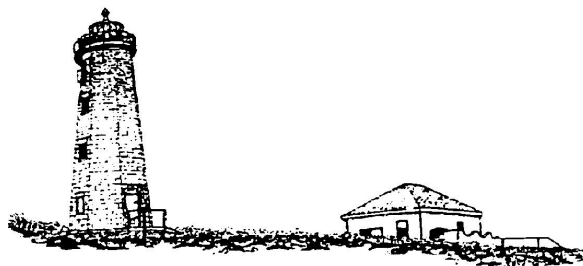


# Benton Beach Beacon

July 1998



---

## All Roads Lead to Benton Beach

### Clambake '98 Set For Sunday, July 12

Somebody recently mused about this: if you were asked to compress all your life's precious memories into one little anthology and you only had ten minutes to write it down, how many times would the Sachem's Head homeland figure into it? How many times would Benton Beach, particularly, figure into it?

Memories of our clambake on old Benton Beach would doubtlessly appear on your list. And that's partly why the 37th annual family clambake promises to be another howling success. It will become another joyous memory that can last forever. Edwin Benton is once again coordinating this summer highlight, assisted by son Eliot, brother Roger, and many others.

So be sure to reserve the July 12 date and send in your RSVP/food orders before July 9. If there are any questions, you may call Edwin Benton at 203-453-9602.

There is a high tide at 1:45 p.m., which makes a pre-meal swim the best appetizer on the menu! Moreover, a refreshing surprise is now in planning for the late afternoon!

We hope to see you at the beach!!

## Surfing Benton Beach On The Web

*by Tim Chemacki*

As of May 1998, Benton Beach real-estate has expanded into the virtual realm on the World Wide Web! Surfers can access the BBC Beacon and other Benton Beach Corporation information at [http://members.tripod.com/~tim\\_chemacki](http://members.tripod.com/~tim_chemacki).

Although still under construction, this new site will eventually include such things as a tide table, birthdays and anniversaries, important announcements, the beach calendar, beach photos, and various other information.

If anyone has any ideas to add some splash to our website, please let me know. In the mean time, happy surfing!

## Dr. Daniel's Fire Camp

Among the myriad of great contributions made by many family members at the annual work day, May 16, is an expanded fireplace area, or fire "camp," to use the words of its creator, Daniel Cabrera.

Daniel has worked long and lovingly to construct a granite amphitheater with seating around an all new brick fireplace. The granite stones were carefully hauled from the Castelluci quarry by David Ott and company. Daniel

did the rest. With all the skill and care of an acupuncturist, Daniel's hands have carved out a rectangular niche in the sand, which has been additionally sifted and the stonework crafted like the pieces of an intricate jigsaw puzzle.

Already, we have a glowing report about Lynne Ott's church club picnic, which tarried at the fire camp after sunset for a merry sing-a-long. Thank you, Dr. Daniel. The new fire camp has brought a new joy to Benton Beach.

## Family Email List

Thank you to everyone who submitted their email addresses to me. What a quick, inexpensive and simple way to stay in touch 24 hours a day! Below is the list I have so far.

Curt Perkins	CURTPRKNS@aol.com
Ellen Fales	ebfales@aol.com
Ned & Sue Peak	nspeak@datastar.net
Emily Welsh & Scott Falvey	ewelsh@mhc.mtholyoke.edu
Ken & Sue Spalding	spalding@maine.maine.edu
Kathryn Benton-Smith & Jamie Smith	kathryn.benton@snet.net
Nancy Kerner	nkerner@gwi.net
Randy & Laura Waugaman	rtwaug@aol.com

## Expand Your Mind

by *Tim Chemacki*

Over the past several thousand years, mankind has used the written word to record and convey knowledge and wisdom. Millions of books have been written on every topic imaginable.

Just think - whatever you want to do or learn about, someone else has probably already done it. They have gone through the trials and errors already. Their wisdom has been recorded for us. It has been said that the best experiences to learn from are someone else's! Or, in engineering terms - why reinvent the wheel?

In addition to all the books containing knowledge, there are, of course, also many books written for pleasure. I can recall hours and hours of enjoyment in my youth (as well as now!) reading novel after novel. My personal favorites include *The Chronicles of Narnia* series, *The Hobbit*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and more recently, just about anything by Stephen King.

I've met so many people, traveled to so many far-away places, and learned from some of the wisest and most successful people simply by reading books.

So, next time you go to Benton Beach, lie down in the warm sand and devour a good book!

## Full Moon Date

A visit to Benton Beach under full moon can become a spiritual adventure. Here are the '98 full moon dates:

July 9

August 7

September 6

October 5

## "Port-o-let"

Through kind and generous cash donations by Peg Benton, Tim Chemacki, and Tim's girlfriend Sharon Tito [Editor's Note: this was actually Sharon's idea], a sleek portable toilet has been experimentally leased for the summer months.

Last year's splurge on overnight camp-outs and this year's elevated water table (no thanks to El Niño weather), have warranted a commercial outhouse for the beach premises. It has been set up in a discreet location behind the Beach House.

The wooden outhouse or privy still stands as a backup relief station. Please feel free to express your opinion about this experiment.

## Our Beach House

*by Joel Helander*

Who would ever guess that Benton Beach House, in the parking lot of Benton Beach, is over 70 years old? By every account told by the sons and daughters of the late Eliot H. Benton, patriarch of Sachem's Farm, it is an old farm outbuilding. Originally, it stood in the west yard of the Benton farmhouse, against a ledge that can still be seen. It was moved to the beach premises to serve beach-goers.

This rudimentary structure has a wonderful life of its own. As a beach house for 34 years, it serves a variety of needs: as a bath house, convenient storage place and emergency retreat during summer squalls. Its bare wood walls have a Victorian flavor with wondrous warm smells of drying bathing suits, inner tubes, and other mildewy artifacts that belong on the seashore. Moreover, the sundry wasp nests on every rafter make a visit to the beach house an adventure by itself. On the exterior, the beach house has all the trappings of a little cottage, accented by the white trim boards, geranium box, hanging buoys, and curling cedar shingles.

Marjorie Benton Spalding, the eldest of the six Benton children, remembers when the Beach House served in the 1920s as a storage shed for the family's horse-drawn double-seated carriage. She remembers one memorable occasion when her mother drove the buggy through muddy roads to visit Grandma Norton in Leete's Island.

Attached to the carriage house was a little addition with its own entry door that was formerly Herbert Benton's blacksmith shop. Herbert Benton (1843 - 1929) was the son of Eliot Benton and both father and son used this shop during their lifetimes. It contained a forge, anvil, bellows, and a full line of smithing tools.

By the 1930s, after the carriage "buggy" had outlived its usefulness, the building was converted to the children's playhouse. One of Carolyn Benton Helander's earliest childhood memories is playing with dolls here.

The journey of the carriage house/playhouse to Benton Beach occurred in the year 1964, when it was carefully dismantled and re-erected at the beach. Grandpa Benton's daybook for the year 1964 chronicles the recycling of this little building, beginning with a town building permit taken out on July 7:

- July 14: Dorothy and I worked out the beach, building cement piers for the bathhouse.
- July 18: Elton and Joel came down and we pulled the playhouse down.
- July 20: Dorothy, Bob, and Curtis came down at 7 p.m. and we put up the two sides of the bathhouse.
- July 21: Worked at the bathhouse. Bob and Dos came.
- July 22: Worked on the bathhouse. Bob and Dos came and put up the rafters.

Nearly every day until August 11, 1964, when the job was finished, Grandpa Benton's entries reflect continuous work on the new bathhouse.

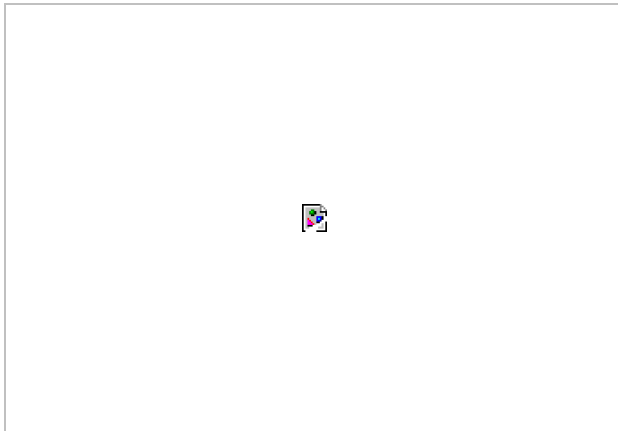
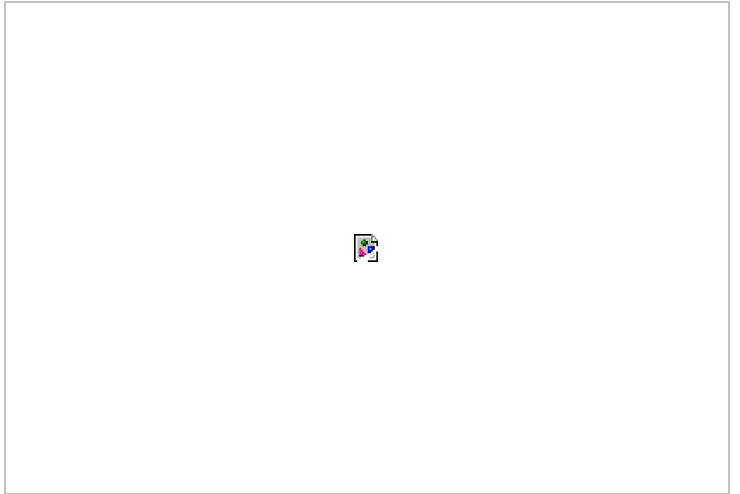
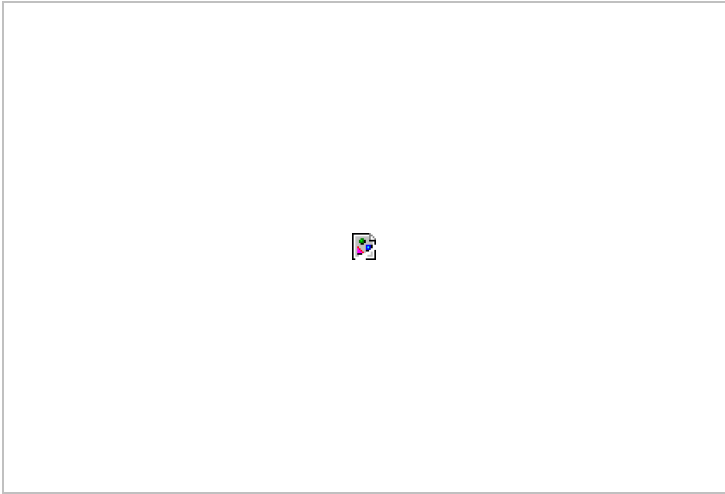
Dear Aunt Dorothy Benton Perkins (1918 - 1970) was truly the spirit and force behind our Beach House. This should not be forgotten. It was Dorothy who initiated the project and performed much of the hard manual labor with her husband and father. Finally, she had the vision to put up the geranium box and plant two spruce trees.

Long live Benton beach House! In appreciating its antiquity, can anybody find the carved date "1929" in its north siding?

## Notes

Anyone who has email access and is interested in making their address available to the rest of the family, please send a quick note listing your email address to: [tim@swingbridge.com](mailto:tim@swingbridge.com). I will then re-distribute all these addresses to everyone else who responds. For those of us scattered across the country, this is a very inexpensive way to communicate!

**Calendar of Events:** Please call Donna Chemacki, Benton Beach, Inc. secretary, for scheduling a special beach event. This is not necessary for small, spontaneous gatherings. Please [submit](#) any articles or family updates to Tim Chemacki for incorporation into the next issue.



[\[BBC Home Page\]](#) [\[HOME\]](#)

---

*Timothy Chemacki*  
[tim@swingbridge.com](mailto:tim@swingbridge.com)

*Updated 26 September 1998*