

Town of Eddington · February 22, 1811

EDDINGTON *Historical Society* NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2020-2021

Eddington Historical Society



FALL BAZAAR



Rob Dorr, Lou Higgins, Pam Dorr



Jim Goodness & Margaret Joyal

E.H.S. Fall Bazaar was held October 3, 2020 on the Eddington Town Office lawn. Canopies decorated the edge of the parking lot above tables containing home baked food, handmade crafts, books, games and toys. The silent auction items were donated by the following businesses: Peavey Manufacturing, River Edge-Sweets Market, Peter Lyford Apiaries, Williams Family Farm, Heritage Tackle & Gear, Eddington Town Store and Joyal Canning Basket. Jessica Gray made the wonderful new E.H.S. sign from old barn boards.

Thank-you for all donations to benefit the Eddington Historical Society building fund. We still have a few 2021 Deer Calendars at the Eddington Town office and Eddington Store. Moose pictures are needed for the 2022 calendar. Please share your past or current family Moose hunting pictures. Contact: Margaret at 843-7402.

E.H.S. members are planning a "Spring Bazaar". There will be more information on the bazaar in the spring. Stay healthy and warm this winter.

Margaret Dougherty, E.H.S. President

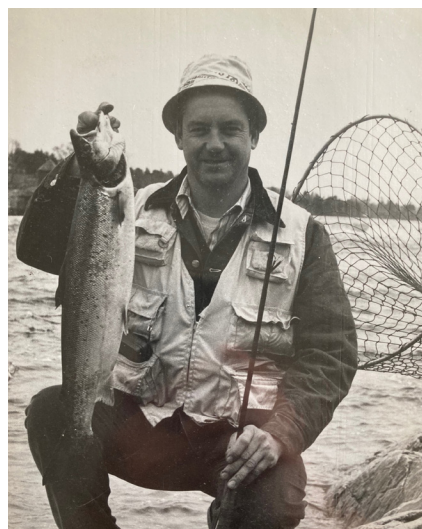
VETERAN LEROY K. HUTCHINGS

By Margaret Dougherty

LeRoy was born in Orono, Maine a son of Levi and Elsie (Goodine) Hutchings. He grew-up in the area as his father was a millwright that traveled around to the mills. LeRoy graduated from Bangor High School in 1952. He worked in Connecticut and enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving for four years. LeRoy was on the Vogelgesang DD862 Destroyer built on Staten Island, launched January 15, 1945. The Vogelgesang, out of Norfolk, Va., was deployed to the Mediterranean Sea with tours of duty along America's east coast to the West Indies and European ports.

One weekend the American Destroyer was docked at Belfast, Northern Ireland. Beth was spending the weekend in Belfast at Uncle Charlie and Aunt Molly's house with their five children. Beth's Uncle Charlie was in the Royal Navy and interested in Navy ships. He wanted a tour on the Vogelgesang, so he asked Beth to go with him.

LeRoy Hutchings gave them the tour on the Vogelgesang and after the



Leroy Hutchings with Presidential Salmon

tour Uncle Charlie invited LeRoy to his house for tea. This acquiescence encouraged LeRoy and Beth to correspond by letter for a year until LeRoy asked Beth to marry him. Beth accepted his proposal and moved to Maine in 1957. They were married at Grace Methodist Church on Union St. in Bangor, Maine. They bought land and a house near LeRoy's brother George along the Penobscot river in Eddington. LeRoy worked at Bangor Water District for many years and owned & operated Hutchings Greenhouse with his wife Beth in 1968. He started with one small greenhouse, then two more, then a larger greenhouse and more each year. Twelve years ago he started greenhouses across the road from their home.

LeRoy was an environmentalist and loved the outdoors. He was a founding member of the Eddington Salmon Club in 1982 and was an expert at Atlantic salmon fly-fishing. In the 1981 season he had grassed three salmon. Now in 1982 LeRoy caught Maine's first Atlantic salmon of the year at the Bangor Salmon Pool. The fish weighed seven pounds and was taken at 6am. on May 7, 1982. As customary since 1912, the first fresh run Atlantic salmon from the Penobscot River was presented as the Presidential Salmon to President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan and delivered by LeRoy Hutchings to Washington, D.C.

LeRoy was a member of many Atlantic Salmon Federations and spent many hours fly-fishing on Penobscot and Canadian rivers. He enjoyed deer and moose hunting trips with family and



March 20, 1934 – January 30, 2015

friends. He was an expert marksman. As a Maine historian he knew the history of many small Maine towns during the 1900's. LeRoy was the first president of the Eddington Salmon Club Inc. 1982. Eddington citizens appreciate LeRoy's knowledge and dedication to preserve the Atlantic salmon fly-fishing on the Penobscot River in the 1980's and 1990's.

Thank-you Beth for sharing some of your 57 years with LeRoy. LeRoy made many lasting contributions to life in Eddington and leaves a family legacy to inspire us all.

Beth Hutchings and their daughter Joanie continue to own and operate the Hutchings Greenhouse on Rt. 178 in Eddington. Stop by for your spring plantings.

More information about the Eddington Salmon Club has been contributed by Don Decker.



EARLY YEARS OF EDDINGTON SALMON CLUB

By Don Decker

In 1912 there existed at Eddington Bend a small settlement that included a lath mill, the Perkins Blacksmith Shop, W.T. Warren General Store with Post Office and ice house, a cemetery, the town hall and a church. At this time, the horse and buggy road went from the monument area back along the Penobscot River to where the Methodist Church is now. This road nearest the river was called "River Road." In the winter big blocks of ice were cut in the river and in the spring the log-drives to the mills in Bangor were the way-of-life. Half way along this section of the River Road was Ephriam Gordon's house. He was a Civil War veteran from Massachusetts. This building was a small L-shaped farm house with a barn that was about fifteen feet from the River Road. The road was about two horse buggies wide and up a steep bank only twenty feet from the slow moving Penobscot River. This section of the river was a long pond created by the Bangor Dam. After the 1976 breach in the Bangor Dam, the Penobscot River is now faster moving and lower. In the early twenties the River Road was discontinued and took the present day form of Route 9 and 178 intersection.

The Eddington Salmon Club acquired their property from Evelyn Pearson and her son, Robert in September 1984. The building was built around 1848 on land that was then called the "tan yard with tan pits". A list of the principle owners from 1848 to present was derived from the Penobscot County Registry of Deeds by Peter Libhart, a salmon club member. This list was printed in the Eddington Historical Society Spring of 1989 newsletter. In 1985 the club removed the garage

and added facilities for the public: parking area, toilet facility, picnic area, and river access. As the interest in Atlantic salmon fishing increased, the club membership increased over the years from 150 in 1982 to 450 in 1988. For the first three years the club used the Eddington School for its six yearly meetings. As the membership grew, the existing clubroom in the farm house outgrew the safe and convenient capacity of 40 to sometimes 80 members for a meeting. The general wetness of the "Bend" area made the basement area and underpinning a difficult situation to keep up with, along with unneeded building space. The members needed more parking space, larger and better located kitchen and bathrooms. The Eddington Salmon Club decided in the spring of 1988 to start raising funds in order to remove the existing building and replace it with a conventional building on a full foundation.

There will be more updated information on the Eddington Salmon Club in our spring newsletter.



MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION

The 2020 Eddington, Maine Spirit of America Foundation Tribute honors ALICE "LOU" HIGGINS for commendable community service.

A resolution by the Selectmen of the Town of Eddington reads as follows:

Whereas, Lou has dedicated 20 years as the Treasurer for the Eddington Historical Society along with being a life-time member.

Whereas, Lou has been a devoted volunteer for the East Eddington Community Church, former Choir Member, Sunday School Teacher, Ladies Aid Member, Vacation Bible School Teacher.

Whereas, Lou has shared her many talents as a crafter, cook and organizer for many fundraisers.

Whereas, Lou was a PTA volunteer, room mother and

helped the nurse give vaccines during her children's elementary school years.

Whereas, Lou was active in the East Eddington Grange #301 and filled many Grange offices, entered cooking and sewing contests and participated in skits and was awarded the Maine State Grange Young Couple of the Year in 1970.

Whereas, Lou was in the Patriotic Drill Team, organized Historical Exhibits and other festivities in her 1800's period clothing for Eddington's Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Whereas, Lou helped raise money and collected and arranged the historical exhibits during Eddington's Bicentennial Celebration in 2011.

Whereas, Lou is a member and had various office positions in the Penobscot County Extension.

Whereas, Lou is still very active in the East Eddington Extension group, which is the only Penobscot County Extension group.

Be it Resolved by the Eddington Selectmen that Alice "Lou" Higgins is hereby recognized for her exemplary citizenship and outstanding achievements and honors brought upon this community, with the 2020 Eddington Spirit of America Foundation Tribute.

Selectmen: Mark Carreira, David McCluskey, Ray Wood, Pam Chapman, Deana Doughty

Town Office Staff:
Shawna Hinkley, Denise Knowles and Theresa Clair

*On Lou's 90th Birthday,
July 22, 2020*



Son Tim, Lou Higgins, Daughter Deborah



DECEMBER 19, 2020

A Big Thank You to:

Servicemen who participated in the Ceremony:

Richard Tuck
Michael Dougherty
Samantha Maquillan
Jason Willard
Scott Baillargeon
Donald MacKenzie
Jim Goodness

Danny Davis,
Penobscot County Sheriff

Tyler Clark,
Eddington Fire Department

David Johnson,
MC for Ceremony

Herbert Hopkins,
Played Taps

Don Cosgrove,
Marine Color Guard contact

Louie Dougherty for picking up the Wreaths, and building new Wreath Stands for the Ceremony at the Eddington Veteran's Monument. Margaret MacDonald Joyal, Margaret Dougherty and Denise Knowles for decorating the wreaths with the stars and flags for placement at each cemetery. Jim Goodness, Louie Dougherty and a Patriotic couple for placing the decorated wreaths on the stands at each cemetery.

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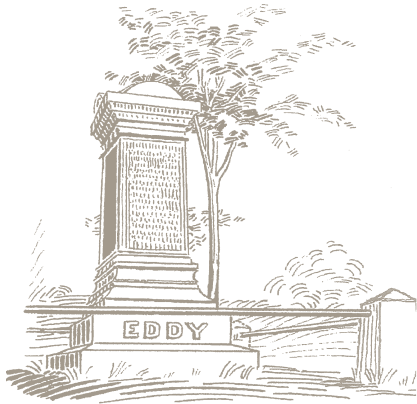
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