

# Now and Then



Magazine

October – November 2015

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### Founding Members:

Barbara Anthony, Janet Crosby, Sue Day,  
Doug Dorchester, Janice Dorchester,  
Joe Garon, Betty Hull, Ellie Hynna,  
Jim Loan, Pat Loan, Elaine Martin,  
Frank Morris, Ginny Pittman,  
Jean Santangelo, John Shinas

## NEW RESIDENTS

July	Carol Warner	359 E
	Rita Prendergast	312 E
	Gloria Cerbasi	247 E
August	Dorothy Hill	358 AL
	Margaret Tita	314 W
	Joan Emery	232 E
	Adele Lundquist	220 W
September	Ann Labbé	243 AL
	Edna & Russ Haley	371 AL
	Janet DeFulvio	251 AL
	Dan & Marion McFeeley	248 E
	Florence Pashoian	362 AL
	Maggie Schilke	235 E
	Elaine Murphy	252 AL
October	Arthur Curran	343 E
	Ruth Fye	272 AL
	Terry English	269 AL
	Edward Murphy	274 AL
	Ida Orenstein	345 AL

## THIRWOOD CENTURY CLUB

Mary Hanley	May 29, 1915
Charlotte Schaefer	October 4, 1915
Sam Slicer	October 31, 1915

## FLAX POND

“Flax Pond was created approximately 10,000 years ago by a glacier. It is not spring fed but is fed by water run-off which officially makes it what is known as a kettle pond. There is a white cedar swamp located on the property surrounding and this obviously contributes to its health. It is believed that in the distant past Indians lived around the pond.

The Pond is located on a 100-acre parcel of land, which at one time was owned and used by the Hallet family as a fishing and hunting camp. Records show that in the 1980’s the land was purchased for use as a boy’s sleepover camp called Kirkland. Since then 82 acres of the land were divided between Conservation and Wellfield use. Eighteen acres of the land are used by the Recreation Dept. of Yarmouth. Located on the recreation portion are summer camp buildings, tennis courts, basketball courts, softball/baseball fields and miles of walking trails that are maintained by a group of mountain bikers. That property runs from the abandoned railroad lines adjacent to Whites Path, to the Pond, and into Thirwood Place and Diane Avenue. It is thought that the trails are part of the Cape Cod Trail System and were Indian pathways at one time.”

Information obtained from Town Hall resources as printed  
In “The Communicator” Spring 2008

## SAILING AND ICE RACING ON FLAX POND

The fine weather of the last few weeks has led up to the end of the sailing season on Flax Pond. The final races were blessed with clear skies and a strong wind. The flying sails can be seen through the surrounding trees.

The winning boat “Thirwood” plowed forth, manned by the youngest crew on the lake and captained by Captain Ed. Second across the finish line was “The Place” which claimed to be allied with “Thirwood” but was discovered to be crewed by the Yarmouth Senior Center’s rowdy rowing team which had changed into sailing costumes at the close of the rowing season.

This year’s races were marked by increased animosity. Cries of “old man” and “old woman” were frequently heard coming from cheering squads on the shore.

Plans are already underway for next year’s races, including the removal of more trees to increase wind availability and the use of identify badges to exclude rowdy seniors.

The annual ice racing season begins in November and calls have gone out for old snow sled runners to freshen up the ice boat runners. Donations will be accepted at the Bistro. Speaking of donations, foot warmers and long underwear will be appreciated. Our sports reporting will resume in the spring, when our reporters return from Florida.

Joe Garon

## TRICK OR TREAT

We joined in with other parents in our neighborhood to decorate for Halloween, specifically to greet and scare the goblins as they arrive in a variety of costume portraits. We had a big skeleton in the doorway and two large plastic pumpkins filled with candy bars. The younger children came early (by 4:30pm) with their parents lurking nearby, a few dressed in costumes. It was fun to try to guess who was inside the costume; and we discovered many were “imports” from other neighborhoods, who had gotten word that our street was ripe picking for plenty of treats. Then the teenagers came a couple of hours later, some not really in costume and quite recognizable. When our children were young, I took them around the area, while Janice did the home duty. We collected money for UNICEF in orange bags, and people were generous. Our response was “Happy Halloween!” We had a fun time.

## HOLIDAY PARTY

I was Minister of Education at the South Yarmouth United Methodist Church (1975–1986), and we had a school for over 100 pupils. On Halloween, we organized a big party in the Parish Hall on a Friday night, with the Couples Club in charge. I led a parade with recorded marches or music played on the piano. We marched all around the hall ending up with all the children and adults in the center of the hall. Judges, who had been observing the parade, awarded prizes for the most beautiful costume, most original, funniest, and most scary outfit. Afterwards, we enjoyed games such as three legged sack races, passing lemons with no hands, doughnuts on a string, ducking for apples and other group games. Cider, hot chocolate and homemade cookies completed the evening’s fun. It was a happy event and drew a capacity crowd.

## DOUBLE WHAMMY

The year was 1991. In August, Hurricane Bob wreaked havoc in a number of places, including the Cape and Islands. I remember many large sailboats thrown on the rocks at Green Pond in Falmouth, their masts lodged under the electric and telephone lines. They were inextricably bound in place. On the Vineyard, we had not had a real hurricane in so many years that we had become complacent and figured it was just another storm. And indeed it was! Our catboat capsized with the mast stuck in the muddy bottom. Our outboard fishing boat filled with water and the motor was submerged.

Then the Big Halloween storm arrived (called the No Name storm) and struck us with such ferocity that it undermined our nearby bluff. Two big pine trees (35' tall) fell across the beach, blocking access from both directions. This was the convergence of two major storm systems, creating the "Perfect Storm" as depicted in Sebastian Junger's book and later the movie by that title.

The major loss was 15 feet of our bluff at one end and 8 feet at the other, resulting in the need for construction of a 50 foot groin approved by the state DEP and local zoning codes. It was built with boulders weighing from 1 ½ to 4 ½ tons each. We had to rebuild and replant the entire bank with native species, plus, the reclamation of two boats and a motor! It was a Horrific Halloween!

Doug Dorchester



Janice Dorchester



Doug Dorchester



## HALLOWEEN, oh HALLOWEEN

Halloween, oh Halloween  
Jack-o-Lanterns now are seen,  
In the darkness of the night  
ghosts and goblins take their flight.  
Midnight hour and witches fly  
past the moon up in the sky.  
Skeletons rise up from their graves  
bats emerge from deep dark caves.  
Vampires search for blood so red  
leaving victims cold and dead.  
Gloomy shadows shroud the town  
black and gray and muddy brown.  
Creaky, squeaky, whoosh and bang,  
chains go clink and clank and clang.  
Through the night a piercing scream...  
never mind it's Halloween.

Janet Crosby

## DON THOMPSON – QUIPS

October 30, 2014

Many of us have had the pleasure of dining with Don Thompson over the years at Thirwood. He always came to dinner prepared with stories and quips to keep the conversation going. Here are a few from his repertoire.

How many different ways do we use the word UP? We call UP our friends and we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car. At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

Larry watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. “Why do you do that, Mommy?” he asked. “To make myself beautiful,” said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue.” “What’s the matter mother”, asked Larry, “you giving UP?”.

Here are two quips from church bulletins:  
Ladies Bible Study:  
Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the first Presbyterian Church.  
Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

(Don served during WWII as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the Marine Corps.)

## BOB PRIESTLY – SPORTS

May 20, 2015

“In October 1941, a Globe reporter credited Bob Priestly with ‘a sparkling piece of thievery’ in a football game between Brown University and visiting Rhode Island State College. With Rhode Island on Browns 5-yard line, threatening to score midway through the fourth quarter, Mr. Priestly ‘stole the ball from the hands of Bill Rutledge, State fullback,’ the Globe reported, adding that he ‘sprinted 95 yards for a touchdown.’

That heads-up play by the senior All-American end from Melrose en route to a 14-7 victory was a highlight of his lifetime of athletic accomplishment. The second oldest of four brothers inducted into the Melrose High Athletic Hall of Fame, Mr. Priestly was head hockey, football, and golf coach and assistant baseball coach at Norwich University in Northfield, Vt., from the early 1950s until he retired in 1979.

Mr. Priestly --- was Norwich’s athletic director for 15 years and a member of the Brown and Norwich athletic halls of fame, and received the prestigious Schaffer Pen Award for outstanding contributions to intercollegiate ice hockey in 1980.”

Bob also served his country during WWII in Europe as a Second Lieutenant with an infantry heavy bombing group.

Excerpts taken from the Boston Globe Obituary by Marvin Pave, 6/16/2015

## IN SERVICE TO MY COUNTRY

At the tender age of 18, I left my home in Glen Rock, N.J. to enlist in the U.S. Navy on November 21, 1942. From there, I was sent to Boot Camp in Virginia Beach, Virginia where I was asked what type of service I would most like to do; my response was radio.

I was surprised to be selected to go to a Radar School in a remote location called Beaver Tail, Rhode Island on the shore of Narragansett Bay. It was a short distance from Jamestown where I was billeted in a Quonset Hut with several other trainees. I was instructed how to operate a Radar instrument and how to plot the location of a blip representing an aircraft on a Plexiglas board for the Officer of the day to use in directing our aircraft for an interception. Aircraft from Quonset Naval Station flew over Block Island on exercises to aid in our training. I studied there for about a year before I was selected to train new recruits on the use of the equipment before they shipped out. After a year of this, wanting more action, I applied for "sea duty".

They granted my request in August 1944 and I was assigned to the U.S.S. Eldorado, a Liberty Ship converted into a Group Command Ship. I arrived a few days before commissioning and was asked to check out the CIC (Combat Information Center) Plot Room where we would be spending much of our time. The forward part of the room was where the radar equipment was located, and was closed by a curtain so the radar-man could watch the radar screen in total darkness. In another part of the room was the Plexiglas board where another radar-man plotted the location and speed of a blip (aircraft). The Officer of the day communicated this information to the pilots of our aircraft and also to the Bridge. The ship was commissioned in the Brooklyn Navy Yard on August 25<sup>th</sup> and became the Flag Ship for Admiral Turner, the

commander of amphibious forces for the Pacific. As I was the leading Division Petty Officer (Radar man 1<sup>st</sup> Class), I greeted each of the 20 or so radar-men who would be serving under me, and set the four hour watch period for each of them before sailing time.

We set sail on September 6<sup>th</sup> and stopped in Norfolk to wait out a hurricane, and continued a week later through the Panama Canal in a rough voyage to San Diego, then to Mare Island outside San Francisco where work was done to correct the ballasting so the ship would sail smoother. Stores and ammunition were brought aboard and we set sail for Pearl Harbor spending Christmas there.

We left Pearl Harbor on January 27, 1945 and stopped for two days at Eniwetok, and then to Saipan where a few days were spent in preparing for the invasion of Iwo Jima, the first Japanese territory to be invaded, on February 19<sup>th</sup>. After a softening up process for three days of intense bombardment by our warships, the Fifth Marines went ashore facing heavy machine gun fire and mortar shelling from the Japanese who were entrenched in caves and pill boxes. From the bow of our ship I could see the marines (suffering heavy casualties) use flame throwers to burn the Japs from their pill boxes and caves and finally reach the top of the mountain. On February 23<sup>rd</sup> we could see Old Glory raised atop Mt. Suribachi. I understood that the marines were ordered not to take any prisoners. On March 9<sup>th</sup> Admiral Turner turned the command over to another vessel, and we departed.

We proceeded to Leyte Gulf in the Philippines where we again engaged in dress rehearsals for our next amphibious operation against the Japanese owned island of Okinawa. On Easter Sunday morning our ship together with an armada of 1,200 ships of all varieties arrived. I could hear the booming of the sixteen inch artillery as the task force

paved the way for the Tenth Army Infantry and the Sixth Marines to land successfully. We did not initially encounter much resistance. Then the Jap's started using, in large scale, suicide tactics. There were daily bombings, torpedo attacks and Kamikaze charges. Our ship's guns were firing almost day and night; a few members of our gun crews were wounded but luckily there were no fatalities. There were times when I was at the Plot board marking the position and speed of incoming Jap planes (called "bogies") for the officer of the day to relay to our F4F aircraft for them to intercept. I could hear the directions the officer was giving to our pilots: if the Jap was on his way back to his base, and was getting out of range for our fighters, he commanded our pilots to abandon the chase before they reached the point of no return due to lack of fuel, and to return to home base. Okinawa will be remembered for the enormous losses for the Navy and the brave men who combated the Kamikaze "kids". They did a great job against the worst type of opposition and emerged victorious! To us on the MIGHTY EL, it meant over 250 hours at battle stations with over 500 designated air raids. I learned that the war correspondent, Ernie Pyle, who was on our ship for a short time, was killed on the island by Jap sniper fire.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Admiral Turner turned his command over to an admiral of another flagship. The following day as we set sail a Kamikaze swept close by, missing us, and plunging into the New Mexico. We sailed to Guam, and on June 9<sup>th</sup> left for the Philippines, dropping anchor in Manila Bay on June 14<sup>th</sup> and started readying for the next operation on the Japanese main land. On August 9<sup>th</sup>, we learned that the first atomic bomb was dropped. The war ended on September 2<sup>nd</sup> with the Japanese signing the instrument of surrender on the U.S.S. Missouri. Shortly afterwards, I and members of other divisions gathered on the ship's bow and were pinned by Captain Wallace with a commendation award medal for our service. Finally, I was given orders to return to the

Brooklyn Navy Yard for mustering out of the service, and was discharged February 21, 1946.

Looking back at this time in my life, I felt it was all one big adventure; and I suppose because of my young age, I never really had a feeling of the danger I faced. I felt that I was doing a service for my country which repaid me in full when, through the GI Bill I received both my Bachelors and Masters degrees – which neither I nor my family could have afforded.

### Frank Morris



Mt. Suribachi



U.S.S Eldorado



Frank's Medal Award

## HEALTH: RESPITE CARE

### RESPITE CARE:

An interim period of time spent at a facility to allow you to recover sufficiently from an illness or injury until you are again able to live independently, or a time to assess the advisability of transitioning permanently to assisted care.

The following form may be helpful should you find that you require a stay at such a facility.

### RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES CHECKLIST

#### \*RIGHTS:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Live in a safe, habitable environment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Be treated with consideration and respect.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Privacy within your room, subject to the rules of the facility.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Retain use of your personal property.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Private communications – i.e. correspondence, telephone, and visits from family / friends.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Freedom to participate in facility activities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Present grievances and make suggestions to the Executive Director without restraint or reprisal.

\_\_\_\_\_ Obtain, upon request, the name of any person responsible for your care.

\_\_\_\_\_ Confidentially of all records.

\_\_\_\_\_ Have all reasonable requests responded to promptly and adequately.

\_\_\_\_\_ Have available an information sheet listing contact phone numbers and processes to use for obtaining necessary services.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES:

\_\_\_\_\_ Ask if you need something.

\_\_\_\_\_ Be as patient as possible.

\_\_\_\_\_ Be polite and pleasant when making a request.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you don't understand something – ask for an explanation.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you don't understand the explanation – ask if you can have it in writing.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you feel you need an advocate – designate one.

\_\_\_\_\_ You too, are responsible for ensuring your good health – help your care providers to help you.

\* A complete list can be found on the web site:  
[www.mass.gov/elders](http://www.mass.gov/elders)

## THANKSGIVING



### NOW

Today, the traditional Thanksgiving dinner might include: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, candied yams, cranberry sauce and pumpkin, mincemeat, or apple pie.

### THEN

The harvest celebration shared by the Pilgrims and Wampanoag at Plymouth Colony in 1621 was described by Edward Winslow, a colony leader, in his letter home to a friend: "Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors.

They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others.”

Edward Winslow also details the bounty of his new home in Plymouth: “Our bay is full of lobsters all the summer and affordeth variety of other fish: in September we can take a hoghead of eels in a night with small labor, and can dig them out of their beds all winter. We have mussels...at our doors. Oysters we have none near, but we can have them brought by the Indians when we will; all the spring-time the earth sendeth forth naturally very good sallet herbs. Here are grapes, white and read, and very sweet and strong also. Strawberries, gooseberries, raspas, etc. Plums of three sorts, with black and read, being almost as good as a damson; abundance of roses, white and read, and damask single, but very sweet indeed. These things I thought good to let you understand, being the truth of things as near as I could experimentally take knowledge of, and that you might on our behalf given God thanks who hath dealt so favorably with us.”

While many elements of the modern holiday menu are very different from the foods eaten in 1621, the bounty of the New England autumn was clearly the basis for both celebrations. The impulse to share hospitality with others and give thanks for abundance transcends the menu.

(Content obtained from Plimoth Plantation, Smithsonian and Wikipedia websites)

## BUDDY PROGRAM

Has this happened to you? You find out one day that a good friend of yours here at Thirwood has been taken away in an ambulance. Because of Patient Privacy regulations no one on the staff can share any information about your friend. However, you would like to send a card, make a phone call or visit your friend. But you don't know how.

To prevent this happening in the future, each of us could find a Buddy at Thirwood who we authorize to share information about where we are and whether a contact from friends would be welcome. You might then share, only with your Thirwood Buddy, the phone number of a family member or off-site friend who has the information that you want passed on to Thirwood residents on your behalf.

Becoming a Buddy is simple. First, find a friend who agrees to be Buddies with you. Second, sign-up in the mailroom on the information sheet listing your name and your buddy's name and phone number.

This list will be typed up and posted on the "Thirwood Resident" bulletin board and updated as needed.

## MEMORIAM

Charlotte Schaefer	October 8, 2015
Helen Perkins	September 12, 2015
Donald Cary	September 12, 2015
Ruth Reiners	September 12, 2015
Rose Castiglione	September 6, 2015
Del Akerley	September 4, 2015
Robert C. Lueders	August 22, 2015
Helen M. Vorys	June 8, 2015
Robert Priestly	May 20, 2015
Sybil C. Bassett	May 12, 2015
Sam Croll	May 3, 2015
Marjorie Woods	April 22, 2015
Jeanne Hansen	April 19, 2015
Ann Acker	April 12, 2015
James A. Clayton	March 26, 2015
Carole Webber	February 26, 2015
Frances Casey	January 27, 2015
Jack Gearin	January 18, 2015
Harold Page	January 6, 2015