM. For more than 35 years we have counted on our members to provide the financial support to help keep up our charming property, to offer programming, exhibits, and publications, and to maintain the archives - all making the WHHM a unique place in our community. Please help us continue our fine traditions by returning your membership renewal form — or joining the museum — today. Many thanks!

WOODS HOLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM Box 185, Woods Hole, MA 02543

Name: _____

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All categories include a subscription to *Spritsail* Journal, 2 issues per year, and *Mainsheet*.

Benefactor	\$1000.00 or above	_____
Patron	\$500.00	_____
Donor	\$100.00	_____
Family Membership	\$50.00	_____
Individual Membership	\$30.00	_____

Please make checks out to WOODS HOLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM