



Norway Museum & Historical Society

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From the *Portland Sunday Telegram*, July 28, 1907:

“Rex,” a dog owned by W.S. Pierce of Norway, Me., eats with a fork and delights in good manners. He is a handsome and affectionate pet. He enjoys doing small errands and eagerly watches for the arrival of the mailman. On Sundays he pays no attention whatever to the mail box, seeming to understand the difference in the day.

NMHS note: It isn't clear whether Rex *used* the fork or ate *from* the fork.

This great photo by Harry A. Packard. See story on page 4.



SUMMER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

JUNE 11, Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Program: *Norway Telephone Company History*
Susan Denison will give an overview of the telephone system from its beginnings in 1885. This will be accompanied by an interview with a former telephone operator.

JULY 16, TUESDAY, 7:00 pm

Program: *Norway's Corn Shop History*
Brad Cummings will present the evolution of the corn packing industry from its beginnings in 1881 to its closing in 1953.

AUGUST 13, TUESDAY, 7:00 pm

Program: *The Klain Family: a WWI Story*
Angela Todd will present a story-based archive talk. Join us to hear the Klain family story.

JULY 13, SATURDAY, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

EVENT: *MARIGOLD TEA ROOM*
NORWAY MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

The Marigold Tea Room will serve slices of homemade pie with ice cream. The Museum will be open and providing tours throughout the day. Come see our snowshoe exhibit

SEPTEMBER 21, SATURDAY

EVENT: *NORWAY HISTORY WALKING TOURS*

These tours will focus on 5 historic buildings on Main Street and people associated with them. Reenactors will tell the stories.

The times of the tours and reservation information will be posted on facebook and the NMHS website.

Share your recollections!

Do your relatives know the fun memories you have, such as: what Main Street was like when you were a kid; how you got to school from North Norway; what you did if you were snowed in for days; what was done for entertainment before TV and the internet.

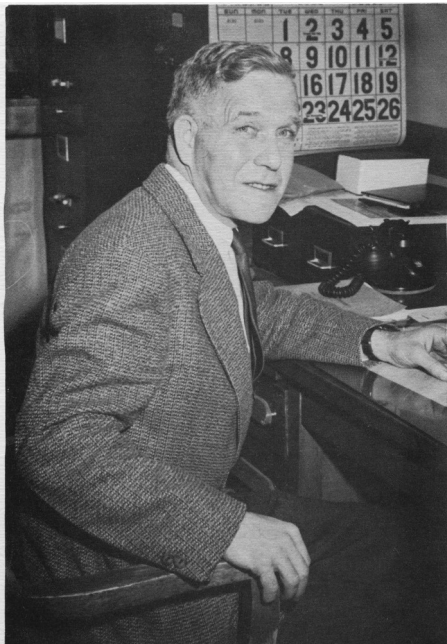
Everyone has stories about these and other topics, documenting how it used to be, or the current aspects of life in Norway. The NMHS is continuing the Oral History project, to collect and store the stories for current and future generations to better understand Norway history. Your recollections should be part of this history!

Please consider volunteering to be part of the oral history project, or recommend someone. Call 743-7377 or e-mail norwaymehistory@gmail.com with questions, comments and to participate.

What's in a Name?

Have you ever wondered how a place in town got its name? Why are they called the Rowe School, Witherell Park and the Stone-Smart American Legion Hall?

Rowe School



Guy E. Rowe, Sr. (1903 – 1960) began his teaching career at Norway High School right after graduating from Bates College in 1924. He was the science teacher, as well as the coach of the ski team. While teaching high school, he also was the principal at the junior high - now called middle school. In 1946, Mr. Rowe became principal of the high school, while continuing to teach science. He did double-duty until 1957, when he stopped teaching and concentrated on being principal. At the time of his very sudden death, Mr. Rowe was a much-loved and respected educator.

By the mid-1960s, the former Norway High School building, where Mr. Rowe taught for so long, was part of the elementary school complex. In a fitting tribute, the Norway Elementary School became the Guy E. Rowe School.

Guy E. Rowe, Principal of Norway High School

Witherell Park

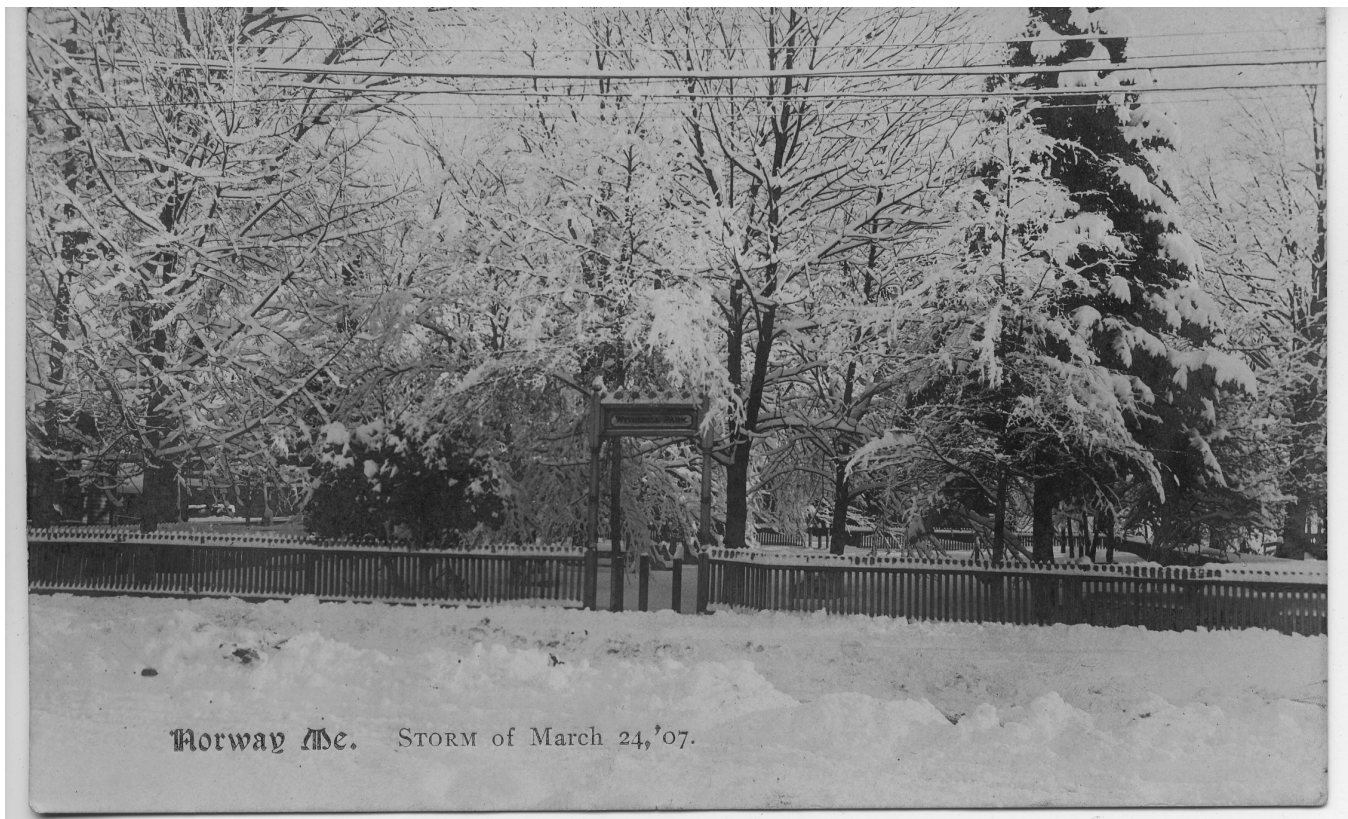
Witherell Park, the green space between Lynn Street and the Savings Bank, is named for the man who helped start Norway's shoe industry. Ivers Witherell (1821 – 1906) of Lynn, Mass. came to Norway as the first superintendent of the B. F. Spinney & Co. shoe factory that was established here in 1873. Mr. Witherell built an impressive home (destroyed in the Great Fire of 1894) where the library stands today. He also planted grass and trees in the empty lot between the new shoe factory building and Main Street, turning it into the park that bears his name.

Though he was in Norway for just 10 years, he never lost interest in the town. When he died in Lynn in 1906, the shoe factories here shut down for the hour of his funeral, as a sign of respect.



The beginnings of Witherell Park, the fenced area in front of the new shoe factory. The large house in the center still stands.

Continued on next page



A postcard showing the park after a snowstorm in 1907.

The Stone-Smart Legion Post

The Stone-Smart Legion Post is named for the first Norway servicemen killed in action during World Wars I & II, respectively.

The American Legion was founded in 1919 by veterans of World War I. Norway's Post was organized in February, 1920, and was named the William Henry Stone Post No. 82. Pvt. "Harry" Stone died in France in early 1918, but did not come home until 1921. He is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery.

Pvt. George Smart died during the invasion at Munda in the Soloman Islands in the South Pacific, in June 1943. He is also buried in Pine Grove. The Norway Legion Post changed its name to also honor Pvt. Smart after WW II ended.

Volunteers and Members Welcome!

There are many ways you can support the continuing work to document the history of Norway:

- Join the organization
- Become a museum docent
- Help make refreshments for our programs
- Provide financial support

Maintaining our heritage at the Norway Museum and Historical Society takes many hands and we welcome your support! Just let us know.

News of the Past

Harry A. Packard (1886 – 1965) was a Norway native who spent his career as a journalist, photographer, and freelance writer. He was a news correspondent for Maine and Boston newspapers; wrote many dozens of feature articles that appeared in both well-known and obscure publications; and his photographs appeared on the covers of national magazines. The number of his published stories likely come a close second to those of another famous Norway native – C.A. Stephens.

Sid and Roberta Gordon have recently given us a vast collection of Harry Packard articles, photographs, and negatives. There is enough material that we will be studying and appreciating it for years. Among the collection are about a dozen scrapbooks that seem to have been put together by Bessie Packard, Harry's wife. They cover several decades of his work and possibly contain every feature story Harry ever wrote. Most, though not all, of the items in the scrapbooks relate to Norway and we've pulled out three as our "news of the past."

We're thankful the Packard archive was saved and we are grateful for Sid & Roberta's very important gift. It's a treasure of local history.



From the *Boston Globe*, year unknown:

Norway, Me, Aug 29 – Here is a novel feeding stand for birds. It was arranged for Mrs. Stella Libby of this village, who desired to have a covered feeding place for her feathered friends.

There was a street lamp, one of the hanging kind, near her home, with a large metal inverted V-shaped roof to keep the rain from the carbons. When the new lights were installed Mrs. Libby made application for the old dome.

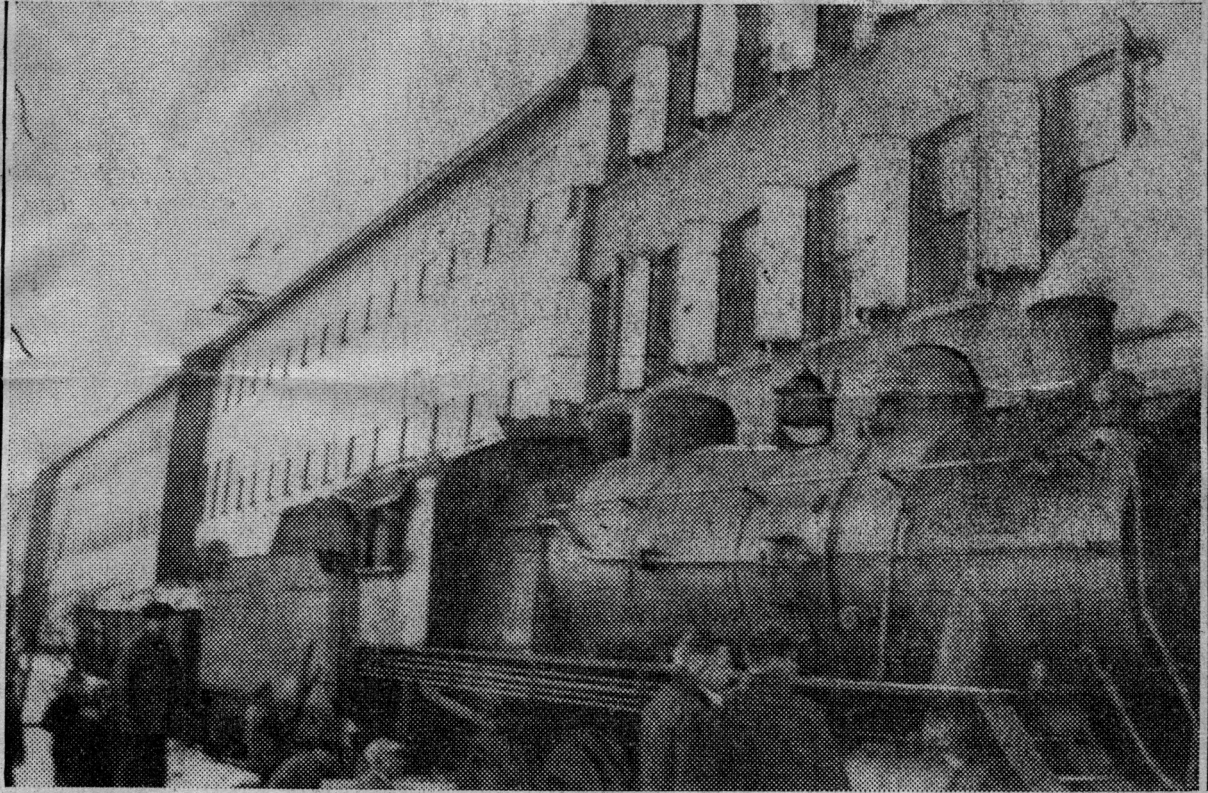
Remodeled a bit, with a shelf to receive the food, and set on a three-iron pipe well set in the ground, she had a durable and attractive feeding stand.

Her residence is only half a mile from some pine woods and it was easy to attract the Winter birds which frequent these woods to her home.

She uses suet, breadcrumbs, and grain to attract the songsters, and a dish of warmed water for them on cold Winter days. At times more than a dozen chickadees and other Winter birds gather around the feeding stand.

"Makes the Winter seem shorter," declares Mrs. Libby, "to have the birds around."

Locomotive Brings Heat to Two Shoe Plants After System Breaks Down



LOCOMOTIVE HEATS TWO FACTORIES

Old 2611, once the pride of the Grand Trunk Railroad in Maine, has been pressed into service to heat shoe factories where 1100 employees had been put out of work when the heating system went bad.

From the *Boston Post*, March 8, 1939:

Norway, Me., March 7 - A Canadian National Railway locomotive late today began providing heat for the plants of the Norway and B.E. Cole shoe companies after the dual heating system of the plants had been disabled for several days.

Failure of the system threw 1100 employees out of work and threatened to cause cancellation of large orders of spring shipments.

Officials of the firms negotiated with the railway and today a large locomotive arrived to meet the emergency. It was run along a spur track to the factories. Employees will go back to work tomorrow morning.

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One Special Volunteer Needed

We have an immediate opening for a volunteer to help us with our obituary file. All you need is a bit of spare time and legible handwriting – we provide the rest. Our obituary file is one of our most important collections and is the first place we check when someone asks for information on an ancestor.

We will provide the local newspapers and the file cards. You will cut out the obituaries of local residents, fill in some blanks on the card and attach the obituary to it. We'll work out the details of dropping off/picking up.

Our Mission:

The mission of the Society is to bring people together to share, celebrate and learn about Norway's heritage, by collecting, caring for and exhibiting Norway's historical treasures; by facilitating the collection of and research into family and local history; and by providing programs that make our history meaningful that engage people of all ages.

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