

The Brooksville Breeze



The Newsletter of Brooksville Friends & Neighbors

Summer 2010

The New Bagaduce Lunch: It's Still a Family Affair

JOAN MACCRACKEN

The Bagaduce Lunch has been around just over sixty years since 1946, when Sydney Snow built the small take-out shed on the land that his wife, Bernice Gray Snow, had purchased. Long before that and for many years, the old pier greeted large two-masted schooners that docked and loaded up logs headed for Boston and places south. The coming and going of these ships depended greatly on the tides.

When Sydney and Bernice's three children (Frank, Vangie, and Nettie) left the family home, Sydney and Bernice concentrated on running the Bagaduce Lunch.

Even before the building of this take-out stand, Bernice and Sydney had a little lunch stand at the side of their home next to the Grange Hall in North Brooksville where dances were held every weekend. Bernice baked pies and sold them. For about twenty years, they owned, ran or leased the Bagaduce Lunch, which served hamburgers and hot dogs and later lobster rolls. Coffee was served in real coffee mugs. Nettie Snow Leach recalls that the town baseball teams would stop by after the Sunday ball games for a tasty bite.

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Bagaduce Lunch

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In 1967, Vangie, their daughter, took over and, along with her husband, James Peasley, ran the store for thirty years until 1997. Vangie and James had five children: Jimmy, Greg, Ginny, Judy and Frank, who says he was there in the summer from birth on. At age 10, he had to start working and served up the soft ice cream. During that time, an addition was added for the soft ice cream and a bathroom for the employees. James Peasley, a carpenter and clammer, added fried clams and fried onion rings to the menu. Most all of Vangie's and James's grandchildren have worked there at one time or another.

Over the years, the soft ice cream menu switched to hard ice cream. It was a lot of work to clean the soft ice cream machines

on a daily basis and regulate the temperature appropriately. The extensive varieties of hard ice cream and the size of the servings tempted most everyone.

Judy Peasley Astbury took over running the take-out in 1997 along with her husband, Michael. Her mother, Vangie, kept baking the pies for quite a while after. It continues to be a family affair with their daughters Abby, 20, (now attending Husson College) and Sarah, 24, (living in Sedgwick) helping out. Michael, a chef in his own right, mans the five Fryolators, creating those yummy fried clams, scallops, fish cakes and fried onion rings.

Did the 2008 presentation of the James Beard "American Classic" Award cause an upswing in sales? Yes, last summer many

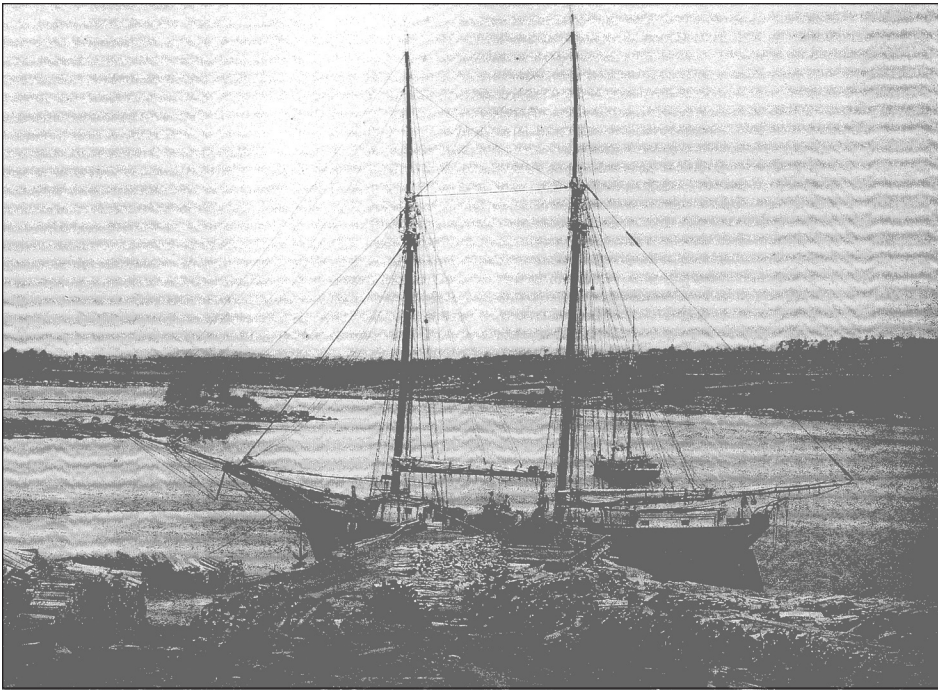
lost tourists roamed 176/175 searching for the Bagaduce Lunch, having read about it in the New York Times or online. Indeed, that award did put it on the map of places to experience—its ambiance and gastronomic delights. A Google search of the Bagaduce Lunch rewards the searcher.

Fried fresh haddock sandwiches as well as salads have been added to the menu. Their seafood is fresh, and the clams and crabmeat come from Deer Isle, though the lobster and haddock come from Belfast. Scallops come from Downeast, the Calais area. Shrimp are fresh frozen but from Maine. These days a loud speaker announces the customer's number when the order is ready. Sixteen picnic tables are scattered around back, so customers can view the reversing tides under the bridge and walk out on the old pier. We can only imagine the cove filled with large schooners, as few large or small boats now dare venture up this stretch of the Bagaduce.

Last year Judy and Michael decided a new building was necessary. The old one had no foundation and the ground floor and supports were rotting out. On hot summer days, the heat in the working area was stifling and little air entered. With the Fryolators working, the employees could be seen hanging out the back door for a bit of cool air. Storage space was scarce, too. So at the end of last season the construction began with




And old postcard shows the Bagaduce Lunch circa 1950.



This historical photo shows a schooner loading at the wharf behind the present-day Bagaduce Lunch.

Food’s tremendous. It’s all in the breading, and they know how to do it.” Guess those are satisfied customers.

Though technically the Bagaduce Lunch is located on a small sliver of the town of Penobscot, the internet lists its address as 19 Bridge Road, Brooksville, Maine. And those of us who live in Brooksville enthusiastically claim the familiar, family take-out as the Pride of Brooksville.

(Hours are 10 am–7pm daily except Wednesday, when it closes at 3 pm) 

plans to be serving by Mother’s Day 2010.

Usually the season runs from Mother’s Day through Labor Day, or a little beyond, depending on the weather and their energy. It will remain a take-out, and the port-a-potty will have to suffice. The old septic system would not be able to handle a customers’ bathroom. The new building, still white and red on the outside and with the original sign just retouched, is quite a bit larger inside for storage and cooking space. The ceilings are much higher to give more ventilation. The ordering window is maybe a bit higher and makes the customers feel more like a little kid, looking up and ordering their favorite ice cream. I like peppermint patty, myself.

On a bright May day, I spoke

with a couple from New Jersey who were digging into some fried clams and onions. “I used to come here years ago, about thirty-five, but I moved away to New Jersey. Now I stop in whenever I’m back,” said the wife. Holding up a crispy fried clam, her husband added, “Best fried food anywhere around, and we’ve been around!”

Update on David’s Folly

This summer, Meghan Farrell and Greg Mitchell will be the caretakers and farmers at David’s Folly. They will have a farm stand there, as well as sell vegetables, cut flowers, and some fruits at the Brooksville Farmers’ Market on Tuesdays and the Wine Shop in Blue Hill on Fridays. Stop in and see what’s growing!

Attention All Brooksville Residents

Matt Dow, Brooksville’s Fire Chief, would like to see every house have a 911 reflective address sign at the driveway/mailbox to facilitate speedy identification. Matt would like all the signs to be uniform with green background and white numbers that are reflective. The more signs we order, the cheaper the signs. The cost would be less than ten dollars per sign. If you would like to order a sign, please call the fire department at 326-4904. Let’s make our neighborhoods as safe as possible and help the emergency services do their jobs efficiently. So call today!

CLASS OF
2010

Congratulations!

To Our Graduating Seniors and Their Families

Tynan Byrne came to Maine from NJ in 2001, attending BES from 4th thru 8th grade. At GSA, he participated in both music and theatre, playing the bass clarinet in Jazz Band and Jazz Combo. Next year he will attend USM in musical education and hopes to teach music. Tynan finds Brooksville a very beautiful town and a tightly knit community. He is looking forward to a slightly bigger city environment.

Alice Carriveau has lived in Brooksville all her life, attending BES and GSA. Writing fiction is her passion. She also participated in drama for four years at GSA. Her plans include attending a culinary arts school and then continuing her writing. Since her older brothers left home, she finds living in Brooksville a bit isolating and thoroughly enjoys her friends while at school.

John Ludlow also has lived in Brooksville all his life, splitting his home between the Varnumville Road and Hiram Blake Camp. At GSA, he participated in MUN (Model United Nations) as well as soccer and track. Next year he will attend Wesleyan University in

Connecticut, majoring in political science. He is considering going on to law school, but someday he may return to run the family's Hiram Blake Camp.

Alexandra Osborn, born in Blue Hill, has lived here all her life and enjoyed BES. At GSA she loves the unique courses offered such as Forensics, Writing for TV, Film, or English Debate. Many career ideas have drifted through her mind, but at this time she has “no idea” what she will do. She may attend community college at first, but she knows she wants to stay in Maine, is not cut out for city life, and wishes to be near her family.

Hannah Van der Eb also was born in Blue Hill and has resided in Brooksville all her life. At GSA she is “sort of a math nerd,” but she loves architectural design and art. She played three high school sports—soccer, basketball, and tennis. She will attend Wellesley College in the fall and is thrilled with their academics. Hannah loves to design things. This summer she will work at Hiram Blake Camp, a job she just loves.

Quinn Waring, born in Vermont, moved to Maine around age 4. He attended BES with the well-known biggest class. At GSA, he played chess, soccer and drums and had a band called The Purple Project, which plays alternative grunge. He will attend the New England School of Communications in Bangor and hopes to become an audio engineer. He admits Brooksville is not “teenager friendly” but may live here some day.

Eric Burne has lived in Brooklin and Brooksville. At GSA, he enjoyed forensics and history. He's been playing the saxophone since 5th grade, playing in Jazz Band and Combo as well as the piano. Next year Eric will attend Plymouth State U. in New Hampshire and major in criminal justice and minor in music. If you see a state trooper playing a sax in Brooksville, it could be Eric in a few years. He can't stand cities and loves small towns.

Elizabeth Clifford has lived in Brooksville all her life. Even in elementary school she was a fundraiser, creating Up stARTS, a bottle collection program for the BES stage. She has collected over \$55,000. She also raised funds for the Children's Miracle Network. Next year she hopes to attend Thomas College in Waterville, which appealed to her because

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Graduates

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of its small size and wonderful facilities. Someday she'd like to live in Brooksville or Deer Isle. "I love to travel, but Maine will always be home."

Grace Jackson, a native of Conway, South Carolina, arrived in Brooksville around age 5 and attended BES 1st–8th grade. Though she tried the flute in band, it was tennis and soccer that she played for four years. Grace loves languages and has taken Spanish since elementary school and later Latin, which she loved. She will attend Wellesley College next year. She loves having ties to Maine, but is not sure she will live here year round.

John Lymburner comes from a long line of Brooksville Lymburners. He attended BES through eighth grade and then went to Deer Isle-Stonington High, where he was very active in sports including soccer and baseball. This year he plays varsity left field for the Mariners. Though he loves lobstering, he hopes to go into the Coast Guard, but may also consider becoming an auto mechanic. He loves Brooksville. "It's my home!"

Joshua Jones, like so many others in this class, has lived here all his life, attended BES and GSA. Though he played varsity basketball, baseball is his love, and he'll play any position. When

not in school, he's busy lobstering with Mike Grindle and even owns a small boat and some traps. He's aiming to get his own lobstering license. Next year he hopes to head to trade school in diesel or lobstering. Josh loves the area and the sea.

Xiaoming Wang, nicknamed "Tom," has spent this year as

a senior at GSA. He comes from Quigdao, China, and has been living with Alison and Eric Chase. He will return to China for the summer, but will attend college in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Tom hopes to major in mechanical engineering or international relations. He has found Brooksville very pretty and peaceful.



Michael Bernal Memorial Walk: July 18

The first Michael Bernal Memorial Walk on the Varnumville Road will be held on Sunday, July 18 from 7:30am to 9:30am. Michael was tragically killed in a car accident on July 11 last year on the Varnumville Road as he was coming home from work. In his honor, we will donate the proceeds from this walk to Brooksville's Neighborcare. Michael had great respect for his elders and always gave a helping hand to others. His family believes Michael would approve of this choice for a fundraiser.



We will meet at the Tinder Hearth (Open Mic) parking lot in West Brooksville on the Coastal Road around 7:15–7:30am. Those who wish to walk the entire length

of the Varnumville Road can join in shuttle rides to the northern entrance of the Varnumville Road in North Brooksville. The full distance is 2.5 miles. We will stop and gather at the site of the accident and have a short memorial service and then proceed to walk on to Tinder Hearth Bakery, where participants will share in conversation with coffee and pastries. Those who do not wish to walk the entire distance can walk from the south entrance of Varnumville Road which is just over half a mile. We ask participants to make a donation for Michael. We hope you will come out, have a healthy morning walk, share conversation with your neighbors and those who knew Michael and his family. Contact: Joan MacCracken at 326-0916.

Activities

Brooksville Elementary School

Grade 8 Graduation: June 8, 7 pm
 • Last day for students: June 10 •
 Brooksville to Alaska Breakfasts: June 5, July 10, July 31, Aug. 14, 7–10 am, BES • Shore dinner in late July • Info: 326-8500 • www.brooksvilleschool.org

Holbrook Island Sanctuary

Bagpipe shows: July 17 & Aug. 21, 1:30, main park area • Watch for other program announcements • Friends of Holbrook meeting: June 21, 7 pm at the Town House

Brooksville Free Public Library

Hours: see box to right • Friends of the Library Annual Meeting & Potluck: Tues., June 22, 5:30 pm. Guest speaker, Dr. Jean Davison, "On the Trail of an Iraqi Woman: A Nun's Tale Revealed." All welcome • Summer reading program, "Make a Splash—READ," begins June 14 • Reader's Cafe. 3rd Sat. of month, 10 am. • Annual Book Sale: Sat., July 10 • Annual House Tour: Sun., Aug. 8 • Info: 326-4560 or www.brooksvillelibrary.org

Brooksville Historical Society

meets every second Wed. of the month at 7 pm at the Town House. All are welcome • Museum open July & Aug. on Wed. & Sun., 1–4 pm • Touring Through Time: July 24, 10 am–4 pm; July 25, 1–4 pm. This year's theme is century-old clothing • Info: 326-8008 • denishb@myfairpoint.net

Majabigwadu Chapter DAR

2nd Monday of each month, 6:30–8 pm, Brooksville Town House • All women 18 yrs and older welcome • Info: Joe-Anne Corwin, 326-0533 or Liz Hotchkiss, 326-8570 • www.dar.org

Neighborcare

Neighbors helping neighbors. Volunteers provide free health-related services, respite, transportation, errands, etc. Call Jeannie Gaudette for assistance or to volunteer at 326-4735

Get Strong, Get Healthy

Come join us for exercise at the Community Center • Mon., Wed. & Fri., 7:30–8:45 am, \$5 per class (first one free) • Leader: Sylvia Wilder • Info: 326-4801

Brooksville United Methodist Church

Buck's Harbor Sanctuary: Sundays, 9 am • Rev. David Vandiver • Info: 326-8564 • david@mainelywired.net

West Brooksville

Congregational Church, UCC
 Brooksville High School Alumni Association annual memorial service: Sun., July 18, as part of regular worship service • Worship: Sundays, 10 am • Rev. Allen Myers • Info: 326-8283

Labyrinth Walks

Chris Farrow-Noble & Chris Noble will introduce the experience at 15 Drury Lane, North Brooksville • Open to all ages • Sun., May 30, 2–4 pm; Sat, June 26, 2–4 pm & 8–10 pm (partial lunar eclipse); Sun., July 25, 2–4 pm & 8–10 pm; Sun, Aug. 22, 2–4 pm & 8–10 pm • Info: 326-8930

Farmers' Market

Every Tues., 9:30 am–12 noon, June 1–Sept. 28 • Call for info on market guidelines and vendor application (available from Eliot Coleman at market on June 1 & 8) • Costas Christ, 326-9099 • cosal@tamusafaris.com

Reversing Falls Sanctuary

Benefit concert with Kim & Reggie Harris: Aug 10, 7:30 pm, suggested donation \$10–\$15, limited seating • 818 Bagaduce Rd., North Brooksville

Brooksville Friends and Neighbors

1st Wed. of every month, 6:30–8 pm, Town House • Info: 326-0916

Meditation

Tibetan Buddhist: Thurs., 6–7 pm. Call for location • Info: Philip & Lydia Osgood, 326-4047

Open Mic

Sun., June 6 & Sun., June 20, 5:30 pm, Tinder Hearth Bakery • Call for July & Aug. schedule • Info: Tim or Lake, 326-9266

Brooksville Yoga

Unique combination of yoga and Yamuna Ball Rolling • Wed., 8–10 am, continuing students only. Space is limited, so please call • Instructor: Alison Chase • Info: 326-4205

Brooksville Community Center

Call for information about events or rentals • Betsy Jones, 326-8296

To List Your Event

Call or e-mail information two weeks before Sept. 1, Dec. 1, March 1 & June 1:

Joan MacCracken, 326-0916
 e-mail: joanmacc@aol.com

"Every morning I awake torn between a desire to save the world and an inclination to savor it. This makes it hard to plan the day."

E.B. White



Town Office	326-4518
Monday	9 am–2 pm
Wednesday	9 am–2 pm
Thursday	6 pm–8 pm
Selectman	John Gray Richard Bakeman Darrell Fowler
Town Clerk	Amber Bakeman
Treasurer	Freida Peasley
Tax Collector	Yvonne Redman
Burn Permits at Fire Station Thursdays from 7–8 pm	
Harbormaster	Sarah Cox 326-9638
Library	326-4560
Monday	9 am–5 pm
Wednesday	9 am–5 pm
Thursday	6 pm–8 pm
Saturday	9 am–12 noon
Post Office Window	
Mon.–Fri.	9:00 am–12 noon 1 pm–4 pm
Saturday	8:30–10:30 am
Post Office Lobby	
Mon.–Fri.	7:30 am–4:00 pm
Saturday	7:30 am–10:30 am
Buck's Harbor Market	326-8683
Mon.–Fri.	7 am–7 pm
Sat. & Sun.	8 am–6 pm

The Bagaduce Bargain

BOB TREDWELL

The oldest people in town still cackle about the time in 1938 when Euphonia Billings worked the Bagaduce Bargain on Gloria Peasley in the matter of the maple chiffonier and the five mismatched dining room chairs, leading to a certain coolness between the families that continues to this day. So I never thought I would live to see it done again.

Gig Lymburner and I were waiting for our haircuts and John Bell was in the chair when this nice young fellow came in. Neatly trimmed beard; worn but clean L.L. Bean clothes. Not from right around here. He'd heard that Richard had some studded snow tires to sell. "Yes," Richard said, "seven of them. Only on the cars one season."

"How much?" the fellow queried. "Seventy-five dollars," Richard replied.

Of course all of us are thinking, "What a deal!" But the young fellow wasn't happy. He only wanted four tires. "What would his wife say if he brought home all those extra tires?" We're

all thinking, "For crying out loud, put the three of them in Uncle Henry's for \$25 each, and you'll get your tires for free. Or just throw them in the Reach and it's still a good deal!" But the guy was in agony. Naturally we all pitched in to help him.

I thought I'd seen a car on blocks over in West Sedgwick with only one wheel that he could fix up. Gig remembered seeing where Martha Stewart had a way to make a handsome flower pot with an old tire and some white spray paint. John suggested putting a red ribbon on the extra tires and giving them to his wife for Christmas.

None of this seemed to quiet the guy's mind. Finally, he said to Richard, "How much would just four of them be?" Richard never batted an eye: "Seventy-five dollars." And there it was, a perfectly executed Bagaduce Bargain! The poor guy couldn't decide whether he wanted four tires for \$75 or seven tires for \$75. He stammered for a few minutes and left with no tires at all.

Your Library Needs You

The Brooksville Free Public Library is always eager to talk to people interested in serving on the Board of Trustees. For information, please contact either Heather Tooker (326-9466; e-mail: heathertooker@gmail.com) or Oakly Clifford (902-2746; rcliff@localnet.com)

For as far back as I can remember, Brooksville has been "free-loading," so to speak, on the Castine fireworks. The street behind our house is/was a popular spot (which we've kinda ruined), as well as Town Landing and Wharf Road. So a couple of years ago I went out and gave all the "parkers" a flyer suggesting a donation to Castine town hall....maybe raised \$100 plus. And did that for a few years. Then an "AHA" moment! At some appropriate time, why not a short message piece in the Brooksville Breeze: we stand tall in Brooksville...we support those who support us with a glorious fourth? Whatever. You can get the "where to send" info by calling Castine Town Offices at 326-4502.

John Eysenbach

The Brooksville Breeze

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Brooksville Friends & Neighbors (BFN)
P.O. Box 101
Brooksville, ME 04617-0101
Phone: 326-0916



Newsletter By:

Joan MacCracken,
Sheila Moir, Peter Beaven,
Judy Tredwell, Jean Webster,
Katherine Clifford, Gail Page,
Leslie Moore

Check it out!

www.brookvillemaine.org

The Brooksville Breeze originated as a newsletter to increase community communication, thus supporting the mission of Brooksville Friends & Neighbors (BFN) to strengthen and encourage local activities that promote health, both physical and emotional. *The Breeze* welcomes your comments, suggestions and donations to offset costs of printing and mailing. It is published four times a year.

Tell us who *you* are:

Brooksville Friends & Neighbors, P.O. Box 101, Brooksville, ME 04617

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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E-mail _____

Summer Resident? Don't Live in Brooksville? To receive *The Breeze* by e-mail, send us your e-mail and a donation. No e-mail? If snail mail required, we'd appreciate a donation.

We welcome your comments and suggestions for articles _____

**Remember to
VOTE
on June 8th**

for bond issues and
in the Democratic and
Republican primaries.
Have a say in who will
be our next governor
and state legislators.

