

# DEDICATION



*Debra Cornett - Former Town Clerk/ Tax Collector*



*Paul Perkins - Road Agent - Highway Department*

It is uncommon in this day and age to witness devoted, long-standing individuals who have dedicated their entire work life to one organization.

A teammate who puts in many hours of overtime, assisting co-workers, finding ways to lend a helping hand to those around them and the community at large, they are a rarity. Successful organizations are not built by one person, they are created by a team of devoted employees who take the time, bringing their talents, unique perspective, work ethic and love for what they do to the table to make it great!

Time is a valuable commodity and a limited resource for everyone but when an employee is willing to give up their time to go above the basic requirements that are expected of them, they should be recognized in proper fashion.

We would like to recognize two valued members of our team for their enduring dedication to the Town of Gilmanton; Debra Cornett- Town Clerk/ Tax Collector, who just resigned in August 2019 and Paul Perkins- Road Agent of the Highway Department, they have each given well over 20 years of service to our community. Please join us in raising our glasses to these steadfast and loyal employees as they are the four-leaf clovers of the bunch, hard to find and lucky to have.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

The Town of Gilmanton

# IN MEMORIAM

" No person was ever honored  
for what he received. Honor has  
been the reward for what he  
gave."

~ Calvin Coolidge



**Stephen P. McWhinnie - May 23, 1960 - August 12, 2019**

Steve's dedication and love for his community motivated his service as he helped those in need and cared for the people he met. His unmistakable laugh and outgoing personality would light up a room with smiles.

He maintained a bountiful garden, donating the produce to family, friends and the needy equally. Steve loved the outdoors, his family, his community and his country as he served dutifully as a United States Marine and a member of the Board of Selectmen.

**Henry V. Page – March 22, 1936 - December 21, 2019**

A long time resident, Henry Page served his country for one term in the US Army and served his community for three terms on the Board of Selectmen.

His talent and skill for woodworking, antique furniture restoration, period reproduction antique home restoration & building reproduction was masterful and well known.

His work lives on in Gilmanton, throughout the State, the Smithsonian Museum, & beyond.



# Dedication

*The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.*

*Vince Lombardi*

They are a loving and kind couple who married over 66 years ago and are dedicated, not only to their family and friends, but also to the community of Gilmanton. Jeanine (Anair-Segalini) moved to the Town of Gilmanton and lived on Allen's Mill Road with her family in 1945. Carl was from Michigan and joined the Navy during the Korean War. When he came to NH on leave, he met his future wife, "Jane". They were married on October 4, 1952 and settled in Gilmanton where they had four children, which blossomed into ten grandchildren, and more recently, time has blessed them with five great-grandchildren.

In their younger years, Carl helped coach little league and he volunteered on the Fire Department. He and Jane used to help make the yearly fundraising Clam Bakes a success. Carl served on the School Board during the transition of the Gilford/Gilmanton High School. In the 70's, Jane coached girls' basketball at the school and was also the head cook in the school kitchen. Later, she helped coach softball in the 90's with her son Rick. Jane volunteered at the School PTA and more recently, volunteered with the Gilmanton Historical Society. They were always involved with the 4th of July events, baking beans for the dinner at the Academy, or helping head the parade. You could always be sure to see them at the dances showing their skills doing the Polka on the dance floor!

Both Carl and Jane worked on the Gilmanton Old Home Day ham and bean dinners. You will continue to still see Jane helping Sarah in the kitchen. Each of them worked at the Gilmanton Post Offices where Carl could be found warmly greeting everyone! Carl also worked hard for a number of years maintaining the grounds of the town cemeteries. Jane has worked at the election polls for years as a Ballot Clerk, doing a little soft shoe dance escorting a voter to the booth, usually ending in a hug. She was later elected as a Supervisor of the Checklist, serving for several years. Although she has retired from being a Supervisor, she continues to work the polls as a Ballot Clerk for the town. We want to thank and recognize you both for your years of dedication and the time you have both given so freely of yourselves to the Town of Gilmanton. Your kind and caring ways are true testament to a great sense of community. You are each treasured role models and an inspiration to us all...and let's not forget to mention those hugs!!

*Carl and Jeanine Moorehead*



# Memoriam

## In Memory of

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend." Melody Beattie

Nancy Louise Girard 1957-2018



Nancy Louise Girard; 60; passed away gently on July 14, 2018 after a long battle against the ravages of Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), surrounded by the comfort and prayers of family and friends who stood in for the large cast of loving people who supported her during the struggle. She is survived by her college sweetheart and husband of 37 wonderful years, Garret Graaskamp, and children, Kelsey and Cameron.

Nancy grew up along the rural banks of the Connecticut River in Gill, MA within a family heritage of self-sufficiency and concern for the well-being of the environment and the human condition. Her upbringing instilled a determination and purpose for a life's work conserving and protecting the natural environment for the benefit of generations yet to come. She volunteered her time to the Town of Gilmanton for 23 years as a member of the Planning Board, 13 years as the Chair. She did pro bono work in the NH Bar Association Domestic Violence Emergency (DOVE) program for over 25 years to provide victims of domestic violence with emergency legal services. Nancy was the first Legal Coordinator for the NH Fish & Game Department and helped start the popular "Becoming an Outdoors Woman program." She founded the NH office of the Conservation Law Foundation, and was its Director for almost a decade. While at CLF, she spearheaded many collaborative efforts among communities and volunteers such as state-wide smart growth initiatives, high-speed rail corridors, protection of the Great Bay Estuary from the impacts of regional wastewater discharge, protection of NH's forests from power plant acid rain impacts, and protection of the Green and White Mountains roadless areas.

For three years Nancy was a member of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy Technology Subcommittee on promoting Environmental Stewardship and was the Chair of the Working Group on Innovation in Core EPA Programs. Nancy was on the Board of Directors for the Concord Food Co-op for ten

years; serving as President for seven years. During this time the Co-op tripled in size on South Main Street, bought out the Kearsarge Cooperative Grocer in New London, NH and grew to over 5,000 members. Nancy's most important passion was for her family. She taught Kelsey and Cameron through the example of her life to demonstrate respect for one's self, but also for the opinions of others in order to create trust and a mutual incentive to achieve compassionate compromises and resilient outcomes that benefit the greater good of the community. She believed that collaboration is the foundation for permanent positive change. She loved to sing. She co-founded the first all-women singing group, the Sabrina's at Amherst College and was part of the Summer New Hampshire Music Festival Chorus for many years. Cameron inherited this passion and Nancy went to all his plays and concerts at Gilford High School and the University of NH. Nancy loved cheering for Kelsey as she played soccer, basketball and softball in high school and college at Mount Holyoke. During her last outing she enjoyed an indoor soccer game in Bow, noisily sounding her wheel chair buzzer after every goal. On summer evenings you could find her in the garden tending the vegetables and harvesting raspberries for a family ice cream sundae party; Maple Walnut was her favorite. She was a walking encyclopedia on flowers and plants; learned as a Girl Scout from her Mom and which made every hike a game to add a new flower to the list. Her favorite hike was across Mount Mansfield in Vermont.

# Memoriam

## In Memory of

Julie Iris Perkins

1962-2018



*Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.*

*Marcel Proust*



Julie Iris Perkins, 56, of Perkins Road, was known by many in the community for her outgoing and loving personality. She was a member of the Gilmanton Community Church and a very active member of the Dump Run Café. She belonged to Laconia Elks Lodge No. 876, the Women's Fire Auxiliary of Gilmanton and enjoyed working the voting polls as a ballot clerk for many years. Julie enjoyed playing cards, gardening, karaoke and bingo. She enjoyed boat rides on Crystal Lake and would wave to everyone she passed.

She valued spending time with her family and animals. Before passing, their daughter Tara and her husband Joshua gave birth to her first grandchild reaping the joy and blessings that come with grandchildren, for both Julie and Harold. They welcomed their first grandson, Foster. Julie cherished her time loving, cuddling and playing with him as much as she was able to. In 2018, she and Harold were also blessed to see their son Patrick married and welcomed their new daughter-in-law, Jessica, into the family. Julie felt such joy in being able to help prepare for their wedding. Julie was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, sister and friend to so many. She passed at home, after a courageous five-year battle with cancer on Monday, Nov. 26, 2018. Julie will always be remembered for her smile and joyful, positive spirit that filled all of us with hope.

# Memoriam

*In Memory of*

William R. "Bill" Booth  
1963-2018

*Memories of our lives, of our works, and of our good deeds will  
forever continue in others.*

*Rosa Parks*



Bill Booth worked for the town of Gilmanton for well over 10 years. Bill loved this town and went above and beyond. When he could, he would take the time to clean off the town workers' cars in the winter as just a little extra service. Bill was self-employed in property maintenance and construction since 2007. His honesty and loyalty to his customers showed through his craftsmanship and in return he was rewarded many a following with loyal customers.

Bill's nickname was "the preacher" to many towns-people, always trying to spread the word. He truly had faith that no matter what, everyone should try their best to get along and give any animosity they had to the Lord. He never filtered himself even when it came to doing business- it was who he was. "Pray about it", "Gods Speed", "Give it to God" he was known to say! He was also proud to be minister of fellowship at the Gilmanton Community Church for 20 years. He would spread himself quite thin sometimes, but "it's all worth it" he would say.

Bill loved Gilmanton Old Home Day. Every year, he looked forward to grilling the hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages for everyone. Bill was a devoted and most loving father, husband and neighbor. He helped coach boys' basketball for GYO and later did the books for the Gilmanton basketball team and then in Gilford. Honest and loyal, he truly was. His footprint has clearly been felt by this town and I, Trish, Bill's wife feels truly blessed to have loved him if even for such a short time just shy of 6 years. Bill will always be in our hearts and his family and children will forever be proud of his accomplishments.



## DEDICATION

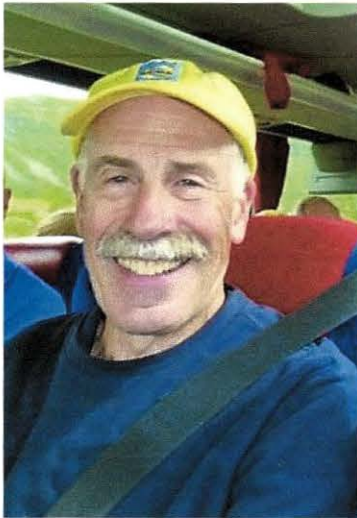
It is with great gratitude that we dedicate the 2017 Annual Town Report to Mark Sawyer and John Dickey.

Mark Sawyer moved to Frisky Hill in Gilmanton in 1961 and still resides there today. Shortly after moving to town, he joined the Gilmanton Corner Fire Department and to this day is still an active volunteer member. He has served on the department for over 50 years and is now an Honorary Lieutenant. Mark was especially proud to volunteer side by side with his daughter, Robyn, as a fire fighter. In his early years on the department he was one of the founders of the Rescue Squad and served as a Lieutenant. Mark became interested in community service because he had a lot of help from others while growing up and believed in paying it forward.



Mark followed in his parent's footsteps by becoming involved in town politics. His father, Harry, was once a Selectman of Gilmanton and his mother, Ruth, was once a member of the Trustee of Trust Funds. Mark understood the importance of each member of the community playing an active role in making a difference. He always stated that there was a difference between a "Need" and a "Want". Mark was elected as a member of the Budget Committee where he has proudly served for 25 years. One of his proudest accomplishments is being a member of the first group to start the Capital Reserve Fund. Mark also enjoyed passing on this tradition by proudly serving alongside his daughter, Lynn, on the Budget Committee.

Over the years, Mark has unselfishly put thousands of hours into serving his community while balancing raising a family with his wife, Louise. In August they will be celebrating their 49th wedding anniversary and still enjoy the town they've always called home...Gilmanton.



We would like to acknowledge John Dickey for his years of volunteer service to the town of Gilmanton.

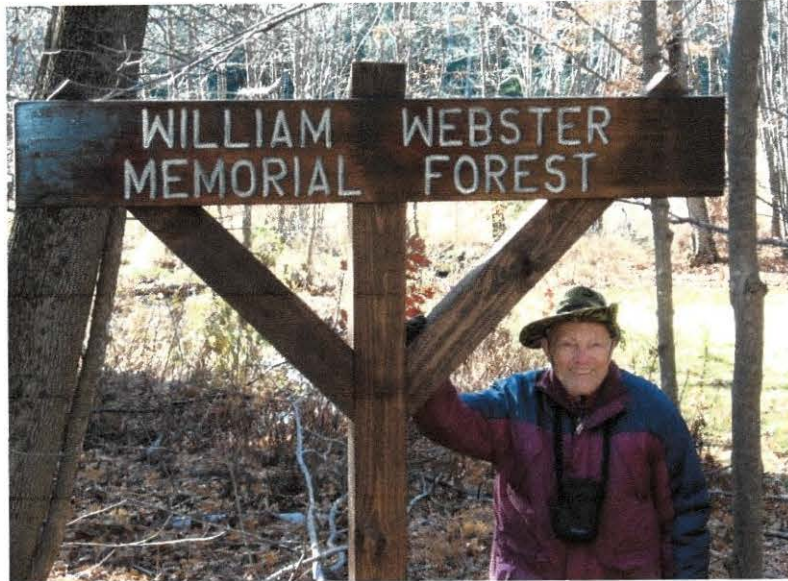
John cares deeply about his community as is demonstrated in countless ways. A steadfast preservationist, John has helped secure a vast collection of Gilmanton's historic resources through his ongoing work with the Historical Society and as a cemetery trustee. In addition, John's work with the Planning Board and the Land Trust has served to protect and preserve some of Gilmanton's most beautiful and revered natural landscapes.

John's gentle demeanor and cooperative nature quickly earn him the respect of others. His forward-thinking approach to preserving that which makes our community unique has and will continue to inspire him to action.

Thanks John for your hard work! We look forward to our continued partnership.

## IN MEMORIAM

*Daniel Warren Webster*



*April 30, 1929 – March 11, 2017*

Danny Webster, a lifelong resident of Lower Gilmanton, was born April 30, 1929 during the Great Depression to his parents, Barbara (Andrew) Webster and William Webster. Experiencing life during the Depression taught Danny the meaning of frugality; an appreciation for life; to enjoy every minute of it, and to share it with his many friends. Danny loved country music, parades, potluck suppers and traveling. During his lifetime, Danny visited 49 out of 50 states and many foreign countries.

Danny attended elementary school at the Kelley Corner School in Lower Gilmanton until it closed in 1940. Danny was thrilled to hear that the Kelley Corner School had been awarded grants for its restoration and preservation and that it made the cover of the Gilmanton Annual Report in 2017. On November 9, 2008, Danny proudly donated 10 acres of his land in Lower Gilmanton to the Gilmanton Conservation Commission. This easement protects the land surrounding the Kelley Corner Schoolhouse, Brown's Pond and nearly 1/4 of a mile of Route 129 from development.

Danny graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1946 and enlisted in the U.S. Army after Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Danny was stationed in Tokyo where he served from 1946 – 1948. Following his service, Danny attended the Concord School of business and graduated with a degree in Accounting. Danny worked as an auditor for the Department of Health & Human Services until retiring in 1994.

Danny was an active member and officer in many organizations including the American Legion Ellis-Geddes-Levitt Post #102, the V.F.W., NH Veterans Association, State Employees Association Chapter 1, the Gilmanton Historical Society, Smith Meeting House Association, Gardners' Cove Association and the NH Collectors Club. Danny was active in the Republican Party in NH and he represented Gilmanton at the State Republican Party Convention for many years. Danny was a true patriot and loved Gilmanton. One looked forward to seeing Danny in his uniform at every 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Old Home Day celebrations proudly saluting his flag. We miss you, Danny.

## CORRECTION TO TOWN OF GILMANTON 2017 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

### In Memoriam

#### **Daniel Warren Webster**

April 30, 1929 – March 11, 2017

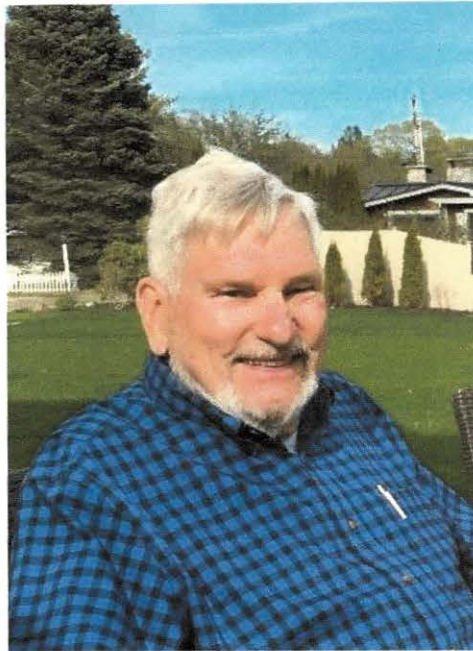
Danny Webster, a lifelong resident of Lower Gilmanton, was born April 30, 1929 during the Great Depression to his parents, Marjorie (Pitman) Webster and William Webster. Experiencing life during the Depression taught Danny the meaning of frugality; an appreciation for life - to enjoy every minute of it, and sharing it with his loving wife, Barbara (Andrew) Webster and many friends. Danny loved country music, parades, potluck suppers, pontoon boating on Loon Pond and traveling. During his lifetime, Danny visited 49 out of 50 states and many foreign countries.

Danny attended elementary school at the Kelley Corner School in Lower Gilmanton until it closed in 1940. Danny was thrilled to hear that the Kelley Corner School had been awarded grants for its restoration and preservation and that it made the cover of the Gilmanton Annual Report in 2017. On November 9, 2008, Danny proudly donated 10 acres of his land in Lower Gilmanton to the Gilmanton Conservation Commission. This easement protects the land surrounding the Kelley Corner Schoolhouse, Brown's Pond, Blackman's Brook and nearly 1/4 of a mile of Route 129 from development.

Danny graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1946. Danny enlisted in the U.S. Army after Hiroshima and Nagasaki and was sent to Tokyo where he served from 1946 – 1948. Following his service, Danny attended the Concord School of business and graduated with a degree in Accounting. Danny worked as an auditor for the Department of Health & Human Services until retiring in 1994.

Danny was an active member and officer in many organizations including the American Legion Ellis-Geddes-Levitt Post #102, the V.F.W., NH Veterans Association, State Employees Association Chapter 1, the Gilmanton Historical Society, Smith Meeting House Association, Gardners' Cove Association and the NH Collectors Club. Danny was active in the Republican Party in NH and he represented Gilmanton at the State Republican Party Convention for many years. Annually in May, Danny would visit every cemetery in Gilmanton, even the most obscure ones as Thistle Road and Wilson Hill. Danny would place a flag on the graves of every veteran from Gilmanton. Danny was a true patriot. He loved his country and he loved Gilmanton. One looked forward to seeing Danny in his uniform at every Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Old Home Day celebration proudly saluting his flag. We miss you, Danny.

# Dedication



**DAVID H. RUSSELL**

It is with great gratitude that the Town of Gilmanton dedicates the 2016 Annual Report to David H. Russell.

A long standing and highly active member of the community, David Russell has served the Town of Gilmanton in a number of ways over the past 30 plus years, whether it be as owner and operator of the Village Store or his extensive service in public office.

Born in Manchester and a graduate of Colby College, David and his wife Barbara made Gilmanton home in 1973 and became an integral part of the community; owning and operating the Village Store in the Iron Works until retirement in 1986, the Village Store became a favorite stop for many under their ownership.

David joined the Iron Works Fire Department in 1974 as a volunteer, answering many calls; at times even closing the store so he could respond. In 1984 David was elected Chief of Gilmanton IW Fire Department and he served until 1989 when the Town hired its first full time Fire Chief. David was instrumental in the merging of the IW and Corners Fire Departments. His vision and proactive approach helped lay the foundation for the organization as it is today.

He went on to serve on the Planning Board for a considerable 19 years, and then with diligence and dedication as a Selectmen for 10 years. David continued to work for the community as our Representative to NH State Legislature for 14 plus years.

We would like to take this opportunity to honor and thank David H. Russell for his substantial contributions to the Town of Gilmanton.

## In Memoriam



***Joanne E. Gianni***

***03/25/1942 – 12/14/2016***

Joanne E. Gianni, an active member of the community, passed away surrounded by her family on December 14, 2016.

Born Joanne Elizabeth Sinatra on March 25, 1942 and raised in Boston's Jamaica Plain, Joanne and her husband Frank raised a son Paul and daughter Chris. Joanne graduated from Framingham State College the same year her son graduated high school.

After living and working all over the country, Frank and Joanne settled in Gilmanton Iron Works, where Joanne became active in a variety of community events. Not only did Joanne serve as Assistant Deputy Town Clerk/ Tax Collector (where she lent her superior organizational skills to substantial records restoration), she was also a Ballot Inspector and on the Board of Directors of the Gilmanton Year-Round Library.

Joanne was an avid gardener and reader and a member of the knitting club. She loved the ocean and explored the National Parks. Joanne Gianni was a grounding, stabilizing force for those around her, and will be greatly missed.



### DEDICATION

It is our pleasure to dedicate this year's annual report to Robert "Bob" and Olive Tibbetts.

Mostly everyone in this town knows Bob and Olive. They have been a steady anchor in the Iron Works for generation after generation. Bob, with his quiet demeanor and Olive, with her sweet and infectious smile, have ministered to hundreds of our residents over the last over 67 years!

Not many people know that Bob was born in 1924 in the current Rick and Ruth Puleo home on Rte. 140 in the Iron Works. Olive was also born in Gilmanton in a house on Guinea Ridge in 1931. Bob went to school in Gilmanton. He served in World War II and was stationed in England, France, Germany and Luxemburg. He also served in the Philippines.

Bob and Olive were married in 1947 in Wolfeboro in a "little old schoolhouse" and moved to the Iron Works in 1949. Their house on Rte. 140 had the oldest blacksmith shop on the property circa 1780. Throughout the years, Bob worked for Glen Edwards Lumber, Merrimack Farmers, Delaware Fields, Palmer & Simpson, Nelson's Garage (now Baumann's garage), Beacon Fields and the Laconia State School.

When we use the word "minister" we mean that Bob was a bus driver for our area students for 25 years and he was also the Town's Tax Collector for 20 years, from 1966 until 1986 where his office was right in his dining room! Bob and Olive also ran the Gilmanton Iron Works Country Grainery Store and dress shop for 15 years and they are eager to acknowledge that it was a fun time for them! They simultaneously ran a group home for seniors in their Iron Works home from 1963 – 1997. They were also charter members of the Baptist Church on Stage Road in the Iron Works.

We were amazed to find out that, at 92 years old, Bob still splits and stacks his wood and feeds the wood stove each day! We so very much appreciate them and for all that they have done for our town and for who they are as great people who continue to care. It is always a pleasure to see them come out on voting day. They are one of the reasons why this town is so steeped in New England tradition. Bob and Olive, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for who you are and for all of your love for our great town!

Rachel M. Frechette Hatch  
Chairman

Donald J. Guarino  
Selectman

Michael J. Jean  
Selectman

### DEDICATION



Phyllis Buchanan moved to Sawyer Lake in Gilmanton 30 years ago with her husband “Willy”, a 30 year Fire Department retiree. You could often see the two of them doing maintenance at Town Buildings, as well as doing odd jobs for our Town’s residents. Over the years, Phyllis committed much of her time in Gilmanton to public service. She spent two terms as a Selectman, a difficult seat to sit in, but she was always known for her thoughtful decisions concerning our Town Government. Phyllis also served on the Budget Committee, trying to make the best decisions for our Town folks.

She spent several decades with the Gilmanton Gals Ladies Club. A non-profit group who help with scholarships and other needs within our community. Phyllis has been a great friend to many of the ladies, picking them up for meetings when they no longer could drive. When Phyllis was no longer driving, Willy took over the driving duties for anyone who needed a ride.

Phyllis also belonged to the Garden Club and volunteered at the little Gilmanton Corner Library. She loved the time spent in the Library visiting with everyone and helping the children select their books.

Phyllis is a selfless person, always ready to help a friend in need. For these reasons we have chosen to dedicate this year’s Town Report to a very deserving person, Phyllis Buchanan. Thank you Phyllis for your years of service to the Town of Gilmanton.

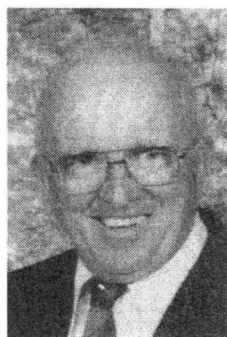
Sincerely,

Chairman Brett Currier

Selectman Donald Guarino

Selectman Stephen McCormack

### DEDICATION



Harold J. (Steve) McClary 8/7/25 – 2/13/13



Frank L. (Joe) McClary 11/30/28– 5/7/13

Steve and Joe McClary were born in Gilmanton in the 1920's in the "Little Red House" on Meadow Pond Road. Both attended the Gilmanton Academy School in Gilmanton Corner. When Steve was just 12 yrs. old he would awake in the early morning hours and go to the Academy School to fire up the furnace to warm the building for students, at a wage of 25 cents a week.

When the boys were older they moved with their parents to the McClary family farm on Allen's Mill Road, where they worked on the farm until enlisting in the military, Steve in the Navy and Joe the Army.

As a member of the Gilmanton Peaked Hill Fire Dept., Joe donated countless hours repairing and maintaining equipment. He and Tom Smithers built the first large fire tanker truck for the Town.

Steve and Joe along with their wives worked for many years participating in the annual Firemen's Clambake. Joe cooked the lobsters and clams while Steve waited tables. A great tradition the Town's folks enjoyed every August.

Joe and Steve were also members of the Gilmanton Snowmobile Club, spending most weekends during the winter building and maintaining the trail system throughout our Town. Together with their brother George, they built the first drag which is now on display in the museum at Bear Brook State Park.

In the 1960's Joe served as the Gilmanton Corners Town Road Agent. In those days they didn't have the equipment they have today, and many hours were spent just trying to keep everything up and running.

Steve excavated a beautiful pond at his home on Chamberlain Hill in Gilmanton and he would often allow the Conservation group to host their seminars there when the topic was duck ponds. If the weather were to be cold, he and his wife would keep the woodstove in the little camp going so people could come in to warm up if necessary.

Both Joe and Steve were blessed to be very talented mechanically, always building and welding something for themselves or somebody else. They had an open door policy at their garages and many hours were spent helping others repair things or "shooting the breeze".

Always being very active with the Community Church and when it was time for installing the church basement, Steve donated his time doing the excavation and site work.



**DEDICATION**

**FRANK C. BOSIAK, SR.**  
**July 19, 1932 – February 11, 2012**



The Town of Gilmanton dedicates the 2012 Annual Report to Frank Bosiak, Sr.

Frank was born in Allenstown, NH and graduated from Pittsfield High School. He had been a resident of Epsom for many years before moving to Gilmanton in 1948.

Frank was a true American Farmer, who loved his land, loved his family and loved his community and country. As the child of immigrants, he had a deep appreciation for the opportunities and freedoms that America provided, yet he never took these things for granted. Frank believed in giving back, the importance of being involved and, more importantly, respecting opinions. You could always disagree with him and he'd still be there to shake your hand or take you on in another debate on another topic! Frank was appointed as Selectman in 1998, taking David Allen's place. He also served on the Budget Committee for over 30 years.

Frank will always be remembered for his willingness to help someone else and to serve in any capacity that he was asked to fulfill. He possessed a quiet strength in character that speaks to what we associate with what is truly good and blessed in the Town of Gilmanton.

**DEDICATION**

**STEPHEN J. GODDARD**  
**April 17, 1946 – March 12, 2011**



The Town of Gilmanton dedicates the 2011 annual report to Stephen "Steve" Goddard.

Steve was born in Valentine, Nebraska, and grew up on the family dairy farm in Orwell, Vermont. After graduation from the University of Vermont, he owned a series of construction business in Flagstaff, Arizona and Bemidji, Minnesota. Steve moved back to New England where he took a project management position with the engineering firm of Hoyle, Tanner & Associates in Manchester, New Hampshire. In 1992, Steve and his wife, Mary, purchased a home for their family in Gilmanton. At Town Meeting Steve would always identify himself as "Steve Goddard from Poverty Corner".

He was a respected member of the community and served on the Town of Gilmanton budget committee from 1997 to 2002. Steve was an honorary lifetime member of the Bemidji Jaycees. He was a professional engineer in five states and instrumental in the design and delivery of the Exeter wastewater treatment plant, and was a key contributor to the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport expansion and numerous highway projects throughout the state.

The Town of Gilmanton lost a valued member of its community on March 12, 2011.



**IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR R. (ART) BROWN**  
**May 29, 1924 – November 29, 2011**

A long time resident and humble man, Art moved to Gilmanton in the 1960's. Art enjoyed telling stories of his life experiences to different people and children's groups in town. Art enjoyed making maple syrup on his tree farm, Weathervane Maples.

Art was a highly decorated World War II U.S. Navy Veteran. He enlisted when he was 20 years old and served as a Gunner's Mate aboard the USS Bullard for 3 years. Art joined the crew of the destroyer when it was commissioned on April 9, 1943 and stayed on it until discharged. His ship was one of 1,457 ships that headed to Okinawa, one of the major battles with Japan. Before heading to Okinawa he had already been in eight other battles, including the Philippines where the Japanese first used kamikaze airplanes. His ship received credit for 17 kills during the war. Okinawa was the most destructive battle for the Navy, as 34 ships were sunk and another 368 damaged.

His ship earned a reputation for rescuing downed American pilots. He and his crewmembers saved 4 pilots.

Art was a combat veteran of nine campaigns and earned nine major battle stars.

Art always said that serving in the Navy was an exciting time of his life. "I went in as a boy. I came out as a man."



The Town of Gilmanton has dedicated the 2010 Annual Report to Betty Lines. Most of us know Betty as the former Gilmanton School Nurse, a role she filled to overflowing for almost 30 years. Her gentle touch was felt throughout the school, but her love and caring radiated well beyond the walls of the school to the entire community and beyond.

Because of her extensive network of caregiving organizations and individuals, Betty has been and continues to be an invaluable resource during family emergencies, comforting troubled and grieving families, advocating for and delivering support in a thousand different ways.

For many years, Betty has been very involved in the coordination of the holiday food baskets for our families in need.

She started the Adopt-A-Child Program which provides gifts for the children of families in need.

She has coordinated blood drives and established a dental program for children who might not otherwise have the dental care they need.

She has collected used eyeglasses for the Rotary Club to recycle so that they could be given to residents that could not afford them.

Betty was one of the original members of the Gilmanton Supplemental Assistance Board, a local charitable foundation, and she worked side by side with Gilmanton Ladies Aid and the Gilmanton Community Church, again and again dedicating herself to helping those in need.

Over the years, Betty has put her own needs aside to mentor and comfort anyone in need whether in this community or in neighboring communities. She prefers to remain "under the radar" and when thanked, her response is always that we are neighbors and she loves helping people.

Betty, you are truly an example of selflessness and so many of our residents have benefitted from your generosity, your warmth, your caring hands and your infectious smile! Thank you, Betty, for sharing yourself with the Gilmanton residents.

DEDICATION

ROBERT L. "BOB" POTTER, SR.



Robert L. "Bob" Potter, Sr. is a life-long resident and a dairy farmer in Gilmanton. He has dedicated much of his life working and volunteering on boards and committees, too numerous to mention them all, for the Town of Gilmanton. This is Bob's 50<sup>th</sup> year serving on the Budget Committee working to keep the town on track and in check with proper funding for expenses. Bob always asks "Is it nice, or is it necessary?" Bob likes to get things done using volunteers as much as possible, be it time or materials.

Bob belonged to the Gilmanton Hills Fire Department, then the Gilmanton IW Department, volunteering to take down the old school in the Iron Works so the fire station could be built. He, his family and friends built the building at the Crystal Lake Ball Park at no cost to the town, and for many years he put on the huge bon fires at the ballpark on Labor Day.

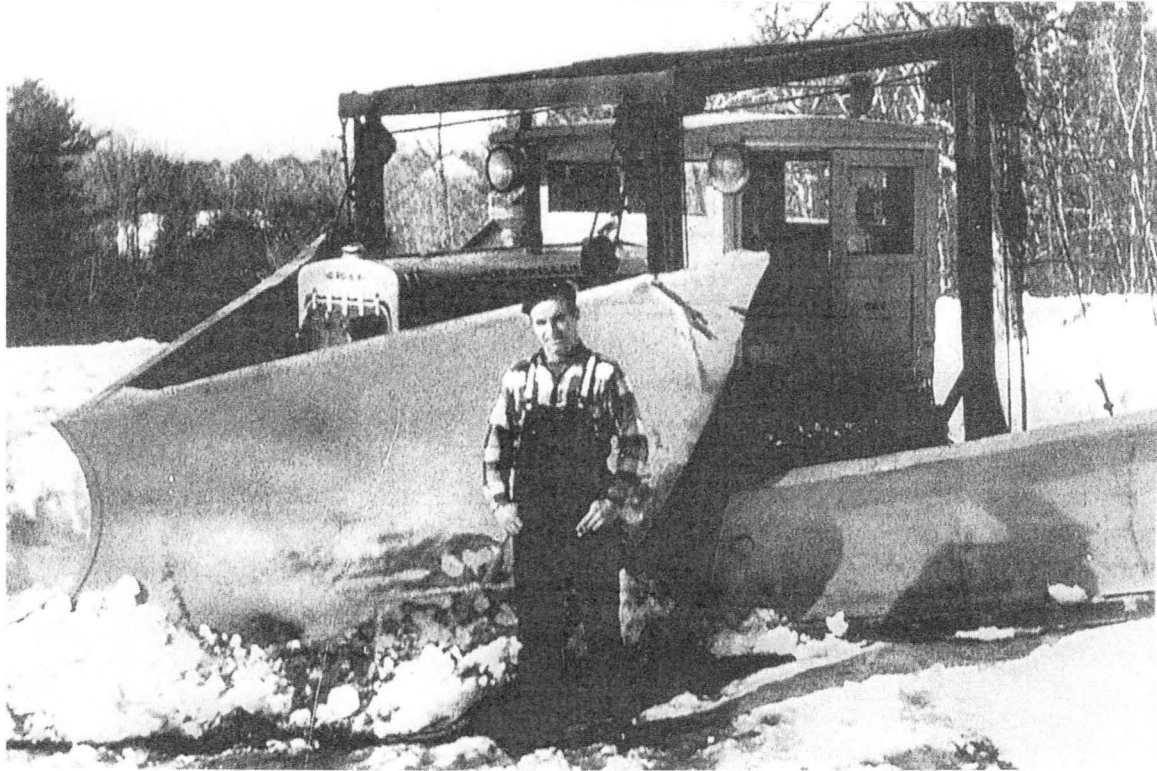
Family is the most important thing to Bob, and much of his volunteer work reflects that. He, along with his children and friends, built ball fields at the school and other locations so the children would have a place to play. Bob led volunteers at the elementary school to make it handicap compliant, built a new exit for safer traffic flow and more parking at the school. Bob was a member of the Gilmanton Snowmobile Club, and put on many cookouts to raise money for the club.



Bob spent many years taking care of town roads starting out with his father scraping the roads with a pair of horses or a bull. He continued taking care of the roads through the years plowing with a 6-wheeler ford plow truck, skidder or bulldozer when the snow became too heavy to move. Bob was one of the volunteers to build the highway garage in the Iron Works.

When asked why he has stayed on the budget committee for so long, he says, "It shows I wasn't too smart," but then adds, "You, the people, aren't any better, you voted for me!" Bob will tell you that " He tells it like it is, like it or not."

**DEDICATION**  
**THOMAS WILLIAM SMITHERS, III**  
**May 6, 1928 – June 29, 2008**



Thomas W. Smithers, III summered on Loon Pond as a boy. Tom served his country in the late 1940's as a Sea Bee in the US Navy. He moved to town in 1954 or 1955 and lived in Gilmanton for the next fifty-three years.

As a member of the Gilmanton Corners Fire Department, Tom spent countless hours repairing and maintaining the equipment. Tom and Joe McClary built the first large fire tanker truck for the Town of Gilmanton.

Tom owned and operated an excavating business (Diggin' or Hoistin') in town. Tom was a member of Local #4 International Union of Operating engineers, and was a well-respected mechanic who did restoring of vintage trucks, heavy equipment and Volvos. He loved driving his vintage 1931 Sterling in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades; a tradition carried on by his family.

Tom purchased the Corners town plow, Caterpillar RD-6, in September of 1967 at auction for the sum of \$375.00. He cleaned it up and put it to work in the winter of 68-69. In the blizzard of "69" the RD-6 worked 18 days straight for the first time. It was driven from the Corners to the Iron Works and back to deal with drifts on Sargent Road and Halls Hill Road.

DEDICATION  
ROLLAND C. HAWKINS  
August 29, 1928 – June 1, 2007



Rolland "Bub" Hawkins was born in 1928 at the Hawkins Homestead, which is located on Province Road (Route 107 South) next to the Lower Gilmanton Church and also happens to be the very first property in town restored by Doug Towle. Bub was the youngest of five children born to Amy & Shurldin Hawkins. Siblings included one brother and three sisters. Bub attended elementary school at the one-room Kelley School House on Route 129. After attending Pittsfield High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army serving from September 1946 to March 1948 with tours in Japan and Korea. (continued on next page.)



Shortly after returning home, Bub became the first Gilmanton Police Officer and held this position for 20 years. He worked a number of years for the Belknap County Conservation District digging numerous fire ponds. This was one of the things he enjoyed most – “playing” with heavy equipment. Bub also worked under Road Agent George McClary plowing and maintaining the town roads. In the 1960’s and 1970’s he worked at Nelson’s Garage in Gilmanton Iron Works. In addition, he drove the school bus, getting the children safely from the Academy to Laconia and back. He continued his public service as Gilmanton’s Deputy Fire Chief and Health Officer for many years. Bub could be found every August at Smith Meeting House overseeing the Bean-Hole Bean dinner and performing plays for Gilmanton Old Home Day. On Labor Day weekend, he played host to the Firemen’s Carnival and would call out the numbers at the Chuck-a-Luck game. Everyone wanted Bub as the caller, as everyone could hear him. He could also be found setting up and cooking chickens for the annual barbeque. Bub and his wife, Helen of 42 years, had three children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He lived his entire life in Gilmanton and loved hunting and fishing. This picture of Bub was taken on Thanksgiving Day 2006. He will be missed but never forgotten, as he was truly at home in Gilmanton.

DEDICATION  
JACQUELINE M. BOSIAK  
November 16, 1938 – December 30, 2006



In December of 2006, Gilmanton lost one of its most familiar and respected citizens. Jacqueline "Jackie" M. Bosiak was a salt-of-the-earth, no-nonsense kind of person. She never minced her words, yet she respected others' opinions. Her husband of 43 years, Frank, describes Jackie as a little powerhouse that would stand up to anyone for what she believed in. Jackie believed in family, home, hard work, honesty and her community. She was Secretary of the Old Home Day Committee and an integral part of the annual festivities held at Smith Meeting House. Jackie also served as an Alternate Member on the Planning Board where she contributed her knowledge of agriculture and common sense. In addition, Jackie was a Supervisor of the Checklist for six years. More recently, Jackie joined the Briarcrest Quilting Group and remained a member of the Alter Rosary Society at St. Joseph's Church in Belmont. It is for these reasons, and more, that she will be missed by so many. It is an honor to dedicate the 2006 Town Report to Jackie Bosiak.



***IN MEMORY OF A. RICHARD (DICK) PRICE***  
**February 23, 1922 – August 31, 2005**

Dick Price dedicated 68 years of his life operating the Price Farm, one of the few working dairy farms remaining in Gilmanton. Dick was an active member in the community. As a volunteer of the Gilmanton Fire Department, he served as Fire Chief for a few years and was the Forest Fire Warden for 49 years. He also plowed snow for the Town, served as a substitute Mail Carrier for the Gilmanton Iron Works Post Office, served as a Supervisor of the Checklist, and was a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. During World War II, Dick was a watchman at the Civil Defense lookout tower. He was also an active member of the Gilmanton Community Church.

Dick was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fly-fishing. He played organized baseball, took part in a local bowling league, was a member of the Gilmanton Snowmobile Association and the former Nighthawk Hollow Conservation Club.

Dick was a 20-year committee member for the Belknap County Farm Service Agency, as well as on the State Committee from 1977 to 1981. He was a member and committee member of the New Hampshire Farm Bureau; and an affiliate of the New Hampshire Maple Producers Association for over 47 years. The Price Farm still produces some of the best maple syrup in Gilmanton.

Under his guidance, the Price Farm was named Cooperator of the Year in 2000, an award for outstanding accomplishment in soil conservation from the State of New Hampshire. The Price Farm was also the recipient of the state Green Pastures Award in 2002.

The townspeople will continue to treasure the open space, the cows in the field, and the steam rising from the sap house each spring. We are grateful to Dick's son and grandson for continuing the legacy of the Price Farm.



***DEDICATION***  
***Phylis E. "Philly" Buchanan***

The 2005 Town Report is dedicated to Phylis "Philly" Buchanan for her undying devotion to the Town of Gilmanton. She is always the first in line, ready and willing to serve her community with a smile. Philly and her husband Willy have lived in Gilmanton for almost 25 years and her contributions and accomplishments are many.

She became a member of the Gilmanton Women's Club in 1982 and that was just the beginning. Phylis, current President of the Gilmanton Garden Club, has been an active member for almost 20 years. She has also held the positions of Director, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Phylis has also been an active participant in the Alton Garden Club and has served in every office in that club as well. She has been very active in the Sawyer Lake Village District and played a key role in establishing this area as a Residential Lake District. Phylis helped her husband Willy for many years doing maintenance work, cleaning, and setting up election booths for the Town.

Phylis has served Town Government as a Budget Committee member from 1995-1997, Selectman from 1998-2004, serving as Chair in 2003. During her tenure as Selectman she sat on the Historic District Commission, Planning Board, Budget Committee, LRPC-TAC and CRWS, just to name a few. Recently, Philly has contributed to the Safety Building Committee and volunteered at the Corner Library.

Phylis can usually be found bustling around town on some sort of mission, finding ways to obtain grant money for a municipal project, lending someone a helping hand, bringing coffee and doughnuts to election workers, or offering to bake some of her delicious butter pecan cookies. Just think if Philly's cheerfulness and enthusiasm were contagious, what a wonderful world this would be. Thank you Phylis, for all that you do, and have done, for the Town of Gilmanton!

## **Dedication**

### **Ralph G. Forsyth**

On March 7, 2004, the Town of Gilmanton lost a well known public servant. Ralph G. Forsyth was born in Wolfeboro in 1942 and lived his whole life in Gilmanton. He was educated in Gilmanton schools, as were his two daughters. He served the town in various capacities over the years and always wanted what was best for the Town and its people. His two passions were the Fire Department and the School Board.

He served the Town as Fire Chief for many years. He was Chief for so many years, that in fact, his immediate family cannot figure out how long it really was! Even after his days of being Chief were passed, he was still active in the Fire Department and would frequently be found calling the dispatch center to clear up directions that were given (because we all know, before E-911 came to Town, many roads were known by many names), or he could be found at a fire scene helping in the background. Fire service was in his blood. Ralph's vision, leadership, and mechanical prowess were instrumental in forming the foundation for our current Fire Department. He worked tirelessly in the pursuit of a centralized communications facility, known today as Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association. His love for the fire service was imparted to many that served with him during his tenure as Fire Chief.

He also served on the School Board for many years. During the years he served, he always wanted what was best for the school children of Gilmanton. He was willing to make the tough decisions, even if they were not popular decisions, if the outcome would garner the best result for the school. Many of you are reading this at Town Meeting, sitting in the newest addition to Gilmanton School. He fought long and hard for that addition, and his excitement was visibly noticeable when the passage of the addition was announced at School Meeting. It was one of his proudest days as a School Board member because the school children of the Town finally got what they needed for so long.

In his earlier years, he was always willing to do what he could for the Town, even if it meant just making a few phone calls. His children could always tell if something was brewing in Town or school politics by how busy our home phone was. He actively encouraged people to attend public meetings and to vote during elections. If he were still with us today, we are sure he would be humbled by this dedication.



BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF GILMANTON  
503 PROVINCE ROAD  
P.O. BOX 550  
GILMANTON NEW HAMPSHIRE 03237  
(603) 267-6700 PHONE  
(603) 267-6701 FAX

**Gilmanton, New Hampshire  
Annual Report  
For the year ending  
December 31, 2003  
Errata**

Inside cover dedication: The photo and dedication are to Melba C. LaRoche, who is a Trustee of Trust Funds as well as bookkeeper for the Trustees of Trust Funds.

Page 1: Road Agent (3 year term) is Bryon McSharry, not Robert L. Potter, Jr.

Page 3: Budget Committee: Kevin L. Christiansen is the Selectmen's representative, not Nathaniel T. Abbott

Page 40: Tax Collector's report: Uncollected taxes end of year, #1080; Property Taxes should be \$477,463.91 and total credits \$6,453,369.93.

Page 98: the following line should be displayed below the line entitled "Totals - Function 49170 Non-Capital Reserve":

**TOTALS-RESP-CODE 09 Capital Items and Reserves:**

<b>2003</b>	<b>2004 Dept.</b>	<b>2004 Dept.</b>	<b>2004 Budget</b>
<u>Expended</u>	<u>Recommend</u>	<u>Recommend</u>	<u>Comm.</u>
<u>Recommend</u>	<u>Recommend</u>	<u>Recommend</u>	<u>Recommend</u>
659,686	1,615,791	1,529,091	1,320,875

Page 128: Vendor History List, FOLEY OIL COMPANY should be \$4,746.40, not \$474,640.00

Please insert this list with your copy of the Town Report.



Melba's long time dedication to the Town of Gilmanton began with her family's lifelong involvement in community service. Her mother taught school and was librarian in Gilmanton, her father was the road agent and her husband was fire chief. It's no wonder that Melba fell into their footsteps. Although she was a clerk in the Gilmanton Post Office and later the Postmaster in Belmont, her real contribution to the Town was her many volunteer positions.

Her position with the Trustees of Trust Funds began as the bookkeeper, then in 1983, she was elected as a member, a position she still holds today.

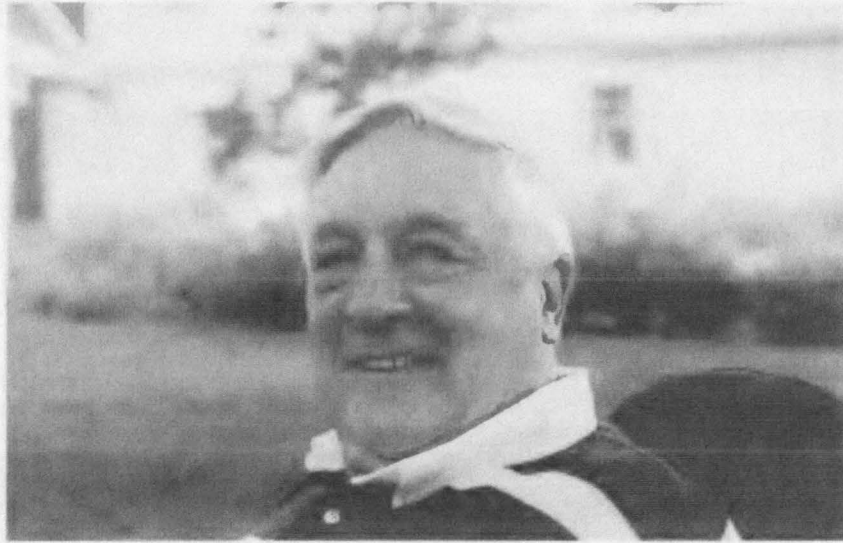
She served as Supervisor of the Voter Checklist from 1973 to 1987. She also served as Library Trustee from 1965 to 1975.

Other accomplishments include being a past member of the Fire Department Auxiliary, the PTA, and the Beech Grove Cemetery Association. She has also served as Secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary, Ellis-Geddes-Leavitt Unit and as Deputy Town and School Treasurer.

Melba always has a smile on her face and a kind word to say. She has always been a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, citizen and friend.

Thank you Melba. We are all grateful for your years of unselfish dedication to the Town of Gilmanton.





### H.L. "PETE" OSLER

When Pete Osler retired from his professional career in 1987, he and his wife Barbara moved to Gilmanton. But "retirement" does not describe Pete's activities once they had settled into their historic house in Gilmanton Corner.

Soon after their arrival, Henry Page, then selectman, asked Pete to serve on the cemetery trustees. From there, Pete moved on to election as a member of the Trustees of Trust Funds for the Town. His profession as a Certified Public Accountant prepared him well for the responsibilities of the job. However, Pete gave up the post to run for selectman in 1991. In that position he spent many hours learning how the Town was run and working to improve its efficiency and responsiveness. In the late 1980s the Town was growing rapidly, and the small Town staff were hard pressed to keep up with demands.

A major accomplishment during his term as selectman was the streamlining of the tax billing process. Over the years prompt mailing of tax bills has resulted in improved cash flow so that the Town avoids having to borrow money in anticipation of taxes. The process has saved the taxpayers many thousands of dollars each year in interest.

Following a term as selectman, Pete returned to the Trustees of Trust Funds, and retained the position through 2001. Other Town boards on which he served included the Zoning Board of Adjustment (1989-1993 and 1997-2001); and Historic District Commission (1991-1993).

Pete has served the whole Town over the years, and has focused particular interest on the Corner Precinct village district of which he has been a commissioner and treasurer from 1989 through 2001. In that capacity he sat on the budget committee as representative of the district.

Pete comes from a tradition of service to the community. His father, Howard Osler, moved to Gilmanton in 1949, when Pete was still in college. Howard served the Town as selectman from about 1968 through 1975. Pete's career took him to Latin America before settling in eastern Massachusetts to become the vice president and controller of the Foxboro Company, a Fortune 500 business.

## 2001 DEDICATION GEORGE TWIGG, III

This Town Report is dedicated to George Twigg, III. George has served the Town of Gilmanton in many capacities for more than 30 years. In 1972 he was elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives for the Towns of Alton, Barnstead and Gilmanton. For the ensuing eight years he served as New Hampshire Commissioner of Eminent Domain.

George brought his experience and expertise as Chairman of New Hampshire Board of Tax and Land Appeals to the Gilmanton Planning Board where he also served as Chairman during a 14-year tenure. His love of the woods and interest in preserving the environment lead to a term on the Gilmanton Conservation Commission. As a former Chairman of the Gilmanton School Board he is particularly proud to have signed the Middle-High School Area Agreement with the Town of Gilford in 1974.

As a New Hampshire licensed auctioneer, George has been a volunteer for NH Public Television Channel 11 for more than 30 years, and has called the bidding locally for the Town's tax lien and surplus land auctions, school and fire department fundraisers, and his favorite for five years, the annual Cub Scout (Halloween) Cake Auction.

During 43 years of officiating high school and NCAA College basketball, he found time to coach Gilmanton Elementary School basketball and Little League baseball. He was also a member of the Daniel Webster Hidden Valley Boy Scout Council and is a 30-year volunteer for Camp Fatima's Exceptional Children's Week.

In addition, George has served as Gilmanton Incorporator for the Belknap County Economic Development Council, Commissioner for the Lakes Region Planning Commission, Lakes Region Mental Health Foundation Board of Trustees, and as the UNH-Belknap County Cooperative Extension Advisory Council Chairman.

George's most recent and challenging role is Chairman of the Gilmanton Public Safety Facility Research Committee.

George has gone above and beyond the call of duty in his volunteer efforts, and the Town is grateful to have this talented, enthusiastic, energetic, generous and witty individual living in our community.



## JONES FARM HISTORY

In 1889 at the age of twenty-four, Allie C. Jones purchased the major portion of the property on Loon Pond, now known as the Jones Farm, from Harvey M. Connor. Subsequently in 1900 and 1903, he purchased two additional parcels which now make up the entire Jones Farm.

He lived on the property until his death. He made a living as a farmer, and he and his wife, Lillian, raised four children. During Mr. Jones' lifetime, he added another section of the barn making it twice the size as is shown in the photograph, raised the roof of the house to make it two story, added a shed connecting the house and barn along with other outbuildings. In the early 1900s, the forested portion of the property was mostly cleared and was used for pasture as is evidenced by traces of the old barbed wire fence.

The meadows on both sides of the road used to be mowed for hay. Beavers moved in and built dams in the 1950s, the meadows flooded and haying was no longer an option.

The property passed to Allie's son, Ralph, in 1951. Selective timber was cut in the early 1950s. From that time until 1985, the only cutting was that of firewood for Mr. Jones' personal use.

Ralph Jones was born on the farm and also lived there until his death in 1985. Farming operations continued until Ralph's retirement in the mid 1970s. Even after his retirement, farming activities were still carried on. Cattle and sheep grazed in the pasture until 1989 or 1990 and the hayfield out front has been kept in production to this day.

Mr. Jones prided himself in keeping his fields looking nice, the brushes were kept at bay by cutting back to the stonewalls every year and the shoreline was kept cleared until he was no longer able to do the work. Much of it was done every year with a scythe. Twenty years of growth has resulted in nearly obscuring the view of the water.

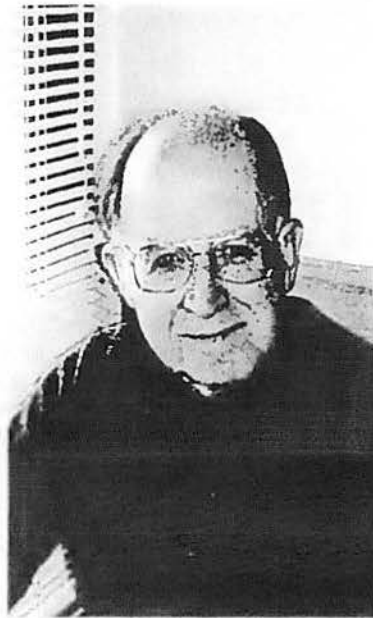
Historically speaking, for those who remember Ray Paquette's store which was directly across from Laconia High School (presently it is an office building and was recently home of the Laconia Animal Hospital), for many years Ralph sold butter, eggs and potatoes to Mr. Paquette for resale. During those times, he also provided many of the summer residents of Loon Pond with milk and butter. Those who summered here would come to the farm for bottles of milk, cream and butter. Those were the days when milk was still in glass milk bottles and before homogenization. Some time during 1956, Mr. Jones started selling milk to a commercial dairy and was no longer in a position to sell his milk to the local patrons.

The Jones family owned this farm for 111 years. Due to the generosity of Gerry Prusko and of the many people in the Town of Gilmanton who have an interest in conservation of special places this land will remain undeveloped and a legacy has been created by naming the conservation easement after the Jones family. Thank you.

Many thanks to Tresa Livernois for sketching the cover.

## DEDICATION

### GEORGE F. KELLEY



George Francis Kelley was born on Christmas Eve 1920, at the Elm Corner Farm in Lower Gilmanton. He attended grades one through eight at the Kelley School, and graduated from Pittsfield High School. George then attended the University of New Hampshire and graduated Class of 1943.

George worked for General Electric in Lynn, Massachusetts and returned to Gilmanton to retire in 1985. He has volunteered his time to various Town Boards and Committees ever since. These included the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Town Buildings Committee, the Historical Society, and the Trustees of Trust Funds. George remains an active member of the Historical Society as Treasurer and is involved in the Phase II Building Committee. He served as Chairman to the Trustees of Trust Funds for many years, and recently submitted his resignation to that Board to pursue greener pastures.

The Town of Gilmanton would like to say thank you, George for your dedication to our community.

## DEDICATION

### CHIEF MAURICE "BUD" R. SALMON, II

1975 – 1981 – Patrolman – Belmont Police Department  
1981 – 1982 – Investigator – Belknap County Sheriff's Department  
1982 – 1984 – Sergeant – Gilmanton Police Department  
1984 – 1999 – Chief of Police – Gilmanton Police Department

"Bud" Salmon came to the Gilmanton Police Department as a Sergeant after Sgt. Kevin Stevens left to join the New Hampshire State Police. In 1984, Chief Edward Sullivan also left the Gilmanton Police Department to go to the then New Hampshire Division of Highway Enforcement. When Chief Sullivan left, the Town promoted Sgt. Salmon to the rank of Chief.

During his tenure as Chief of Police, he was responsible for many improvements to the brand new police department. Since the department was formed in 1981, a lot of work was needed to establish and implement everything from hiring and field training procedures to routine administrative and clerical duties and procedures.

As the times changed, the need for rules and regulations were becoming vital to help reduce liability issues to the Town. He, along with now retired Chiefs George Prescott, Thomas Mynczywor and Michael McCarty, developed, wrote and implemented the department rules and regulations that the New Hampshire Municipal Association had adopted as model policies.

By his example of perseverance, professionalism and dedication, his officers would work not only for the good of the department and the Town, but to better themselves. He stressed training, progression and working to further your professional career. He chose to lead by example, working full time while working to obtain his Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement Management.

Chief Salmon also knew the importance of community policing before it became a "buzz word". Throughout his career with the Gilmanton Police, he was active in Town, school and inter-department programs and organizations. His officers also participated willingly because of the examples that he set.

We would like to take this time to recognize Chief Salmon and thank him for his 17 years of service to the Town of Gilmanton, its residents, visitors and members of the Gilmanton Police Department.

" 1999 .



## *In Memoriam*

*Elizabeth R. "Betty" Smithers*

9/22/32 - 8/16/99

Gilmanton lost an asset and treasure this past year in the death of Betty Smithers. In her 44 years of residency in Gilmanton, Betty continuously gave of herself toward the advancement of the town. As a president of the PTA, Director of the School Lunch Program, and Cub Scout Leader in the sixties, Betty saw to it that the best possible services were brought to the sons and daughters of Gilmanton. In 1966, Betty was elected as Town Clerk, a position that she held for 33 years "carrying" the ballot with the most number of votes of any person running on the ballot. In 1985, she pursued a combination position of Town Clerk and Tax Collector and, again, excelled in accomplishing these tasks with care and concern for the town's best interest in mind. She also served as a Selectman for six years (the first woman to hold that office in Gilmanton history). From the early days of running the office from her front hall at home, moving to the Town Hall basement and finally to the refurbished Academy Building, Betty remained committed to Gilmanton and minded its best interests. Her warm smile, wit and extensive knowledge welcomed people. Whether it was the new resident or the UPS man who always needed directions; Betty always knew how to find just about anything or anyone in this town.

Family was everything to Betty and she had several. Her four children and six grandchildren were foremost, but she also had a family in the people of Gilmanton. The welfare and respect of all were foremost to her. Betty's direct approach and frankness were her strengths along with her desire to help anyone. Betty often prayed that "If I can't help someone today, please let me not hurt anyone".

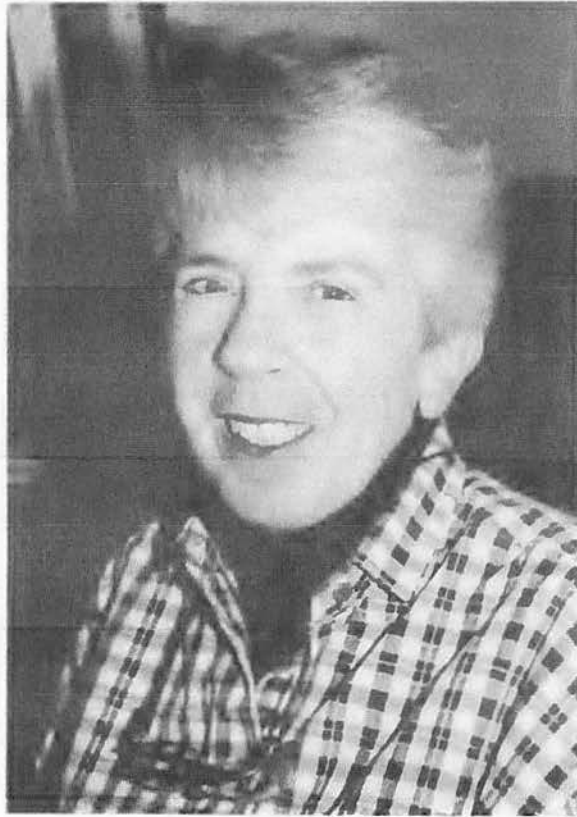
*She will be missed and surely gave the most of herself, an immeasurable gift.*

Her family would like to thank the Gilmanton Community for their support, love and respect, particularly in your donations to the Phase II Fund for the restoration of the Academy, a building she particularly loved.

We often speak of the *Fathers* of a particular town or community. Gilmanton has lost one of the finest *Mothers* of the community.

*You are missed, Betty!*





*Elizabeth R. "Betty" Smithers*

9/22/32 - 8/16/99

## DEDICATION

### HAZEL PARSONS

It is with great distinction that this year's Town Report is dedicated to Hazel Parsons. Miss Parsons is a fifth generation member of the family to reside in the Parsons homestead in Lower Gilmanton, which is the oldest house in Gilmanton. Reverend William Parsons built the house in 1763 on land deeded by the King of England. Hazel presently holds the Boston Post Cane. She is the third member of the Parsons family to have this honor.

Miss Parsons was feted at a birthday party honoring her 100th year on November 29, 1998 at the Epsom Manor. There were many family and friends gathered to wish her well and happy returns.

Miss Parsons is the daughter of the late Usher and Addie Hill Parsons. Hazel was the youngest of four children, two sisters Flora and Zella and a brother Albert.

Hazel was an organist at the Lower Gilmanton Church and is the only surviving charter member of the Lower Gilmanton Community Club. She was a very active member of the Club until 1993 when she moved to Epsom Manor, as her health would not allow her to live alone. Prior to that time, Hazel lived in the homestead without electricy or plumbing.

Miss Parsons' independence can best be expressed by relating the story as told by Lois Withington. Lois brought Miss Parsons home from an evening out and left her feeling all was well. The next day Lois found out that upon Miss Parsons entering her home she encountered a burglar. She shook her cane at him and asked him what he was doing in her home and told him to leave. She then went to bed feeling quite content on regaining the privacy of her home. The next day she called the police and informed them of the incident. This certainly is an anecdote of Yankee standards. Miss Parsons lives by her values of independence.

## Hazel Parsons

Happy 6th Birthday  
November 28, 1904



### Lower Gilmanton Community Club 1979

Top Row: Lois Withington, Edna Greenfield,  
Kathy Kruger, Louise Patterson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Mary Morse, Grace O'Connell,  
Lee Dawson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Nancy Potter, Barbara Geddes,  
Dorrice Gardner,  
Bottom Row: Ruth Sawyer,  
Hazel Parsons, Cynthia Brown



Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Hazel Parsons  
November 28, 1998



## Parsons' genealogy

Joseph Parsons, Jr.  
(16??-1684)

Emigrated from England,  
Begot Joseph (1647-1728)  
Rev. Joseph, (1670-1739)  
Rev. William

Rev. William Parsons

Married Sarah Burnham  
of Durham and built the  
Parsons Homestead in  
1763, begat Sarah, William,  
Elizabeth, John, Joseph,  
Ebenezer

Ebenezer Parsons

Married Eunice Potter,  
Begot Ebenezer, Eunice,  
William, Samuel, Sally, Lucy

Samuel Parsons

Married Jemima Carr,  
Begot Caroline, Mary,  
George, Emily, Ebenezer

George Parsons

Married Mary Ann Hill,  
Begot Abbie, William, Usher

Usher Parsons

Married Addie, Begot  
Flora, Zella, Albert, Hazel

Hazel Parsons  
(1898 - )

Single, has lived in  
Parsons Homestead  
since birth



In Memory of Dr. Philip C. LaFrance  
Contributing Member, Secretary, Chairman  
Trustees of Trust Funds  
1995 to 1999

## DEDICATION



**Marion S. McIntyre**

We, the people of Gilmanton, wish to express our deep gratitude and sincere devotion to you, our highly respected friend and neighbor. You have devoted many hours in service to your Town as a volunteer and as an elected official.

As a volunteer, you helped start the Dental Program in our elementary school. This program is still ongoing and serving the community well. Your years of volunteering as a librarian at the school soon won you another "job" as an elected official, Library Trustee. The renovations and resources that you have added to the Corner Library have served the Town very well over the years. As Librarian you spent many hours clipping news articles about our local people and culture. Most of us will not forget your dedication to raising funds to support the needs of the Library.

In 1978, twenty years ago, you were elected to the position of Supervisor of the Checklist. A position which you serve with utmost dedication and sincerity as the job requires. Your service to this position along with your colleagues gives Gilmanton a Voter Checklist that is "the best that it can be".

In 1988, the Town voted to create three positions for Cemetery Trustees. You became a valued member of this commission and have generated a listing of all the cemeteries in the Town along with a listing of all the grave markers and names. This project alone will serve the Town's history along with your perseverance to preserve the integrity of the individual cemeteries.

Your interest in history exemplifies itself in the years you have devoted to the Gilmanton Historical Society and to the years you spent working with the Junior Historical Society. These years you have spent will help preserve the history of Gilmanton for future generations.

We are most appreciative and grateful to you for these many years of loyal service to our Town. Above and beyond all these services, you will always be remembered for your many kindnesses, your patience and your good sense of humor, which have endeared you to all of us, thank you Marion, for doing so much for so many.

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**EDWARD H. BUDROE**  
**(1929 - 1996)**



Eddie Budroe served as the Gilmanton Road Agent from 1989 to 1993. He performed his duties in an efficient and productive manner, and was well liked and respected by all. Eddie was a resident of Gilmanton from 1983 to 1994.

## DEDICATION



Evelyn Forsyth has been Treasurer for the Town of Gilmanton for more than 12 years. You will find her in the Town Hall a couple of days each week faithfully balancing her ledgers, bank statements and taking care of payments and receipts. This is only one of the various duties "Evy" has performed in this town in the more than 60 years she has lived among us. This busy woman has done nearly everything you can find to do in a small town at one time or another.

Evelyn first came to Gilmanton as a child and attended more than one of the one-room school houses. Later she and Harry Forsyth married and settled down on White Oaks Road, where she raised her family of three sons, Ralph, George and Michael. This is where you had seen her every spring, summer and fall crouched in her garden picking vegetables and weeding. During the early years, she could have also been found taking care of farm animals and selling blocks of ice, harvested from Crystal Lake. These were cut on the lake, transported home, and stored under sawdust in the ice house until homeowners purchased them to keep food cool in summer.

You would also be apt to see Evy anywhere along the many miles of Gilmanton roads in a truck or on a tractor. When Harry was Road Agent, she was always right there, working along with everyone. Before the days of modern equipment Evy used to tow an old grader with a home-built tractor. If there was any repair work going on with the trucks, tractors or sanders, Evy was never far away. Often she was right in the middle of it with her hand in a spot too small for anyone else's.

If everything was in running order then you might find her transporting her sons back and forth from Laconia High School, or running errands and dispatching for the Gilmanton Iron Works Fire Department. Before the days of mutual aid and centralized dispatching, Evy manned a "red phone" in her house and kept a log of every bit of activity. She was also active in the Women's Auxiliary the Plectrons, who brought food and drink to fire fighters at a fire and conducted fund raising to help the fire fighters purchase tools.

Evy will carry on as Town Treasurer so her friendly face and helping hands will continue to be a part of Gilmanton as we know it.



# Laconia Democrat



\*INDEPENDENT\*

LACONIA, N. H., FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1915.

## \$50,000 FIRE.

### Gilmanton Iron Works Swept by Conflagration.

Nearly one-half of the little village of Gilmanton Iron Works was wiped out by fire during the early hours of last Friday morning, the property destroyed including the Charles Dockham business block, the Arthur Chase store, the Free Baptist church, a schoolhouse, a wood-working mill, and about a dozen dwellings. The total loss is estimated at \$60,000, and only a small insurance was carried in most instances.

The property destroyed was as follows: Buildings of Osborne Price, loss \$2000, small insurance; buildings of Lizzie Connell, \$1000; Mitchell & Cutchiff, furniture, automobiles and stock, \$8800, small insurance; buildings of Jennie B. Witham, \$900, small insurance; Mrs. Jennie Keys, \$2500, small insurance; old tannery, used as storehouse, \$1000, small insurance; residence of Angelina D. Edgory, \$2500, small insurance; business block of Charles Dockham, where postoffice, public library and selectmen's rooms were located, \$6000, small insurance; Hutchins wood working mill, \$2000; Arthur Chase's store, \$6500; Free Baptist church, \$6000; schoolhouse, \$2000. All town records were burned.

Mrs. Jennie Keys, owner of one of the houses destroyed, was awakened about midnight and put out a fire in the rear of her home by dousing it with a few pails of water. It was about two hours later that Mrs. Keys discovered the fire at the Osborne Price buildings, which were the first to go.

From the Price buildings the flames were swept by the high wind which prevailed and could not be checked until they reached the Suncook river. The townspeople fought the fire with buckets of water, but the flames made such rapid progress that all efforts were useless, and it was impossible to even save the contents of the residences and buildings.

It is probable that only a few of the buildings will be rebuilt, as there are practically no industries at Gilmanton Iron Works and most of those rendered homeless will locate elsewhere.

There are strong suspicions that the fire was incendiary, as it was evidently started twice and a kerosene can was found near the spot where the second blaze originated.



**Gilman Iron Works  
before the fire**

**Gilman Iron Works  
after the fire - June 1915**



**Gilman Iron Works  
1996**

*Photos and newspaper article courtesy  
of Gilman Historical Society*

## DEDICATION

**The 1995 Town Report is dedicated to Harry G. Forsyth in appreciation of his 34 years of service to the Town of Gilmanton in his role as Road Agent, Fire Chief, Budget Committee Member and model citizen.**

Harry Forsyth arrived in Gilmanton in 1920 at the age of ten, at a time when Route 140 was a dirt road. Of course, all of the other roads were dirt as well, and some weren't even roads yet. He came from Chatham, Ontario, Canada and first settled on Gale School House Road in the house which is now the Foster home.

For several years, Harry left Town for work, logging in the woods of Rochester. However, he had a future in store for him as the Gilmanton Town Road Agent. He began his career around 1944 and began as one of three road agents in Gilmanton. The other two road agents at that time were Earl Clifford and Frank Page. Harry then became one of two road agents, with Earl Clifford being responsible for the western district and Harry being responsible for the eastern district. This continued for about five years until Harry was elected as sole Road Agent for the Town of Gilmanton, and assumed the position he would hold with honor for 34 years. Once in awhile someone else would be voted in and Harry could take a year off, but he really didn't, he just worked harder preparing for the next year. In 1978 when he lost the election by one vote, he was ready to retire. By that time he had a loyal following of regular customers for whom he delivered sand and gravel after putting in his hours for the Town. This is not to imply his work day was an eight-hour day. He might only put in for eight hours of pay but if there was work yet to be done, he kept going until it was finished. His private customers would wait, knowing well that Harry hadn't finished yet, and when he did, he would be there.

During Harry's tenure as Road Agent he was also involved in other Town activities. He spent several years as a member of the Town Budget Committee and he had a long career in the Gilmanton Iron Works Fire Department, some of those years as Fire Chief.

His age finally began to slow him down, but to nobody's surprise he kept up on Town affairs and kept track of "his" roads. Indeed he had created many of them or brought them from "woods roads" to something which would support a large truck in order to be plowed and maintained. He knew every culvert and turnout personally and knew how each would be performing under various weather conditions.

While he was Road Agent he would often send a man out to tend a situation that needed a few minutes of hand shovel time, just because he always knew and remembered what would be going on in that area. In other words, he never stopped worrying. He truly cared, and the Townspeople knew this, until the day Harry passed away March 25, 1994.





*Helene E. Roberts*



*Sarah B. Harris*



*George F. Kelley*



*Nancy J. Lines*

### **Dedication**

The Town Report this year is dedicated to the Town Buildings Committee. The members are: Helene E. Roberts, Sarah B. Harris, George F. Kelley, and Nancy J. Lines.

Due to the diligence and untiring efforts of this group extensive renovations have occurred at the Academy and Town Hall. This Committee continues to raise substantial funds to improve these facilities. The Town will enjoy the benefits of their efforts for many years to come.

Respectfully,  
Board of Selectmen



The 1992 Town Report is dedicated to A. Richard Price in appreciation of his 49 years of service to the Town of Gilmanton and the State of New Hampshire in his Role as Town Forest Fire Warden. In 1943 Richard Price was appointed by the State of New Hampshire to be Gilmanton's Forest Fire Warden, a position previously held by Arthur Durgin. During the course of his nearly half century of service Richard Price was responsible for the issuance of Fire Permits to residents of the community as well as the forest fire suppression effort. Many residents of Gilmanton have had the opportunity to serve under the leadership of Richard Price during this period. In addition to his Forest Fire Warden appointment, Richard Price also served the community as Fire Chief of the Gilmanton Hills Fire Department during the 1950's.

A. Richard Price is a true example of the volunteer spirit common to New Hampshire. His no nonsense approach to accomplishing the task at hand has proven over the years to be effective and respected by our community. We the citizens of the Town of Gilmanton, extend to you our appreciation and thanks for a job well done.



The 1991 Town Report is dedicated to Elizabeth R. Smithers in appreciation of her 25 years of service to the citizens of Gilmanton.

Betty was appointed Town Clerk in 1966 and has been reelected consecutively since that time. In 1986, she was also elected Tax Collector. The two offices were officially combined by the voters in 1989 and she continues to serve as Town Clerk/Tax Collector today.

In the early days, services were provided from a very small office in her home. In 1975, space was provided for the office in the Town Hall and, in 1989, the office was moved to its current location in the Academy. Through her efforts, great progress has been made with the computerization of the tax collection and voter registration files and automated ballot counting.

Betty also served two 3-year terms as Gilmanton's first woman Selectmen beginning in 1977. Directly through her efforts the first property revaluation in 20 years was undertaken. Her research of past decades of records and the creation from that information of documents for the use of the staff and citizens has resulted in great cost savings as well as providing a wealth of information from which everyone may benefit.

Outside of her official duties, she has continually been in the forefront of volunteer programs throughout the Town which have benefitted the children including being school lunch program director for 15 years; serving as the first PTA President when the elementary schools merged; serving on the building committees for the existing Gilmanton elementary school and the Gilford High School; establishing the first school dental program; creating the first cub scout program and organizing the first PTA Christmas Craft Fair.

Her spirit of community endeavors also led her to become an integral part of the Fire Department Sirens who consistently undertook such fund raising activities as the annual clambake and establishment of the first Community Calendar.

Betty has continually proven that volunteer efforts do work whether it's refinishing floors in the Town Hall or refurbishing voting booths. She has shown us, again and again, from her efforts that the Community Spirit of Gilmanton is alive and well and the rewards we all share from those efforts are continuing.

We, the Citizens of Gilmanton, extend our appreciation and thanks to Betty.

## IN APPRECIATION



This year's Town Report is dedicated to Doris Jones in appreciation for her many years of service to the Town of Gilmanton. Doris is a native of Gilmanton who left to pursue her education, a career, and to start a family. She returned to Gilmanton after the death of her husband and served as Town Treasurer for thirteen years.

More recently, Doris has served as a clerical assistant in the Selectmen's Office for the last fifteen years. She has also served as the School District Treasurer for the last twenty three years and is currently serving as Treasurer of the Supervisory Union #30. For many years Doris took it upon herself to oversee the maintenance of the town's private cemeteries and she was the catalyst in the establishment of the Board of Cemetery Trustees.

Doris has always had a strong sense of community spirit which is shown by her involvement on a number of committees and civic organizations. She has not only been an extremely dedicated and faithful employee but has always been willing to assist beyond what would normally be expected.

The Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Gilmanton, wish to express our appreciation to Doris Jones for the many years of service that she has devoted to the Town of Gilmanton.



## DEDICATION



This year's annual report is dedicated to the memory of David Fillion. Dave was a dedicated School Board member whose terms included three years as Chairman and numerous times as Vice-Chairman and Clerk. Dave also served two terms as Chairman of the School Administrative Unit Thirty School Board.

After securing his teaching degree from Plymouth State College, Dave taught at public schools in New York State, Tilton and Alton. He started teaching at the Vocational Technical College in Laconia during the fall of 1968. Dave eventually assumed the post of English Department Chairman at the Vocational Technical College and served in that capacity until 1986.

Dave was respected and loved by colleagues, students, fellow board members, and all who knew him. His dedication to education was exhibited not only through his teaching of students but through his long commitment as a School Board member.

David Fillion will be remembered in his role as a School Board member for his constant concern and effort to provide quality education for the children of our community.

1984

IN MEMORIAM

COLONEL WILFRED L. EMOND

(1904-1984)



To some he was the Colonel, to others he was just plain Bill but to all who knew him since his retirement to Gilmananton in 1953 after a distinguished military career he was a man whose selfless dedication to his God, his Country, and his Town will remain in our memory.

His many years of service to the Town of Gilmananton included 20 years on the Budget Committee, Chairman of the Planning Board for many years and Secretary/Treasurer of the Iron Works Fire Department. Colonel Emond also served the Town through his active involvement in the P.T.A. He served on the building committee for the "new"

elementary school and was recognized by the N.H. Congress of Parents and Teachers Association for his "outstanding service with children and youth", making him an honorary life member.

Colonel Emond was the guiding force in establishing memorials to veterans of past wars at the Smith Meeting House. He was very active with the Ellis-Geddes Leavitt Post 102 American Legion and was the first life member of that post where he served as finance officer for 22 years.

Even in later years, despite progressive blindness, Colonel Emond, with the aid of his beloved wife, Bobby Jean, whom he called "my good right arm" participated insofar as his tragic affliction would permit, in community affairs.

The Town of Gilmananton takes this opportunity to express its appreciation and to recognize the talents, efforts and sacrifices of people like Colonel Emond. He has set a fine example of citizenship for our Town.

The following Resolution was moved and adopted:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS:** The Citizens of Gilmananton, N.H., assembled in Town Meeting this 17th day of March, 1984, did upon the occasion of the death of Col. Wilfred A. Emond, extend appropriate expressions of appreciations for his thirty one years of exceptional service to the Town and,

**WHEREAS:** These services of the years have demonstrated: A devoted sense of appreciation of the responsibilities of the Town. A sincere interest in the solution of the problems of the individual citizen, and: Exceptional endeavors toward solution of the overall community problems in such a manner as to best serve the interests of the citizens.

Further, his performance of all the foregoing responsibilities, together with his service as a member and/or chairman of many other commissions and/or committees serving his Town, his Country, his State and his Nation, together with all of the aforesaid responsibilities, have been performed in such a manner as to reflect great credit upon himself, his family and his community, now therefore be it,

**RESOLVED:** That in recognition of these outstanding services and devotion to the responsibilities thereof, I move that the Town Report for the calendar year 1984 be dedicated to Col. Wilfred A. Emond, and that a suitable portrait type photograph and biographical resume of the life and achievements of Col. Wilfred A. Emond be included therein.

It was further moved and adopted that the content of this resolution be spread upon the permanent records of this meeting and that the Town Report be dedicated to Wilfred A. Emond for the calendar year 1984. Moved by Elizabeth R. Smithers, Town Clerk.



**IN MEMORY OF DAVE McKINNA**

In the town of Gilmanton which not only cherishes its political institutions but also employs them for the public good and reshapes them so that they may serve the needs of all the people better, the Town Meeting stands out as a forum in which both the elected officials and the citizens of Gilmanton can gather together and express their concern, their needs and their praise.

Thus, in the presence of the citizens of Gilmanton, I would now like to take this opportunity as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to acknowledge and thank David McKinna publicly for his service to the town of Gilmanton as a member of the Board of Selectmen. As a Selectman he has both aided the town of Gilmanton and benefited from the problems and challenges of his office. We must also bear in mind that David McKinna has served the town of Gilmanton diligently as a member of the Planning Committee, the Budget Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

It would be unwise and thoughtless to leave such a long record of public service unacknowledged. Therefore, I ask that a notice be entered into the records of this meeting that the town of Gilmanton, as well as his fellow officials, duly acknowledge and thank David McKinna for his service to the town of Gilmanton.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph F. Crowley, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the residents and taxpayers of the town of Gilmanton.

**Annual Report**  
of the  
**Town Officers**  
for  
**The Fiscal Year Ending**  
**December 31, 1983**

and of the  
**School District**  
for  
**The Year Ending**  
**June 30, 1983**

*Front Cover: Town Pound, Gilmanton Corners, New Hampshire. Pen and ink sketch by Donna Manning, artist and resident of Gilmanton.*

**THE 1980 TOWN REPORT HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO  
GEORGE B. ROBERTS, JR.  
BY A VOTE OF THE 1980 TOWN MEETING.**

George B. Roberts, Jr. was raised in Gilmanton and educated here in New Hampshire. A graduate of Laconia High School, George attended the University of New Hampshire where he received his Bachelor of Science degree and his Master's in Public Administration.

George served in the United States Coast Guard six years active in Reserve North Atlantic Patrol.

Always an active member of his community, George is a member of the First Congregational Society of Gilmanton; a member and past president of the Gilmanton Historical Society; and a member of the Gilmanton Iron Works Fire Department.

But it is as a public servant that George is best known to the citizens of Gilmanton. First elected to the New Hampshire House in 1967, George spent fourteen years representing the town in the State House. In addition to membership on the House Appropriation and Executive Department Administration Committee, George is the only member of the Belknap County Delegation who was ever elected to serve three consecutive terms as County Chairman.

Rising through the ranks, George became House Majority Leader in 1971 and held that position until his election as Speaker of the House in 1975.

During his six years as Speaker, George accomplished a great deal for his town and for his state. He was honored in his last term by being elected president of the National Conference of State Legislatures. He is listed in "Who's Who in America" and "Who's Who in American Politics".

Perhaps his most enduring accomplishment in the House was the modernization of the New Hampshire Legislature. Under his leadership, willing membership was provided with the facilities, the staff expertise and the technology necessary for a citizen legislature to function in the second half of the twentieth century.

Throughout these hectic and productive years, George B. Roberts, Jr. has always had time for his home town, having served as Trustee, Town and School Moderator, and State Representative. As our State Representative he was always available to help anyone with a state or local problem.

The citizens of the Town of Gilmanton, N.H., take great pride in this opportunity to express their appreciation to George B. Roberts, Jr., for the exceptional services which he has rendered to his State and Town and in so doing, which to express their fervent hope that God's blessings will be with him for many years to come.



1974

Mr. Moderator:

As you rap the gavel for the adjournment of this Town Meeting it will mark a historic event in the history of the Town of Gilmanton and in your own personal history. In so doing you will record the completion of twenty years of service (1955-1974) as Town Moderator.

A study of the town reports fails to indicate that any previous Town Moderator has served in this important positions for a longer period of time.

The superior personal qualifications which you have brought to this office has made any challenge to your rulings; to the integrity of the ballot box or to the validity of the ballot count to be totally unthinkable.

By your proven capacity for quickly and thoroughly resolving any problem of debate; your courteous control of Town Meetings; your recognition of the rights of all to be heard; and, by your demonstrated qualities of patience, impartiality and decorum you have brought great respect and dignity to yourself and to the office of Town Moderator.

I am confident that I speak for a vast majority of your fellow townspeople when I say, "It is our prayerful hope that life's destinies will permit you to be willing to continue to serve your town in this important office for many years to come.

In recognition of Colonel Harry W. Besse's outstanding services to the Town of Gilmanton, N.H., in the capacity of Town Moderator for the past twenty years I move that the Town Report for the calendar year 1974 be dedicated to Colonel Besse and that a suitable photograph and an appropriate biographical resume of the life and achievements of Colonel Besse be included therein. Motion made by Col. Wilfred Emond.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

ELIZABETH R. SMITHERS,  
Town Clerk, Gilmanton



Photo Credit: Fabian Bachrach

HARRY W. BESSE

Harry W. Besse was born in Wareham, Massachusetts, June 9, 1898. He received his early education in the Wareham public schools, graduating from the Wareham High School in 1916. He entered Tufts College that same year. As with many others of his contemporaries, his college education was interrupted by military service in both World Wars I and II. He was awarded a BA degree Extra-Ordinem by Tufts College in 1948.

Colonel Besse served in the American Field Service with the French Army in 1917 and with the United States Army in 1918. Following World War I he assisted in the formation of the 107th Cavalry, Ohio National Guard, Akron, Ohio. He was commissioned as a Captain in the Army of the United States in January, 1942, and served in the Army Air Force throughout World War II. During the period 1942-1944 he served in the Directorate of Intelligence, Hqs. U.S. Army Air Force in Washington, D.C. From 1944, until the end of hostilities, he served as Asst. Chief of Staff, A-2, of the 314th Bombardment Wing (B-29 equipped unit.) As an element of the Twentieth Air Force the 314th Bomb Wing conducted many strategic operations against the Japanese Empire. Colonel Besse participated in several combat missions including the incendiary attacks on Tokyo, March 9th and 10th, 1945. He reverted in inactive status in the grade of Colonel in March, 1946, but continued to be active in the U.S. Air Force Reserve until June 30, 1958.

His military awards include the American and Asiatic Theatre Medals, the Commendation Medal, the Air Medal and the Legion of Merit.

Colonel Besse was qualified as a private aircraft pilot in 1931 and continues to hold an active private license.

This past year Colonel Besse completed fifty years of service in the investment business of the financial district of Boston. He was elected President of the Boston Stock Exchange in 1946 in which capacity he served until 1962.

Additional former financial and business services include:

President, Stock Clearing Corp., Boston,  
Chairman of the Aviation Committee and Director of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce,  
Member of the Finance Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Washington, D.C.,  
Director of the Boston Garden Arena Association,  
Trustee of the New England Baptist Hospital.

Presently Colonel Besse is President and Chairman of the Board of Ventura International, Director and member of the Executive Committee of Allegheny Airlines, and holds a limited partnership in Josephthal and Co., investment brokers.

Colonel Besse's community services have been many and varied. In addition to his exceptional services as Town Moderator for the past twenty-one years since his election to that office in 1954, he has served many years as a member and former chairman of the Town Budget Committee.

His services as investment advisor to the Trustees of the Trust Funds of the Town of Gilmanton has provided that body with the benefits of his expertise in the successful investment of these funds.

Colonel Besse is a charter member of the local Ellis-Geddes-Levitt Post No. 102, American Legion, and has served as its Chaplain since the post was chartered April 23, 1947.

Among the many accomplishments of Colonel Besse must be included his recognized ability as a competent historian of the Civil War. He is especially learned in the participation of the New Hampshire regiments in that war.

Colonel Besse's service to, and love of country, are such as to serve as models of inspiration to those of our younger generations. His service on the Town Budget Committee has frequently indicated his concern that our school children have adequate educational facilities without extravagance, to assure that they be properly prepared to assume their status as responsible citizens and to inculcate in their youthful minds an appreciation of the great American heritage which has been made available to them at such great costs in sacrifice and devotion as exemplified by our nation's history.

With such noble thoughts Colonel Besse has been a true inspiration to all who have been privileged to associate with him in community affairs.

The citizens of the Town of Gilmanton, N.H., take great pride in this opportunity to express their appreciation to Colonel Besse for the exceptional services which he has rendered to his Town and in so doing, wish to express their fervent hope that God's blessings will be with him for many years to come.

## FLORENCE M. DURGIN



We, the people of Gilmanton, wish to express our deep gratitude and sincere devotion to you our most highly respected friend and neighbor.

You have devoted many hours in service to your town as Treasurer from 1942-1968, a period of twenty-six years. Also for thirty-four years in all you were school treasurer, therefore you were responsible for keeping two accounts correct. Your accuracy has been above and beyond reproach because you were always determined to have the accounts balance to the last penny.

We are most appreciative and grateful to you for these many years of loyal service to our town.

It should be noted here that you also served as auditor for a total of fourteen years.

You were a devoted and dedicated teacher for many years since 1901. Children of several generations proudly and gratefully boast of being taught by their beloved friend, Mrs. Durgin. Your ability and love for teaching were praiseworthy and well-known in our town.

You have shown your interest in young people in many ways. As a librarian you were never too busy to help the youngsters find a book they wanted or to have classes come to use the library. You have dedicated many hours to teaching Sunday School as you sincerely believed this a vital part of any community.

As a loyal church member you have shown by precept and by example your desire to be an upright and honest citizen of the Town of Gilmanton.

Above and beyond all these services you have been able to find time to be treasurer for the Smith Meeting House Cemetery Association for 26 years.

In addition to your faithful service you will always be remembered for your many kindnesses, your patience and your good sense of humor, which have endeared you to all of us.

As a citizen of our Town you have always exemplified the old saying, "A friend in need is a friend indeed."

JOSEPH L. CLAIRMONT  
DAVID M. BICKFORD  
MELVIN C. BUNKER  
Selectmen, Gilmanton.

MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING — RECESSED  
March 17, 1968

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The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. by the Moderator for the sole purpose of paying a suitable testimonial to honor Mrs. Florence M. Durgin.

David Bickford, Selectman, met Mrs. Durgin at the entrance to the Town Hall and presented her with an orchid. The orchid was pinned on Mrs. Durgin by Mrs. David Bickford, and Mr. Bickford escorted Mrs. Durgin to the front of the hall.

The Moderator, Mr. Harry Besse, called upon Mr. Bickford to take over the meeting. Mr. Bickford introduced Col. Emond as M.C. for the presentations.

Col. Emond requested Mr. Besse to read the resolutions that were adopted at the regular Town Meeting (printed within the annual report) and Mr. Bickford presented a copy of same to Melvin C. Bunker. Mr. Bickford reported that a copy of Mrs. Florence Bordeau's resolution had been presented to her along with a bouquet of flowers.

Mrs. Evelyn Uhlenberg presented a scroll prepared by her to Mrs. Durgin, (a copy of which is contained within this report).

Mrs. Evelyn Ellingson presented Mrs. Durgin with a painting of her old homestead, this painting done by Mrs. Ellingson.

Mrs. Durgin was presented with the guest book by Jean Nelson.

Mr. Frank Uhlenberg presented Mrs. Durgin with a photograph album which will be filled with photos taken during the day.

Mr. Emond motioned to have a portrait photograph for the 1968 Town Report and dedication of same to Mrs. Durgin. This was adopted.

Mr. Besse was requested to make some appropriate remarks before adjourning the meeting. He reported that there were many families still living within the Town who had had Mrs. Durgin as a teacher. Namely, Mr. Henry Tibbetts and wife, Mrs. Doris Tibbetts, Mrs. Florence Partridge and

grandson, Robert Tibbetts, and five children, David Bickford, Clarence Bickford, Herbert Bickford and several children, Mrs. Ernest and Wendell Beck, Harry Forsyth and his three sons Ralph, George and Michael, Mrs. Florence Geddes, Mrs. George Edgerly and daughter, Esther Burbank, Donald Hyslop and five children, Mrs. George Potter and son Robert and daughter Virginia, three Roberts girls and Mrs. Eleanor Nelson and her three children all of whom went on to teaching due to Mrs. Durgin's inspiration.

ELIZABETH R. SMITHERS,  
Town Clerk.

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14  
352.07  
6476  
1946

## Major Curtis H. Page



Served as town Moderator from 1930 until death. Representative to the General Court for several sessions, serving as chairman of the Belknap County delegation in 1933. He was a member of the state senate in the 1939 and 1941 sessions of the legislature, and represented Gilmanton in the 1938 Constitutional Convention.