

Jonesport Historical Society Newsletter

“Preserving Our Heritage”

Message from the President

Each year from November through April the JHS Museum is closed to the public, and all public and board meetings are suspended. During those months I spend time adding more items to the Archives database that have been previously photographed or scanned, but not yet on the database. One of the items that caught my attention was a newspaper article in the Bangor Daily News from 2022. It was about the miniature Maine Central Model Railroad built by Harold “Buz” Beal and his wife Helen. Starting in the 1980s, they created an HO scale model in a 900-square-foot building next to their house on Mason Bay Road. It had about 20 locomotives and 400 freight cars. They constructed hundreds of tiny buildings from basswood, some of them of actual buildings in Jonesport and other Maine towns, including author Stephen King’s house in Bangor. Buz painted the interior walls surrounding the railroad to blend in with the foreground trees, mountains, and rivers that Helen made.

Over the years they have welcomed thousands of visitors from around the world to watch the remote-controlled display in action, including the sounds of train whistles. One of those visitors was Hansjoerg Wyss, a billionaire and philanthropist who has a foundation, and after seeing the display, became a close friend of Buz and Helen.

After Buz died in 2012, Helen was getting too old to keep the model railroad running. The Wyss Foundation donated more than three million dollars to the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, Maine to construct a special museum to house the Model Railroad Building.

In 2022 the entire interior contents of Beal’s model railroad building were dis-assembled and moved to Kennebunkport, waiting to be re-assembled when the new museum is completed. The aisles will be widened, the walls will be painted to match the original, and there will be a mezzanine viewing gallery. You can read more about this project at <https://trolleyuseum.org/2023/01/09/model-railroad-building-update/> where you can then click www.trolleyuseum.org/livefeed to see the exterior of this most impressive building. The executive director of the Seashore Trolley Museum has asked the Jonesport Historical Society to provide photos of the town of Jonesport, which will be part of the exhibit when completed.

Bill Plaskon, President

Spring 2024

6:30 PM at 21 Sawyer Square
subject to change

Jul 11 - *Vintage Jonesport Photos
Converted to 3-D*
• Bernard Fishman
Maine State Museum

Jul 25 - *Jonesport in the Movies*
• Bill Plaskon

Aug 8 - *Old DownEast Humor*
• Billy Milliken
& Eric Kelley, Jr.

2023 – 2024 Board of Directors

Officers:

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Nancy Sawyer, Treasurer
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Why I like Lobsters

By Greg Kelley

I was born in Doctor Hanson's Hospital in Machias, but Mom and I returned to Jonesport within a week. I consider Jonesport to be my hometown. I am descended from Thomas Kelley, the first settler on Kelley Point Road and I come from a long line of fishermen both in Jonesport and Sea Land (Head Harbor Island). My grandfather Joseph (pictured on the right) and my uncle Cecil Kelley were both herring and lobster fishermen. I now live in Houston, Texas.

My first encounter with a lobster, that I remember, was when I was about three at a family gathering at Head Harbor Island. I was happy with the gathering and certainly with the meal. After that, at many family gatherings, in Jonesport, Bangor, Camden and later Lucerne—in-Maine, lobsters were part of the meal. When my parents purchased a camp in Lucerne, our children became lobster lovers on our annual visits. Over twenty years ago, we started spending four months a year in Lucerne, and this expanded to visits from our grandchildren and many guests. During this time, we were also enjoying lobster in Houston. On Valentine's Days, sometimes with a guest, we started buying Maine lobster at the local HEB market in Houston and have done this for several years. Greg and Sue are having a Valentine's Day dinner in the photo on the right.

At camp, we have lobster for any occasion, or sometimes for no occasion. We heard at one time that lobster was only for visitors. Not so for the Kelley's. One night at dinner, our youngest son called to see what was happening. We told him not much but we were having lobster. His response "who is there?" Whenever we have guests staying, one meal is always lobster. Our sons and their families, which include grands and great grands, come at various times in the first two weeks of August. So, depending on the overlap, we have one or two nights of lobster. Our favorite lobster is boiled, and I am usually the cook. That is me in the photo on the right. But we are also happy with lobster rolls, lobster bisque, lobster stew or even lobster ravioli.

I understand from history that lobsters were earlier used as fertilizer. Later it was realized they were suitable food for servants and prisoners. Since the mid 1800's, now it is both a luxury food and a food for everyone. I am happy this happened because I really like lobster.

See Pages 3 and 4 for related news articles. - WJP



Bangor Daily Whig & Courier, Friday, July 14, 1865

EASTERN BUSINESS. The editor of the Machias Union has been on a visit to several towns in Washington County, and by "keeping his eyes open tight," managed to see a great many wonderful things. He discovered that at Indian River the Messrs. Crowley were building a vessel of 250 tons; at Columbia Falls Messrs. Crandon & Son were building a vessel to be finished this fall;—at Addison two small vessels were going up in the yard of Messrs. Look & Corthell, and a large one in the yard of Master Knowles.—At Cherryfield Mr. Amos Dyer is building three vessels, and Mr. Talbot Smith two in an adjoining yard;—at Millbridge Captain Sawyer has a bark of 550 tons on the stocks.

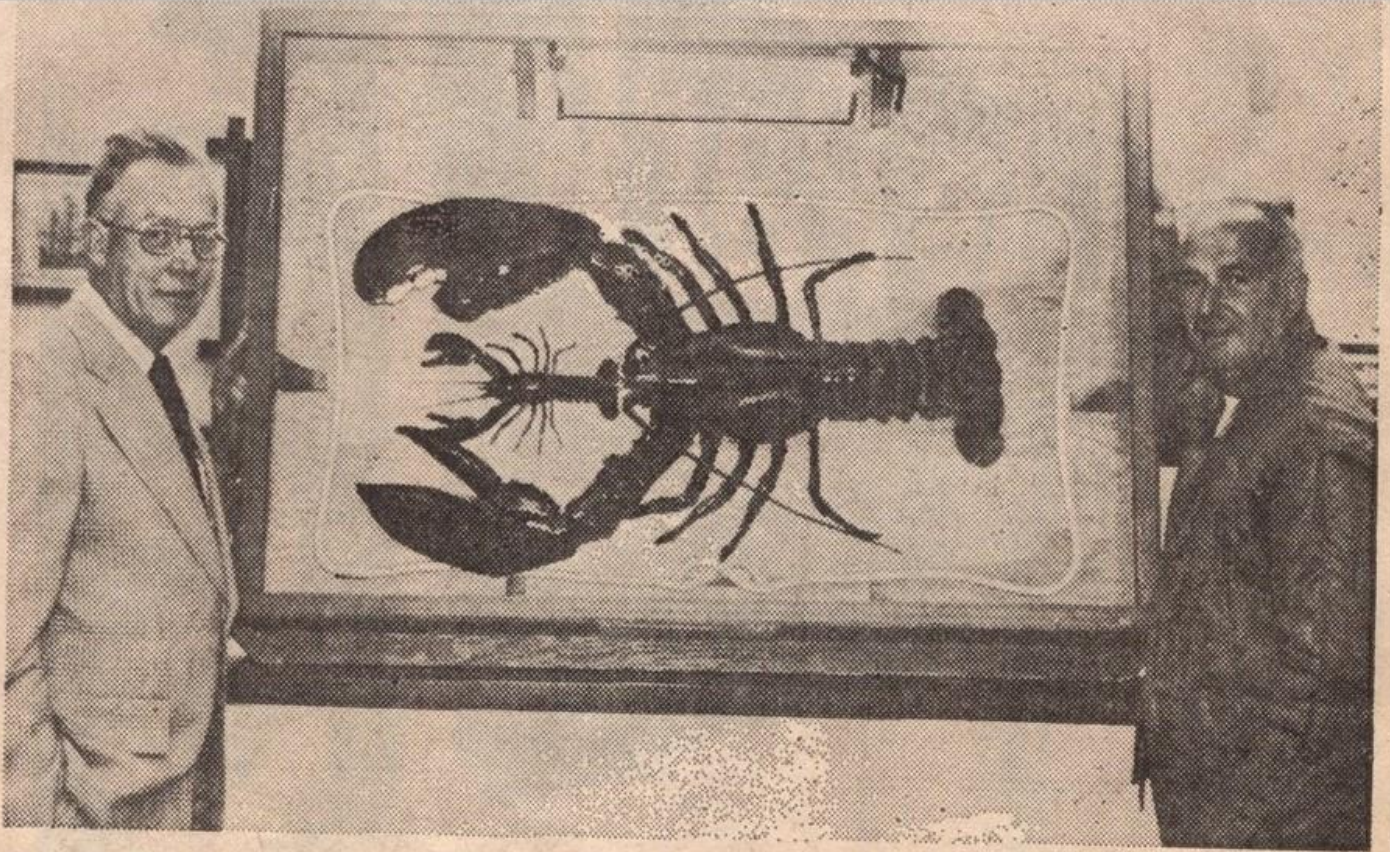
Among other things not quite so pleasant, he discovered an awful smell, which came from the establishment of Mr. Gibeon Moroy of Machias, who has lately invested several thousand dollars in machinery and buildings for converting the refuse of lobsters into a valuable fertilizer, greatly to the damage of the olfactories of his neighbors, and greatly to the benefit of their fields.

He notices Messrs. Rumery & Burnham's factory for putting up lobsters at the village of Jonesport. Five thousand lobsters are cooked daily and four thousand pounds of the meat is daily put in air tight tin cans of one and two pounds each. The lobsters are kept alive until put into the large boilers of heated water. Dead lobsters are not used. It seems cruel to the 'red coats,' but it is legitimate business and affords a great amount of sustenance for men in all parts of the civilized world. Canned lobsters is declared a luxury and are eagerly sought for in States and countries where lobsters are unknown. Fifteen girls are employed in weighing, painting and labelling the cans, and similar work.

Boston Daily Advertiser, Monday, August 26, 1867

—A lobster was recently caught at Jonesport, Me., measuring three feet five inches in length, and nineteen and a half inches around the body, and weighing twenty-seven pounds. The largest claw weighed eight pounds fourteen ounces.

Bangor Daily News, June 28, 1977



World's largest

On display at the Merrill Trust Company in Jonesport is a member of the *Homarus Americanus* family, which according to its owner, Capt. George C. Scott (right) is the world's largest documented lobster. Bank Manager John Riley (left), who supervises the care of the lobster,

states that the public is invited to view the lobster during banking hours. The small lobster (left) is a legal sized 4.5 killogram, one-pounder "chicken lobster. The big one weighs 18 kilograms, 37.5 pounds. It is insured for \$6,000. (Ray Beal Photo)

JUNE 28 1977

**Membership Form (Q)
2024**

Please print all information clearly. Use a separate form for each person. Membership is 5.00 per year per person.

Name _____

Maiden Name (optional) _____ **Phone (required for ID)** _____

Mail Address _____

Town _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

E-Mail _____ **Contact me about volunteering**

\$ 5.00 **2024 Membership**

\$ _____ **2025 Membership (\$5.00)**

\$ _____ **2026 Membership (\$5.00)**

\$ _____ **Tax Deductible Donation**

\$ _____ **Total Amount**

Make check payable to *Jonesport Historical Society*

Mail to: Jonesport Historical Society

P.O. Box 603

Jonesport, ME 04649

NOTE: The above form is for new JHS members only. If you are an existing member, you will receive a renewal form with our annual newsletter in April.

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