

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Vol. XV, No. 1 (Winter 2014)

BEALS HERITAGE CENTER PHASE III

Beals Historical Society is currently on a mission to build a cold-storage building by spring if funding allows. The building will be used to house its two lobster-fishing boats plus any item that does not require a certain temperature to maintain it. After receiving a \$15,000 grant from the Davis Family Foundation, the groundwork and 36' x 40' cement slab were completed at a cost of \$9,410. Originally, BHS intended to build a pavilion eventually adding walls to the structure; however, due to the size of the boats, it is necessary to add the walls for roof support. This structure will also be used to hold events and programs throughout the summer, as the school gym is unavailable during this time. The following is a brief history of the boats.

According to research, well-known builder Maurice Dow built BHS's oldest treasure in 1902 for a Beals Island fisherman Lowell Beal. The boat is the only one of its kind known to exist. In that era of boat building, there was an evolution occurring in lobster boat design, combined with the introduction of the internal combustion engine. The era of oar-powered lobster boats, such as rowboats, dories, pea pods, and sail

powered boats, including the Friendship sloop, was giving way to boats of a different design, or boats that could be rowed, sailed, or power driven, called "reach boats".

The reach boat hull was somewhat of a schooner design, with a rounded stem and a slanted schooner-type transom stern, and rounded bilge. Reach boats could have been of different dimensions, but possibly a length of 20-25 feet would have been typical. It is possible that the Dow boat would have been referred to as a reach boat.

It is intended that the Dow boat will be displayed along with BHS's Harold Gower Jonesport Model (square stern and other characteristic design features) originally built for a Beals fisherman Kenneth Beal. BHS has a copy of the expense record of all boats (including the Kenneth Beal boat) built by Harold Gower. The provenance for this lobster boat includes all owners since its launching. Besides the boat, expense record, and provenance, the Heritage Center also displays a 19-page set of 16" x 20" posters depicting and describing Harold Gower building a cedar-planked boat. Fortunately, BHS has a wonderful

wooden boatbuilding collection, which includes the final product. Time and weather have taken a heavy toll on these unique boats, so it is imperative to move this project along as quickly as possible.

Phase III will allow people the opportunity to view the progression of the lobster boat, as they step back in time from one of the earliest local boat builders to one of more recent years.

The success of Phase III will depend on availability of funds. It is estimated that another \$15,000 is needed to complete the project. BHS is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) corporation so contributions are tax deductible. If you wish to contribute, checks may be made payable to: BHS, PO Box 280, Beals ME 04611. Any donation will be very much appreciated! Thank you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*January Program
Meeting Cancelled*

March 21, 6:30PM

Bill Plaskon program and Annual
Business Meeting

*Please mark your calendars.
We greatly appreciate your
attendance!*

2014 BHS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is once again time to renew your membership. Membership Chairperson, Eva Faulkingham, reports that BHS had a total of 117 renewal memberships, 8 new and 63 life members for a grand total of 188 members for 2013. Please

check your membership card to see if you have already renewed for this year. BHS much appreciates your continued support for this worthy cause. We hope you have a Happy New Year!

JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING CANCELLED

Due to extreme weather conditions, BHS next program will be held in March along with its Annual Business Meeting.

Condolences

BHS wishes to extend heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Gwendolyn P. Smith, of Beals Maine and Vernon O. Beals Jr., of Independence Missouri.

BHS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Please help us reduce the cost of mailing the newsletter by sending your email address to cfdavis44@yahoo.com. Thank you!!!

1941 BEALS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

This information is taken from the "Athletics" section of the 1941 Beals High School Ocean Breeze yearbook. Athletic Editor was Herman Backman, Jr and Assistant Athletic Editor was Chester E. Lenfestey.

Shooting their way to the championship of the league and the consolation game of the tournament, the "Green Hornets" of Beals High boast of one of the best records in basketball for the season of 1940-1941.

The call for candidates brought forth Nathan Burke, Oscar B. Wallace, Jr., and Thomas Kent, seniors; Herman Backman, Jr., Clinton Beal, and Oscar Alley, Jr., juniors; Chester Lenfestey, sophomore; Horace Peabody and Alton Bean, freshman; a veteran team that had won the West Washington County Tournament held in Jonesport and second place in the league for the year 1939 - 1940.



Front Row: Oscar Alley, Jr., Thomas Kent, Nathan Burke, Oscar Wallace, Jr., Clinton Beal. Back Row: Manager, Alton Bean, Horace Peabody, Chester Lenfestey, Mr. Hicks, Coach; Herman Backman, Jr.

Under the efficient coaching of their principal, Charles Hicks, the boys worked faithfully and started clicking at the start. Winning seventeen games out of twenty-one, they scored 788 points to their opponents 549.

Note from BHS Editor: The Green Hornets practiced against Addison, Washington State Normal School and

Harrington. Their "league" games were held with Jonesboro, Milbridge, Jonesport, Harrington, Columbia Falls, Cherryfield, and Addison. The "tournament" was played between Milbridge, Cherryfield and Jonesport with Cherryfield being the winner and Beals the runner up. The score was 48 - 31.

BEALS HERITAGE CENTER BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Please check one: Renewal New

Name(s) as you wish it to appear on membership card and member roll on website:

Name: _____
(Please type or print clearly)

Your mailing address:

Street or Post Office Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Type of membership (Please review all types and check the one that applies)

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Annual | \$10 Annually | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/65 Annual | \$5 annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Life | \$200 one-time payment | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior couple/65 Annual | \$7.50 annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple Annual | \$15 Annually | <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$5 annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Life | \$300 one-time payment | | |

Over and above dues, I wish to donate _____ for __ operating expenses, __building fund, or __ endowment fund. Receipt and membership card will be sent to you.

Instructions: Please print, complete and mail this application, together with tax-deductible check or money order payable to Beals Historical Society to: Membership Chairperson, Beals Historical Society, P.O. Box 280, Beals, ME 04611

Annual memberships are for the calendar year and expire December 31st.