



January 2021 E-Newsletter

Eric Hooglund, Editor

Published monthly for members of the Belgrade Historical Society

As we begin a new year, we want to remember Mavis Anita *Judkins* Longfellow, who passed away on November 20, 2020. She was born in Belgrade, January 11, 1930, to Roland and Margaret *Tozier* Judkins. She and her older brother Guy were raised mostly in Belgrade, but during World War II the family lived for three years in South Portland, where father Roland Judkins worked in the shipyard that was building Liberty Ships for the US Navy. Her last year in South Portland, 1944-45, coincided with what would have been her freshman year at Belgrade High School, so she attended 9th grade at the old South Portland Middle School.

With the beginning of the new school year in September 1945, Mavis was back in Belgrade and a sophomore at the newly rebuilt Central School (the original one had burned down in December 1943!). The Central School combined the High School on the entire second floor with grades 1 through 8 were on the ground floor. Her brother Guy was a senior, while several cousins were in the lower grades, including her cousin Melva Judkins, who was two years younger than Mavis and in the 8th grade. The Belgrade High School yearbook, 'The Echo, 1948' provides a glimpse into Mavis's high school years as an active and popular student. For example,

during 1946-47, she was president of her junior class; vice-president of the Glee Club; served on the Student Council; played an instrument in the orchestra; played on the softball team; was captain of the magazine drive; and was an office girl.

Mavis Judkins portrait from *The B.H.S.*

Echo, 1948, p. 5.

During her senior year, Mavis was class vice-president; Glee Club president; on the yearbook staff; was office girl; librarian; in the orchestra; and a candidate for the Daughters of the American Revolution. As president of the Glee Club, Mavis helped to organize the 34 members, including singers from the lower grades as well as the high school, and its presentation of a musical variety show at the Belgrade Grange in February 1948.



B.H.S. Orchestra, 1947-48; Mavis Judkins, first row, 2nd from right, p. 16.

Some humorous insights into Mavis Judkins's years at Belgrade High School include the entries written about her by her classmates on pages 12 and 13 of 'The Echo' under the heading **SENIOR STATISTICS**:

Known as: 'Marvin.'

Apparent Age: 'Blushing.'

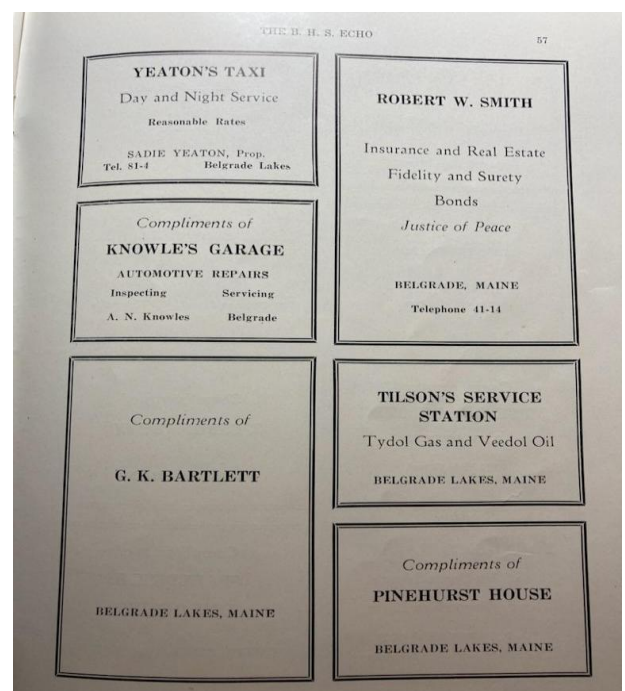
Greatest ambition: 'Missionary.'

Favorite song: 'Call Me Up Some Rainy Afternoon.'

Favorite pastime: 'Housekeeping.'

Will Die of: 'Longfellow's poetry???'

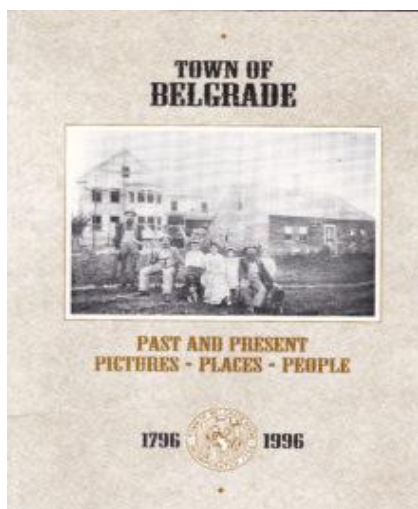
For her classmates, the last entry very likely was not to the famous 19th century Maine poet but rather to Lawrence Longfellow, a young man from Farmingdale whom Mavis had met at a grange dance in 1947. And in July 1949, one year after graduating from Belgrade High School, Mavis Judkins married Lawrence Longfellow! The couple initially settled in Farmingdale, where they raised five children. Eventually Mavis and Lawrence would found Longfellow's Greenhouse in Manchester, a town that borders Belgrade on the southwest. Their vision of operating a successful family business was not unusual in the late 1940s and 1950s, as the number of ads in the 1948 'Echo' testify: 20 pages of ads from diverse businesses in Augusta, Belgrade, Oakland and Waterville, with 4 to 8 ads per page, including over 25 ads from Belgrade enterprises. On p. 57, for example, all six of the ads are from businesses in Belgrade Depot and Belgrade Lakes! **Ad for Belgrade businesses, 1948, B.H.S. Echo, p. 57.**



BHS Books!

All proceeds to our Capital Fund for renovation of Belgrade's historic Town Meeting House, built in 1814 and used for the March 1815 Town Meeting.

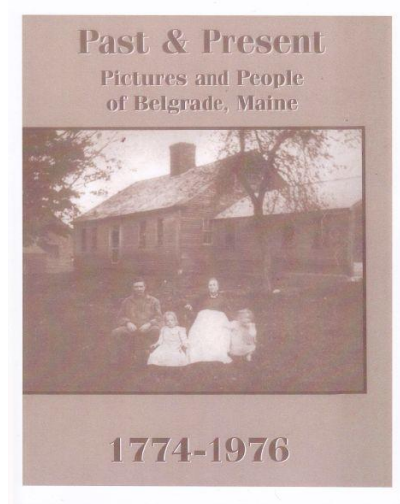
Town of Belgrade Past and Present Pictures of People and Places



A special hardbound photo and text book for the coffee table!

Special price: \$26, includes postage and handling

Past and Present, reprint of 1976 Bicentennial book featuring over 100 old photographs, each with historically accurate descriptions! \$18, includes postage.



BELGRADE, A HISTORY

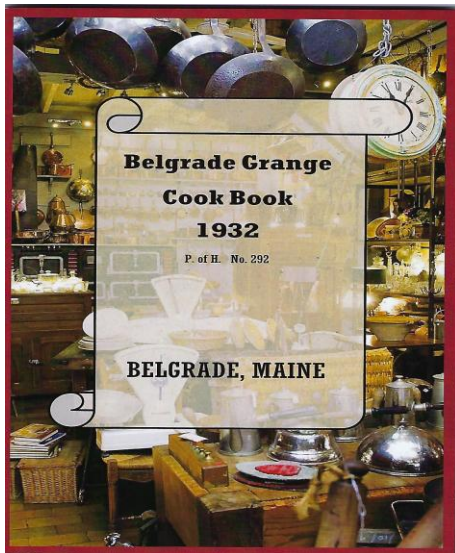
EXCERPTED FROM

Illustrated History
of Kennebec County, Maine
1625-1799-1892

Editors: Henry D. Kingsbury, Simeon L Deyo



Also available is
The
History,' reprint of 1892 history
compiled by Belgrade native John
Clair Minot who eventually
moved to Boston and became
editor of *Youth's Companion*, a
popular magazine for boys & an
editor for Boston's Herald
newspaper. \$10, includes
postage.



A reprint of The Belgrade Grange cookbook is available at Hello Good Pie and Oliver and Friends Bookstore in Belgrade Lakes Village.

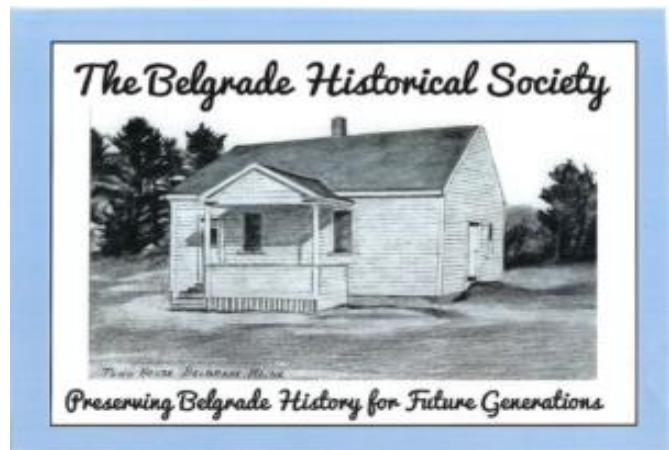
It is also available from the Belgrade Historical Society for \$15.00 + a \$3.00 for Postage. To order from BHS send an email to

belgradehistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Don't forget to renew your BHS membership for 2021!

Or consider buying a membership for a friend or a family member who would enjoy the stories of Belgrade!



The Belgrade Historical Society welcomes all who support our mission and share our commitment to preserve the rich history of the town and its lakes. Individuals, families, organizations, or businesses may join. The membership year is January 1 – December 31, and at any meeting of the members each membership is entitled to one vote. Members may also attend any meeting of the Board of Directors . Please visit our website for more information on becoming a member or how you can donate to the BHS @ <http://belgradehistoricalsociety.org/>

Capital Fund Drive



Rendering of Townhouse after Renovation

Sketch by Artist Erik Johnson

The **Capital Fund Drive** is going well! We have received several thousand dollars and returns are coming in on a daily basis. A friendly reminder to those who want to give and have not yet done so.

Use your return envelope or send your own to BHS, P.O. Box 36A, Belgrade, Maine 04917. Use PayPal as an alternative by going to our website belgradehistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Don't forget that BHS is a non-profit 501 (3) 2 organization, so all contributions to its capital campaign to renovate the Old Town House are tax deductible. Any donation you make to BHS can be deducted from your income tax to the extent allowable by law. Please think of making an end-of-year donation to our worthy cause and help to preserve our history.

Please stop by and check out the progress of the restoration of the Old Town House, they are doing a fantastic job of restoring the building!