



# The Waltham Museum Inc.

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ESTABLISHED 1971

Waltham, Massachusetts

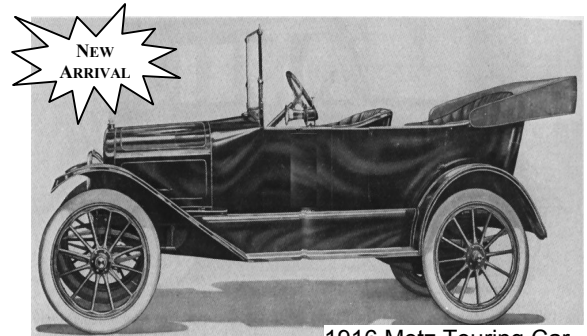
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Bi-Monthly Newsletter

November 10, 2000

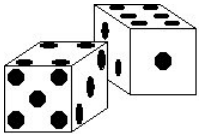
## LOOK Another Metz Car at the Waltham Museum

A 1916 Metz Touring Car (4 seats) is now on exhibit at the Waltham Museum. The museum now has a 1903 Orient Buckboard, a 1913 Metz Roadster, a 1915 Metz 22, and our new 1916 Metz Touring Car, Model 25. All made in Waltham. Needless to say, these cars are very rare and we are lucky to have them. However, due to lack of space this 1916 Metz has to be placed in an outdoor shed for protection against the weather. The shed was acquired at Home Depot and will be opened for visitors to see the Metz. In addition this 1916 Metz runs and we hope to have it seen in parades and other events. As we wrote in our last newsletter the museum is assembling still another Metz car, which should be completed next year. Hopefully, we will have a larger building by then so that our Metz cars and all our exhibits on the history of Waltham can be properly shown.



1916 Metz Touring Car

Fitch  
School  
PTA!



## Waltham Monopoly

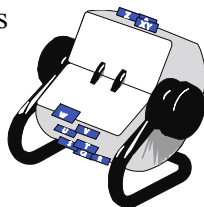
Everyone should keep a lookout for the new game coming out called Waltham Monopoly. Instead of Boardwalk and Park Place, each property will have a particular Waltham site. One of the sites will be the Waltham Museum.

The Fitch School PTA came up with this idea and the games are being produced by a professional manufacturer. All proceeds will go to the Fitch School and its PTA.

## 5 New Museum Members

Five new members have joined the Friends of the Waltham Museum since our last newsletter:

1. **Laura Smith** of Waltham, a member of the Fitch School PTA and one of the originators of the Waltham Monopoly game.
2. **Rachel Roll** of Waltham, another member of the Fitch School PTA, who also came up with the Waltham Monopoly idea.
3. **John Burroughs** of Waltham has rejoined after a brief absence.
4. **Louise Arena** of Rhode Island is a fifth grade school teacher.
5. **Terri McCarthy** of Waltham.



## John Kampe & Conrad Jensen



The Waltham Museum has just placed on exhibit a Waltham Poising Caliper No. 375, which is a watchmaker's tool for measuring close tolerances. These calipers were manufactured by Jensen Jewel Company of 333 Moody Street and the Kampe Company of 240 Ash Street. Conrad and Frances Jensen and John, Helen and Olga Kampe were some of the smaller and less known manufacturers of watch making tools during the 1920s and the 1930s.



The following donations were made to the Waltham Museum since our September 10<sup>th</sup> newsletter:

1. **Fred Hitchcock, Jr.** of Sudbury donated the "CITY HALL" sign that was on old Rumford Hall from 1885 to 1926. Rumford Hall was built at the corner of THE LANE TO THE MILL (Elm Street) and THE BOSTON POST ROAD (Main Street) in 1827 by the Boston Manufacturing Company. In 1854 it became Waltham's Town Hall, which changed to our City Hall in 1885. When the present City Hall was built in 1926, Rumford Hall was taken down but the "CITY HALL" sign was saved by Fred Hitchcock, Sr. This donation was made in his memory. It was assisted by Janet Alford of Sudbury. The five-foot sign is now on display in Lafayette Hall.
2. **Adelaide O'Neil** of Waltham donated memorabilia on the old Waltham Savings Bank, which includes a leather note binder, the bank's history magazine, two bank pad-holder-boxes showing the new 1981 bank, a bank paperweight, a bank hand calculator, a small bank matchbox, and a bank money-clip knife. Roderick O'Neil, her late husband, was the incorporator for the Waltham Savings Bank and was a liquor commissioner for the City of Waltham. However his main profession was an optometrist with a location at 657 Main Street, a business he bought from his uncle, Joseph O'Neil in 1957. The two-framed optical pictures that hung in his office for many years were donated by Adelaide along with a pair of O'Neil eyeglasses in a case. Sixteen interesting artifacts from the O'Neil home were also donated including three Morse Code senders. Finally a Waltham Foundry Company casting of Abraham Lincoln completed this donation.
3. **John Parente** of Waltham donated an August 23, 1936 photograph of Headquarters Company of the Waltham National Guard, Second Battalion, 182<sup>nd</sup> Infantry.
4. **John Morrison** of Waltham donated an antique decorative mirror used by the Howard Clock Company in the 1920s.
5. **Louise Hamilton** of Waltham donated two framed historical pictures. One of a fraternal group and one of a civic group.
6. **Tom McKeon** of Waltham donated a picture of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade at the Pond End School on Winter Street in 1924. Josephine McKeon, Florence McKeon, "Bucko" Hayes, Tony Bellan, and Cliff Bradley were some of the students identified. Also donated was the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes at the Nahum Hardy School in the late 1930s. Many students are identified.

**NOTE**

This donation was important to the Waltham Museum because we had no student pictures on file for the Hardy and Pond End School. We have 20 graduation pictures of Waltham High School with yearbooks, also the South Jr, Banks, Newhall, Bright and Parochial Schools.



## Military History of Waltham

Recently we asked for more information on the Lawson, Abramo and Gilbert escape from a German prison camp during World War II. Phyllis Farnsworth, one of our members, put us in touch with Agnes Gilbert Lunderville, Gilbert's sister, of Waltham who sent the museum the News-Tribune headline story of May 3, 1945 which read:

**"SGT. GILBERT ESCAPES FROM GERMAN CAPTORS."**

The story read in part:

"...a second Waltham mother has learned that her son was among those German prisoners who escaped and reached Allied lines recently. Staff Sgt. Edward J. Gilbert Jr. whose parents reside at 91 South Street, Waltham is shown in the accompanying Army Signal Corps picture with Technical Sgt. Albert T. Larson of 103½ Adams Street, whose escape was reported by war correspondents in Belgium earlier.

*...together they had escaped from the Nazi "death march" from Stalag Luft 4 to Pomerania and arrived safely in the lines of General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's British Second Army.*

*Sgt. Gilbert was listed as missing in action on January 7, 1944 when his bomber was shot down over Germany. A French woman in the town of Chartres harbored the ten surviving members of his crew for three weeks. For six months they eluded capture, but were finally captured in July 1944. He remained a prisoner for ten months during which he made two unsuccessful escapes with others. On the third attempt they managed to evade capture through the aid of friendly German families. After which they made the British lines."*



## ✠ St. Mary's Church

The Boston Evening Journal of February 22, 1878 had a small article about St. Mary's Church in Waltham on its front page. The article read as follows:

"HIGH REQUIEM MASS. A solemn mass was celebrated in St. Mary's Catholic Church yesterday morning at ten o'clock. The church was appropriately draped with black and white crape with velvet trimmings. The altars were deeply draped. In front of the altar of the Blessed Virgin was placed a portrait of Pope Pius the Ninth. In the center isle was a catafalque supporting a marble casket, upon which, on a velvet cushion, was the tiara, while on each side stood golden candlesticks. The church was crowded, over two thousand being present. The services were very interesting, and were conducted as follows:

*Celebrant, Rev. T. Brosnahan, pastor;*  
*Deacon, Rev. M. M. Green, Watertown;*  
*Sub Deacon, Rev. Robert P. Stack, Watertown;*  
*Master of Ceremonies, Rev. J. J. Murphy, Waltham;*  
*Eulogist, Theodore A. Metcalf, Chaucellor of the Arch. Diocese.*

The eulogy was an eloquent portrayal of the life and excellence of Pope Pius the Ninth, and spoke of his large charity and of the great love he bore to the Irish people."

## Granddaughter of Mayor Patrick Duane

Meam Duane, the granddaughter of former Mayor Patrick Duane, visited the Waltham Museum on September 10, 2000. She is doing research on her grandfather's life and career.

The records show that Patrick Duane was born in 1862 and won his first bid for public office in 1894 when he was elected Ward 4 alderman in Waltham. In 1900 he lost the Mayoral race to Mahlon R. Leonard. In 1905 Duane did win a state representative post.

In 1911 he finally won the mayoral race after two earlier defeats in 1909 and 1910. He was re-elected in 1912. After losing several other races, Duane finally was re-elected mayor in 1929 in a very close race.

Duane, a colorful and controversial figure, was a native of Ireland and always wore a Prince Albert coat and top hat. He was re-elected in 1931 but lost to Fred MacDonald in 1933 and never ran again for mayor. He is highly spoken of by long time residents who remember him walking the streets of Waltham in his coat and top hat during the early years of the big depression. He assured the residents that everything would turn out all right.



## A TV Movie Highlights the Waltham Watch

On October 18, 2000 a movie entitled "For All Time" was shown on Channel 4 at 9:00 pm. In the beginning, a man, played by Mark Hamon, has a hobby of collecting antiques. He goes into a pawnshop and the pawnbroker shows him a Waltham pocket watch and Mark Hamon says, "A Waltham, they're the best." He then says, "And it still works." The pawnbroker replies, "Of course it does, it's a Waltham." This scene was occurring in St. Louis during the present year.

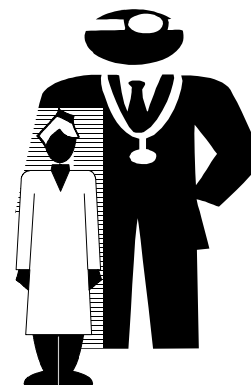
The next day Mark Hamon leaves St. Louis on a train, as part of his job for an advertising firm. After the train passes through a large tunnel he finds that he is in an unknown town called Somerville and the date is March 7, 1896. The story of the movie was like an old Twilight Zone series but in this case it all revolves around a Waltham Watch. Try to see this movie if they show it again on TV. It is nice to know, that even today, the Waltham watch is recognized nationally as a great watch.

## Dr. Benjamin Fuller and his Nurse

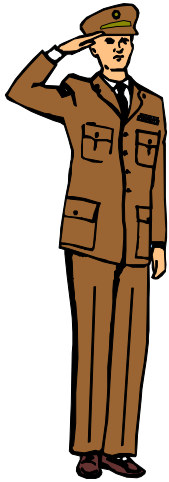
Dr. Benjamin C. Fuller was the city of Waltham's physician from the 1920s to after World War II. During that time he delivered many babies in people's homes. A distinguish looking doctor who would always come with his black leather doctor's bag containing medicine and medical instruments. His office was at his house at 781 Main Street, approximately where Store 24's parking lot is today.

Recently we learned from Paul Erbe, a real estate agent in Waltham, that his (Erbe's) mother, Sylvia Kalpaine, graduated from the Waltham Training School for Nurses in 1932. Her first job was as the nurse for Dr. Fuller. Here she stayed until 1938.

How many of us remember his office and its waiting room?



# Recent Military Deaths in Waltham



1. **Walter G. Bardsley, Sr.** died on September 5, 2000 (77). Born in Waltham he served during World War II with the US Army as a sergeant, serving simultaneously with seven of his brothers, all from Waltham. A recipient of the Purple Heart for wounds received in action, Sgt. Bardsley assisted in the seizure of 23 Germans as prisoners-of-war. Coming up a gully where 23 Germans were playing dead in order to trap the soldiers, Sgt. Bardsley, along with his Lt. Richard Mitchell, realized that they were feigning dead to trap them. They fired a barrage of rounds over the trench, creating the illusion that a squad rather than a patrol was present, forcing the Germans to surrender to the men alone. After the war he served as a Waltham fireman until he retired.
2. **Russell S. Brown** of Waltham died on September 8, 2000 (78). A graduate of Waltham High School in 1940, he served in the US Army Air Corp as a transport plane radio operator during World War II. He received the Air Medal for flying military supplies on the India-China air route over the Himalayas for the allied forces in China.
3. **Walter F. Goode** died on October 22, 2000 (86). He graduated from Waltham High School in 1933 where he was the City Champion in Tennis and set records as a member of the Track Team. During World War II he served in the US Army in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. After the war he worked at the Waltham Watch Company.

**Seven other men with notable service during the war died these past few months. They were from other cities and towns but settled in Waltham after World War II and lived most of their lives here. They are:**

1. **Erling L. Njus** (81) was at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941.
2. **Eugene P. Valdanbrini** (75) fought in World War II and the Korean War.
3. **David E. Testa** (75) was a gunner's mate 3rd Class on destroyer duty in the Atlantic, Pacific and Mediterranean waters. He received the World War II Victory medal, the American Theatre medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre five star medal, the Philippines One Star medal and the European-African-Mideastern Theatre medal.
4. **Howard C. White** (86) was a radio repairman in the US Army and was part of the battles and campaigns of Tunisia, Naples, Foggia, Rome, Arno, North Apennines, and Po Valley. His decorations include the Good Conduct medal, American Defense Service medal, and the European-African-Mideastern campaign medal. Prior to World War II he served with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the great depression.
5. **Attorney Robert Grimes** (84) graduated from Harvard Law School and was one of the founders of the old Middlesex Family Co-Operative Bank. During World War II he served as a Lieutenant aboard the USS Detroit and later as a Lieutenant-Commander on the USS Massachusetts. He was present in Tokio Bay at the signing of the Japanese surrender to end World War II.
6. **John L. Grady** (78) served in the US Army and was taken prisoner by the Germans on November 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge.
7. **Donald H. Hudson** (79) served in the US Army and was in the invasion of Anzio and the liberation of Italy.

## Deaths (Industrial History)

1. **William A. Kilbourn** died on October 25, 2000 (89). He was one of the superintendents of the Waltham Watch Company in the 1930s and 1940s under President Fred Dumaine. *(See special story written about him in the January 10, 1995 newsletter.)*
2. **Daniel F. Viles** died on September 4, 2000 (88). He was president of the Waltham Screw Company on Rumford Avenue, which made screw machine products, and precision screws. Founded in 1893 the company had three generations of the Viles family as executive officers until they went out of business in the 1980s.

## Deaths (Sports History)



**Charles A. "Chuck" Roche, Sr.** of Waltham died on October 21, 2000 (69). A 1949 graduate of Waltham High School where he excelled in sports.

He was later inducted into the Baseball and Hockey Hall's of Fame. He served on destroyers during the Korean War and later served 27 years on the Waltham Fire Department.

