

## John Dearborn Knowlton Will Celebrate 100th Birthday Today



John D. Knowlton and great-granddaughter, Betty Thurston.

Today Camden's oldest resident can look back on a full century of living, perhaps the most crowded and significant one hundred years in the history of the world John D. Knowlton plans to spend the day quietly at home, 34 Union Street, celebrating the occasion with his daughter, Mrs. Mary K. Thurston.

Mr. Knowlton was born in Liberty, Maine, on August 9, 1851, ten years before the outbreak of the Civil War. His family moved to Camden when he was three years old and he has been a resident of the town since that time. He attended school in Camden and later graduated from Norridgewock Academy.

He was for fifty years a member of the firm of Knowlton Bros., manufacturers of ships' windlasses, blocks, capstans, pumps, and other ship fittings, as well as quarry machinery of all kinds. Associated with him were his three brothers, A. J. Q. Knowlton, E. Frank Knowlton, and Willis D. Knowlton. The firm was established in 1853, and Mr. John Knowlton retired from his work there in 1926. This company furnished fittings for all ships built in this area during the First World War. They also manufactured the blocks for the Thomas W. Lawson, the only seven masted vessel ever built. (Present day seamen may be interested to know that the seven masts were named as follows—fore, main, mizzen, jigger, driver, pusher and spanker.)

Mr. Knowlton's grandfather came from Boston by horseback over footpath and trail to settle in Liberty, Maine (at that time a part of Massachusetts). His father, David Knowlton, was the inventor of a number of patents on ship's windlasses and capstans, and founded the firm of D. Knowlton and Co., situated by the Megunticook River, near the intersection of Mechanic and Knowlton Streets. The company at that time manufactured passenger and freight railroad cars as well as various kinds of ship fittings and hardware, including "Iron Pullies from 6 inches to 9 feet in diameter." The railroad cars, according to report, were completely finished in Camden and moved to the railroad lines in Rockland by twenty-eight yoke of oxen.

Among other memories which contrast vividly with life in Camden today, Mr. Knowlton likes to recall the time when, as a member of the town fire department, he used to run to answer an alarm, pulling a two wheel hose cart and hand pump.

Mr. Knowlton's chief hobby has always been farming and he has raised many fine vegetable gardens. He has been holder of the Boston Post gold-headed cane (badge of the

oldest inhabitant) since the death of Roscoe Metcalf, the previous holder, five years ago.

The Camden Herald extends congratulations to Mr. Knowlton on his one hundredth birthday (and this reporter extends his own best wishes to ye editor—not quite one hundred—whose birthday comes today, also.)

## Plaque Dedicated Sunday At Laite Memorial Beach

A group of more than 150 friends and relatives gathered Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock p.m., at the Public Beach, to participate in a service dedicating a bronze plaque and boulder which bear the following inscription:

"This plaque erected by friends in memory of Gilbert C. Laite whose untiring efforts made this beach attractive and useful."

It was a simple but moving ceremony as various former associates of Mr. Laite spoke feelingly of their relationships with him and of his contribution toward development of the beach.

Speaking for the Bay View Neighborhood Association, Adin Hopkins reminisced about the sad condition of the beach at the time of Gilbert's arrival in Camden, and how he had worked with the people of that neighborhood in their efforts to reclaim it.

Clarence Thomas spoke for the Vestry of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, stressing Mr. Laite's contribution to both the church and the town, and Bill Kelley of the Lions Club, read a testimonial which had inserted in the Camden Herald at the time of Gilbert's death.

Former Town Manager Percy Keller related how he had been approached concerning the improvement of the beach when he first took office in 1932. The Rev. Ralph Hayden, then rector of St. Thomas', told him of a \$25,000 fund which had been raised to clean up the beach and the land above it. On first surveying the beach, Mr. Keller was somewhat discouraged, since at that time it was being used as a dump and the adjoining land was overgrown with weeds and bushes. A Beach Committee was then formed on which several citizens served, but Percy gave chief credit to Gilbert Laite for restoration and improvement of the beach.

The Rev. Melvin Dorr presided at the service and delivered the dedication speech emphasizing vividly the fitness of such a memorial. At the close of his speech the plaque was unveiled by Gilbert's two youngest sons, Keryn and Vance.

Following the singing of "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds," a brief prayer was offered by the Rev. Haig Nargesian. First to view the plaque were some fifteen of Mr. Laite's family. Those present were his widow, Dorothy; his four sons, Gilbert, Jr., Parker, Keryn, and Vance; his mother, Mrs. Emily Laite; his sister's family, Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Pray and their daughter Beverly; a second sister, Mrs. Keith Walton; Dorothy Laite's sister, Mrs. Osborne Wade, Jr., with her two children, Martha and Dennis; her father, Parker R. Stone; her brother, Nathaniel Stone; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Laite and daughter Emily; and Karen Hein.

One hundred and twelve of those attending the ceremony remained at the beach for the annual picnic of the Bay View Neighborhood Association held each year on the first Sunday in August in celebration of Gilbert's birthday, August 6.

## Senator Robert Taft to Visit Rockland Aug. 22

Republican members of the Maine Legislature will be on hand to welcome Senator Robert A. Taft on his visit to Rockland on August 22, Robert L. Jones, executive director of the Maine Republican Jamboree, announced recently. The legislators, together with members of the Republican State Committee, the Maine Young Republican Council, and the Maine Federation of Republican Women will be part of the reception group of 600 who will honor Taft on his Maine visit.

The Jamboree, first of the kind sponsored by Maine Republicans, is expected to attract nearly 7000 Republicans and friends throughout the State. Festivities will open with meetings of the various Republican committees followed by a reception for Senator Taft at the Hotel Rockland in the morning. At noon, a mammoth Maine Shore Dinner will be served outdoors in the famous Rockland Lobster Bowl to the assembly on the seashore. Following the dinner, Senator Taft will speak to the group on United States domestic and foreign policy. Senator Taft will be accompanied to Maine by Senator Owen Brewster.

Carl M. Stilphen and Mrs. F. Evelyn Cates, both of Rockland, and members of the Republican State Committee are in charge of arrangements for the Jamboree. Invitations have been extended to all Maine Republicans by Republican Chairman Ralph C. Masterman of Bar Harbor, and Young Republican Chairman David C. Nichols of Lincolnville.

## Red Cross Appeals For Disaster Funds

The Knox County Red Cross Disaster Fund Appeal has been doubled under national headquarters requests received at Rockland this week, with a quota set at \$1,800.

Executive secretary Isaac L. Hammond said no house to house canvass would be made but the fund would depend on public appeal with donations going to County Red Cross Chapter Headquarters, 447 Main Street, Rockland.

Hammond said that E. Roland Harriman in his letter to the chapters pointed out that the doubling of the quota was necessary to meet responsibilities to affected families in the flood areas of the mid-west.

More than 26,600 families in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Illinois were made homeless or put in desperate need and Red Cross expenditures for relief purposes have doubled since the \$5 million Disaster Fund appeal was launched. It was imperative, he said, that all chapters not having sufficient available funds must intensify efforts in the appeal.

Hammond said the letter showed that in the five year period of 1946-51 the Red Cross had budgeted \$4 million annually but had expended \$7 million on disaster and must continue to retain a \$7 million disaster contingency fund. This fund is used to meet emergency needs in major disaster and to supplement annual cost of disasters in excess of the current years' budget.

## "Kaisa" Wins Fifth in Rockport Boat Races

The fifth of the eight race series sponsored by the Rockport Boat Club was won on Monday by Kaisa, skippered by Alice Lane Spencer Apollonio was at the headsails and centerboard. Finishing in close order, Sani Wolf's Hopalong and John Wolf's Dry Fly followed for a second and third place. The course, from the harbor around Porterfield Ledge beacon, to the Dodge marker and return was completed in the average time of 1 hour, 46 minutes. The Penobscot Rainbows got off to a windward start in fluky air but soon settled to the sou'wester outside the harbor and carried a ten knot breeze around the course.

Alice Lane, Kaisa, and Sani Wolf, Hopalong, are now tied for first place in the series. The next race for the cup, to be on display at the Boat Club's quarters soon, will be held on Monday, the 13th, at 2.30 p.m., breeze permitting. Later in the week the fleet will again sail to Camden to meet the Camden Yacht Club juniors in an informal match race.

Love is like a baseball game—while one man is out, another is making a hit.

## Wendall S. Hadlock To Address Camden Historical Society



WENDELL S. HADLOCK

Wendell S. Hadlock, Director of the Farnsworth Museum at Rockland, will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Camden Historical Society Wednesday evening at the St. Thomas Parish House, David A. Nichols, the society's president has announced.

"Penobscot Bay—Champlain to Bernard (1604-1775)" will be the subject of the address. A native of Islesford, Hadlock served as Curator of the Robert Abbe Museum on Mt. Desert Island, and later became Administrative Assistant at the Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass. He left the latter position to accept the Rockland appointment last winter. A cordial invitation is extended to the public to hear him Wednesday night on the occasion of his first Camden address.

John L. Tewksbury, Custodian of the Camden Historical Society, will present his annual report at this meeting, and the past year's progress will be reported by Secretary Evelyn M. Tewksbury and Treasurer Helen M. Dougherty.

## Chester Pooleys Observe Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Pooley, Sr., celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary Tuesday evening, at their home on Sea Street. The party was arranged by their daughter, Mrs. Johnson Talbot, Jr., who also made the wedding cake.

Betty Jane Wasgatt served the cake after Mrs. Pooley had cut the first slice, and other refreshments were served by Mrs. Walter Whittier, Jr. and Mrs. Keith Wasgatt. Mrs. Walter Whittier, Sr., presided at the punch bowl. Mrs. Herbert Crockett was in charge of the guest book.

The couple were presented with a chest of silver by the immediate family and many gifts and cards from friends. Guests who attended were: Miss Katherine Hamilton of Brunswick; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carver, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Crockett and son Charlie of Rockport; Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Talbot, Jr., and son Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Harding, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Talbot, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Pooley, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Walter D. Whittier, and son Timmy, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Whittier, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Wasgatt and Betty Jane Wasgatt.

## Rockport Has Craftsmen's Exhibit



Drawing large attendance to date, the Maine Craftsmen's Exhibit and Sale opened at Hoboken School House in Rockport Monday, and will continue through Saturday of this week. Above, Viola Spear of Rockport, is seen with her exhibit of dolls. Mrs. Spear, a comparatively new member of the craftsmen's group, has been making dolls for seven years.

## Curtis Flower Day Aids Handicapped Children Over \$200

Curtis Flower Day, held Monday, August 6th in honor of Mrs. Mary Curtis Zimbalist's birthday, also aided the Handicapped Children's Educational Fund by over two hundred dollars.

Every Rockport merchant and business house observed Curtis Flower Day by displaying bouquets of mixed flowers in their windows, on counters or desks.

In Camden, about two thirds of the stores and business houses observed the day with floral decorations. In Rockport, Girl Scouts handed flowers to people they met, and in Camden a group of young volunteers did the same. Flowers thus received were worn in honor of the birthday of Mrs. Zimbalist, who has contributed to so many causes and completed so many worthwhile projects of beautification in both towns.

As a result of contributions from many of those who accepted flowers, two hundred and thirty dollars was raised to be added to the educational fund for the handicapped children in both towns.

The Flower Girls in Camden were Betty Wasgatt, Mary Huntley, Greta Norveck, Sylvia Whitney, Elaine Hoffses, Mary Ames, Mary Perkins, Sally Crockett, Nancy Harmon, Rachel Dougherty, Betty Galanti and Theresa Nucchio.

Rockport Girl Scouts who helped as Flower Girls were Sandal Erickson, Lorraine Gagne, Joan Norwood, Dorothy Ogier, Carol Cash, Cyrene Andrews, Barbara Wood, Helen Pierce, Judy Rhodes, Helen Leland, Shirlene Heath, Arlene Heath, Jean Frye, Topsy Frye, Mary Lovejoy, Carol Ladd and Patricia Upham.

## "United Charities" Have Many Appeals to Meet

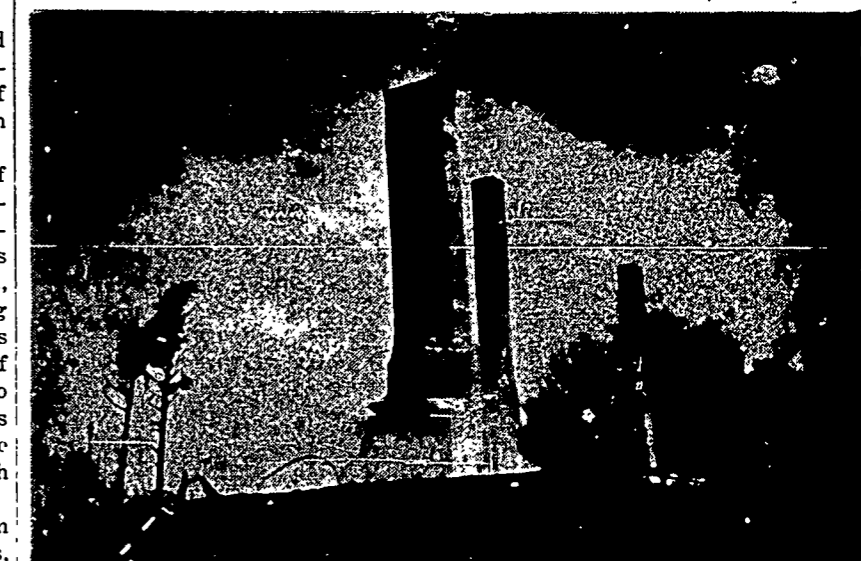
The United Camden-Rockport Charities at a recent meeting voted provisionally to contribute \$500 to assist in the establishment of the new Rockport Recreation Park, believing it to be a project warranting its support. The donation, however, was made with the definite condition that contributions by the summer colony to this year's annual drive would be sufficient to cover the donation.

The United Charities already contributes generously to the support of community institutions, the services of which are available to the citizens of Rockport, such as the Camden Community Hospital, the District Nursing Association, the Home for Aged Women and others. For several years the United Camden-Rockport Charities has contributed to the Rockport Boy Scouts, giving \$125 annually for the last two years. This year, however, the United Charities has received more than usually heavy demands, including requests for assistance to new projects such as the Rockport Recreation Park and the proposed class for handicapped children, and it will not be known until the close of the drive this autumn whether there will be enough money to help such new enterprises. Ambrose Cramer, a director of the Camden-Rockport United Charities, sponsored the Rockport appeal.

Deft-nition: Self-made man — a horrible example of unskilled labor.

## LANDHAVEN SCHOOL RAZED BY FIRE SAT.

### Adjoining Building Damaged; Cause of Blaze Not Known; Outside Firemen Called



(Photo by Moore)

RUINS OF "LANDHAVEN"  
The main building of the former Landhaven School, unoccupied since the school's European trip in February of 1950, was completely destroyed by fire Saturday afternoon.

Fire was detected in the thirty-room wooden frame structure (built originally by Justus Strawbridge of Philadelphia, and purchased later by Thomas J. Watson, President of the International Business Machines Co.) by Mrs. George Tilley of Melvin Heights, shortly before one o'clock. Mrs. Tilley, with her son Dicky, was on her way home and was alarmed by the smoke, which she first feared might be coming from her own home.

When it became apparent that the Tilley farm was not afire, Mrs. Tilley drove on to the school to find one section of the building ablaze. She hurried to report the fire to Roy McMichael Millen, former director of Landhaven, who has been living in the garage apartment this summer, and to caretaker Robert Packard, who was in the same building.

While they ran to inspect the blaze, Mrs. Tilley returned home to call the Camden Fire Department. According to Chief Payson, the alarm was received at 1:10 p.m. A second call was sent by Millen from his own phone some minutes later.

By this time the fire was well under way and the flames spread rapidly in the fresh northwest wind. When the first Camden fire truck arrived at approximately 1:25 the building was virtually inaccessible because of the intense heat. All available town equipment was immediately summoned as well as fire trucks from Rockport and Lincolnville. Meanwhile, in accordance with the mutual aid system now in effect, apparatus from Rockland came to stand by in the Camden Fire House.

Most difficult problem for the firefighters was that of water to supplement the 500 gallon load carried in the trucks. The school's artesian well was useless without electric power and the nearest source of supply in any quantity were springs owned by the Chase-Lee families and nearly a mile and a quarter distant from the blaze. Additional complication was the difference in altitude—approximately 200 feet, according to Chief Payson.

To raise sufficient pressure to make the spring water available at the fire required the use of three booster pumps and by the time this complicated set-up was completed, it was evident that the school was doomed.

This reporter arrived on the scene at approximately ten minutes of two, at which time the building was one solid sheet of flame. Hundreds of townspeople had gathered to view the awesome spectacle. Embers from the blaze were being carried more than three hundred yards by the wind and firemen were devoting their chief efforts toward preventing spread of the fire.

Potential woods fires were extinguished by stirrup pump in scores of places. An adjacent building of the school (the former William Justice Lee house) was in danger for some time. Shingles on the roof caught from the flying embers and dry leaves under the building blazed up to start fires within the partitions which gave the firemen considerable trouble. An old carriage house, still further away, began to smoulder and blaze in at least three places.

Speculation as to the cause of a fire is a favorite indoor sport in any community. No official explanation of the Landhaven fire has been offered to date, but most of the ama-

(Continued on page 4)

# Your Banker...

Designed for convenience! Take advantage of our bank-by-mail plan, or safety deposit box rentals. Whatever your needs, we are here to serve you!

# Your Friend

## Camden National Bank

CAMDEN, MAINE

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT CORPORATION



PLAQUE DEDICATED SUNDAY

(Photo by Cross)