

Dora Shaw was there

TELEGRAM - AUG 3 - 1980

THE CHARLES E. THOMAS Memorial Library at Prouts Neck traditionally opens its summers-only schedule on "Library Day." And Dora Shaw is always there to greet everyone she knew during her 50 years as librarian, from 1927 to 1977. A spry 93-year-old, Mrs. Shaw lives at nearby Kaler-Vaill Memorial Home.

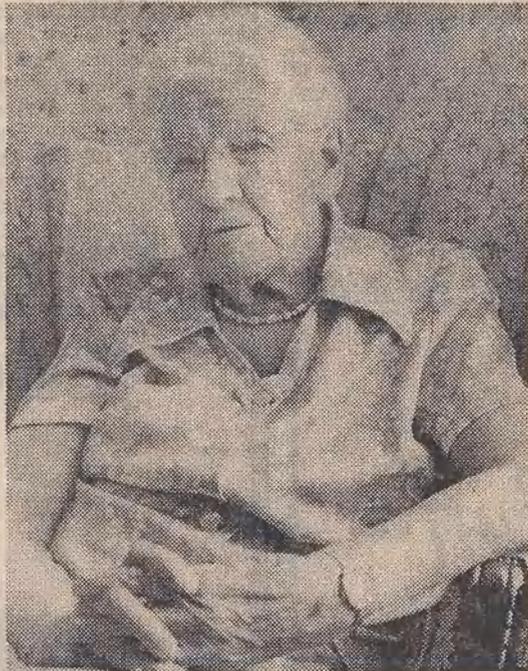
Mrs. Stuart Webster, chairman of the library committee, said visitors were delighted to see Dora Shaw in her "old" surroundings. Formerly a cottage, the Prouts Neck library was built in 1789. Irene Tuttle is currently in charge of the books at the privately run athenaeum on Library Lane.

The same Dora Shaw gave almost 50 years of service to the Scarborough Public Library, reported volunteers working at SPL's annual used books sale. Books and magazines were going well, said chairman Altie Hayden. A real rush was on at the bake sale. "Sold out by noon," stated Lenora MacMacken. Librarian Nancy Crowell also was assisted by Elizabeth Littlefield, Margery Fancy and Reta Mainville.

Marilyn Chase and Katherine Kennedy browsed among the book racks, while Beverly Klaus purchased a jar of native honey (with comb). Beverly, a tourist from the "other" Portland, said she was trying to escape from Oregon's volcanoes.

Other visitors "off the road" were paperback buyers Peter and Janice Boland from Montreal, and Jack and Elizabeth Maloney from Wilbraham, Mass. Jack and Beth Seddon are relative newcomers to Scarborough. Jack is director of the Twenty-Four-Hour Club in Portland and, as an avocation, he's music director at St. Bartholomew Church, Cape Elizabeth.

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Roses and cane

Dorothy M. Shaw, a lifelong resident of Scarborough, recently marked her 98th birthday with a presentation of roses and the traditional Boston Post cane by the Scarborough Lions Club. Mrs. Shaw taught in Scarborough for five years and served 58 years as librarian at the Charles E. Thomas Memorial Library in Prouts Neck.



MRS. SHAW

Scarborough's Oldest Citizen

By LORRAINE ALLEN

Mrs. Dorothy (Dora) Shaw, 94, Scarborough's oldest citizen, was presented with the Boston Post Cane and the Scarborough Lions Club Gold Lion at a small reception at the Kaler-Vaill Memorial Home on Friday.

Horace Davenport, Lions Club president, made the presentation on behalf of the town and club.

Mrs. Shaw was born in Portland Nov. 13, 1886, daughter of Fred and Susan Miller. She has lived all her life on Black Point Road in Scarborough.

Mrs. Shaw was librarian at the Charles S. Thomas Memorial Library at Prout's Neck for 43 years. As a young woman she taught grade school at the former Beech Hill School at Pleasant Hill and the Oak Hill Primary School on Rte. 1, which is now the Curriculum Center.

Mrs. Shaw recalled that when she graduated from high school in 1904 at what is now Scarborough Town Hall, she was the only one in her class.

Her husband, Delmar, died 27 years ago. They had four children. Two of her daughters, Mrs.

Edward (Rachel) Bessey and Mrs. Maurice (Marguerite) Davis live in Palo Alto, Calif. Her son, Delmar Shaw Jr., lives in Cape Elizabeth and another daughter, Jocelyn Moulton lives in Lisbon. Mrs. Shaw has nine grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Daughter Rachel and son Delmar were at their mother's party on Friday.

Mrs. Shaw said that she had lived a good life and has always been well. She likes to read, knit and sew and of course, reminisce.

She has seen many changes take place in the town. Some she doesn't like. "I hate to see all the land utilized," she said. "It seems you can drive down the road one day and see a beautiful meadow, and a few days later a house has gone up."

Her aunt, Mrs. Charles (Sarah) Libby, also held the Boston Post Cane for a number of years as Scarborough's oldest citizen. She died in November 1955, the day after her 100th birthday. Said Mrs. Shaw, "My aunt held the cane, and I never dreamed that I would get to be the oldest citizen of the town."

Dorothy M. Shaw

Portland Press
Herald Sat. April 11, 1987

SCARBOROUGH — Dorothy M. Shaw, 100, formerly of Scarborough and a librarian at Prouts Neck Library for many years, died Thursday at a Portland hospital.

She was born in Portland, a daughter of Frederick and Susan Libby Miller, and attended local schools. She graduated from Scarborough High School.

Her husband, Delmar D. Shaw, died in 1953.

Mrs. Shaw was an active member of First Congregational Church of Scarborough, where she sang in the choir for many years. She was a member of the church Guild and Ladies Aid Society.

She was summer librarian at Prouts Neck Library for more than 50 years.

Mrs. Shaw held the Boston Post Gold-Headed Cane as this town's oldest resident.

As a young woman, she was an elementary school teacher at Beech Hill School at Pleasant Hill and Oak Hill School.

Surviving are a son, Delmar D. Shaw Jr. of Cape Elizabeth; three daughters, Mrs. Edward (Rachel) Bessey of San Jose, Calif., Mrs. Shaffer (Marguerite) Davis of Santa Rosa, Calif., and Mrs. Ralph (Jocelyn) Moulton of Lisbon; nine grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at First Congregational Church. Burial will be in Black Point Cemetery.



He Misses Cracker Barrel

Scarborough Man Has Run Country Store 56 Years

By WALDO E. PRAY
Staff Reporter

SCARBOROUGH — There's not much you could tell Velorus T. Shaw about running a country store.

He's been operating one for 56 years and, "God willing" he intends to keep on running one for a lot of years to come.

V. T. Shaw's store has been familiar to residents here since he "opened up" June 23, 1903.

Grandchildren and great-grandchildren of some of his early customers are now sampling his penny candy.

In the early days Shaw recalls that he used to drive a team and wagon every day during the summer from his store to Portland to pick up supplies.

Used to take me five or six hours a day to make the trip. My wife used to take charge while I was gone and I'd take over after I got back.

During the winter business was slower and traveling more difficult so he made the trip only two or three times a week.

STILL GENERAL

Shaw's store was and still is a general store and although the bulk of his business is meats and groceries, he still deals in hardware, paints, tools etc.

Shaw, who'll be 80 next March, has maintained a rugged pace throughout his life.

We used to open the store at 7 a. m. and for many years we didn't close until 11 p. m."

In addition to that Shaw doubled in brass as postmaster using part of his store as a post office. He held that position from 1906 until 1950 when he had to retire "because they said I was too old."

MISSES MUCH

Looking back over the years, Shaw sees lots of things he dearly misses. First of all is that so many of his old customers have died.

"That's one of the bad things about living to a ripe old age," he says. "you have to see so many of your friends pass away."

On the lighter side Shaw misses the old-time merchandising techniques. The bulk cracker barrel, the pickle barrel and the molasses and vinegar barrels used to be part of the scene in a country store.

"You measured or weighed everything up and the customers kept an eagle eye on you to see that it was done correctly. Now with everything packaged the grocer has become primarily a cashier," Shaw said.

NO MORE BARRELS

Other familiar things that have long since disappeared from the country store include the 125-lb. half barrels of lard, 200-lb. barrels of salt pork, sugar barrels and chests of tea. Cookies and crackers also came in barrels and the choice was severely limited.

The day Shaw entered the grocer's world his total capital was \$250. He bought a horse, a second-hand wagon and a harness. With what he had left he headed for Portland for his first order of groceries.

He still has the receipted bill for that first order along with most of the thousands of receipts for orders since then.

Asked if he had any advice for a young man starting a grocery business in this day and age, he wryly replied, "my advice is don't unless you can get associated with some sort of chain store arrangement. It's practically impossible for an independent grocer to exist otherwise, unless he wants to sell beer. That's one thing I haven't sold and don't intend to," he declared.

"And there's one more thing a man needs to be a success," he added quickly, "a wife to help him." Shaw said his wife the former Etta Libby, had worked with him side by side, running the business over the years.

"Don't know what I would have done without her," he concluded.



By Staff Photographer Elwell

Still Going Strong

Nov. 16, 1959

Accession #
95.27.105