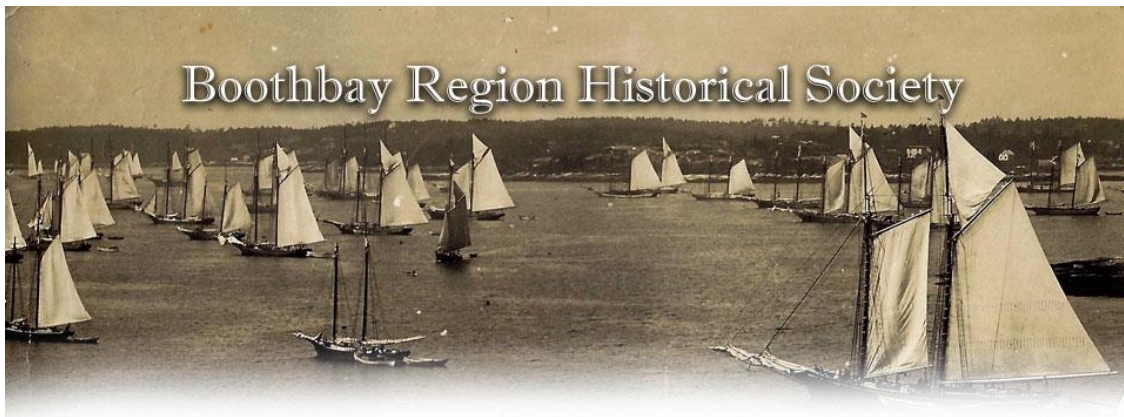


Boothbay Region Historical Society



Researching and preserving our history

July 2018 BRHS News

From Our Collections



The Strand in 1948

By Barbara Rumsey

This photo is how I remember Boothbay Harbor's Strand Theater on Townsend Avenue in my 30 years here before it burnt. The lighting and symmetry made it appear grand, and it was. It looks like a Mayan or Greek temple, doesn't it? It was laid out with an eye to giving a sense of grandeur: to walk up the flight of steps; go into the foyer with the glittering popcorn machine, yummy candy counter, formal ticket booth, and ticket taker by the door; and then into the vast seat and curtained screen area. It was a very pleasant gauntlet.

As teenagers in the early 1960s, we'd get there early and stand around on the steps, checking out who was with who. Adults used to park in cars or drive around and around the harbor, just watching who was going to the movies. It was a form of entertainment in itself. The teenage guys lounged, perched on the balustrades. Later inside, the teenagers on dates sat toward the back. If couples chose the very back row, it was assumed they would not be able to summarize the movie's plot the next day. Other older, daring teenage guys surreptitiously let their friends in the side doors near the screen.

Saul Hayes, standing in front in the photo, was always there. His son-in-law was my family dentist, Harry Abelon. When us kids got out of hand, Saul would shut off the projector, slowly trudge down front, and tell us that if we didn't behave, there'd be no more movie that night.

Saul built the Strand about 1927, next door to the old movie place, the Opera House. Talkies came to the Strand two years later with a first night audience of 1,100. The theater endured through my childhood and adulthood, and my kids saw Star Wars there in the 1970s. My husband worked with Ted Dowling who ran the projector then, and one 1970s night Ted let the four of us into the projection booth to see how the old carbon-arc projectors worked. The kids were fascinated that a little controlled fire illuminated the film. I wish those antique projectors could have made it through the arson fire that destroyed the building in 1981.

Sometimes it's hard to know if seeing old photos is a happy thing, because of the happy memories, or a sad thing, because those times are gone.

For more articles by Barbara Rumsey check our website www.boothbayhistorical.org/out-of-our-past

Silent Auction and Bake Sale, Yum!

July 18-21 and July 25-28

(Bake Sale July 28)



New this year! Mark your calendar for the society's summer fundraiser. Silent auction items and bid sheets will be on display in the museum at 72 Oak St., Boothbay Harbor, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., July 18-21 and July 25-28. Come in, tour the museum, and place your bids.

This special two-week event will wrap up at our annual Bake Sale at the museum on Saturday, July 28 from 10:00 a.m. until all goods are sold out. Come in for some tasty treats and place your final bids! Bidding will close at 2:00 p.m. High bidders will be notified by phone or email.

Please join us in thanking our early donors!

[Grover's Hardware](#), [Boothbay House of Pizza](#), [Sherman's Maine Coast Book Shop](#), [Merry Auld Market & Tea Co.](#), [Two Salty Dogs Pet Outfitters](#), [Sea Glass Spa](#), The Village Store, [Caper's Deli](#), [Janson's Clothing](#), [A Silver Lining](#), [Burke's Island Farm](#), [Yoga Firm Studio](#), [Eventide Specialties](#), [East Boothbay General Store](#), [Trevett Country Store](#), [Hodgdon Yacht Services](#), [Hawke Motors](#), [Hannaford Supermarkets](#), [Coastal Maine Popcorn Co.](#), and the many friends of the society who have donated.

We appreciate our donors' support for the society's mission to maintain and share the region's heritage. All proceeds go toward maintaining the society's many historical collections and ongoing upkeep to the 1874 Elizabeth Reed House, where the museum is housed.

For more information about the society or this event, please contact the office: brhs@gwi.net, 207-633-0820, or visit our website: www.boothbayhistorical.org.

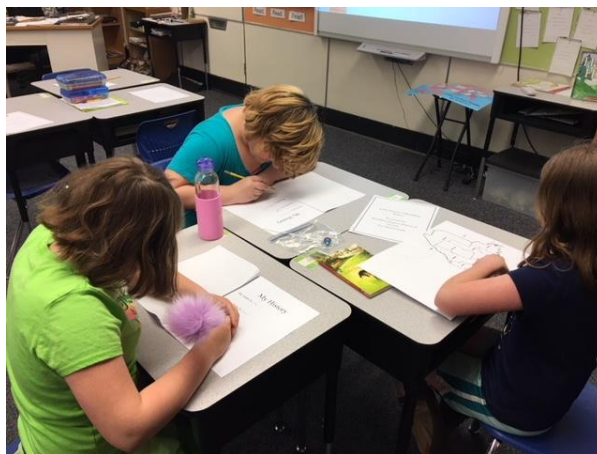
**For information on BRHS EVENTS throughout the summer
please check our [Events Page](#).**

www.boothbayhistorical.org

BRHS Education News



In May our outreach manager Kathy Goldner visited [Boothbay Region Elementary School](#) and presented an introduction to Boothbay region history to the two third grade classes. In June the two classes came to BRHS. Third grade teachers Jean Cucci and Deb Jones said of the classroom visit, "We all enjoyed your history program last week! In follow-up discussions with our students, we were impressed with the information they learned and the interesting facts that they will remember." We look forward to working with BRES to expand the program for the coming 2018-9 school year!



Photos: Top, students experience writing with ink and quill and nib pens on handmade paper. Below, students work on information packets we made for them.



Volunteer at BRHS and learn more
about your cultural heritage.

Join us in researching and preserving
Boothbay's fascinating history.



Call us (207) 633-0820, or email us
brhs@gwi.net, or just stop by (Wednesday through Saturday) to find out more about
volunteering!

Curious about these people? Come volunteer!

Members' Corner

Welcome to our new BRHS members:

Charlie and Heidi Bamberg of East Boothbay, Maine

George Friant of Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Robert Hasch of Boothbay, Maine

Duane Lewis of Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Kirsten McKown of San Raphael, California

Ann Roche of Southport, Maine

Linda Witt of Boothbay Harbor, Maine

Thank you!

Your membership helps preserve our cultural heritage.



Come visit!

**Boothbay Region Historical Society is open all year,
Thursday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

For more information

[Follow us on Facebook](#)
[or click here for our website.](#)

Boothbay Region Historical Society

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