In loving memory of Mary D. Brewer, Editor Emerita

One of Our Own

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 NE-NPA (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.); and the late 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.”

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, Alma Roberts, Lincoln County News, Raymond Gross, Courier-Gazette (Rockland), Winstead B. French, The Quoddy Times (Eastport), Paul Dietenhofer Jr., Sanford News, Alexander Bacon Brook and Robert Bissonnette, both of the York County Coast Star.

Honored again

New England Press Hall of Fame inducts Mary Brewer

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.

“Regular participant at our annual convention in Boston, her expertise 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.”

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By KEVIN BURNHAM, Editor

Welcome everyone and thank you for coming here tonight to honor Mary Brewer and recognize all of our volunteers for the past 25 years. The following is the speech written and delivered by Kevin Burnham during the 2018 Maine Press Association Hall of Fame induction ceremony for Mary Brewer. Mary was given the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club’s Lifetime Service Award and dedicated her acceptance speech to the Rotary Club for the Lifetime Service Award presentation.

Mary Brewer received Rotary’s Lifetime Service Award

The Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor has the honor of recognizing one of its most dedicated and devoted members, Mary Brewer, who has been a valued member of our community for over 25 years. Mary Brewer has dedicated her time and energy to volunteering with the Boothbay Harbor Chamber of Commerce, the Boothbay Region’s Maritime Museum, and countless other organizations and events.

Mary Brewer first became involved with the Rotary Club when she was a member of the Interact Club at the Boothbay Harbor Regional High School. She quickly learned what a community was and how to work together for the betterment of those身边的人.

Mary Brewer’s dedication to her community was evident from the day she became a member of the Rotary Club. She has always been active in community events and activities, and her contributions have been truly remarkable.

Mary Brewer’s dedication to the Rotary Club is not limited to her volunteer work. She has also been an active member of the Rotary Club’s Board of Directors and has served on numerous committees. Her leadership and commitment to the Rotary Club have been unwavering.

Mary Brewer has always been a leader in her community. She has held various leadership positions, including President of the Rotary Club. Her dedication to the Rotary Club has been recognized with the Lifetime Service Award.

The Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor is proud to honor Mary Brewer with the Lifetime Service Award. She is a true example of what it means to be a member of the Rotary Club and we are grateful for her contributions to our community.

Thank you, Mary Brewer, for your lifetime of service to the Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor.
Mary Brewer. By Kevin Burnham, Editor

Mary, Mrs. Cowan and Rags

By Robert Mitchell

Mary Roveillo had been working at “The Register” office for over five years when I sent a letter to the editor in 1975. My tale about picking up lobsters for Phillip Washburn of “Treasure Island” on Little River cleared the editorial staff in good shape with only the lightest touch from the punctuation department. Double-upped paper hugs for Frei grocery store, provided by New Market Lobster Maine, had let the contestants off down Harriotta Trail. We were 25 years of good, sunny memories, and a long tradition of coming together in operation. It was nice to visit Mary and Beach and town. We had a good old time together. I’m sure Mary and Cowan were very special friends to Mary and Rags. Over the years, Mary and I have crossed paths many times, mostly during Cowan’s term of office. We’ve been a lot of fun with Mary and Cowan and have shared stories. Mary and Cowan were very special friends to Mary and Rags. Over the years, Mary and I have crossed paths many times, mostly during Cowan’s term of office. We’ve been a lot of fun with Mary and Cowan and have shared stories. Mary and Cowan were very special friends to Mary and Rags. Over the years, Mary and I have crossed paths many times, mostly during Cowan’s term of office. We’ve been a lot of fun with Mary and Cowan and have shared stories. Mary and Cowan were very special friends to Mary and Rags. Over the years, Mary and I have crossed paths many times, mostly during Cowan’s term of office. We’ve been a lot of fun with Mary and Cowan and have shared stories. Mary and Cowan were very special friends to Mary and Rags. Over the years, Mary and I have crossed paths many times, mostly during Cowan’s term of office. We’ve been a lot of fun with Mary and Cowan and have shared stories...
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

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, but 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 trends: earliest contests, such as net mending, shrimp picking, clam digging, fish filleting and others, were discontinued when most of the shore-side processing plants closed down, and never 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, shrimp, 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 tourists 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.