

Winter Harbor Historical Society

P.O. Box 93, Winter Harbor, ME 04693

September 2017

NEWSLETTER



Winter Harbor High School

During the town's first meeting in 1896 a 12 week program to educate young people past the eighth grade was approved and funded. The program required a written examination for admission and classes were held in people's homes. This informal process demonstrated the need for a more formal program and plans to establish a High School were subsequently developed. Contractors, Frank Weston and Fred Joy reviewed over 100 plans and for a total cost of \$6385, Winter Harbor High School opened in 1909. Four years of study with courses such as: Latin, French, Physiology, Botany, Virgil, Cicero and Rhetoric were offered with certified teachers after 1915. Except in 1943, when paper was rationed, a professionally printed yearbook; *The Pythia* was published. Robert Coombs states in a history compiled for Winter Harbor Alumni, that the average salary for the male teacher in 1910 was \$70 per month and \$36 for females. The first graduating class in 1913 had five women and at least two continued on with college. This class included Flossie Hancock, who returned to teach second grade in Winter Harbor for over 40 years, although her ambition at the end of high school was to catch lobster and her favorite study was boys.

The first yearbook published in 1912 contained two pages of ads, increasing to 20 pages in 1952, when Winter Harbor students began attending Sumner Memorial High School. One of the notable seniors in this last class was Janet Jordan, vice president, whose ambition was to marry a fisherman. As a junior, Clair Whitten was voted most popular in the school and his favorite song was 'Hot Rod Race.' Barbara Gerrish, a junior was secretary of the student council and participated in band, cheerleading and basketball. Sophomore, Gail Jacobs was secretary of her class and Steve Tardy was vice president. Another sophomore,

Dale Torrey was voted best comedian, teachers' headache and noisiest by the entire school.

Freshman, Reynold Daley made the basketball team and the class of 1952 enjoyed a class trip to Quebec. School committee members were Hugh MacKay, Mrs. Colby Coombs and Albert Hallowell.

Grammar school students attended this building from 1953-1957, when a new school was built. The building housed the Winter Harbor Library and Town Office for many years, before becoming home to Schoodic Arts for All.

Thank You

The Winter Harbor Historical Society thanks the many people, who have participated in August activities. Hammond Hall had a full house for the viewing of the movie: Around Cape Horn; nearly 40 people have joined the Historic Walking Tour; dozens have visited our museum and Willie Cranston's presentation on the development of summer colonies in Winter Harbor, Sorrento, Sullivan and Lamoine invited many questions from the audience. We are especially grateful to Susan Bruce and Roxanne Renwick for the special tours of the Yacht Club.

Enjoy the Peninsula Gazette, a local newspaper written from 1954-1960 on the Winter Harbor Historical Society web site.

Receive news and updates on Winter Harbor Historical Society Facebook.

Events

September 20 at 7pm at Museum

Sargent Street Then and Now; share memories of past residents facilitated by Pearl Barto

Seeking

Town Reports for 1903, Lobstering and fishing artifacts for a museum exhibit.

Winter Harbor Historical Society

President: Diana Young

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