

September 2014

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## Happy September one and all!

Members, would you like someone to read to you, sort your mail, or walk with you on a regular basis? We can help, just give us a call!

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### Meet for Breakfast: September 8<sup>th</sup>

Our regular monthly Meet for Breakfast will be Monday, September 8, at Friendly's at 9:00 a.m. All members, volunteers, and guests are welcome. We order from the menu, and individual checks are provided. Please call the office if you need a ride or to reserve a place.

#### Meet for Lunch: September 10<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 a.m. Enjoy the company of other NF members at British Beer Company in Falmouth Heights for lunch. All members, volunteers, and guests are welcome. We order from the menu, and individual checks are provided. Please call the office if you need a ride or to reserve a place.

#### NF Book Club: September 23<sup>th</sup>

Book Club meets at 2:30 p.m. on September 23 to discuss *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes and to plan future meeting dates and book selections—new ideas welcome! Books should have audio versions available. Call for location and details.

#### How to Remember Not to Forget: Oct 1

Join the Neighborhood Falmouth community at Atria at 2:00 p.m. for a lively discussion by Atria director Joan Houlihan on how to keep your memory sharp. Filled with hints and ideas, this talk is sure to engage your mind! Free.



Courtesy of Woods Hole Historical Museum

### We Remember Paul Ferris Smith

Paul Ferris Smith, who was the inspiration for Neighborhood Falmouth, died June 27 at the age of 92.

It was Paul who, in 2005, read an article in an *AARP Bulletin* about a Boston group of Beacon Hill neighbors who banded together to create an organization that would help its older residents remain in their own homes, aided by volunteers and services from a list of highly recommended trades people. "That's what Falmouth needs!" he thought. He wasted no time in sharing his thought with his good friends Dick Jones and Joanne Voorhis, who signed on to the idea—and thus Neighborhood Falmouth was born.

Enthusiasm for the concept spread, and before long a group of 20 or more people were meeting weekly, hoping to transform Paul's original idea into a viable organization, with Paul as its president. It was not easy, but eventually it became what we know today: an important Falmouth organization that is helping its older residents in many different ways.

In 1943, after earning a degree in mechanical engineering at Yale University, Paul Ferris Smith

was working as an engineer at the Snow Nabstedt Gear Corporation in New Haven, CT, when he heard of a job opening at the Navy Underwater Explosives Laboratory at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Though he had never heard of Woods Hole, he applied for the job and got it. "I took the train from New Haven," he remembered years later, "and sent Mary Lou"—Mary Louise Cole, who was soon to be his bride—"a letter saying I was going to Woods Hole, Rhode Island."

He soon learned different, and with the discovery, a lifelong attachment was born. He would return to the Oceanographic as a researcher in underwater acoustics every summer until 1955, when the Rockefeller Institute at the Marine Biological Laboratory hired him as a fulltime researcher in electronic instrumentation, and Woods Hole became his home. As his affection for the village deepened, he became an ardent advocate of preserving open land and historic buildings, in Woods Hole and beyond.

Paul was born in Woodbury, NJ, in 1921, the second child of Harry Hedley and Gertrude Ashton Smith. The family lived in North Haven, CT, and Harry Smith was an executive with the YMCA in New Haven.

Paul attended the Mt. Hermon School in Northfield, MA, where he excelled in the study of physics and was a member of the soccer and swimming teams. He graduated from Mt. Hermon in 1939 and entered Yale that fall. "I worked very hard," he remembered. "I was determined to do well, and I got moderate grades." He was on the boxing team and rowed on the crew for three years. He sang in the Yale Glee Club, which traveled to South America in the summer of 1941 as envoys of President Roosevelt's Good Neighbor Policy. When the war came, he agreed to work for the Navy after graduation under an arrangement whereby he would complete his studies in three years instead of four. He attended classes through the summer of 1942 and received his diploma that December.

While at Yale, Paul attended the wedding of his brother, Robert Ashton Smith, as best man. The bride's vivacious dark-haired sister, Mary Louise Cole, a Wells College student, was maid of honor. "She was beautiful," Paul said later. "She was an athlete, she liked the things I liked, and was just so intelligent, so wonderfully attractive in every way."

Paul and Mary Lou were married in December 1943. By this time, Paul was a Navy officer with the Ordnance Bureau in Washington, DC, having received his commission at Annapolis. His bride

## SEPTEMBER CULTURE CLUB

Enjoy the cultural life of Falmouth with help from NF. Many of our volunteers are already planning to go to these and other activities around town. If you'd like to go too, we'd love to get you a ride and give you a friendly person to sit with. Please call the office if you are interested and need a ride.

### **Sunday, September 28, 2:30 p.m.**

The Falmouth Chamber Players Orchestra, featuring our own Laura Sonnichsen and husband Fritz, will present its Fall Musicale at the Cape Cod Conservatory, 60 Highfield Drive, in Falmouth. Members and friends of the orchestra will play a variety of short works from various musical genres. Suggested admission donation is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. To confirm start time or for more info, call Fritz at 508-274-2632.

### **Saturday, September 6, 6:30 p.m.**

### **Sunday, September 7, 1:00 p.m.**

A Falmouth Theatre Guild fundraiser, with all proceeds to benefit the costume house, will present two one-act operettas: "The Telephone" and "The Medium" by Gian Carlo Menotti. Tickets are \$25. For reservations call (508) 548-0400.

### **Wednesdays, September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 6, 9:45 a.m.**

Historic Trolley Tours of Falmouth begin and end at Falmouth Museums on the Green Hallet Barn. Tickets are \$25 for members of the Historical Society, \$30 for non-members. Reservations required. Call 508-548-4857 or buy online at [fhs@cape.net](mailto:fhs@cape.net).

### **Sunday, September 21, 2:30 p.m.**

Reveres Ride Again! A reenactment performance featuring portrayals of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Revere at Falmouth Museums on the Green. Tickets are \$5 for members of the Historical Society, \$8 for non-members. For reservations call 508-548-4857 or buy online at [fhs@cape.net](mailto:fhs@cape.net).

### **Sunday, September 21, 4:00 p.m.**

Falmouth Chamber Chorale, conducted by John Yankee presents "S'Wonderful," an assortment of American spirituals, classical, and popular music at Highfield Hall & Gardens. Tickets are \$25 for Highfield members, \$30 for non-members. For reservations call 508-495-1878.

returned to Wells to finish her senior year, and in summer 1944, the Navy sent Ensign Smith back to Woods Hole, to the Underwater Explosives Laboratory at the Oceanographic as liaison officer.

After the war, Paul returned to Yale, where he received a master's degree in education in 1948. He taught physics at St. Mark's School for two years, and for three years taught and conducted research at the Marine Laboratory of Miami University. A daughter, Deborah, had been born in 1946. A second daughter, Rebecca, came along in 1950, and Prudence in 1954. The growing family spent its Woods Hole summers in the old Faye carriage house on Water Street, which was property of the Oceanographic. It was December when the Smiths arrived in Woods Hole in 1955 to stay. They lived for a short time in a rented house on High Street, then they built a prefab house set back in the trees off Church Street, where Paul lived until his death. A fourth daughter, Charity, was born in 1963.

In 1962, Paul left the MBL to help found Geodyne Inc., which began in what is now the game room of the Woods Hole Inn. Geodyne was a pioneering company in the design and manufacture of oceanographic instruments. In 1965, EG&G bought Geodyne and put Paul in charge of its environmental consulting division, whose assignment was to devise ways to make ocean research environmentally safe. He joined Benthos Inc. in 1978 as manager of business development, and in 1983 he was appointed to the new position of staff oceanographer at Ferranti-ORE in Falmouth Heights, a manufacturer of underwater instruments. He retired in 1986.

Paul fit the ideal of the Renaissance man, vigorous both physically and intellectually. This physicist, engineer, and oceanographer was a tennis player and a crack sailor. He ran in the Falmouth Road Race. He built model ships. He wrote, painted, and took photographs. He sang in the Falmouth Men's Chorus and the Interfaith Choir. He served as president of the Woods Hole Public Library and was a prime mover in the Woods Hole Historical Collection (now the Woods Hole Historical Museum). He was elected a Town Meeting member in 1996 and 1999. He played the recorder and the banjo. He wrote a children's book, "Has Anyone Seen the *Glee*?" in 2006, telling the story of the loss and recovery a pram that he built for his daughters when they were girls and that was carried away during a blizzard. Lithe and graceful to the end of his life, he dressed with impeccable but quiet style, and his formal attire always included a signature bow tie.

Mary Lou Smith died in 2013. Paul is survived by his daughters and grandchildren.

*Much of this article originally appeared in the July 1, 2014, edition of the Falmouth Enterprise. Excerpts are reprinted with permission.*

### Volunteer Gathering and Meeting September 24, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Volunteers, you are invited to meet other Neighborhood Falmouth volunteers, share your experiences volunteering, enjoy some light fare, and even win some fabulous prizes at our Fall Volunteer Gathering and Meeting, Wednesday, September 24, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the John Wesley United Methodist Church. RSVP's to the NF office are encouraged but not required. Friends (especially prospective volunteers) welcome!!

### NF Fall Gathering: October 25, 12:00 p.m.

Members and Volunteers! Please hold the date for our annual Fall Gathering Luncheon on Saturday, October 25, at the First Congregational Church at 12:00 noon. Enjoy the opportunity to share a meal and warm conversation with other Neighborhood Falmouth members and volunteers!

We gratefully acknowledge recent support from:

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