

# In loving memory of Mary D. Brewer, Editor Emerita



Robert Mitchell Photography

## One of Our Own

### Honored again

New England Press Hall of Fame inducts Mary Brewer

**By KEVIN BURNHAM, Editor**  
We broke the news to her over the telephone and she still thinks we're "all crazy" here at the newspaper.

Mary Brewer, who retired last January after 50-plus years as reporter, editor and managing editor of the Boothbay Register, was recently informed she will pick up another prestigious honor. She will be inducted into the New England Newspaper and Press Association Hall of Fame February 8 in Boston during NENPA's annual winter convention.

Brewer, who was inducted into the Maine Press Association Hall of Fame in October 2012, will be one of six new members of the NENPA (formerly New England Press Association) Hall of Fame. Joining her will be Peter J. Caruso Sr., a media attorney; Thomas Heslin, Providence (R.I.) Journal; Morgan McGinley, The Day (New London, Conn.); Mary Pat Rowland, Foster's Daily Democrat (N.H.); and the late Peter Watson, Gloucester (Mass.) Daily Times.

On its website, NENPA writes the following about its Hall of Fame:



"NENPA maintains a special place for newspaper professionals whose talent, hard work and exceptional accomplishments provide inspiration to all New England Journalists. More than 100 individuals have been singled out over the past 50 years as industry heroes that everyone who works at a newspaper can look up to while admiring their remarkable careers."

Alan Baker, publisher of the Ellsworth American and Mount Desert Islander, and a fellow member

of the Maine and New England Press Halls of Fame, said, "That Mary Brewer has been elected to the NENPA Hall of Fame is good news indeed. Mary's reputation as a forceful champion of community newspapers is legendary throughout New England."

"A regular participant at our annual convention in Boston, her experience as a reporter and editor were welcome additions to seminar discussions. And, of course, Mary and her associates in Boothbay Harbor and Wiscasset earned a plethora of NENPA awards every year for outstanding journalism. Congratulations, Mary, for this well-deserved career recognition."

Brewer and Baker are two of only nine Maine newspaper people in the NENPA Hall of Fame. Others include James Russell Wiggins, The Ellsworth American, Samuel Roberts, Lincoln County News, Raymond Gross, Courier-Gazette (Rockland), Winnifred B. French, The Quoddy Tides (Eastport), Paul Dietterle Jr., Sanford News, Alexander Bacon Brook and Robert Bissonnette, both of the York County Coast Star.





**MARY DODGE BREWER** receives a hug from Brenda Blackman after receiving the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club's Lifetime Service Award on April 16.  
KEVIN BURNHAM/Boothbay Register



**LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD** recipient Mary Dodge Brewer, center, listens while award committee member Brenda Blackman reads the award during the presentation. At right is club president Dwight Swisher.  
KEVIN BURNHAM/Boothbay Register



**TONY KRASON**, long-time friend and original co-committee member of the Boothbay Charities Classic with Mary Dodge Brewer, stops to give Mary a hug before the Lifetime Service Award presentation.  
KEVIN BURNHAM/Boothbay Register

## Mary Dodge Brewer given Rotary's Lifetime Service Award

By KEVIN BURNHAM, Editor  
Mary was given the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club's Lifetime Service Award in 2015. Here is the report on that presentation.

Mary Dodge Brewer, a name forever connected with this newspaper where she worked as a reporter, editor and managing editor for 50-plus years before retiring in 2012, was totally surprised when the Rotary Club gave her its 2015 Lifetime Service Award on Thursday, April 16.

As her daughter, Sarah Morley, said during the award presentation, "If she knew she was getting this award, she wouldn't have shown up. But if she knew that one of her grandchildren was being honored, she would have run out of her burning home just to be there."

That was the ploy used to get Mary to the club. Hannah Morley, Sarah and Andrew's daughter, is a member of the Rotary's Interact club. Mary was told Hannah was being honored that night. Mary found out about the ploy when Rotarian and award committee member Brenda Blackman began pinning a red carnation on her

jacket about 15 minutes before the presentation started.

"It's all about Mary Brewer being honored," said Brenda, as Mary looked a bit dumbfounded, thinking it Hannah's special night.

While everyone was waiting for the ceremony to begin, long-time friends and acquaintances congratulated her, including former Lifetime Service Award recipients Harry Pinkham, George McEvoy, Al Roberts and Estelle Appel, and Joan Rittall, wife of the late Chetley Rittall, who received the award in 2005.

Hard work and dedication to the newspaper, her family and the community seemed to be the theme of the evening as the history of her life was read by Blackman and several people spoke about her before the plaque presentation.

"Her high school years were loaded with activities. In fact, it would be easier to list what she wasn't involved in," said Blackman. "A few highlights would include band, orchestra, drama club, student council, varsity basketball, senior play, Log staff, class president and recipient of

the DAR Citizenship Award.

"Her ambition was to graduate from college and become a successful journalist. We can all agree she reached that goal in spades," said Blackman. Brewer studied journalism at the University of Maine and took classes at the Katherine Gibbs School in Boston before taking a job at the Boothbay Register. Her career culminated with her being inducted into the Maine Press Association Hall of Fame and the New England Press and Newspaper Association Hall of Fame.

Her community involvement has included working with the Boothbay Civic Association, the Boothbay Region Alumni Association, Special Olympics of Maine, East Boothbay Methodist Church, the Boothbay Region Student Aid Fund, the Fishermen's Memorial Fund and several other organizations.

Her dedication to her family was outlined in the talks given by Sarah and Hannah. Sarah told a funny story about their trip to Story Land in New Hampshire. Hannah's story about their trip to a zoo got the

crowd laughing.

"I am very proud of my mom. She is very deserving of this award," said Sarah.

"Not only has she attended all of my and my brother Nicolas' sporting events, she is there to support us in every way, including helping to edit my essays," said Hannah.

Al Roberts thanked Mary for helping to get the Boothbay Region Alumni-Community Band started back in the late 1980s. Estelle Appel said she had "wished Mary had done a lot of dumb and stupid things in her life so I could mention them here, but she hasn't." Rotarian Bob Jacobson thanked Mary for a personal moment in his life involving his late sister. Rotarian Bruce Tindal told a funny story about Mary's note-taking style: "She was writing notes everywhere she could on a tiny sheet of paper while I was talking. I thought 'Oh boy, this story is going to be all wrong,' but when it came out in the paper, she had everything right." Tony Krason spoke highly of Mary's and her husband Thurlow "Butch" Brewer's dedication and in-

volvement with the Boothbay Charities Classic over several years. And Joel Morley, Andrew's dad, said he was very proud to share the grandparenting duties with Mary and Butch Brewer.

This reporter thanked Mary for having confidence in him and how he learned to deal with people through her. He also read and presented a congratulatory letter to Mary from long-time friend, Sen. Susan Collins.

After Club President Dwight Swisher and Blackman presented the award and plaque, Brewer told the gathering of about 50 people that she felt undeserving of the award.

"When you work in the community you live in and that you love, it's not like work at all," she said. She talked about her correspondence with Mary Tyler Moore over the "unethical" treatment of lobster, her dealings with the American Nazi party and George Lincoln Rockwell and her letters from God, who lived in Ohio.

"Thank you very much," said Mary to the club of her award.



**MARY DODGE BREWER** thanks the Rotary Club for the Lifetime Service Award.  
KEVIN BURNHAM/Boothbay Register

## Mary Brewer inducted into Maine Press Association Hall of Fame

The following is the speech written and delivered by editor Kevin Burnham during the 2012 Maine Press Association Hall of Fame induction ceremony for Mary Brewer.

Welcome everyone and thank you for the opportunity to introduce a friend - Mary Dodge Brewer, one of two new inductees into the Maine Press Association's Hall of Fame.

Do you believe in karma? Well I certainly do.

True story:  
Nearly 55 years ago, on the front page of the Dec. 26, 1957 issue of the Boothbay Register, there appeared only two photos. One was of a beautiful baby boy, approximately 13 months old, with one curl on top his head. Wrapped around his diapered torso was a banner wishing everyone a Happy New Year, 1958. The other photo, located at the bottom of the page - above the five ads - was of a ceremony at a local church. Pictured were three teenagers making a donation to the church and two ministers. One of those three teens had many more curls on her head - as compared to my one - and she had on a lot more clothing. If you haven't guessed already - yours truly and Mary Brewer were meant to be together.

Together we were for the past 25 years. Spending our greatest hours together cranking out the news.

She had a 25-year head start on me in that department - however, she quickly taught me what a community newspaper was all about.

Growing up only a good Frisbee throw - in a stiff wind - from the

Register's office, I would often stop by to watch the presses run and talk to the pressmen or the publisher, Roy Kelly. I remember Mary running to and fro, getting the next paper out.

I remember her working along the sidelines at my high school football games, taking Polaroid photos and taking notes. She would stuff the photos into her purse and run off after the game, probably back to the office to get them ready for the next issue.

I ended up going to the same college she attended - the University of Maine - and we often shared stories about our journalism advisor - the one and only Brooks Hamilton.

I asked Mary about an internship at the Register during my college years, but they were full up with staff... which I kind of understood because news gathering in the Boothbay region in the late '70s was not done the way it is now. Plus the newspaper's ownership was in transition at that time.

In the late 80s, after years earning lots more money bartending, I took a pay cut and got what I had always wanted - a newspaper reporter's job, and it was at my hometown newspaper.

It didn't take me long to figure out how important Mary's job was. She ran the ship. After working under three male publishers, however, Mary was now working for a female publisher, Marylouise Cowan, who, admittedly, didn't know a lot about running the newspaper business - only that her husband, Howard Cowan, had been a longtime newspaper man and Mr. Cowan had purchased



the Register from Dan DeRepentigny a few years before his death.

The male-dominated profession kind of worked its way into how Mary got the editor's job back in 1962. Mary had worked three years as an assistant editor for three summers and when the editor at the time, Richard Booker, resigned, publisher Roy Kelly asked her to fill in for him until she, Mary, either found a job, or he found a new editor. She re-

members Mr. Kelly telling her that it would only be a temporary position since it really wasn't a job for a girl! During that winter, Mr. Kelly took the word "interim" from in front of her title and the rest is history.

That girl went on to become the president of the Maine Press Association and the Maine Journalist of the Year in the mid-80s. She developed a good working relationship with Sam Roberts of the Lincoln County News

where we had our newspaper printed after our press shut down, and later with the Niven family of the Times Record, where we still have our paper printed. She remained involved with the MPA for many years, building friendships with other weekly newspapers, its publishers, editors and reporters.

In the Boothbay Harbor Region, she is well-respected for her knowledge and community spirit. Having

a fisherman for a husband, she spent many years touting the importance of having a strong fishing presence in the region, a true working waterfront and battling the bureaucracy behind new laws and regulations. She and her husband, Butch, and now her daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Andrew, were very active in starting and keeping the annual Fishermen's Festival alive in the region.

Mary really cares about the Boothbay region. She realizes how important our tourism dollars mean to our neighbors and friends. Our award-winning Summertime supplement - advertising our businesses and beautiful area, grew under her leadership, from an in-paper pullout to an 84-page thing of beauty. She and the newspaper helped promote the Chamber's annual Windjammer Days festival, which celebrated its 50th year this June. In fact, Mary was the Chamber's first choice to be the Grand Marshal of this year's street parade, but she said she wouldn't do it - finally, only if other people were asked to join her. The Chamber eventually picked five people, including Mary, to represent the five decades of the event.

Joe Gelarden, who took over for Mary as executive managing editor, reminded me about how much she cared for the newspaper. When Mrs. Cowan died in 2009 and it was unclear who was going to take over the helm... and the economic downturn in 2008 hit everyone hard, Mary would bring our returnables to the redemption center and bring the money back to our business manager. Is that

caring or what? She kept us afloat. She always pitched in whenever someone was out sick or had an appointment, and despite battling, tooth and nail - she succumbed to having the Register and Wiscasset Newspaper paginated after 130-plus years of being laid out by hand.

She was our leader, but one of her biggest attributes as a manager was letting us be part of the success of the paper. She never squelched our creativity or ideas. I think that's why so many employees stayed on for 25-plus years, some even stayed 30 or 35 - and David McKown - who ran the original presses in the basement - even came back after quitting and is still at the paper after nearly 40 years.

Mary eventually also took on the responsibility of overseeing the Wiscasset Newspaper, which publisher Dan DeRepentigny started in 1970. Despite its many staff changes, our sister paper is still going strong, thanks to her leadership.

Her career has spanned from hippies to http, from hot lead to hashtags, from datelines to downloads, from the Wiscasset bypass to... we're still waiting for the end of that story; from Maine Yankee to more than 2,700 issues of the Boothbay Register. Dozens of supplements, a Register history book and many more accomplishments.

Not many in this room can lay claim to those kinds of journalism credentials. So it gives me great privilege to introduce my co-worker, my friend, your newest member of the Maine Press Hall of Fame, Mary Brewer.



From the Editor

Mary

By KEVIN BURNHAM, Editor



Cha-chunk, cha-chunk, cha-chunk went the sound of the printing press in the basement of the Register office at the corner of Union Street and Townsend Avenue. That's how long ago I met Mary Brewer. She was downstairs with pressman Frank Chamberlain and publisher Roy Kelly putting the latest edition together on the Linotype machine.

I was a kid living in the neighborhood and dropped by once in a while to watch how they put my hometown weekly newspaper together during the early '60s. Mary and Roy would also load the bundles of freshly printed newspaper into a vehicle for distribution throughout the town.

I knew her stepdad, Frank Dodge, as he was a bus driver and janitor in the Boothbay Harbor Grammar School. And I watched her stepbrother, Munro, perform on the basketball court and baseball field in high school. But I didn't get to know Mary well until after college, but I did know about her daughter, Sarah, as an outstanding gymnast. I did frequently see Mary taking photos at our football games, taking notes on small scraps of paper, and rushing off to her next "assignment."

I came looking for a writing job at the Register during one of my summers in the late '70s while still studying journalism at the University of Maine. She kindly turned me

down as there were no openings. Fast forward to 1987. I was married, we had one child and were planning on another. Mary knew about my journalism studies and sought me out one late winter/early spring day to write some articles for the paper's "new" Summertime supplement, a 10- or 12-page tabloid-size paper with special articles about the summer scene.

The hook was now set and for the next 25 years, Mary and I spent several hours a week together in the place we both called our "home away from home."

Marylouise Cowan had taken over as publisher about a year before I came on board after her husband, Howard, died. Mary and Marylouise were a great pair to look up to during my budding career. Both were busy as all get out but always took the time for getting to know me and making the newspaper the best it could be.

Mary was a great boss. She ran the paper for Marylouise as managing editor and guided me well in my years as editor. She cared so much about the region, the people, the newspaper and the industry. She wasn't shy about expressing her opinion well through her editorials. She listened when people came to her office to talk about issues. She dealt with many different personalities who worked at the newspaper

with kid gloves, always maintaining peace when deadline tempers flared (which thankfully didn't happen too often). She was a former Maine Press Association Journalist of the Year and was named to the MPA Hall of Fame and the New England Press Hall of Fame after she retired in 2012. Deservedly so.

When she announced her retirement after 50-plus years of being at the newspaper, I felt a sense of unease because ever since I could remember, Mary Brewer was the Boothbay Register. But she left on her own terms and got to enjoy a few years watching her grandchildren, Hannah and Nicholas, blossom athletically, without having to worry about getting another paper out.

Mary and her husband, Butch, raised a wonderful daughter, Sarah, who eventually became one of our sales representatives. Sarah and I used to sit beside each other in the office and I would enjoy hearing her stories about her mother outside the office and I hope she enjoyed my stories about "my work mother" inside the office in my early years.

How do I end this? This is one thing I never wanted to write. Let's just say ... thank you Mary Brewer for giving this journalist a chance, for inspiring me and many others for a quarter of a century, and for memories everlasting. God bless you.



Robert Mitchell Photography

Mary, Mrs. Cowan and Rags

By Robert Mitchell

Mary and I would often bump into each other at the grocery store and briefly catch up. I think we both were a little self-conscious about meeting in the potato chip aisle so often. I saw her on Saturday in the dairy department heading for the meat cooler. We didn't say much.

We always kidded about stuff and laughed. God save us when we were in the same place with Mrs. Cowan and firecrackers!

Love you Mary B

Mary's Musings

Changing times

By MARY BREWER, Editor Emerita



The following Mary's Musings column followed the announcement that the Fishermen's Festival, a local event near and dear to her heart, had been discontinued.

It was with a heavy heart that I prepared the announcement in last week's issue that the annual Fishermen's Festival in Boothbay Harbor had come to an end after more than 40 years because of lack of participation by the fishermen themselves, and ongoing difficulty finding volunteers willing to head up the events.

We've been involved in the festival since its beginning, when a few contests were held at Jimmy Juliano's dock on the East Side, and have fond memories which will last a lifetime. How could one ever forget the swift hands of clam shucker Beatrice Quintal, of the fish filleting skills of Hazel Carter Kelly? Who would ever believe, unless they'd seen it, that Doug Carter could haul, bait and set a string of traps while towing a water skier in record time? And how many tall tales were shared, many of them based on true stories? Hundreds of participants have been involved in the many different events

over the years and they all have humorous remembrances.

Then, of course, there are the more sobering reminders of the fishing industry when commercial boat owners circled the harbor for the blessing of the fleet, sometimes only a few weeks after the loss of one of their fellow fishermen.

Editor Kevin Burnham's choice of a photo to run with the story of the festival's swan song was a good one - the late Charlie Begin emceeing one of the events. We'll all remember him as one of the movers and shakers of the festival, always ready to volunteer and a master at getting everyone else to agree to participate, even if they hadn't intended to do so. To us, he was a true spokesman for the industry itself - a hard worker, easy-going, and an ambassador for the town he so loved. He was the first one to offer complete strangers an opportunity to go lobstering with him. If someone needed help, he was quick to offer it.

Our fishing community has changed a great deal since the 1960s and 1970s. We've lost most of our shoreside processing plants and we no longer have a diverse fishing

fleet; it's almost exclusively lobstermen with only limited shrimping, ground fishing or scalloping. Dwindling stocks brought about the demise of both the fishermen and the processors. As we pulled together the announcement on the cancellation of the annual event, we felt that it was just another sign that Boothbay Harbor is, sadly, no longer a fishing community in many ways. Accepting this fact is equally as painful for us as saying goodbye to the festival. Time marches on.



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Doubled up paper bags from Finest grocery store, provided by then lobsterman Mr. Alley, had let go on my walk home and the lobstermen took off down Hiawatha Trail. The story wasn't particularly noteworthy but it was the beginning of my association with the paper and Mary B.

Over the years, Mary and I have crossed paths many times, mostly during Mrs. Cowan's term of office. We both had a lot of fun with Marylouise and could share stories until the cows come home. Mary B and Mrs. Cowan were very special friends.

Initially Mary was a summer intern at "The Register" while in high school. She wanted to write and

Mary B

By Robert Mitchell

Mary Brewer had been working at "The Register" office for over ten years when I sent a letter to the editor in 1975. My tale about picking up lobsters for Phyllis Washington at "Treasure Island" on Little River cleared the editorial staff in good shape with only the lightest touch from the punctuation department.

It was nice to visit Mary and Butch at home. Their grandchildren, Hannah and Nicholas, were in -- the aroma of chocolate chip cookies freshly baked got the pup's attention, and mine. The first time I visited Mary at home, there was a custom-made balance beam in the center of the living room for daughter Sarah's gymnastics practice. It was a Sonny Hodgdon model.

That was her best local chance. She studied journalism at the University of Maine for two years, then, anxious about lacking marketable skills, attended "Katie Gibbs" in Boston to learn typing and associated professional skills.

On her first official "assignment" for the paper Mary was wearing her best Katie Gibbs outfit as she climbed down a ladder at Boothbay Fish and Cold Storage to get a photo (Polaroid) of Stan Coffin's boat covered in massive ice after a day's fishing. High heels, straight skirt, blouse, gloves and hat. I imagine Stan took note.

That was a while ago.

Tribute to Mary Brewer

A superstar

By Joe Gelardan

Newspaper superstars cover presidents and kings. They uncover fraud, corruption, and folly as they tell the public about the deeds and misdeeds that affect the fabric of our lives.

You see them reporting the big stories and appearing on TV chat shows delivering insights behind the headlines to help us understand the events and personalities that touch our lives. But, for every one of them, there are hundreds of other newspaper superstars who work in dusty offices all over America to bring us the news from our towns, villages, and neighborhoods.

Superstars like Mary Dodge Brewer, the retired editor of the Boothbay Register and Wiscasset Newspaper who left us the other day.

In the days before social media elbowed its way into our psyche, Mary and her crew of reporters told us the

story of us. They told us of weddings, funerals, car crashes, fundraisers, school happenings, local government, politics, and hundreds of events happy and sad. As the editor, she directed the coverage and was the glue that held the paper, and its staff, together.

For years, Mary Dodge Brewer was not only the editor but also the counselor, mother hen and fount of knowledge of the Boothbay peninsula. After she retired, she continued to comment on local matters by penning a column in her favorite newspapers.

Her peers so admired her that they named her to Hall of Fame for both the Maine State Press Association and the New England Newspaper and Press Association.

She was a beloved editor, a trusted colleague and a good friend. She will be missed.

To Mary

from Kathy Frizzell

For as long as one can remember the name Mary Brewer has always been associated with the Boothbay community and the Boothbay Register. I knew who she was but hadn't really met her until twenty-five years ago when a friend of mine told me there was a job opening becoming available at the Boothbay Register. It was for an advertising sales rep position which I had no previous experience for. Nervous ... yes, to say the least. After meeting with Mary in her office, she asked

me a few questions and we talked a while. She was easy to talk to. It wasn't much of an interview though as there wasn't a lot on my resume ... actually there was no resume. Long story short, Mary took a chance and hired me, which I will forever be grateful for. I feel very fortunate to have known her, worked with her, called her my friend and to have been part of the Boothbay Register family with Mary at the helm for so many years. Love you Mary, thanks for everything.

My mentor Mary Brewer - Pat Schmid

This past weekend I was on a family trip - out in nature away from cell phone service and anything electronic. Arriving at work Monday morning, I learned of the loss of my - my - mentor, Mary Brewer.

How can this be? We ran into each other last week in the supermarket. Mary Brewer was my boss for a large chunk of my life - the job I've had since moving to Maine, starting our family, raising our kids - she's been part of that history. It's difficult to work as snapshots of those years and Mary are popping into my thoughts.

Almost 30 years ago, Mary Brewer hired me for the accounting/front office position that would soon be available. A few months into my new job, Dave McKown, a co-worker and Maine-native shared with me that, although I was a "PFA" (person from away), he had counseled Mary urging her to hire me since I was the only applicant who wore a skirt to the job interview. Little did Mary know that, by hiring me, she would spend about the next 10 years (or was it more) trying to convince this Jersey girl that the New York tri-state way of approaching things doesn't generally work too well here in Maine.

A few years into the job, I told Mary that Matt and I were expecting a baby. A look of concern was on Mary's face as she asked me the first of two questions. "How will this affect your job?" and then grinning, "Did you sit in that straight-backed wooden chair?" "The what?" I thought to myself, "What is she talking about?" Of course, Mary

moved right on to an explanation of the wooden chair floating around this building somewhere and it just so happens that any female employee who used the chair eventually became pregnant. Though I never had sat in the chair, I promised Mary I'd steer clear of it for a few years.

When my son was a few months old, Mary came into my office, handed me a one dollar bill and said, "Here, put this in a savings account or college fund now - you're gonna need it."

Part of my responsibilities was updating Mary on the financial status of the newspaper which involved regular discussion of related issues and elements. It was through these discussions, and many others, that Mary taught this "PFA" about our community, its history and present-day concerns, and our newspaper's responsibility to the community. And, it was also my opportunity to remind Mary that ribbons for her antique Underwood typewriter were getting harder and harder to find - time to get right with a computer.

Since Mary's retirement a handful of years ago, the Boothbay Register and Wiscasset Newspaper have undergone a number of necessary changes which continue to strengthen the newspapers' audience and relevance in our electronic world. These changes have been exciting and it's been exciting to be a part of them. I'm just not ready to face this change that brings an end to our chapter with Mary Brewer.

Thank you Mary from Lisa Kristoff

I first met Mary Brewer when I came to work at the Boothbay Register in March of 1999. I'd heard through the grapevine the Register was looking for a part-time reporter. And, thanks to Mary and Kevin being familiar with my writing (I wrote most of the press releases for the Boothbay Harbor Region Chamber of Commerce where I was employed full-time), I was hired.

In July of 2006 Kris Roveillo's position as assistant editor became available. Kevin sent me an email saying he had to talk to me about something - in person. Yikes! I thought, OMG, this is it. I'm getting fired.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. Kevin ended up coming to my house to offer me Kris' position. He said that he and Mary had made a list of five people who might be good for the job - and I was at the top of their list! And so I became a full-timer Aug. 4, 2006.

Mary was a great listener. If there was something going on in your life - or job related even (imagine!) - all you had to do was knock on the wall outside her office door (which was rarely closed) poke your head in and say Mary do you have a minute? She'd stop typing, swerve around in her chair to face you with a smile (that really lit up her blue eyes) and say, "Sure. What's going on?"

I can still see her walking out of her office - with that purposeful, quick step of hers (and those little feet) ... I can still hear her laughter ... and her voice ...

We here at the Register and Wiscasset Newspaper were probably the last papers to abandon the cut and paste method of putting each week's edition together ... maybe 2008-ish? 2009? Anyway, when the time came to start laying out the paper on our computers with InDesign I decided I wanted to learn how. We had a few "intro" classes" (by a friend of friend and co-worker, the late Mike "Zeke" Scarborough), but I still bought a copy of InDesign for Dummies.

After a few weeks, maybe a month, Mary came over to me at my desk and said, "I'm proud of you for taking the initiative to learn how to do this. I really am. I couldn't do it" ... and then she smiled and hurried off to the basement - where proofing was in high gear as I called out "Thank you Mary!"

And I'm calling out again ... Thank you Mary!

Thank you for allowing Merlyn to be one of the office's literal "pup reporters" for five years.

Thank you for your heart.

Thank you for the confidence you had in your newspaper team.

Thank you for your guidance and sympathetic ear.

The office has never been the same since you retired as managing editor.

And now, with your passing, this community - and the lives within it that you touched - will never be the same.

Hail - and farewell - Mary Dodge Brewer! I'm honored to have known you ... Lisa





**Mary Dodge Brewer**  
 Recipient of the  
 Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club's  
 2015 Lifetime Service Award:  
 Six Decades of Service,  
 High School Leader,  
 Register Reporter and Editor,  
 Fishermen's Friend,  
 Quiet Leader,  
 Family Focus,  
 Clambake Extraordinaire, and  
 Committed Communitarian



YMCA character development award winner Mary Brewer, her husband, Butch, daughter Sarah and son-in-law Andrew



### Fishermen's Festival end

In late January 2016, Mary Brewer, longtime member of the Fishermen's Festival Committee, made a difficult announcement: the Festival was being discontinued.

The biggest reasons for the decision to end the annual event: changes in the fishing industry and declining interest in participation.

Wrote Mary: "Festival coordinators have struggled to keep the festival going in recent years and in 2015, several activities were canceled, including a crowd-pleaser: the trap hauling contest; there were no entries. Likewise, participation on tug of war teams, crate running, bait shoveling, the codfish relay race and the lobster picking and eating competition has dropped dramatically in recent years. "Many of the original committee members are no longer involved, and the responsibility has been passed along to a few younger fishermen who find themselves struggling with little back-up support.

"Over the years, the festival has made changes in the types of events scheduled, in keeping with the fishing industry itself. Earlier contests, such as net mending, shrimp picking, clam shucking, fish filleting and others, were discontinued when most of the shore-side processing plants closed down, and newer events took their place. Longtime festival-goers have seen many different events over the 40-plus years, but it has been increasingly difficult to come up with contests which reflected the local fishing industry, today, mostly concentrated on lobstering. Groundfishing, scalloping, shrimping, seining and many other fisheries are practically non-existent in Boothbay Harbor today.

"The Fishermen's Memorial Fund committee has tried to keep the festival alive despite industry changes, keenly aware of its economic impact on the peninsula, with a number of businesses opening for the season in April, ahead of their normal schedule, to accommodate the influx of visitors as well as returning cottage owners. Board members agreed that an attempt should be made to preserve the memorial service and blessing of the fleet, and reschedule it for later in the season when more commercial boat owners have their vessels in the water."

Indeed the Blessing of the Fleet will be held, just a few months later, on Sunday, June 26, the first day of the Windjammer Days Festival, at 4 p.m.

*Donations for the continued maintenance of the memorial may be mailed to:  
 Fishermen's Memorial, P.O. Box 304,  
 Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538.*



### Senior Class Officers



Front row, 1. to r.: C. Webb, M. Dodge, middle, K. McPhee, back, N. McPhee, W. Poole, C. Anderson.



MARY DODGE  
 College

"Mary" East Boothbay  
*"Energy and persistence conquer all things."*  
 Band 2, 3, 4; Orchestra 1, 2, 3, 4; Music Festival 1, 2, 3, 4; Dramatics Club 1, 4; Monday Club Essay, 1st place, 3; Junior Prom Committee, 3; Graduation Ball Decorating Committee 3; Class President 3, 4; Student Council 3, 4, President 4; J.V. Basketball 1, 2; Varsity Basketball 3, 4, Captain 4; Senior Play 4; Queen of Basketball Dance 4; D.A.R. Citizenship Award 4; Youth Center representative 4.

### Log Staff



Seated 1. to r.: D. Farmer, W. Poole, M. Campbell, B. Rice. Standing: C. Webb, N. McPhee, Miss Fisher, K. McPhee, M. Dodge.

### D.A.R.



MARY DODGE