

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXI, No. 3 (Summer 2021)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BEALS HERITAGE CENTER?

Funded by a grant, from A4TD, for the past year and a half, Bettina White has been keeping herself very busy working at Beals Heritage Center. Bettina began by working on a huge project whereby she processed over 2,000 filed photos by individually identifying by name and Certificate of Gift number, and arranging each photo in photo pages. She then placed them in 4" binders. Once the photo binders were completed, she began scanning the photos onto an SD card.

After completing the photo project, Bettina filed the Jonesport Marriage Records from 1850 – 1892 in sheet protectors for display in a binder.

Another large collection, the 1917-2005 Maine Seacoast Mission Bulletins, have been sorted and filed in sheet protectors for display in a binder.

The photo collections of Avery Kelley, Jennie Lenfestey, Almena Alley, the

Davis family and Barna Norton have been identified and placed in photo pages and binders.

Sorted and created folders for various family photos and information.

Collections of stories assembled into binders and identified where possible.

Created a binder for Moosabec area school memorabilia.

Downloaded, printed, identified, and created a binder of BHS Facebook photos. A work in progress.

Filed Jonesport Census for 1850, 1900, and 1938.

Created a binder for 2020-2021 local newspaper articles. Updated boatbuilders and boat racing binders, and obituary records.

The Heritage Center is open Monday through Thursday from 9a.m. to 1p.m. We hope you will take advantage of all of the amazing historical information within its' walls and stop by for a visit.

Save THE Date

**2021 CALENDAR
OF EVENTS ARE
DEPENDENT ON COVID 19
RESTRICTIONS**

**SEPTEMBER 17TH
@ 6:30PM:**

To be announced

*Please mark your calendars as we
greatly appreciate your support!*

CONDOLENCES



We wish to express heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Carole Donovan. When it came to the needs of our community, Carole was there either by fundraising or by making generation donations to an important cause. It was due to such a donation that Sunrise Assisted Living is open. Through the Jonesport Library, Carole was instrumental in bringing live music and culture to our area. She will also be remembered for her awesome sunrise photos posted every morning on her facebook wall. Carole will be very sadly missed and fondly remembered.

2021 MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Since BHS depends on its members for general funds, we would like to mention that it is now time to renew your membership. Please find attached a membership application for your convenience. If you do not have printer capability, please feel free to send your dues to the address on the application. Thank you so much for your continued support of this most worthy cause!

HISTORY OF “SCURSE”, THE MARGARET S.

By Erroll ‘Sonny’ Woodward

What I know of the history of the Margaret S. comes from Nella Gower’s log book, (now at Penobscot Marine Museum), Cousin Arthur S Woodward’s book, “Adventures and History from Downeast Maine”, and my personal experiences with the “Scurse”, as she was affectionately called by our family.

The display model of the Margaret was inspired by a similar model of a lobster boat my dad gave me many years ago. It is mounted on plywood, and set in a frame. I believe it was made by Vinal Beal after he retired. Needing to make a contribution of the Margaret S. in model form to BHS, I decided to make a framed model but to give it a glass front to try to protect it from dust or other damage from handling of the smaller parts. If absolutely needed, the top part of the frame could probably be removed without too much damage. It is glued and screwed but someone with skill could take it apart and the plywood and or glass boat can be slid out.

The Margaret S. is listed in Nella’s log book as being built in 1937. As I recall from the book the dimensions were 33 ft. length and 9 ft. width. The owner was Alton Urqhart who Arthur lists in his book as a former Beals Islander who lived in Manset. She was built at Barney Cove on Beals, by master boat builder Harold Gower. I recall it being stated that when Harold Gower put pieces of wood together, they looked as if they had grown there.

I was personally aware of Harold Gower when my Dad moved our family back to Beals in 1940. We rented the upstairs apartment of the late Guy Carver, Jr. home, and Harold, Aunt Nella, and daughter, Ena, occupied the downstairs. Harold allowed the kids to use scrap wood from his shop to fill our needs for whittling. In the years between 1940 and 1950, I often visited his shop and admired the beautiful boats built there.

December 7, 1941 came bringing WW II and the attack on Pearl Harbor. This was shortly after we had moved into a house of our own at Barney Point and a mere stone’s throw from the Gower shop. It was soon that everyone was involved in the “War Effort” and the Margaret S. came home to Barney Cove birthplace.

Uncle Vernal Woodward and my dad, Erroll Woodward bought the Margaret to use in the lobster dealership. From that time, I became familiar with the “Scurse” which became her nickname. I expect she was still much the same as when she was built and was only six or seven years old at that time. Scurse had a raised fore deck, with pilot house. The water-cooled exhaust for the Studebaker engine was piped through the stern. As she had been

replacement and the new Buick engine was still running well when the Margaret S. was no longer needed and sold to a buyer in the Machiasport area.

Sometime in the 1960s, I was told where the Margaret could be seen. I went to see my old friend and was shocked to find her beached and rapidly deteriorating. A sad ending to my many wonderful memories of teen years, with Arthur, when we were the sailing masters of a most wonderful Gower built craft.

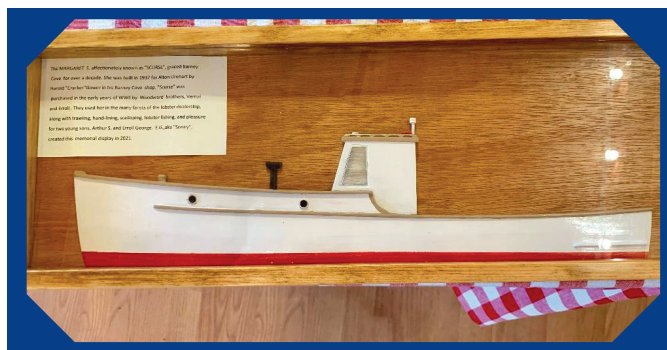
Many years later and I found myself living in Turner, Maine. I was retired from teaching, operating my own bottle and can redemption service, and doing maintenance at MacDonald’s and I needed something to do. My mind went back to younger days and I wondered if I could build a boat model.

I set about drawing a work plan for the Margaret S. I had inherited a stack of reclaimed spruce boards from a demolished church building and decided that since this was an experimental build, that spruce was good enough. It took a lot of doing and learning, but I built a model

of Scurse. The model is known as Scurse 1 and is owned by my daughter, Heather.

O.K. If I can do that, why can’t I build another Scurse with remote controlled motor, for me to play with? This one would be the real thing. I located a cedar mill, found that he also had some oak left from earlier days, and I was in business. With a little information from well known boat builder Willis Beal, I set to work and Scurse 2 became a reality. It now belongs to son, Jay.

I’m still working on boats and other coastal items. Who knows? I might even get to build my hand-me-down lobster boat bought from Llewellyn Crowley in 1949. Let’s see...torpedo stern... spray hood and cabin.... 26 ft. long,.. I’ve still got oak and cedar, 6 ft. or so wide...h-m-m-m-m.



used for sailing and fishing parties, the spacious forecabin was equipped with cushioned side lockers and a small stove piped through the fore deck.

The only picture of the Margaret that I know to exist, was taken shortly after boat owners were required to put the boat’s registration numbers in a very large size to be seen from afar. 1-G-653 was painted on the bow of the Scurse in letters at least 1 foot tall.

Every patriotic citizen pitched in to help feed or military and so, Scurse went lobster fishing, trawling, hand lining, carrying herring, and scallop dragging in season, and doing whatever was needed in the dealership.

Eventually, the Studebaker engine wore out, and was replaced. The exhaust was rerouted through the pilot house roof. The six cylinder replacement Oldsmobile engine also needed

Beals Heritage Center



Beals Historical Society Membership Application

Please check one: ☐ Renewal ☐ New

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

(Please type or print clearly)

Your mailing address: Street or Post Office Box: _____
City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail address: _____

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

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| ☐ Individual Annual | \$10 annually |
| ☐ Individual/Life | \$200 one-time payment |
| ☐ Couple Annual | \$15 annually |
| ☐ Couple/Life | \$300 one-time payment |
| ☐ Senior/65 Annual | \$5 annually |
| ☐ Senior couple/65 Annual | \$7.50 annually |
| ☐ Student | \$5 annually |

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

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

Annual memberships are for the calendar year and expire Dec. 31.

PROFILE: OSMOND BEAL-BOATBUILDER BY JON B. JOHANSEN

BEALS ISLAND - When anyone talks about boat building on the coast of Maine there is one name that always comes to mind and that is the Beals of Beals Island and Jonesport. They have been constructing boats down there for over a century, but over the last several decades they have made a me building the fastest lobster boats on coast. These boats were very easy to spot-long, thin with a very pronounced sheer. One of the most noted builders on Beals land is Osmond Beal, who has been build-g boats since the early 1950s.

Osmond was born on Beals Island in 1931 to a family with a long history of boatbuilders. He said that his great grandfather, grandfather and father were all builders. That does not count all his uncles that also built on the island when he was growing up.

His great grandfather and grandfather did not build large lobster boats. They built lapstrake rowboats, which when completed would be loaded onto a schooner and sent to the west'ard to be sold.

Vinal was Osmond's father and like most boatbuilders on the island he built boats in the winter and spring and went lobster fishing and clamming in the summer and fall. He worked for other builders, such as Harold Gower and Alvin Beal. However, he came home one day and said if he could build boats for someone else he could build them himself and he began by building a 26 footer over in Alley's Bay.

Osmond said that was around 1948. He added, 'One night we were sitting there eating supper and he said, 'You know if I could sell this little one, I think I'd build a bigger one.' Well, I came around the bay and I ran across this fellow from Stonington. We got talking boats and I told him I said 'You know anybody that wants to buy a little 26-footer?' He said 'I might'. By gracious the next day he and his father showed up and they bought her.'

As soon as she was sold Vinal purchased the lumber for a 34-footer,

which he started in the fall of 1952. That was also the time Osmond received a call from the U.S. Army and he would not get a chance to help build her.

Around 1955 Osmond built a boat for himself. She was 34 feet in length with a beam of 9 feet and named the Barbara J. From then on, the orders just kept coming. In fact, one winter they had orders for seven boats, however, between Vinal, Osmond and Harry Alley they finished three boats a season.

'The first one I built was over at his place,' said Osmond. 'I don't remember just what happened to him [Vinal] he was taken sick and had to go to the hospital. We had just pulled a keel into the shop and he had always laid out everything. We always sawed, beveled it or whatever had to be done, but he always lined it off for us. I told Harry you and I have got



to build that thing because we've got to eat. So we got the keel up on horses and we went for it. When he got home and got so he could come out in the shop, we had her all planked and the cabin and windshield was on her. I remember he crawled up on her and took a look in on her and he said, 'That's a better job than I can do,' and he turned around and went right back in the house.'

All the boats Vinal built were of his design. Osmond explained, 'They were 34 or 35 feet long and 10 feet wide. Then they started getting wider and a little higher sided. Some of them went a little bit longer, but we didn't go over 38 feet for a long time. I think we only built one that was 38 feet.'

In 1966, they moved their shop to

its present location. Here the boats continued to grow in size. 'When we got over here they wanted them a little wider and we finally got up to 12 feet and some went to 13 feet. The Corned Hake was the biggest one we built. She was 14 feet 4 inches wide and 40 feet 10 inches long.'

In the late 1960s Osmond and his father went over to help Harold Gower. Osmond said, 'Harold Gower was taken sick. He had a boat nearly done and we had just put our last one in the water that we were going to work on for the summer. He came over and wanted to know I Daddy and I could come over to work for him for a couple of weeks. Put the guards on her and stuff like that. So, we did. We went over and worked two weeks for him.'

In the mid-1970s Vinal's health caused him to do less and less boatbuilding and in 1977 he passed away. Osmond continued to build in the winter and fish in the summer.

In 1984 one of Osmond's 35-footer was having her engine changed to an Isuzu, which was installed by Terry Hutchins of H&H Marine in Milbridge. Osmond said, 'We had her there at the wharf and he [Terry] was in the cabin and I was sitting on the stem and he come out through the door and said, 'You know I don't know but I'd like to have a plug on this model right here.' Well, I said, 'You're looking right at the very bird that could do it.' 'Well,' he said, 'you've come back so quick I've got to go home to talk with my brother.' So, he went home and when he come back the next morning he said, 'We're going for it.' I said, 'Good enough.' So, I made up an order for the lumber, of course I ordered it for a 35-footer, and that fall we started on her. Oh, they'd come down once in a while look it over and when he came one time he said 'Can you get a 36?' The next time he came he said, 'Can you build a 37,' and I said 'Well, maybe.' So, they came down again and he said, 'Can you get a 38?'

and I said, 'No, I don't think so.' He said, 'Get her whatever you can get her.' So, it was 37, but they called her 38.'

This became a very successful model for H&H Marine and they came back to Osmond for a 32-footer in 1989. They then had him design a 29- and 20-footer for them. Osmond added, 'The 29 I changed her a little. I put a little 'v' in the stern. Somebody told me they didn't spank the stern if you had it like this. Well, I found Out they were wrong. I

went right back to the flat stern again.'

For the last couple of years H&H Marine has been so busy they could also keep Osmond going all year around if he would like. H&H being as busy as they are is a testament to just how well Osmond's designs are. Never-the-less, Osmond is not going to build boats all year, he enjoys building his two or three boats during the winter and spring with Harry Alley and then lobstering for the summer and fall."

BEALS - Osmond "Buddy" M. Beal, 90, passed away peacefully ,with family at his side, on July 13, 2021, to be with his Lord. He was born in Beals January 16, 1931, to the late Vinal and Kathleen (Alley) Beal.

As a young boy he moved with his family to Head Harbor Island. To attend school, which was in a church, he had to walk quite a distance, even crossing a large pasture full of various farm animals. While attending Beals High School, he played on the State Championship



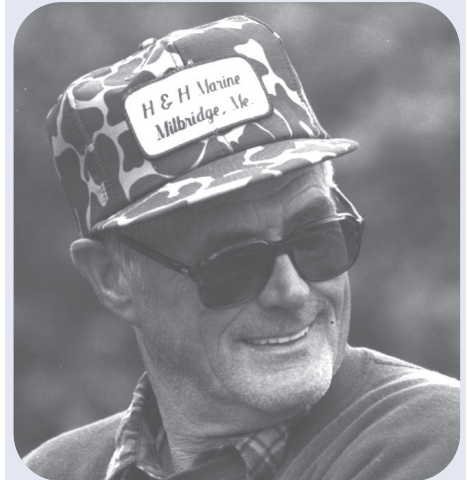
basketball team. Following graduation from Beals High School in 1951, he joined the United States Army, where he proudly served from 1952 to 1954, obtaining the rank of corporal. He was stationed in England, where he worked with the Airforce to build a runway, and had the distinct honor of attending Queen Elizabeth's coronation. After his discharge from the Army, Osmond married the love of his life, Barbara (Alley), on September 17th, 1954. Shortly after, he started working in a boat shop owned by his father, Vinal, and his uncles, Alvin and Mariner. He later built his own successful shop, where he built boats that went all over the country. During the time that wooden lobster boats were losing popularity, Osmond designed a fiberglass model which was purchased by H&H Marine in Steuben, Maine. His designs awarded him a place in the boat builder's Hall of Fame. During

the summer, Osmond took a break from boat building and would be on the water lobster fishing. One of Osmond's greatest enjoyments was being on the water and watching wildlife. He was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, where he served as a Deacon for many years. He enjoyed attending all of his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren's school sporting events, and cheering them on. Against popular opinion he was an avid New York Yankees fan.

As the eldest male resident of Beals Island, he was honored to cut the ribbon at the opening of the new Jonesport-Beals bridge. Osmond was blessed with many wonderful experiences, accomplishments, and passions during his life, but nothing meant more to him than his family.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Barbara; a daughter, Pamela Johnson and her husband, Dwayne; a granddaughter, Shanna Blackwood and her children, Zachary and Emma Vincent; a grandson, Erick, his wife, Crystal, and their daughter Alyssa Blackwood; two brothers-in-law, Philmore Crowley and Harry Alley; and many nephews, nieces, cousins, and special friends. In addition to his parents he was predeceased by two sisters, Aseliah Alley and Lovina Crowley; a great-granddaughter, Quintsey Rose Blackwood; and Shanna's late fiance, Daniel Rogde.

CONDOLENCES



Sending deepest, heartfelt sympathy to the family of Osmond Beal. Osmond was one of the last and finest "old school", awesomely talented boatbuilder/designers of this century. Raised in Alley's Bay by goodly parents, Vinal and Kathleen, he was a humble, kind, trustworthy, friend to all kind of person, who had a great sense of humor. Osmond was truly a boatbuilding legend, who will go down in history as being one of the BEST!!! He grew up with my father and happily shared, with me, many fun stories of their adventures, and for someone who only has two memories of their Dad, these memories are priceless. He was revered, respected, and loved by all who knew him. RIP Osmond "Buddy" Beal.

BEALS HERITAGE CENTER FUNDRAISING DRIVE

BUY A PERSONALIZED BRICK PROGRAM

The Beals Historical Society offers the chance to be creative in personalizing a brick for your favorite person, pet, place, event, occasion, or simply something that is near and dear to your heart. Purchasing a personalized brick will enable the continuation of the brick patio, and/or adding your favorite Veteran to the Veterans Monument Park Area. The Veteran's 4 x 8 brick consists of the Veteran's rank, name, branch of service, war served in and years served.

Your purchase of a personalized 4x8 cinnamon colored brick with black filled lettering for \$85 is a tax-deductible donation or you may wish to purchase an 8x8 brick for \$125. Purchasing the 8 x 8 brick gives you an additional line or instead of the line you may purchase a logo for an additional \$10. Price includes shipping.

YES! We'd like to reserve a personalized permanent brick.
Please check one of the following:

☐ Patio ☐ Veterans Monument

- ☐ Check here for 4x8 brick for \$85.00 (standard block lettering included).
☐ Check here for 8x8 brick for \$125.00 (add an additional \$10 for a logo)

Please engrave your brick as follows:

For a 4 x 8 brick use three lines with 21 letters including spaces and for an
 8 x 8 brick add use four lines.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:
BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ATTN: Treasurer, PO Box 280, Beals, ME 04611
Thank you for your contribution!

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Amount Paid: _____

*For further information or suggestions with a design for your personalized brick,
 please contact Carol Davis at (207) 497-2675 or email cfDavis44@yahoo.com.*