

The Historical Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

PO Box 514

Bartlett, NH 03812

www.BartlettHistory.org

Spring 2020 Edition (2020:2)

The Bartlett

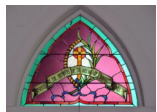
Historical Society

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING COVID-19 VIRUS IMPACT

By now, everyone is aware that the world is dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Above all else, the Bartlett Historical Society Board of Directors is concerned about the health and safety of all of our members, non-member donors and members of our community. With many BHS events planned throughout the year, we have made the decision to look forward on a rolling 4—6 weeks basis to make determinations of whether to cancel or postpone BHS events. In this decision process, we will continue to listen to and heed the advice of state and national medical professionals that is based in scientific data and reasoning as we assess the status of future BHS events. Taking this position, we have:

- ⇒ Postponed the Bingo for a Cause event that was being sponsored by the Red Parka Pub on March 31st (the Red Parka management has stopped all Bingo events for the time being)
- ⇒ Postponed our 2nd Quarter Presentation scheduled for April 15th.
- ⇒ Postponed our 2nd annual BHS golf tournament scheduled for June 4th.

When the pandemic crisis is declared over by our medical professionals, we will look to reschedule these events. As this virus crisis continues we will keep everyone apprised of any additional event scheduling changes. Thank you for your understanding; please do everything in your own lives to be safe.



The Campaign Continues...Thank you for your Continued Support



We start each newsletter with our expression of thanks to all of those who have contributed to our campaign to raise the funds to open our Bartlett history museum. This newsletter is no exception – Thank You – for all of your continued support for this project. Your donations have finally allowed us to start the renovation work on *our* museum. Next step in the spring is the roof replacement. Your support is allowing this to happen.

In each newsletter, we make a plea for continued support for the museum project, however, the challenges we are facing with the COVID-19 pandemic are causing us to reset priorities. While we would truly appreciate and welcome your continued support for our museum project, we know that personal health and economic priorities rightfully come first. The Bartlett Historical Society Board of Directors is committed to the successful completion of this project but, for now, we are reassessing our plans. When we have this pandemic behind us and we are back on our feet, we'll renew our requests for your support.

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President's Message

Spring 2020 is upon us. This winter, when compared to the winter of 2018—2019, was tame here in the mountains. Still, it will be good to see the trees budding and flowers blooming again. Of course, it's time to bring in the birdfeeders so we don't encourage the bears to frequent our backyards and we also need to get ready for "mud season." We've been dealing with a variety of things over the winter, some fun and others very serious. Here's a snapshot of what we've been managing:

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is the last thing I want to write about but the virus is upon us. On the front page of this newsletter, you've read that for the safety of everyone, we've postponed some upcoming events. We are also taking a step back from our continued requests for your donations to our museum project. When stacked up against the realities caused by the pandemic, your health and well-being must come first. Of course, if someone does make a donation we'll gratefully accept it but for now, other priorities are more critical. The health and safety of our members, non-member donors and other community members is most important to us. We'll get back to business as usual once this crisis is over but, for now, please stay safe.

Our official 2020 BHS membership drive is coming to a soft close. I would like to thank all of the members who have renewed their memberships and welcome all of the people who joined BHS as new members. While our official membership drive ended on March 31st, the door is still open for those who have yet to renew their membership and those looking to join as new members. We encourage and welcome your support.

I am very pleased to announce that BHS will now be adding the history of our neighboring town, Hart's Location, to our scope of historic preservation. In a conversation with Mark Dindorff, one of the selectmen of Hart's Location, he was very excited that we made this offer to include their history within BHS as they do not have a historical society. Hart's Location is the smallest town in the state, one of the first in the nation to vote and has a rich history that we can help preserve and display in the museum.

While we are working on the renovation of our museum building, we also started a renovation effort on our BHS website. Dave Eliason, a long time Bartlett resident, BHS Advisor, and subject of our Winter 2020 BHS newsletter interview, is heading up the revamping effort. In this process, we are adding new content, moving things around and giving the site an updated look. Thank you to Dave for his volunteer work on this effort.

In this newsletter, we had planned to announce our 2nd annual BHS golf tournament. You'll actually find the announcement on the last page of this newsletter. We had been planning the tournament for June 4th but given the situation with the COVID-19 virus, we are rescheduling the tournament for a later date. When we have a rescheduled date, we'll get the word out to everyone. All proceeds from this event will go directly to our BHS Museum Fund. While waiting for a new date, we ask that you please think about two things. First, entering the tournament as a player. Second, becoming a tournament sponsor. We are more than willing to sign up sponsors at anytime. Please stay tuned for more details.

I thank you again for your continued support of our growing historical society. When we say this is YOUR historical society, we mean it. Whether you live in town or out of town, your support helps us keep driving forward and your input is welcome. Please take care to stay safe and healthy through these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Phil Franklin

President, Bartlett Historical Society

2020 Bartlett Historical Membership Results

With our 2020 BHS Membership Drive coming to a close, we want to thank everyone for their membership renewals. We also want to thank and welcome the 31 new members who joined BHS for the first time in our 2020 Membership Drive. Your support is greatly appreciated and means a lot to us.

If you haven't sent in your 2020 membership, while we just announced the close of the membership drive, there's still time to continue your membership or join as a new member. We invite you to be a part of this historical society. Tell a friend or neighbor about BHS so they can join also. Our membership form and information can be found at :<http://bartletthistory.org/bartletthistory/join.html>.

Is the St. Joseph Church Building, our Future Museum, Haunted?

To answer this question, we invited Kelly Rogers and her assistant, Linda Merritt, to come by the building with their “ghost hunting” equipment. Kelly is the founder of Luna Paranormal Research in North Conway. She was the guest speaker at one of our quarterly presentations in 2018 and put on quite an interesting talk.

Many months ago, Kelly visited our building with her ghost detection instruments but found nothing. She said that when we started to disturb the building in the renovation process, we might disrupt “someone or something” and it would be interesting to try again to detect a spirit after the building was under renovation. With the building recently cleared of the hazardous materials and stripped to the studs, we thought this would be a good time to try again.



Kelly Rogers



Detection instrument in the hands of our 8th grade researcher

On March 11, 2020, Kelly brought her various pieces of spirit or ghost detection equipment into our building. At first, we didn't get any readings as we waited quietly on the main floor of the building. We then went into the basement and received what was described as some weak signals but nothing conclusive. Back on the main floor, Kelly employed a device that scans radio frequencies. With her assistant asking questions to attempt to draw out any ghosts, Kelly started hearing one word answers over a headset. As we tried to tease more information out of the being, the one word answers continued but nothing really lined up to give us an identity.

In the group watching this activity was one of the 8th grade students and one of her teachers from the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School. The student is involved in our 8th Grade Bartlett History Project and researching the topic of “Hauntings in Bartlett.” She was holding one of the detection instruments and took a turn with the headset listing to the frequencies for responses. She heard some of the one word responses and, while a bit startled, enjoyed the firsthand experience of ghost hunting.



Kelly, eyes covered and headset on, and assistant listening for responses

Is our future museum haunted? We don't know. We're trying to determine if there is any meaning or link between the words we heard over the frequencies and events or people related to the history of the building. What we did hear sounded friendly, though, so, nothing to fear. We assured whomever we were in contact with that we come in peace to give them a better home. We'll let you know if we learn any more about our “friend!”

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To our BHS newsletter readers —

When making a choice of where to make a purchase, please look to make your first stop at one of our newsletter patrons. Please let them know you chose their business because they support BHS.

Would you consider being a sponsor for the Bartlett Historical Society newsletter?

By being a newsletter sponsor, your advertisement will reach about 400 homes quarterly, about 50% of which are local or in NH. We encourage our members and non-member donors to consider turning to our sponsors first when making purchasing decisions. Contact Phil Franklin for more information at phil@BartlettHistory.org

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8th Grade Bartlett History Project—Project Update

The 8th grade students at the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School are continuing to work on their Bartlett history projects. They have been busy researching their selected topics of Bartlett, and some Jackson, history. We included some Jackson topics because several of the 8th grade



students reside in Jackson. In this research process, the students are finding that they need to branch out beyond the Internet and dig into books, maps and other articles to find information on their topics. Another source of information has been through interviews that they are conducting with different members of the community who have knowledge related to their topics. The research step in their projects should have concluded by the time you read this newsletter and the students will be on to the report writing phase of the project. With school adjusted to online classes, we'll be making some adjustments to the project. BHS Directors Hadley Champlin and Phil Franklin have been and will be engaged with the 8th grade students and their teacher, Jennifer Lord.

Railroad Committee Update from Scotty Mallett



Bartlett Village Train Station—1908

There has been a lot of work done on the subject of Railroading in and around Bartlett. David Atchison of Intervale and Karen Allen of Bartlett have joined the committee to help do research. So far we have added the following to the webpage: Stations in Bartlett, Section Houses, Wrecks, Rolling stock. Soon to be added will be Bridges and Trestles, Logging Railroads, What Trackmen do, Signal Maintainers, and more. Any information



Steam locomotive hauls a train through the Bartlett Village crossing

and help is very appreciated!! Please check out the webpage. Thanks to Dave Eliason for making the Railroad pages, and the entire website. Until next time, keep the rails shiny.



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St. Joseph Church—Our Future Bartlett Historical Society Museum

If you know of anyone interested in helping support the restoration of an historic building, please have them contact us.



We'd enjoy talking with them.

Phil Franklin

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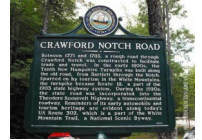
Announcing our 2020 Quarterly Presentation Lineup!

Programming Note: Our original presentation for June 17 on the National Forest Service with Claire Long was cancelled because Claire retired and is no longer in the area. We have, instead, scheduled program with Steve Taylor, a NH Humanities speaker on NH roads. See the program description below.

Wednesday, April 15: "The Story of NH's Road Markers" with Michael Bruno

PRESENTATION POSTPONED!

Until the virus pandemic is cleared & we set a rescheduling date with the speaker



NEW! Wednesday, June 17: "NH Roads Taken or Not" by Steve Taylor via NH Humanities



Following World War II, NH embarked on an extensive program of constructing new highways and improving existing roads to accommodate explosive growth in passenger vehicles and the need for better infrastructure to accommodate commercial traffic. Steve will talk about how this expansion of highway and road infrastructure has impacted and changed the rural state of NH.

Bartlett Elementary School, Cafeteria, Route 302, Bartlett, Time: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21: "A Century of Railroading in Crawford Notch" with Ben English

From the 1860's to the late 1950's, the railroads played a major role in the growth and vitality of the area. Ben, a railroad historian and BHS member, will tell us about the rise and fall of the railroads in our area.



Bartlett Elementary School, Cafeteria, Route 302, Bartlett, Time: 7:00 p.m.

All of our programs are open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted at the door to help cover the costs of each presentation.

1st Quarter 2020 Presentation Review

The History of the NH Presidential Primary

On January 15, 2020, NH Humanities speaker, John Gfroerer, entertained and enlightened an audience of about 40 people with his presentation on our first in the nation presidential primary. This being the 100th anniversary of our NH presidential primary, John took us back to the beginning, highlighting various key points in the history of the primary and explaining how we became first in the nation.

What are your ideas for presentations?

In response to our request for presentation ideas two of our members suggested a presentation by the NH Fish and Game. We're looking into options with Fish and Game for 2021 presentations. What other program ideas do you have in mind? Drop a note to BartlettHistoryNH.org or Phil Franklin at Phil@BartlettHistory.org.



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Postcard image of the Bartlett Hotel (corner of Rt. 302 & River Street) which burned March 7, 1989; it was previously The Howard Hotel built in 1910; and before that the Cave Mountain House built in 1890. Today this corner is a town park.

Black Cap Grille Dining Benefit

On March 3, 2020, BHS and Black Cap Grille partnered to host a dining benefit event to benefit our BHS museum fund. The event was quite a success. Tables were filled all evening with many Bartlett people and BHS members plus a number of people who happened to be dining there that evening. We had a few items in a raffle also.



As the evening wrapped up, the manager of the restaurant stopped by our table near the entrance to tell us that this was the busiest Tuesday night they had had at the restaurant since last October! That made us feel very good also as we thought the support for BHS was great. Black Cap Grille donated 10% of the evening's meal receipts to BHS. Our raffle which included among other things, a quilt made by our Treasurer, Sue Franklin, and a handmade wooden bowl by one of our Advisors, Mike Chandler, was a hit as well. In the end, between the Black Cap donation and raffle, we brought home just over \$700. To those who attended and helped us earn this amount, we thank you. We'll be having a couple of more dining events this year so please stay tuned for them.

Voting History is Made in Bartlett

On July 9, 1790, the first town meeting and first election was held in Bartlett. At that meeting, Jonathan Tasker, John Pendexter and Enoch Emery were elected as selectmen; Joseph Pitman became town moderator; Tasker was also the town clerk; Richard Garland was named the tax collector and constable. Votes were counted by hand to determine the election results – one ballot at a time. And so it was until the February 11, 2020, NH first in the nation presidential primary. Prior to February 11, a group of local citizens would gather at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. at the close of the polls on election night. Working in pairs, one reading each ballot in their stack of ballots and the other marking the ballot selections on a tally sheet, the results of the election were recorded. Tally sheets were combined and winners determined.



Bartlett Ballot Box—Dated 1890

February 11, 2020 changed all of that – voter elections were counted by machine for the first time since 1790. In the March 2019 Town Deliberative Meeting, Town Clerk, Cheryl Neally asked for and received funding to purchase an automated ballot scanner to count the voting results. It was put to first use at the 2020 presidential primary. Town Moderator, Norman Head, asked Cheryl to be the first person to have her votes counted electronically in Bartlett. As voters came in to cast their ballots, most were used to handing their ballot to the Moderator who put them into our 1890 wooden ballot box but were surprised by this new level of technology. Some joked calling it a “paper shredder” while others said it was a sad day to see automation taking over. *All is not lost*, though, at the March 10, 2020 town election, we went back to our tried and true method of counting ballots – by hand, one at a time with a room full of local citizens. Norm told us that we'd use the automated process at the big elections but still keep old traditions alive in the local contests.



Cheryl Neally (l), Town Clerk, casts her ballot with Norm Head (r), Town Moderator observing

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Margaret Eleanor “Peg” Fish

A Bartlett Native, Educator and Historian

co-authored by Phil Franklin and Peg Fish

Peg Fish is a delightful individual known for her enthusiasm for teaching and her work with children. Her warm, welcoming smile makes it easy to be in her company. In our conversation on March 6, 2020, Peg shared stories of her family, her path in life that led her to teaching at the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School, and stories of growing up in Bartlett Village.



Peg Fish

The Trecarten Family

Peg was born in 1945 at Memorial Hospital, the daughter of Walter Trecarten II and Ruth (Heald) Trecarten. Her father's family originally lived in East Conway, but in 1912 her grandfather, Walter Trecarten I and her grandmother, Henrietta (Nolan) Trecarten, moved to a house in Bartlett that Henrietta purchased for \$1,000 on Kearsarge Street (also known as Peg Mill Street). Peg's grandfather worked for the Maine Central Railroad and would eventually become the railroad foreman at the railyard in Bartlett Village. Her grandmother, Henrietta, was a teacher in a one-room school house in Eaton before marrying Walter. Walter and Henrietta had three children, Helen, Walter II “Bud” and Katherine.

Peg's parents, Bud and Ruth met at the Howard Johnson's in North Conway where Ruth worked as a waitress. Ruth, originally from Lincolnville, ME, worked at the restaurant summers to pay her way through business school. Bud, like his father, was an employee of the Maine Central Railroad. In 1941, he was drafted into the US Army to serve in WWII. He was the first man drafted from Bartlett. Before leaving for his war time service, Ruth and Bud were married. Ruth followed Bud to the training base in New Jersey where he was stationed before being sent to the Pacific. Supposedly on the night before he was to be deployed, he went AWOL to see Ruth one last time.

Bud left for the Pacific in 1941 serving as an anti-aircraft gunner in New Guinea and Guam. He never talked much about his wartime experiences. At one point, he was listed as missing in action for six months. The family knows that during his service, he was wounded in the right eye and suffered other injuries that caused him to lose a kidney. He was sent to Australia to recover and then shipped back to the United States on a hospital ship. Memories of the war haunted him for the rest of his life. Bud was a member of the local VFW and found comfort in being around fellow servicemen.

Before leaving for the war, the railroad had promised their workers leaving for the war that when the returned, they would still have a job at the railroad. Bud returned to his job as a fireman working on the steam trains. Shoveling coal into the steam engine's fire box was hot and dirty work. Eventually, he and fellow fireman, Allan Burdwood, studied to be locomotive engineers. After passing the test the two became the last two engineers to drive steam and diesel locomotives on the Maine Central. Bud drove the trains between St. Johnsbury, VT and Portland, ME. Peg remarked that as a new engineer, her father was often “bumped” off his train by senior engineers such as Ernest Bean and Fred Washburn. Bumping was just a part of railroad life, where a senior man in the same position could take your run if he so desired. The trains in those days were over 100 cars long, sometimes blocking the crossing throughout the village. Bud worked for the railroad until he had a stroke. Peg said her father seemed “bigger than life” when she saw him up in the locomotive, leaning out wearing a red bandana around his neck, with his engineer's cap pushed back on his head and a cigar in his mouth.

Shortly after he returned from the Pacific, Bud and his father purchased a large parcel of land in Bartlett across the Saco River off Cobb Farm Road. They also purchased three of the company houses on Kearsarge Street. When Peg was first married, she and her husband built a house on the side of the Saco and lived there for about ten years. When her youngest child was born they moved back to her grandparents' house on Kearsarge Street.

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Peg Fish interview continued ...

Peg described her mother, Ruth, as a homemaker, always there for her children. She loved to sew, cook, read and play the piano. She was very involved in the community as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, the Eastern Star and the PTA. When she died from cancer at the age of 51, Bud had inscribed on her stone, "*She was the heart and love of the family.*"

Growing Up in Bartlett Village

When Peg was growing up in Bartlett Village, there were two main operations in town aside from the local businesses. They were the railroad and the peg mill. The railroad was a big part of the Trecarten family life. Peg later mentioned that also she worked at the peg mill for about six months when she was an adult. She grew up two houses down from her grandparents, on what she refers to as Peg Mill Street. The Kearsarge Peg Mill was located at the end of the road, hence the nickname. She talked about the peg mill whistle blowing four times each day – at the start of work, the start of lunch, the return to work after lunch and the end of the work day. Many of the machines, one of a kind to this mill, were made by local men such as Sally Clemons. This was the only remaining peg mill in the world when it burned to the ground in 2016.

Another memory involved her grandfather. One day, Mead's gas station caught fire. Mead's was located where the present day Cabin Fever Restaurant is situated. Immediately behind the gas station, two tanker cars sat on the tracks filled with oil. Once the fire started to spread, many people in town feared the fire would ignite the tankers and cause a major explosion. Someone had to move the cars before they caught fire. Peg's grandfather and "Ferne" Mead volunteered to maneuver a locomotive into place and attempt to connect to the cars. Once the tank cars were connected they were pulled down the tracks next to the fire department, where they were doused with water to cool them and prevent a major disaster in the Village.



Steam locomotives & crews at the
Bartlett Roundhouse by Route 302

Growing up in the Village, there were many children, more boys than girls. The Ainsworth and Chase families were two of many of the families in the neighborhood. Peg said she always stuck close to her brother Neal, who is three years older. She also revealed that since she was younger than most of the kids, the boys didn't always want her hanging around with them. As a matter of fact, they would occasionally "test" her bravery by goading her into doing something she wouldn't normally do. For example, one time they told her that to prove that she could hang around with the "older" kids, she had to climb into the back of the old Bartlett hearse. This hearse was a horse drawn carriage pulled by one of two teams of horses, either a black pair wearing white plumes or a white pair wearing black plumes. The hearse, no longer in use and in disrepair, was parked in a garage of sorts behind the Bartlett Fire Department building in the Village. Not wanting to be considered scared little kids, seven year old Peg and her best friend, Roddy Chase, climbed over a wall on the side of the garage, found their way into the shed with the hearse and eventually crawled into the carriage. She said the hearse had heavy, black leather curtains that were deteriorating. With their imaginations running wild, Peg and Roddy imagined they could smell a dead body when they were in the carriage. To make this adventure even scarier,

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Drawings By:
Greta George
Bartlett, NH
comfibrook@gmail.com



Greta's phone # 603 738 4958

this all occurred in the dark of the night on Halloween after trick-or-treating. As a side note, the hearse was eventually given to Heritage NH to be refurbished and put on display there. During the process of restoring the hearse, it caught fire and was destroyed.

While we are on the subject of the dead, Peg told of venturing into a small granite walled cemetery on the west end of town. In the center of the cemetery was a grave stone and on it was the profound but chilling words "As you are, so once were we... As we are, so soon you'll be." Years later, she received permission from the property owner to bring some school children into the cemetery to help clean it up as it had become over grown. She found that the grave stone with the inscription along with several other old grave stones had been stolen at some point in time.

Peg reminisced about many other wonderful childhood experiences, describing herself as a "Tomboy." Mrs. Garland, her first grade teacher, actually tied Peg to her chair by her dress strings and told her she needed to stop chasing the boys at recess. When Peg wasn't in school, she spent her time outside with friends. She said that in the winter, a favorite pastime of the neighborhood kids was sliding down Bear Mountain Road (a.k.a. Bear Notch Road). Everyone would hike one to two hours with their sleds up to the first roadside vista overlook to make the 20 minute ride down the road back to the Village. At the bottom, they would swap stories about how fast they went and almost "wiping out" on the curves. The Ainsworth boys had a bobsled that they pulled up the road and rode down. Peg had a two runner sled and used her feet to slow down and steer around the corners. It was a wild ride and well worth the hike. Another winter activity was skating on Peg Mill Pond. The boys would gather up tires and wood and start a bonfire. It was exciting to skate in the dark by the fire. In the summer, there was swimming and tubing in the Saco River and



2nd Iron Bridge with a Steam Locomotive racing across

jumping off the 2nd Iron Bridge. Jumping off the bridge was another rite of passage and Peg was proud she did it. It was particularly risky as your destination was the river far below that was only about five feet deep with a solid rock bottom. She added that her brother, Frankie, was the only one she remembered who could execute a perfect swan dive from the top of the bridge. Fishing was another popular pastime. Peg and her brother Neal spent many happy hours fishing in the surrounding ponds and brooks. Her grandmother would also go fishing and did so well into her 70's.

Other memories she recounted include the story of how she and Neal would go wild blueberry picking along the railroad tracks with their grandmother. These expeditions lasted for hours. She added that her grandmother always carried a pistol with her on the blueberry picking adventures just in case there were bears in the area doing the same thing. Peg mentioned her grandmother often in our conversation, adding at one point that her grandmother cooked for the Bartlett Hotel for many years and later, at one of the local ski clubs.

School Days

Living on Kearsarge or Peg Mill Street, Peg was able to walk to school at the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School (JBES). She'd also walk home for lunch. On the way to and from school, she would pass through the Bartlett Village train station and stop for a drink of water from one of the marble water fountains. She'd greet the station agent and telegraph operator, Bud Burdwood, Sr. wearing his green visor and then be on her way. Peg remembered that the station was a beautiful building with its large, echoing interior and long wooden platform. This station was the third Bartlett train station in this location. In 1958, this station was sold to a ski club after the railroad abandoned the rail line. In 1959, during a renovation, this station building was consumed by fire and never rebuilt. The previous two railroad stations on this location were also destroyed by fire. Today, the former location of the station is known as Railroad Park.

Peg's first teacher was Lucille Garland, the mother of the long time Bartlett librarian, Jean Garland. In grades 3 and 4 she was taught by Shirley Manna; grades 5 - 6 were taught by Alice Davis.

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Peg Fish Interview continued ...

Grades 7 and 8 were held in the Bartlett High School on the second floor. In 1958, while in 8th grade, Peg said that her class was allowed to attend the school prom because that was to be the last year that the high school would be open for studies in Bartlett. Along with all Bartlett high school age students, Peg attended Kennett High School in North Conway for grades 9 – 12. She noted that this was a big adjustment coming from a small school with a handful of classmates to a large regional high school and having to ride the bus to school. She made many friends there from all of the towns represented at Kennett. Graduating high school in 1963, Peg said that she was in the first class of Bartlett students to attend all four years of high school at Kennett. Following high school, she attended Plymouth State College and earned her teaching degree. Her first teaching position was in Hampstead, NH where she taught fourth grade for two years.

Peg's Family

Peg worked at the Willey House in Crawford Notch State Park during the summer. It was there, in 1968, that she met Russell Fish, her future husband. Russell was a veteran of the Vietnam War. They were married in 1969. Peg and Russell had four children. Rebecca, who is now married with three children lives in McLean, VA and is studying for her Ph.D. in the global health field; Amy, who died of SIDS as an infant; Daniel, who is an engineer working at the Portsmouth Naval Yard and lives in North Berwick, ME with his wife and two children; and Kate, who lives in Bartlett, NH and currently teaches at the Profile School in Bethlehem.

Teaching at the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School

Peg became a full time teacher in her second year at the JBES. The principal of the school at that time was Joe Rivers. Unfortunately, around Christmas of that year, she lost her daughter Amy and as a result, decided to stop teaching and focus on raising her family. She did, however, teach summer school during this period and started working at the Attitash Ski Nursery School (at the ski slope) with Nancy Chandler. After 10 years of being out of the regular classroom, she went back to school herself to be recertified and rejoined the JBES faculty. She went on to earn her Master's degree in Reading at the University of New Hampshire.

Back in the classroom full time, Peg co-taught 5th and 6th grade with Robin Fall. Peg taught both grades social studies and Robin taught science to both grades. They were a great team and had a lot of fun over the years.

Drama at JBES



Peg decided one way to get students more interested in reading was by reviving the drama program. The drama program at JBES had ended when the previous director, Flora Jones retired. Peg along with Pat Pavelka, a kindergarten teacher, worked together to put on their own version of the *Wizard of Oz*. The 5th graders played all the lead roles while the kindergarteners played the Munchkins. Students not “on stage” worked behind the scenes on scenery and as stage hands. Sue Chula and Kate Fish helped to make this happen. The play was a hit! The next play was *Oliver* which involved students from all grades. She credited Marion Owen as being the “scenery wizard”, many parents such as Linda Prushinski, Karen Junge Dennison, Valerie Smith and Lori Badger and staff, Earl Medeiros, June McLeavey, Elizabeth Richards and Robin Fall, just to name a few, who joined in to help with the productions. The next play was *Annie*. Over one hundred students participated in the show. Instead of having understudies, she cast two or three students in each lead role, giving more students the opportunity to shine. Students from other schools in surrounding towns came to see the performances. These plays were followed by *Peter Pan* where Janice Brotherton made harnesses so characters could “fly” (Peg said they really just hung in the air but the imagery was that of flying). *The Sound of Music* was next on the stage, followed by the 8th grade performance of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*. Peg also wrote her own musical called *Happy Birthday Sweet 16*. This production combined three fairy tales with the music of the 1950’s and 1960’s. She added that in this play, the 8th grade boys had fun playing the parts of the step-sisters in the story. These plays would not have been possible without the support of Sue Chula, Kate Fish,

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Peg Fish Interview continued ...

numerous parents and staff members. Peg is very proud of what the drama program accomplished, bringing a new level of self-confidence to the students, and bringing the school and the community closer together.

Later years at JBES

In 1995, Joe Voci became the new principal. He asked Peg to move to the 7th and 8th grades. There she taught Reading. Her interest in history led her to work closely with Joe Mountford and Sue Chula to create a WWII simulation that lasted about six weeks. She realized that WWII veterans were rapidly dying and wanted to honor them as well as remember her father for his service. She knew that the opportunity to learn from these veterans would soon be lost. In this simulation, students learned about all of the different groups of people who contributed to the war effort. As part of the active learning process, Peg became General Fish; teacher Jimi Emery was a Drill Instructor and other faculty took other roles. Students each had their “dog tags” with their name and a serial number; each student needed to have their “weapon” (a pencil) with them at all times. Roles were created for the students using real people and composite characters. By creating this simulation of the time period, the students learned the history of WWII and how our country came together to win the war. Veterans and community members who lived through this time came in to share their experiences with the students. Peg noted that this unit really “hooked the kids on learning and had a long lasting impression” on them. Her daughter Kate has expanded the unit and now includes it in her 8th grade social studies curriculum at the Profile School.

Peg’s Perspective on Teaching

“My goal was to create lifelong readers, critical thinkers, better citizens and more compassionate human beings.”

Peg’s love for teaching was evident as she described how she set up her classroom to encourage students to read. She said that the then school custodian, Earl Medeiros, installed shelving around the classroom where she displayed books with the front cover showing. She said this way, students could see the title of the book with the cover graphics. She set up a reading area in the classroom bringing in a 100 gallon fish tank and stocking it with gold fish and koi to enhance the atmosphere for reading. The white noise of the bubbling filter and water created a calming environment. During the summer months, Peg took the fish, which had grown quite large by this point, home to a backyard pond dug by her son.

In Closing ...

After 30 years of teaching, Peg finally decided to retire in 2015. This was a hard decision because she still loved being in the classroom and truly enjoyed working with such a dedicated staff. From her stories and the reaction to people seeing her again at the school, it’s safe to say she accomplished her goal. She said that coming back to the school to do the interview was hard because she has so many memories of being an active part of the faculty. The impact she had on the school was evident. While we talked, teachers stopped in for a hug and to offer her renewed well wishes as they were bringing their young students through the halls. One teacher remarked quietly to this author, “She’s a legend here.” That says it all. Even in retirement, she continues to take students on walks around Bartlett Village pointing out different historical sites and sharing information about the town. Peg is a tremendous wealth of knowledge when it comes to Bartlett history and we will be making arrangements to talk with her further about the history of our town. Today, Peg still lives in Bartlett on the street where it all began, in her grandmother’s house. She’s full of energy and has a smile that invites you to return her greeting. She is very proud of her professional accomplishments and especially proud of her children and grandchildren.

Finally, we thank Peg for taking the time to share so many thoughts of her life with us. This was a truly wonderful conversation. It brought new light to many things that are not widely known about the history of our “small, rural New England town.”

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The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

The Historical Herald

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2nd Annual Bartlett Historical Society 9 Hole Tournament at Linderhof Country Club

Glen, NH



To benefit the Bartlett Historical Society Museum Campaign Fund

Tournament is POSTPONED Please see the Tournament Bulletin Board below

Save the Date of Thursday, June 4, 2020 for a day of golf, BBQ lunch, socializing with friends and supporting your historical society!

This is the premier fund raising event for the historical society

Our tournament is open to women and men, BHS members and non-members alike

Format and Activities Included

- * 10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
- * 9-hole Scramble
- * Closest to the Pin Contest
- * Chipping Contest
- * BBQ Lunch following play
- * Raffle with great prizes
- * Chatting with Friends—Old and New



Tournament Bulletin Board

We have postponed the tournament to a later date due to COVID-19 and our of concern for the health and safety of all involved.

Still, please think about becoming a tournament player. Also please give consideration to being a tournament sponsor. We can accept sponsorships at anytime.

Bartlett Historical Society—Board of Directors

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The return of the hummingbirds—another sign of spring