

Eddington

Historical Society

October 2007

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SKY WATCH



Bertha Cole stands in the doorway of the original "Spotting Shack", in the early 1940's. This shack was used during World War II to spot aircraft.



The Post Itself— Standing alone beside the road on Route 9 (in front of Harold Maloon's - now Jim White's house) stood the Eddington Observation Post, used in the nationwide "Sky-watch" Program. This location provided a clear view of the sky and was an excellent place to keep an eye out for aircraft.

Story. Page 5

Celebrating

The people of Eddington, Brewer, Holden, Dedham, Orrington and Clifton wish to thank the men and women of the Eddington Fire Department for their dedicated service to their communities over the past 60 years.
 Story begins on page 6.



George Peavey

Stanley Greenacre

George Adams

"Issy" Violette

Eddington Baseball in the 1930's

by Phil Adams, Sr.

My father, George (Roland) Adams, was the coach of the Eddington Pickup Team. Next to God and family, he loved baseball more than any other thing in his life.

His nickname was "Donny" (pronounced Dough-ney). He got his nickname the day two doughnuts fell out of his dinner pail while running to school. It stuck with him for life.

He married Esther Page and they ran the Adams Farm on Route 9 in Eddington. They employed many of the young local boys to cut firewood, plug wood, feed and water the cattle, hay the fields, pick strawberries, raspberries, work in the gardens and doing other farm chores. The players in this photo had just finished their farm chores and were leaving for a game.

About 1937, the George Peavey family moved into the Ora Clapp place (later the Allison Fox place and now demolished). George had two sisters. George, the eldest child, was a big strapping boy. He cut firewood for local people and loved to play ball. He was the shortstop and not one ball got by him. When he got up to bat, the outfielders moved back!

Around 1938 the Charles Greenacre family came from California, with their only son, Stanley. They moved next

door to the Adams family. The children, Arlene, George Jr and Philip were delighted to have a young neighbor next door. Stanley was the team's pitcher.

The Charles Greenacre purchased my Uncle Edwin and Aunt Cora McKeever's property, which was later named Lazy Acres. My Uncle Ed built the house and he had a shop just below the house where he sold and repaired Reo cars. He was a cracker-jack mechanic for Model T fords.

My brother, George, loved to play ball. When the chores were done all the boys grabbed their mitt, balls and bats and jumped in the back of my father's old 1931 Chevrolet ton and a half truck and off to the field they would go. George was a catcher and first baseman.

The Violettes lived in Bradley. Ernest "Issy" worked for Donny along with his brothers, Albert and Leon. Albert lived on the Chemo Pond Road. Issy was always around as he worked for Donny on the Adams Farm and for George Libby on the Libby Farm. Issy was both an outfielder and a catcher.

The three ball fields were local hay fields. One was in Bradley on the Lynch field (beside Claudia's Seafood), one was in Eddington across from what is now the Eddington Auto Sales, and one was behind the Grange Hall (now Comins Hall). The boys had benches to sit on there were bleachers for the audience. The crowd would gather when

they heard the boys were coming to play a game. The parents would bring food and drink to share.

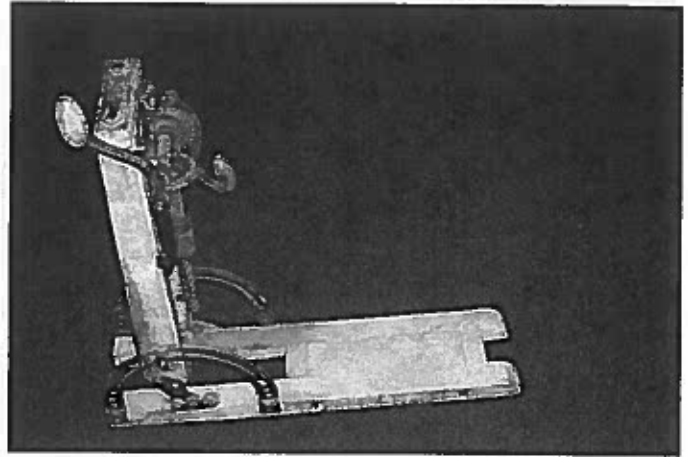
Nobody gave Donny a hard time. He was outspoken, especially when it came to "his boys". If Donny felt the boys needed practice, they would practice. Before one game, while Donny and his team were still on the field completing their warm up drills, Clayton Boynton called for the game to begin. Donny said, "When I think the boys have practiced enough, we will start the game, and not until."

And that is the way it was.



Nearly seventy years later, one of the gloves used by the Eddington boys is proudly displayed on the mantel in the home of Richard Boynton. Richard is the son of Rodney, and nephew to Clayton.

What is it?



The Eddington Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the recent acquisition of this mystery item, the generous donation of Mr. Wilbur Libby of Eddington. Think you know what it is? Give it your best shot, then turn to page 6 for the answer. Remember...no peeking!

501(c)3 for Eddington Historical Society

by Rob Dorr

The Eddington Historical Society is applying for recognition of exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3). Upon approval, the Society will be issued a determination letter that provides written assurance about the organization's tax-exempt status, and its qualification to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. Every organization qualifying for exemption under section 501(c)(3) will also be classified as either a "public charity" or a "private foundation".



Eddington School Craft Fair

October 20, 2007
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Charlene Harmon, Chairman of the Historical Calendar Committee reports that it is in final draft and will be ready and "For Sale" at the Craft Fair at a price of \$10. A special thanks to the committee members, Charlene Bowden, Kay Mitchell, Catherine Leavitt, Angela Byther and Lou Higgins for all their hard work and support.

J.G.Faulkner, Inc.

by Gloria Faulkner



In 1963, John Faulkner acquired the property on Route 9 which the late George Grant referred to as "Brickyard Hill." Although the parcel contained nearly sixty acres and approximately seven hundred feet of frontage on Route 9, it would not have been an easily developed property to the untrained eye. The area was covered with majestic pine trees, underbrush, ledge, rusted barbed wire fences, and hollows in the terrain from clay excavations for the brick making industry. Consequently, John bought the land for the modest price of \$1,200.

John chose the property, recognizing its potential and favorable location. Despite growing up on nearby Mann Hill in Holden, he spent much of his time in the North Brewer/Eddington Bend area and was fond of the people and the community. Among those who were especially welcoming were the Hodgins, Knox, Powers, and Robertson families.

John brought the few pieces of second-hand equipment he had, which included a dump truck, bulldozer, backhoe and loader. He blasted the ledge, rearranged the terrain,

and built a residence in 1964. Cutting and welding on the old bulldozer in the new home's basement filled it with black smoke and dust, forcing him to construct his first commercial garage sooner than he had planned. The year was 1968.

The construction equipment technology in the early days limited the length of the earth moving season to barely six months of the year. As a result, it became necessary to look for other, related ways to earn a living the remainder of the year. John and his crew, which included his brother, Philip Faulkner, as well as Elmer Carter, Myron Foss, Kenneth Robertson, and others, plowed and sanded the Town of Eddington's roads for nearly twenty years, beginning in 1970. During some of those years, he also held contracts for winter road maintenance with the Towns of Clifton and Holden. Harvesting and transporting wood products provided additional jobs and income for John and the crew.

As the years passed, John upgraded and increased his fleet of construction equipment and expanded his garage and work space. The scope of his projects also expanded, and today includes site preparation and road construction. His unique talent for developing property in an aesthetically pleasing and functional manner, while utilizing the existing natural characteristics of each site, became well known. It all began with the development of "Brickyard Hill"

John and his wife and partner, Gloria, adopted Eddington as their home long ago, recognizing it as an idyllic place to raise their daughters, Lorraine and Sonja, as well as conduct their business and contribute to the community.

Eddington Annual Town Picnic

By Denise Knowles

On August 19, 2007, more than 400 people attended the fourth annual Town of Eddington End of Summer Barbeque. Delicious Ribs, Chicken, Hamburgers, Salad and much more were served up by Jeff's Catering with the help of Joan Brooks, Selectman, and several members of the Eddington Fire Department. The band Never-2-Late entertained everyone through the entire event as residents joined in. Ralph Corbett made a beautiful wooden glider and donated it to the town to be raffled off to help raise funds for the picnic. Peter Clewley was the lucky winner. A great time was had by all.

The event began in 2004, when a resident in town felt that a gathering of town's people would be good for new neighbors to meet and old neighbors to renew friendships. An anonymous resident funded the entire (con't Page 5)

Eddington Ready for "Operation Skywatch"



Robert Farris of the Bangor Filter Center answered questions of the Eddington women who manned the post. Left to right are Charlene Knox, Mrs. Angela Bylther, Patricia Doherty, Mrs. Virginia Doherty, Mrs. Mattie Morse, Mrs. Carolyn Wood, Mrs. Marguerite Phillips and Mrs. Irene Pooler.

It was small and square and not very impressive looking, but it is all that was needed to put Eddington way out in front of most towns.

The "It" was Eddington's observation post, where a group of spirited citizens maintained a 24/7 Skywatch.

The Air Force announced that a nationwide day and night watch on the skies was a must. People did not believe that the United States was in danger of an air strike at any moment. They did not believe that Russia, whose future course depended upon the whims and moods of a little group of 13 men, might start a war. And they wouldn't believe, despite all the warnings by high Air Force officials that they could attack in another hour or that night or the next day.

This is what the Ground Observation Corps leaders would hear as they sought to put the "Operation Skywatch" in to operation.

The Eddington people thought differently. At the town

meeting, the people voted. The men built the building. They put in electric power and furniture. A telephone paid for by the Air Force.

There was a recruiting drive headed up by Lester Phillips. The women divided up the town people and prepared a list of volunteers. All agreed that two at a time would man the post. The women would do two hours during the day and the men would do four hours at night. Replacements came promptly to duty.

From reports from the Eddington post and the many others in the area, the Filter Center would be able to track the exact course of a plane flying over. This information would be relayed to the nearest radar station and from there they would go to the Air Defense Command, which was responsible for the defense of the country against an enemy attack.

The Eddington Observer Corps set an example and soon other towns followed.

some information taken from the scrapbook of Esther Adams

Special Thanks

A Special thanks to Louie and Helen Dougherty, Candy Braley and Lou Higgins for all the work they have done over the past several years in gathering historical data and developing the Eddington Newsletter Publication.

Eddington Annual Town Picnic (con't from page 4)

event. There were three-legged races, a frying pan toss and water balloon competitions for the kids and young at heart. Jeff's Catering was hired to cater the event, and have done it every year since. Since then others have donated to this annual event. If you would like to make a donation for future picnics, you may send or bring in to the Town Office.

Mark your 2008 Eddington Historical Calendar on the third Sunday of August (mark the following Sunday as a rain day) and plan to bring your family for an unforgettable event with family, friends and neighbors.

FIRE DESTROYS EAST EDDINGTON LANDMARK



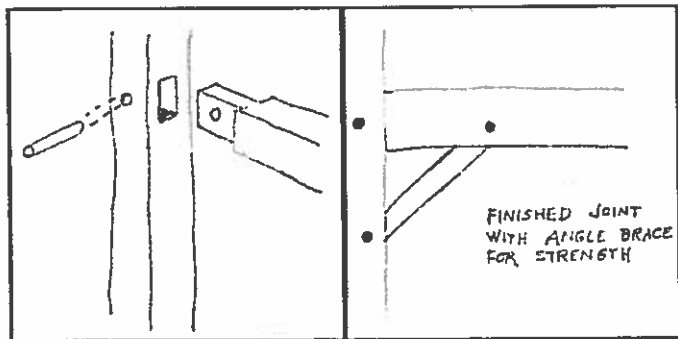
JULY 27, 1946: This photo shows the flame-engulfed home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Merrill. This spacious home was completely destroyed by fire late Saturday night with a loss estimated at \$7,000. A connecting carriage shed and large barn were saved by the combined efforts of Bangor and Brewer firemen who also prevented the blaze from spreading to adjoining properties. The blaze was attributed to an overheated chimney, which burned out earlier in the evening. Most of the furnishings were saved. The Merrill homestead was one of the largest and most attractive homes in the area. Mr. Merrill was proprietor of the Merrill Spool Mill in Brewer.

What is it? (con't. from page 3)

The item donated by Mr. Libby is a beam auger or "Timber Mortising Machine", used to make mortises in wooden beams during assembly of a post-and-beam structure.

You may have seen mortise-and-tenon joints in old barns or houses; this type of construction is very strong, and has helped many a Maine house or barn withstand the rigors of gale-force winds and crushing winter snows. This tool was used to make these joints.

The timber framer (a carpenter who specialized in constructing the framework of buildings) marked the location of the mortise on the beam, and then, placing a knee on the flat portion of the tool at the rear, would grasp a handle in each hand and would pedal until the drill was through the wood. This method was to make a series of three or four adjoining holes (depending on the size of the mortise needed), as shown in the picture.



Drawings by Bud Mitchell

A wide chisel, tapped with a mallet, was then used to clean out the remainder of the wood and make the hole perfectly rectangular. The tenon on the other beam was then cut to fit, and, once inserted, was drilled from the side and pegged with a "trunnel per" for extra strength. (the word trunnel is said to be a very old English word meaning "tree nail".) (Picture or drawing of peg) This auger is especially interesting in that it can be adjusted to drill holes at different angles, which was an invaluable feature when attaching diagonal braces to the main structural members for additional strength.

Again, many thanks to Mr. Libby for his generous donation to the Historical Society's growing collection.

Membership

Dues: Yearly dues \$5, Life Member \$25

Send name, address and telephone number to:

Lou Higgins
76 Jarvis Gore Drive
Eddington, ME 04428

Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at the Municipal Building at 6:30

President: Richard Bowden

Vice Pres: Carlene Harmon

Secretary: Denise Knowles

Treasurer: Lou Higgins

Newsletter: Hilma Adams

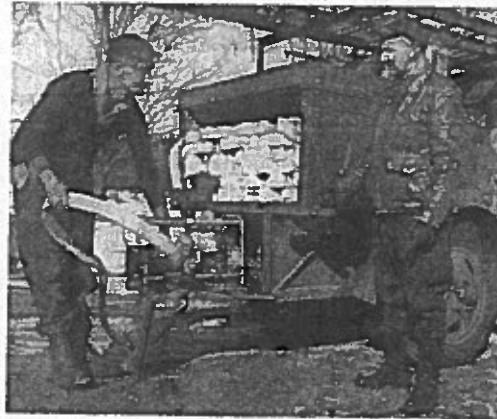
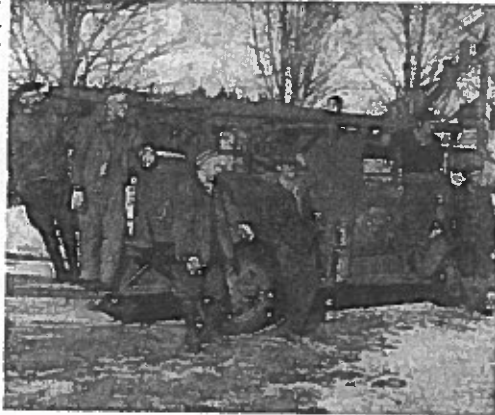
Additional copies available

www.adams-re.com

Click on the monument.

E. EDDINGTON FORMS FIRST VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

March 3, 1948. This truck, purchased for \$250 has answered 13 calls in East Eddington since volunteers organized there last June. Some of the volunteers, shown here, are (l. to r.): J Herbert Comins, Winfield Luce, Elmer Higgins, John Miraglia, Chief Quincy Peabody and Roscoe Higgins.



Quincy Peabody (L), chief of the Eddington Volunteer fire department, attaches a section of hose to the portable pumper while J. Herbert Comins, chair of the board of directors of the fire organization, looks on. The piece of equipment can pump 300 gal of water per minute.

June 1947: Agitation for a fire department started in the fall of 1946 right after fire destroyed one of the largest and most attractive farm homes in Eddington, a well known landmark called The Merrill Farm.

The farmers of this small Airline town and a model rural fire fighting organization, had two "Certains" and several "Probables" since embarking about eight months ago on its mission of saving farms from the ravages of fire. Since they organized they have answered 13 calls of varying magnitude and severity since they organized in June 1947. While forest fires were raging in Bar Harbor and other towns in the state, the volunteers of Eddington put out a woods conflagration near the Meadowbrook section of town. They answered Frank Manzo's and Frank McGinley's calls. At McGinley's the garage burned but the house was saved. The portable pumper was the most valuable as it was more adaptable to rural use than a truck with fixed pumps. The fire engine was kept in Peabody's barn. They hoped to raise enough money to build a new firehouse.



Members of the Eddington Fire Department stand in front of the department's Engine #322. Pictured left to right are Lt. David Hughes, Deputy Chief Kevin Byers, Chief Alan Boynton, Gene Kelso, Karen Landry, Ben Pratt, Brett Perry, Lt. Joe Rackliffe and Chris Roberts

Eddington Fire Department, 2007. The department was established in 1974 as a Municipal Fire Department and is part of an Automatic Aid Agreement with Brewer, Holden, Dedham and Orrington and a contract with Clifton. Chiefs past and present: Ron Clark, Arnold Grover, Siegfried Wilkins & Alan Boynton. In 1981 Pumper #323 was purchased. It holds 1500 gallons of water and pumps 1000 gallons a minute. In 1992 #321 was obtained which holds 1000 gallons and pumps 1250 gallons a minute. In 2002 the #322 came to town. It holds 1000 gallons and pumps 1250 gallons a minute. Eddington has over 50 hydrants. Twenty-four on-call men and six women from Eddington and Clifton are specially trained as a fire fighter or an EMT.



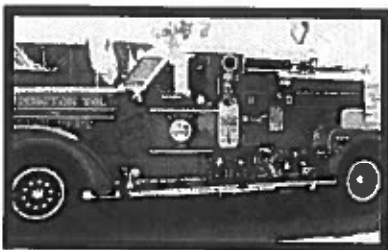
The Office: From a small space with just a manager's office and a community working and meeting room, to a large 3600 square foot with six sunshine-filled private offices, a large working area, a large meeting room and space for historical artifacts.

The Fire Department: From a three bay garage which could house six vehicles one behind the other, to a 7200 square foot six bay garage, a bunk/living area, an office, and a meeting area for training fire personnel.

An Open house is planned for this fall. Look for the announcement coming soon.

Eddington Historical Society

EA Wood Municipal Building
906 Main Road
Eddington, Maine 04428



1968 - Eddington's "Seagrave" fire truck at the Bangor Firemen's Parade.