

# **Old Orchard Beach Historical Society**

P. O. Box 464 - 4 Portland Avenue  
Old Orchard Beach, Maine 04064-0464  
(207)-934-9319  
oobhistsoc@maine.rr.com

**For Release: January 2, 2014**

**Re: Old Orchard Beach Historical Society Awards Apple Cane to Oldest Living Resident Born in Old Orchard Beach**

**Dateline: Old Orchard Beach, Maine**

Old Orchard Beach Historical Society is pleased to announce that it has selected Lorraine Miles Wyman to receive the "Apple Cane," as the oldest living resident of Old Orchard Beach, Maine who was actually born within the boundaries of the town. The Apple Cane, along with a commemorative plaque, will be awarded at a meeting of Old Orchard Beach Town Council on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Working with the staff of the Old Orchard Beach Town Clerk's Office, Old Orchard Beach Historical Society researched Town birth records looking for the person who should receive the Apple Cane.

In an interview with Old Orchard Beach Historical Society Secretary Arlene Bellevue Hanson, Lorraine Miles Wyman shared many highlights of her life: she was born at home in Old Orchard Beach on October 27, 1920. An only child. Lorraine's family moved to River Road, Biddeford. She graduated from Biddeford High School in 1939. As a teenager, she worked at Palace Playland in Old Orchard Beach.

Lorraine worked fulltime in the billing department of Saco Lowell Mills right after high school graduation. She then became employed as a billing clerk at Portland Copper Tank.

OOB Hist. Soc. Press Release/Apple Cane Award/2

Her next job brought her to Old Orchard Beach High School, where she was a librarian for four years. She then worked as a secretary at Old Orchard Beach Public Works Department. Eventually, Lorraine came to work as a receptionist and telephone operator at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall. She also worked as an elections-ballot clerk for many years. Lorraine's career as a Town of Old Orchard Beach employee spanned twenty seven years.

In 1997, the Annual Town Report was dedicated to Lorraine Miles Wyman and Conrad Gilbert. The following is a quote from that Report:

*"Lorraine served for 27 years. She is the epitome of 'self-sacrificing devotion.' Always ready to assist everyone who called on her. Lorraine was the link between the ever inquiring residents and all those in search of services available at Town Hall."*

Lorraine met her husband Leslie Wyman at Saco Lowell Mills, where he was employed as a guard. At various times, Leslie was a police officer, Police Chief, and a member of Old Orchard Beach Town Council. Lorraine and Leslie were married in 1943, at first residing on River Road in Biddeford. In approximately 1947, they moved to 28 Prospect Street, until Leslie passed away in 1997 after fifty-four years of marriage. Lorraine retired in 1997 and moved into "The Pines" retirement community in Ocean Park.

Lorraine and Leslie raised eight children. Lorraine has sixteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Lorraine's hobbies include playing the organ, participating in activities at The Pines, and maintaining membership in Annette Chapter #184 Order of the Eastern Star. Lorraine was honored by the Annette Chapter #184 with a "Fifty-Year Membership" pin. She is also an active member of the United Baptist Church on Main Street, Saco.

All of Lorraine's family and friends are invited to attend the "Apple Cane" award ceremony on January 7th at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

For further information, please call Arthur or Jeanne Guerin at (207)-934-5061.

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Press Release Contact: Stan Quinlan  
(207)-934-9319