



Port Norris

The Past for the Future

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Port Norris Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the history of our unique village, located in Commercial Township in Cumberland County, NJ.

PNHS Next meeting: December 11, 2018 7:00 pm • 1723 Main Street

[Visit our website for more details.](#)



Walter B. Rudolph

Walter B. Rudolph, of Port Norris, passed away peacefully at home, in his sleep, at the age of 101. He was the son of the late Walter B. and Margaret Griffith Rudolph and the husband of the late Catherine M. Rudolph. He was born and raised and a lifelong resident of Port Norris and a graduate of Port Norris High School.

Walt operated the Esso Station in Port Norris for twenty years and also had a television and air conditioning sales and service business. He was working on a watch the night before he died.

He enjoyed watching auto racing as well as repairing watches and clocks. In 2010, we honored Walt as a Living Legend for his service to the community of Port Norris.

At our November meeting we shared round table memories about Walt. Dick Smith told us that he frequently visited Walt to chat about the history of the town. Dick said that he learned more about Port Norris from him than anyone else. Walt knew the names of all the homes and businesses in town, who owned what and when, as well as when folks were moving in and out. He definitely was the town Historian.

Several people recalled that Walt often drove to Pennsylvania to check out the dealers markets in search of treasures. The overall feeling was that Walt was a really neat guy who will be missed by many.

[See his Legends page. click here.](#)

Legends Awards 2018 Review

In 2008, the Port Norris Historical Society began a yearly tradition of honoring those who have made a significant impact on our community. To celebrate our 10th year we held our awards program at the Officers Club at the Motorsports Park. It was entertaining having race cars zipping by, just feet away. We had a record number this year, 155 people. It was a



Families accepting legend awards on behalf of their loved ones and Living Legend Sally Dickenson with her family.



delightful afternoon with mini reunions taking place around the room. We were pleased to have so many past legends with us as well, Ed Horseman, John Hickman, Hanna Nichols, Barbara Adams and Barney Hollinger, Sr. We were saddened to lose our Legend, Walt Rudolph, who passed away this year. (We celebrate him on page 1).

Every family represented shared engaging stories that were touching, historical and hysterical. The photographs and stories will be shared on the website and in the newsletters in coming months.

We are so grateful to the families who came and shared the stories of their loved ones. Thank you to everyone for their help in making all this happen. It was great teamwork.

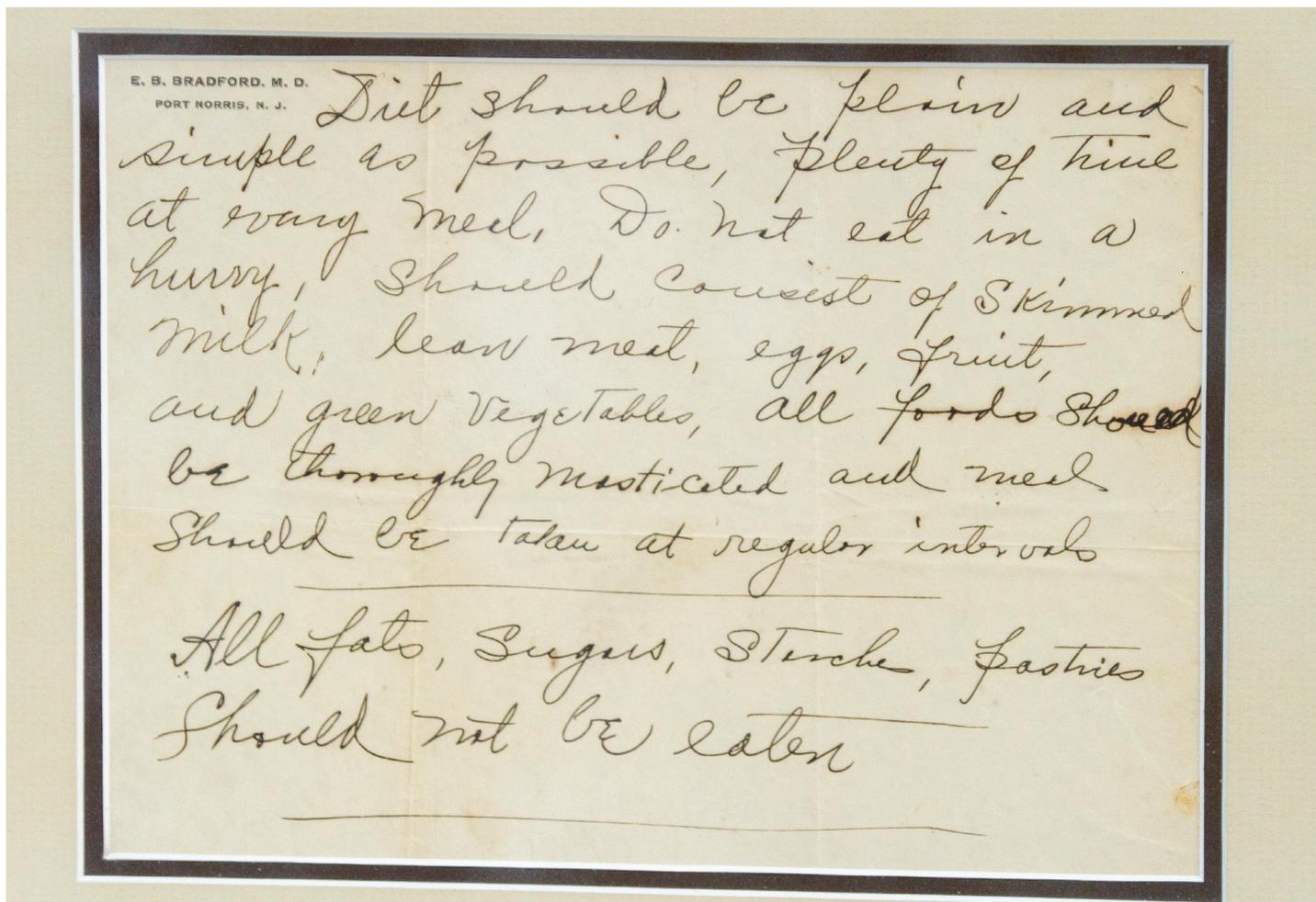
20th Century

Owen John Carney, Jr. James D. Garrison,
 Sr. Warren R. Miller (Barney)
 Anthony J. Ricci & Samuel R. Ricci
 Captain Warren D. Robbins, MD

Living Legend
 Sally Dickenson

Dr. E. B. Bradford's prescription for good health.

This delightful, framed note by Dr. Bradford was donated by Joe and Mary Linda Locotte. It is a note given to a patient as a suggested diet. Just charming and good advice! Thank you so very much for this gift.





East Point Lighthouse



East Point Lighthouse is a working lighthouse located on the mouth of the picturesque Maurice River on the Delaware Bay in southern New Jersey. This remote lighthouse is surrounded by natural beauty and has played an important part in the maritime history of the region. Originally known as the Maurice River Lighthouse, it was erected in 1849 by the United States Lighthouse Establishment. The present name was initiated in 1913. Throughout the years it has shown fisherman, oystermen & recreational boaters the way into the mouth of the Maurice River. Although numerous lighthouses once stood along the edge of the Delaware Bay, East Point is the last one remaining on the New Jersey side. In fact, it is the second oldest lighthouse still standing in New Jersey, second only to Sandy Hook Lighthouse that was built in 1764. East Point Light house is an active navigational aid with a flashing red light maintained by the US Coast Guard. The lighthouse has just recently been fully restored and furnished, giving visitors a look back in time to when a keeper and family lived at East Point in around 1910 - 1915.



The East Point Lighthouse Historical Society is trying to bring awareness to the current situation and help direct some action for a permanent solution to the disappearing shoreline and rising water table that has caused regular flooding in the lighthouse. The erosion of the shoreline, is threatening the lighthouse. You can read all the supporting articles to understand all the complex issues. Below are links for information.

In late October, US Silica & Whibco donated even more super sack sandbags and the Maurice River Township Road Crew & the Cumberland County Public Works Crew worked together to reinforce the dune to help save East Point Lighthouse.

On Saturday, November 10, on the beach, a group of supporters and press gathered in support of the Lighthouse and the Southern Bayshore of New Jersey. It was a bitter cold and windy day, but the sun was shining, and it was a good day. The goal is to be heard by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection & the Army Corps of Engineers who own the land around the lighthouse. "People matter ... their homes & businesses matter ... history matters and they are all in danger of being lost along the southern bayshore. Something needs to be done soon before it's too late." Nancy Patterson Tidy

Read More https://www.nj.com/cumberland/index.ssf/2018/11/east_point_lighthouse_njdep_erosion_noreaster.html
[#saveeastpointlighthouse](https://www.facebook.com/pg/eastpointlight/posts/?ref=notif)
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/eastpointlight/posts/?ref=notif>



Photo credit to Maurice Brunner, Elizebeth Simpson & Nancy Patterson.

Samuel N. Riley

Recognized as a Legend of Port Norris
on December 2, 2012

By Linda (Riley) Keller

Our father Samuel Riley was one of those people. He was born on May 27, 1917 and died on May 3, 1998. But these dates are not what is important. What Dad did between those two dates is what made him the man he was and anyone that knew Dad knew he was a humble man of honesty, integrity and principles.

Dad was the son of James A and Florence E (Chain) Riley. He grew up in Haleyville and went to school there. He had red hair and freckles and loved an good joke, especially when he perpetrated it on someone else. I guess you could say he was just plain ornery. He was not pretentious or slothful, having had to help his widowed mother from an early age along with Conservation Corps in the early 30's and met his wife Mary in 1935. They married on July 10, 1939 and were blessed with 3 children in the years to come. My sister Sylvia, my brother, Jim and myself and later 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Dad was always involved in some aspect of community life. He pitched for the Port Norris Oyster League, was a Boy Scout leader and joined the First United Methodist Church of Port Norris. He taught Sunday School for a number of years and served on various committees and the Administrative Board there. When work needed to be done, Dad was always available and he always went the extra mile.

Dad had various jobs during his lifetime. He worked for Dorchester Ship Yard, Leone Industries, and Airwork Corporation. Dad was also Post Man for many years, which brings me to a recollection that my brother had of Dad.

He writes, I don't remember Dad ever sitting me down for a long lecture about anything. He would tell me once and from then it was pretty much up to me. I could take his advice or live with the consequences. It was pretty much my decision to make.

One of the things that sticks out in my mind, that Dad taught me growing up at home, was one of life's lessons. His lessons were taught by example. For instance, Dad filled in for Hobe Garrison as rural mail carrier for a few years. Even as a young person I could tell he was very happy with this job. He made many more friends and would go out of his way to help his customers and they showed their appreciation in many ways, especially on the Holidays.

When Mr. Garrison retired, Dad had high hopes for the job on a permanent basis. But in order for this to happen, Dad had to take a Civil Service exam along with a few other people. I remember him studying hard for the test.

One day Dad came home from work and you could tell something was wrong. NOT only could you see it but you could feel it. He had not gotten the position. He had done well on the exam and probably would have gotten the job but someone had claimed "Disabled Veterans" preference, which they were within their rights to do.

By doing that the Veteran got the job. I didn't understand the system at the time and I was very bitter about the whole situation. I would have done anything to change things and get Dad that job. But Dad never missed a beat as far as I could see. He didn't go around complaining and feeling sorry for himself or wining about how unfair it was. Instead he just sucked it up and went on with his and our lives. I think that was a great life lesson. Just one of the many He taught me through his life and his example. Our family was truly blessed.

I believe that Sylvia and I will concur that our family was truly blessed by Dad and Mom's example as will their grandchildren.

Unfortunately his great grandchildren didn't get to know him but he was still proud of all of his children.

Dad was elected to the Township Committee in 1963 and served as Mayor from 1964 to 1968. He served willingly and honestly. But Dad's best moment was when as a young man, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He took this decision very seriously and lived his life accordingly. He loved his wife and his children. He worked hard and worked many long

hours to provide for us. He set a good example. When we hurt, he hurt. When we laughed, he laughed, (most of the time) and when we cried well..... (we probably deserved it.)

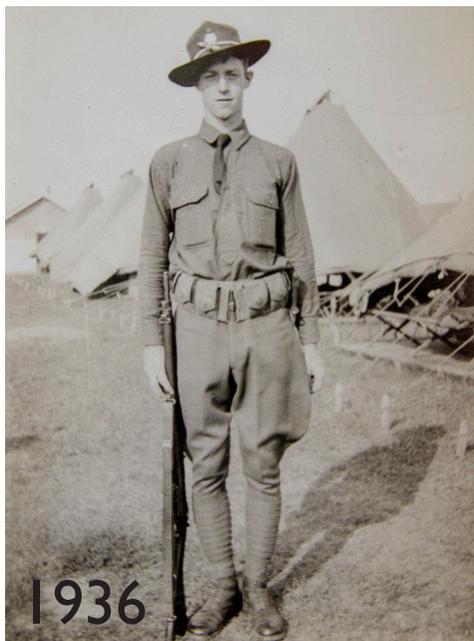
Dad lived 79 years and a some days short of his 80th birthday. He packed as much happiness and love in those 79 years and 3 days as was humanly possible. Did he have it easy? Far from it but he knew that his Lord would provide for him and he held fast to that promise. As I said in the beginning, Dad was a humble man of honesty, integrity and principles and he did not compromise. He loved us and we love him still, but when you leave the legacy Dad left what else can be said?

[See his full Legends page, click here.](#)



1933

A young Sam



1936

At Camp in 1936



Back Row

Dale Peterson Louise Leach Dorothy Newcomb Rhodella Thomas
 Wilma Lambert — Thomas Hanby Robert Lupton

Center

Linwood Gaskill Ella Mae Leach Bill Riggin Howard Camp
 Betty Gaskill Evelyn Riggin Helen Newcomb Florence Lupton
 — Elvira Gaskill

Front Row

Francis Garrison — Jones Berdette Messert Sam Riley
 Genevieve Bradley Smiley Leach Walt Rudolph Fremont Lloyd
 Jim Garrison

In addition to Legend Sam Riley are Legends, Bill Riggin, Walt Rudolph, and Jim Garrison.
 Photos Courtesy of Linda (Riley) Keller

Port Norris Pickings

October 5, 1888

A steam-barge loaded with glass sand, bound for Florence, NJ, went out of the river to-day, with an oyster boat in tow.

November 6, 1889

Election passed off very quietly in this place, giving General Grubb a vote which, if the example had been followed throughout the State, would have elected him by a large majority.

Second Annual Scarecrow Event

*presented by the Louise E. Moore Senior Center
and the Port Norris Historical Society*

We hope everyone will have a good laugh and enjoy the 13 scarecrows decorating the light posts on Main Street. Thank you to Commercial Twp. for permission to put them around town and to Clint for making that happen for us. Thank you Cindy Tawes, Director of the Senior Center who organized it with the township and the Port Norris Historical Society Members.

Some of the seniors felt like kids again and a couple had never made a scarecrow. Each stuffed, stapled and painted creation was given a name and now resides on the website. You can enjoy all the creations at this link.

[See the 2018 Scarecrows.](#)



Membership and Renew for 2019

We would love to add your name to our growing list of members. Please give some thought to joining the PNHS.

Membership fees are for Individual - \$10, Family - \$15, Benefactor - \$50 and over, and Student - \$1 (no voting privileges) and entitles you to discounts on our merchandise.

Click here to renew or join, historicportnorris.org/membership.htm

Or mail your check to: Port Norris Historical Society, PO Box 187
Port Norris, NJ 08349.

Thank you for your support. Membership is key to applying for grants as well as your dollars help us continue with all of our endeavours.

Membership fees are tax deductible.

**See us on Facebook
and our website
historicportnorris.org**

If you are getting this email from a friend and would like to be added to our list, please [click here](#) and we will add you. If we received your email at one of our events. and if you do not wish to receive this newsletter, click here web@historicportnorris.org, we will remove you from the list. We do not sell or share your email with anyone!



NORRIS ASKS

What is the significance of a lighthouse?

Lighthouses symbolize the way forward and help in navigating our way through rough waters whether those waters be financial, personal, business or spiritual in nature. Nothing else speaks of safety and security in the face of adversity and challenge quite the way a lighthouse does. Source: John Lund

More facts on lighthouses <https://www.nps.gov/apis/learn/kidsyouth/upload/lightcurra.pdf>



Port Norris
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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Officers

Rachel Cobb, President
Richard Smith, Vice-President
Alvina Baum, Secretary
Mary Linda Locotte,
Assoc. Secretary
Faye Hickman, Treasurer

Trustees

Rev. E. Barnes
Eileen Bernhardt
Virginia Campbell
John Hickman
Sam Ricci

Please Note:

Meeting dates and times are posted on the website each month along with the approved minutes from the last meeting. Everyone is always welcome. [Click here to view.](#)

For a complete list of committees see our website. [View Here](#)