

# Central Jonesport



**Central Jonesport has been the hub of the community throughout the years. One could find the Opera House, which in the early years hosted the town meetings, the Peabody Memorial Library, the Fire Station, the Drug Store, Roger's Store, the High School, and the Charles Stevens factory.**

**NOTE: Any photos identified as from the Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Co. Collection, courtesy of the Penobscot Marine Museum, can be obtained as beautiful reproduction prints from the Penobscot Marine Museum at <https://penobscotmarinemuseum.org>**

**Telephone Office (GPS 44.531332, -67.606165)**



**This is a photo of the Laura Wilson house on Main Street in 1916 when it was the central office of the New England Telephone & Telegraph Co. Notice the telephone emblem on the car and the telephone sign next to the front door of the house.**



**The first telephone booth in Jonesport was installed in 1953 on Main Street in the middle of town.**



**Shown here are telephone operators Nettie Alley on the left and Laura Wilson on the right, at the switchboard on Laura's day of retirement.**



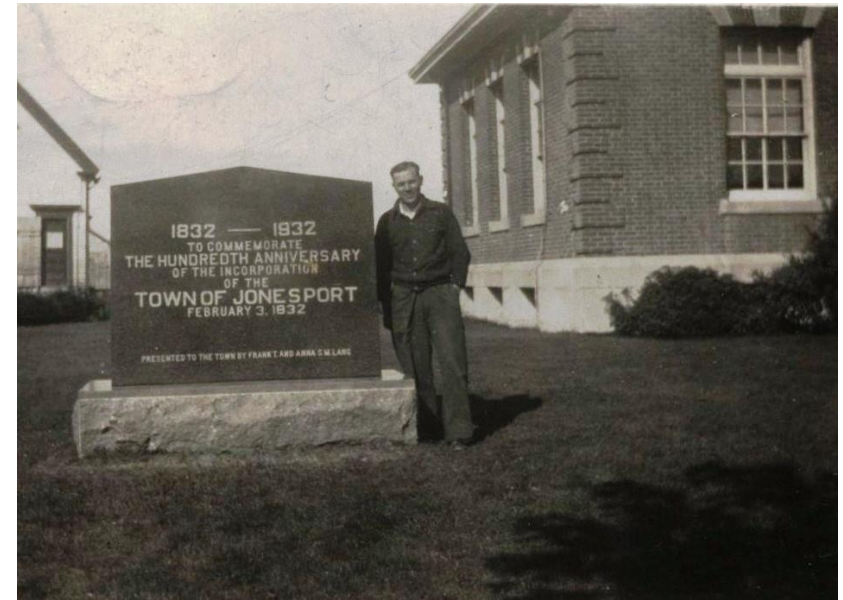
**The switchboard that was in the Laura Wilson house is now on display in the Jonesport Historical Society Museum.**

**Peabody Memorial Library (GPS 44.531454, -67.604882)**



Photo from the Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Co. Collection. Courtesy of the Penobscot Marine Museum.

**The Peabody Memorial Library building was constructed in 1915. It was donated by Mary (Lothrop) Peabody in memory of her late husband Oliver White Peabody and her brother Samuel Kirkland Lothrop.**



**In 1932 Frank Lang, who owned and operated a black granite quarry, donated this monument to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town of Jonesport. The monument sits on the front lawn of the library.**

**In 2006 an annex was added to the library. It is known as the Taubenberg Wing, in honor of their many years of volunteer service to the Peabody Memorial Library.**



**Jonesport Opera House (GPS 44.531186, -67.605194)**



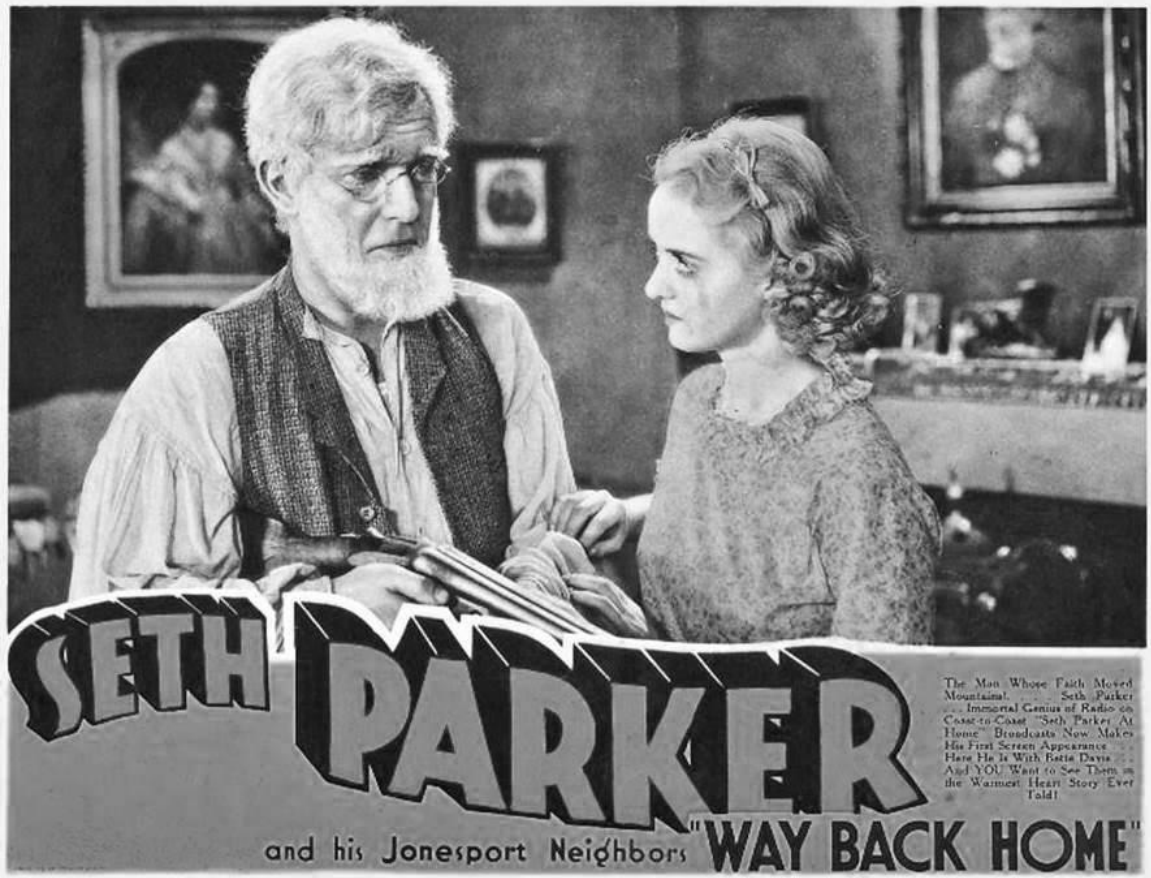
**In 1968 the Opera House building was renovated and re-opened as the IGA Grocery Store. The building is currently unoccupied.**

**George William Smith (1836-1910) built the Smith Opera House, which was open by 1901. Around 1916 it became the Jonesport Opera House. Seen here in about 1966, it was used for, dances, school plays, graduation exercises, roller skating, boxing matches, and a movie theater.**



**A very popular radio program in the early 1930s, created by Phillips H. Lord, was “Sunday Evening at Seth Parker’s”, which was supposed to take place in Jonesport. Lord played the title character “Seth Parker”. The show gave the town of Jonesport national recognition. A very popular weekly radio program in the late 1920s and early 1930s was called *Sunday Evening at Seth Parker’s*. it was the most popular Sunday program in the nation, with ten million listeners.**

**The radio program was about fictional Jonesport folks who went to a Jonesport Singing School every Sunday, where they sang religious music, told silly stories about what was happening in town, and shared town gossip. It has been described as dialect humor, rural drama, and soft-soap religion. The main character, Seth Parker, was played by Phillips H. Lord. At least one radio program was aired from the Jonesport Opera House.**



**Phillips Lord star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.**

The radio program became so popular that Phillips Lord made a Hollywood version movie of the show in 1931 and called it *Way Back Home*. In Hollywood Lord met a 23-year-old aspiring film star named Bette Davis, who was looking for any on-screen work. He made her his costar.

Lord became so popular that he is on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He was earning more than \$100,000 a year during the Depression. He was given the keys to the town of Jonesport in 1931, and he gave a talk to the town folks at the Opera House in Jonesport. He received more than a half million fan mail letters in seven years. He was buried in Ellsworth, Maine in 1975.



**R.H. Rogers Store (GPS 44.531492, -67.603520)**



**The R.H. Rogers Store, located on Main Street, was open in 1932. It was lost to a fire in 1986. The building now housing the Hamilton Marine store was erected on the site. This photograph was taken in the early 1950s.**



**Harry Steele Rogers is behind the counter in this photo.**



**Arlene (Rogers) Riley is behind the counter in this photo.**



**The U.S. Customs Office, which was located in the D.J. & E.M. Sawyer General Store, was moved to the top floor of the R.H. Rogers Store after the Sawyer General Store closed in the 1930s.**

**Jonesport Firehouse (GPS 44.531504, -67.603005)**

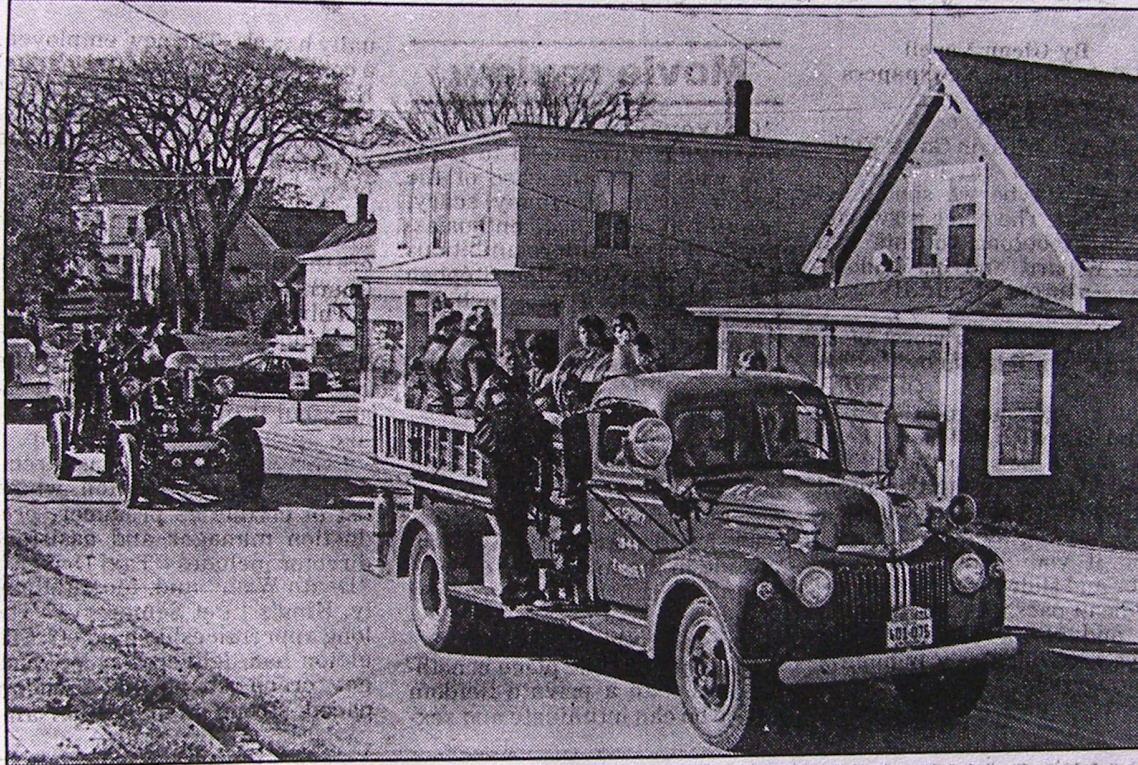


**The first Jonesport Firehouse was dedicated in 1916. The little boy sitting on top of the firetruck is Douglas Hinkley, who would later become the Jonesport Fire Chief.**



**The old Jonesport Firehouse on Main Street is now preserved as a museum. Doug Hinkley, standing in the center of this photo, was Jonesport Fire Chief from 1942 until 1989. Doug's son, Billy Doug, is sitting on the American LaFrance firetruck.**

## THE LAST RIDE



THE FUNERAL ceremony of Jonesport Fire Chief Douglas Hinkley, 80, was held Saturday in the fire station. His 63 years of dedicated service were honored by about 200 firefighters and townspeople. Trucks assembled from Calais to Harrington later formed a procession of

fire trucks. Leading the ceremonial drive to Greenwood Cemetery was Jonesport Fire Department's 1944 Ford pumper that carried Hinkley's casket and JFD firefighters. A member of the JFD at age 17, he was chief for 57 years. (NEWS Photo by Clayton Beal)

**Fire Chief Doug Hinkley died in 1990 at the age of 80. At his request the funeral was held in his beloved firehouse. At the funeral someone recalled that the milestones of Hinkley's life centered around firefighting, including his wedding, when he raced down the aisle in response to an alarm, leaving his bride stranded.**

**Cove Grammar School (GPS 44.534521, -67.597142)**



**Photo from the Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Co. Collection. Courtesy of the Penobscot Marine Museum.**

**The Cove Grammar School opened in 1930.**



**The classroom in this photo was located in the south east corner of the basement of the Cove School building. Pictured is Mrs. Marjorie Pineo with her kindergarten students.**

**After the Cove Grammar School closed, the building went up for sale in 1981. It eventually was sold and became the Nelson Decoys Gallery, owned by Charlene (Alley) Nelson.**

