

# ELIOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER      SEPTEMBER 2025

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**A**s the summer comes to a close we've had many opportunities to make new friends, share Eliot's history with the public and finished up another fundraiser. We hope you will join us on **SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>** at the #8 Schoolhouse Museum, 67 Greenwood Street for our annual picnic at 5:30 PM. Drinks will be provided so bring your favorite foods for your dinner and join us for a casual gathering!

## *Doings at the Schoolhouse*

**W**e will be open on through the month of September on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Our last day is **SEPTEMBER 27 – ELIOT FESTIVAL DAY**. We would be happy to have you come visit and/or perhaps volunteer for just a few hours.

**S**ummer at the schoolhouse has been a very busy time. This year, in addition to regular open house, Jan and Rosanne planned some special events.

**JULY 19<sup>th</sup>**, Eliot artist **Leona Hosack** was on hand to do silhouettes for people. Volunteering her time and expertise she hand-cut and mounted the silhouettes. Some included mounting of both family members and she even did one from a picture that was sent to a family member who

could not attend in person.



LINK to video of  
Leona at work!  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Lh5LrC2Ne/>



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**JULY 26<sup>th</sup>**, a “History Roundtable” discussion on the Farmer Family of Eliot, brought out participants both local and away. The discussion centered around the lives and accomplishments of electrical inventor Moses Farmer, his wife Hannah Shapleigh Farmer, a poet and philanthropist, who founded “Rosemary Cottage” here in Eliot and their daughter Sarah Jane Farmer, one of the builders of the “Eliot Hotel” (now the Sarah Farmer Inn at Green Acre) and the founder of the Green Acre Conferences at what is now Green Acre.



**AUGUST 16<sup>th</sup>**, a “History Roundtable” focused on the history Eliot High School (1940-1966). Several alumni of the school joined us for a lively discussion about the school, the teachers, and students, with some very “interesting” stories!

**AUGUST 20 & 23<sup>rd</sup>**, several children’s activities and games were set up, including, hoops, ball and cup, and yarn crafts.

Ice cream was served to those attending.

Based on the response to these “special events” we will be looking to do some again, next year as well.



**Our displays at Great Works School and Eliot Elementary** greeted students returning to their schools. At **Marshwood Great Works School** we had a whimsical look at toys with **“What Do You Remember?”**

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## Eliot Elementary

**School** is celebrating the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the main building, which opened as Eliot High School, in 1940. As part of the celebration we have given the students, staff, and visitors a look into the building's past. The display, which will be up until November, takes a look at the 26 years that Eliot's High School was in the building. Its first years also included the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

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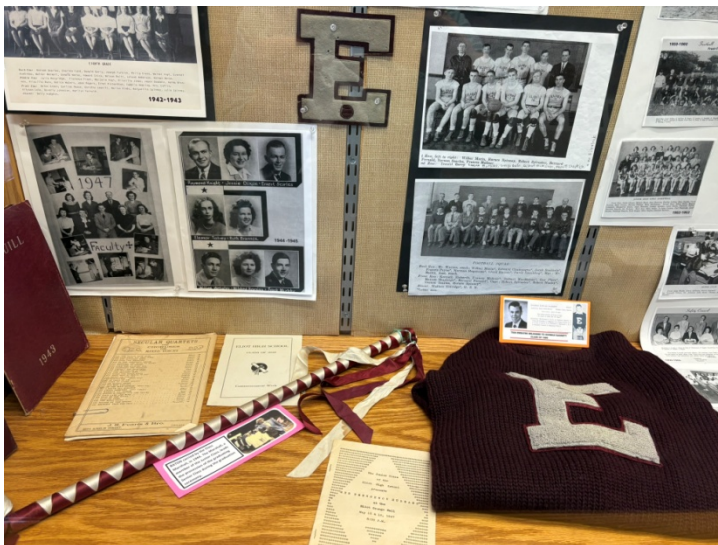
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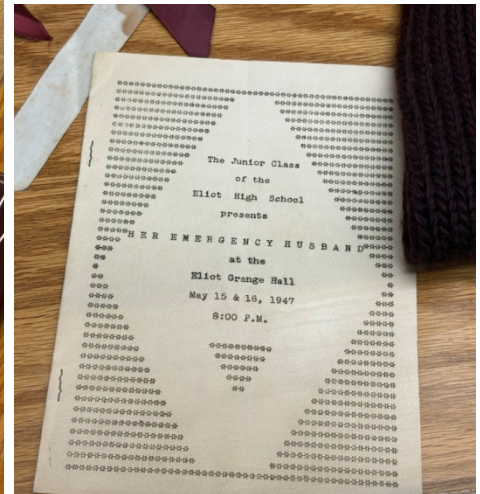
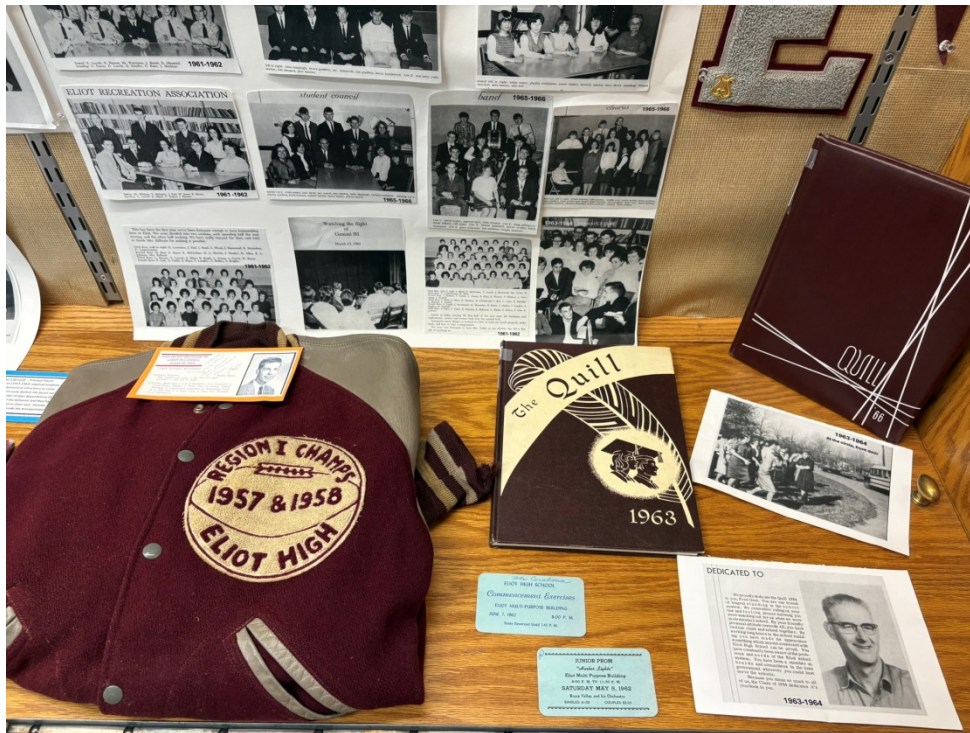


Among the pictures taken from the school yearbooks, were a number of items, including the 1944 baton that was used by the Grand Marshall to march the senior class in for the graduation ceremonies, a sweater belonging to class of 1956 member Norman Barrett and jacket of Larry McConnell, class of 1959, school "letters, banners, program booklets, graduation programs and invitations, and the "Quill" yearbooks.

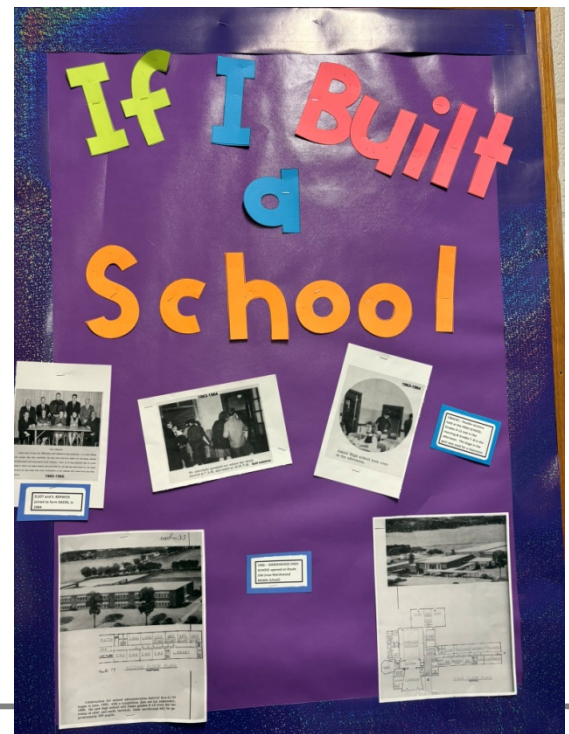
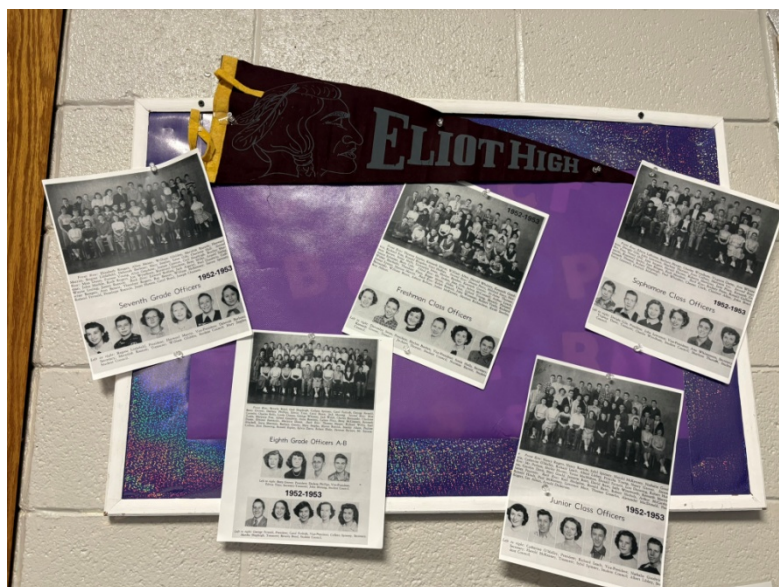




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The two other display boards by the display case were also used. One showed the students attending during the 1952/53 school year – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors and the other - “If I Built A School” announced the building of the new High School in 1966 (now the Marshwood Middle School).



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**T**hree “Road Trips” were offered to members this summer.

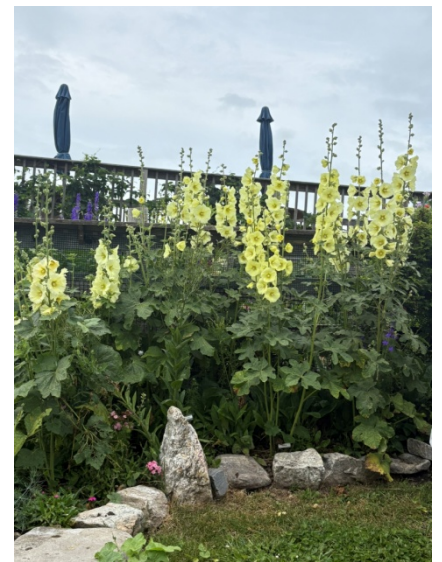
On **JULY 10<sup>th</sup>**, Historical Society members Sally Hartford and Rosanne Adams-Fisher were part of the 37 who braved the afternoon rain and boarded the “Shining Star” out to Appledore and Star Islands.



On Appledore, they had a tour of the Shoals Marine Lab, where they had the opportunity to talk with some of the students working there, and then walked over to take a look at Celia Thaxter’s Garden and talk with the master



gardener. They also visited “artist in residence” Robert DuGrenier, a well known sculptor, artist, and designer who works primarily in glass, metal, and marble shared is various work, explaining the basis of his designs and the elements he uses to create them. Some of his work includes hand blown glass shells and the use of minerals and naturally occurring shells to create works of art.



On the boat trip over to Star Island they were treated to a view of dozens of seals and their pups on the rocks and around Duck Island. At Star Island was a walking



tour with local historian Anne Beattie and, as they took a rest on the veranda of the Oceanic Hotel, listened to stories of the Island.



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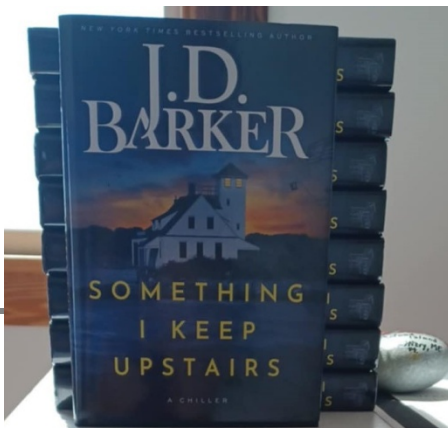
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**AUGUST 6<sup>th</sup>**, Rosanne, Jan, and Sally ventured out to take a trolley ride and enjoy an ice-cream sundae at the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport. This Wednesday night special event benefits a local non-profit each week during July and August.



Member, Carol Hutchins invited us to join her, on **AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup>**, with a visit to the Wood Island Life-Saving Station in Kittery Point.



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