

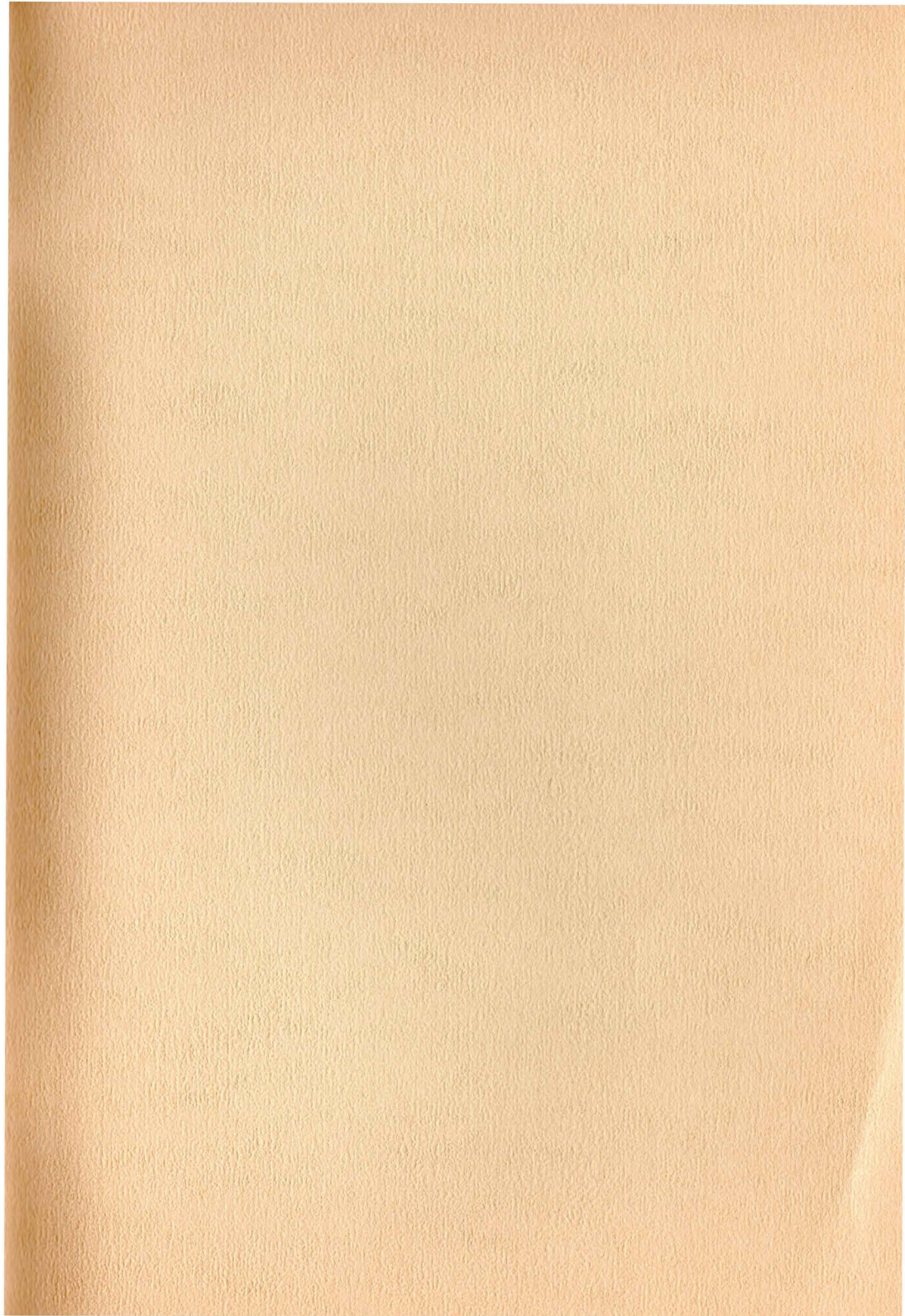
VEAZIE MAINE

Past and Present



AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL

By Karen Jones Walker



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In Appreciation

The following is a list of people whom I would like to thank for their help and encouragement in the writing of this history, for without their help I would never have finished this project.

The Ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary for their well kept records which were of great help in the writing of this history.

Freeland Jones for the pictures he took and printed for this history, and for putting up with all my questions.

The Ladies Aid for the information on their organization.

Sally Jones for reading and taking care of my children while I did my research.

Mr. Webster at the Bangor Hydro for the information he provided me with.

Beulah Hodgman, Elsie Bogert, Dottie Henderson, Addie Weed, Tom Davis, Joe King, Amy Calkins, Madeline Robenson, Mary Reese, Blanch Smith and the late Vivian Smith, for their help and the time they gave me so that this project could be finished.

Mrs. John (Sarah) Gilbert for proofreading this history.

Again my thanks to you all.

Veazie's Early History

On this the 125th anniversary of the Town of Veazie and there never having been written a history of our town, other than a page or two here or there, I felt that it was time something was compiled to give us all a better idea of our town and its inhabitants, past and present.

Veazie's early history is really not its own until 1853, so in order to tell Veazie's past we must go back into the history of Massachusetts until Maine became a state. Then into the history of the Kenduskeag Plantation, later to be called Bangor, until Veazie's incorporation in 1853. According to *The History of Penobscot*, "Veazie, long known as 'The Plains', is believed to have been occupied and crudely cultivated by the Penobscot Indians for their corn-land from time immemorial. Here, very likely, was situated their ancient 'Negas' an Indian town at the close of the 17th century." It is believed this area was located up between the Alvah Calkins home and Silver's Construction Company. Before the railroad tracks were built the land in that area sloped all the way down to the river. Over the years Indian artifacts have been uncovered by Veazie residents.

The Penobscot River has played a big part in the settlement of Veazie as well as its economic growth. The river was used not only by the Indians but by the French settlements in Canada to get to their trading post in the Veazie area. The English established trading posts (or truck houses as they were called) of which one was located where Dr. Manter resides today.

In 1725 Captain Joseph Heath came with an expedition across the country, from the Kennebec River area and destroyed a French fort and village at a place called Fort Hill located at the head of the tide above Mt. Hope, today known as Thompson's Point. The fort was later rebuilt by the French and Indians as it seemed essential to them to keep the Penobscot open as the English held the St. John and Kennebec Rivers.

In 1754 Fort Hill was completed and garrisoned by 80 men under the command of Capt. Jedielih Preble.

Veazie's first white settlers came from Massachusetts prior to the Revolutionary War, having followed blazed trails through the wilderness.

The first white child to be born in what is now Veazie, was born Sept. 10, 1772. She was the second child to be born in Bangor. I regret that I have been unable to find out the name of the child.

A military company was organized in 1776 consisting of 21 white men and 10 Indians. They built a rough barracks in the angle at the intersection of the two diverging roads just above Mt. Hope Cemetery.

In the 1820's there was a Pumpkin Tavern located in the area of Stucco Lodge today. The tavern was noted for its sign that hung out over the tavern as it was in the shape of a pumpkin. For some time it was the only tavern between Bangor and Old Town.

In 1834, the year Bangor was incorporated, Veazie was known as North Bangor; it was also known as McMahon's Falls, taking its name from the man who built the first dam this far up the river. The site of the dam is believed to be just a short distance from the site of the present Veazie Dam.

The Town of Veazie, on March 26, 1853, was incorporated by the State Legislature. The Charter was accepted by the townspeople on June 27, 1853. At the time of the incorporation Mt. Hope Cemetery was included in Veazie's boundaries but was later deeded back to Bangor at the request of that city.

General Veazie was responsible for this incorporation. Veazie was formed out of the former ward 7 of Bangor. The first selectmen of Veazie were Hirm Ford, James Moore, and George Smith. The first Town Clerk was A. J. Stockwell. At the first town meeting held on June 28, 1853 the moderator was Warran Thompson. The clerk was S. S. Fish.

Now having some background of our town let's look at some of the events that helped her to grow and prosper. First let's look at the railroad.

The railroad was not only an important event for Veazie but for the development of the whole area. The Bangor and Piscataquis Canal and Railroad was the second railroad to operate in the country, the first in New England. The railroad ran between Bangor and Old Town in 1836. The line ran from upper Stillwater near Stillwater Avenue, then to Bangor along Harlow and Exchange Streets to the wharves. The train traveled at a speed of 6 miles per hour. The first engine was called "The Pioneer." The line hauled, besides passengers, clapboards, shingles, laths and lumber from the mills to Bangor and the waiting ships. The fare for passengers was 37½ cents.

In 1854 The Bangor and Piscataquis Canal opened new track to Old Town and Milford. Thus in 1855 the line became known as the Bangor, Old Town and Milford Railroad Company and within a few years the line was commonly known as the Veazie Railroad. When General Veazie purchased the line in 1854 the line had 12 miles of track and it took 1½ hours to make the trip from Bangor to Milford. General Veazie ran the line until his death in 1868. In 1870 the General's family sold the railroad to the European and North American Railway and that company promptly discontinued the line. Upon the discontinuing of the old line the European and North American opened a new line

from Bangor to Olamou in the same year 1868. This line ran where the present Maine Central line runs. The purpose of this new line, it was hoped, was to connect New York and St. John, thus uniting the Canadian Provinces and the commercial centers of America's east coast, and shorten the time of trans-Atlantic passage. In 1882 The European and North American Railway Company was leased by the Maine Central Railroad. The train station was located on School Street near the tracks by the Maine Storage Company.

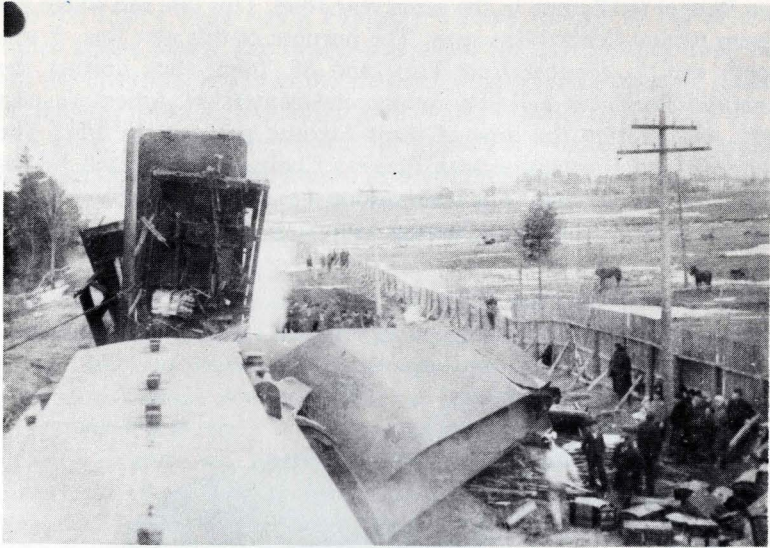


Train station located on School Street

This station was removed around 1940. The first station was located at the end of Lemon Street behind the present residence of Perry Noyes.

One of the most memorable events of the railroad in Veazie was the train wreck of April 2, 1895. The wreck happened down on the tracks behind the present home of Richard Bronson. The Maine Central Railroad train St. John Express collided head on with the Old Town local known as the Shoo-fly. It was quite a memorable event in the lives of many local people at the time.

Today it may be possible for one to find the old engine Bib Smith used on the old Veazie Railroad line. The story is that the Engine met with disaster by jumping the tracks a short way out of Bangor and is believed to be in the Stillwater swamp under 50 to 100 feet of mud. There has never been a report of its removal or find to this day. Today one can also find a set of railroad ties between the Hydro and the



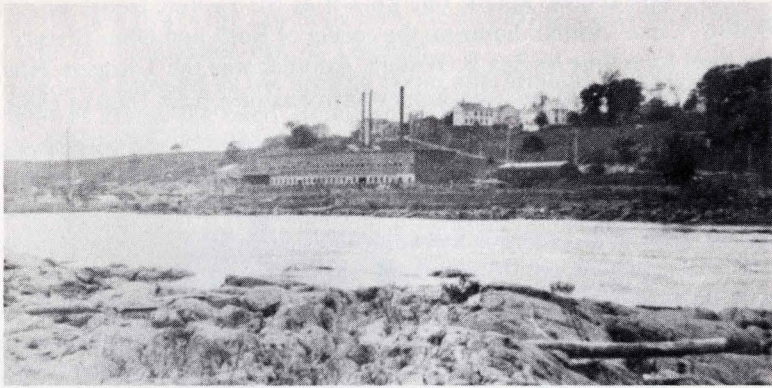
Train wreck of 1895

Francies King home along the river. The tracks were removed in the late 1930's when steel was going for a big price. The tracks were known as the "back tracks." They were used by the Hydro as a siding track.

The second event to add to the growth of our town was the advance of lumbering on the Penobscot. During the 1850's to the late 1890's Veazie was a real boom town. By some it might be said, it was Veazie's greatest period. Prior to the advance of the railroad, logging was done by river drive on the old Penobscot. These old lumbermen are known far and wide for their mark on the frontier. In the reading of "*The Penobscot Man*," we find mention of the Spencers as all being river men and of having known of logs and the water. However with the advance of the train the log drivers were replaced.

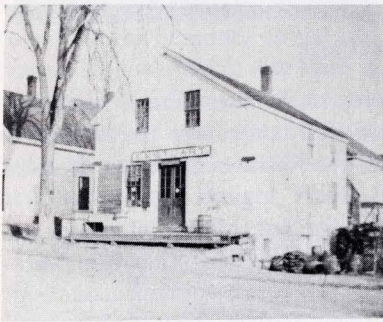
Veazie had the most saw mills located on its banks. At its peak there were 20. They each housed 30 to 40 saws and employed as many as 500 men. The mills were huge barn-like structures. Fires were not uncommon in the mills and in 1883 one of the most spectacular fires occurred when the famous Corporation Mills were burned. It was by great work on behalf of the firemen that much of the town was saved.

Olive Street during this time was commonly known as Corporation Hill. Due to the mills and all the men it employed this was indeed Veazie's boom. During this time Veazie had as many as five stores, one known as the Gilman store located on Olive Street next to the Town Hall and across from Red's Market. Another was located on the corner



One of the last saw mills

of School and Grove Streets and was known as the Sullivan store. This store used to be open on Sunday and the ladies of the town tried to have it closed on Sundays as they felt it was sinful for children to buy candy on Sunday. The third store was located on Olive Street and was known as the E. K. Stuart Store. The fourth, known as Magee's, was located where the Doc Savage home is today. The last, known as Red's Market today, was in existence in the early 1900's and has had several owners.



E. K. Stuart Store

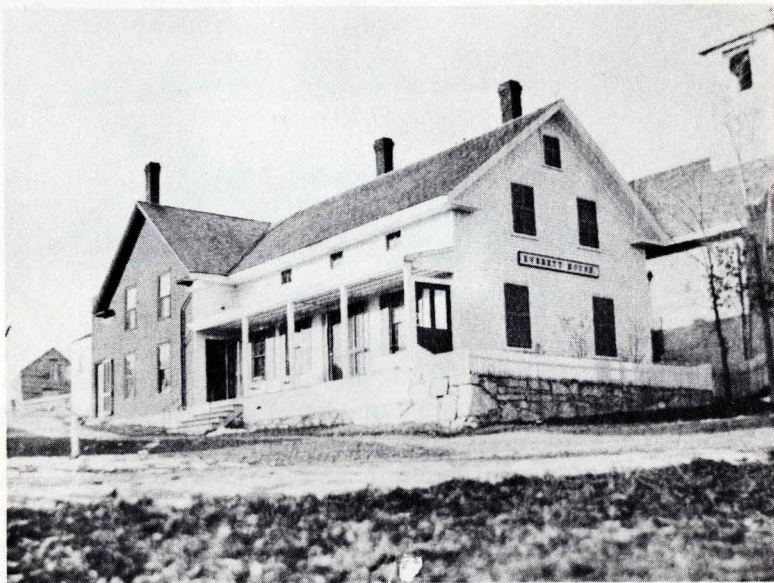


Gilman's Store



Red's Market

There were several hotels, one known as the Everett House now the Waldo "Coke" Jordan home on the corner of Rock and Olive Streets. It was kept for a time by Asa B. Waters. Another was the Townson House located on School Street, this hotel was in business from 1860 to 1880.



The Everett House

Also several houses of ill repute were run by the famous Aunt Hat Foyer. One of these houses was the old Bell home, now the Nickerson home, on Maple Street. Another was the Withee home on Hobson Avenue.

There were three public school houses for 214 children of school age of which an average attendance was about one half that number.

Also at this time there were at least one physician, one smith, one boot and shoe maker, one mill wright and three coopers, one of which was located on Olive Street near the Norman Bacon home. The cooper was Augustas Marden. One of the others was located on State Street near the present Veazie Elms.

There was also a Post Office at this time. Samuel E. Marshall was appointed its Postmaster. The Post Office was located where the Leary's home is today.

There also was the Bijou Cottage, located where the Jerome Chase home is today. It was given this name because the couple who owned the home had been in show business. One of its most noted stars was Leola May Antwine who was with the Kickapoo Indian Shows. She was married to Mr. Bulliss.

By the late 1890's the saw mills were closing along the river, bringing an end to the Golden Era of Logging.

The river brought us the logging boom and brought us closer to our neighbors across the river. In a map of 1820 we find that there was a Ferry run by Mr. Thompson located on Thompson's Point in the bend of the river. What became of this ferry I have been unable to find out. On a map of 1875 we no longer find mention of a ferry. However, in 1895, the residents of Veazie and Eddington felt the need of a ferry service between the two towns. For the residents of the Eddington side it enabled them to take the ferry, and then pick up the trolley or train on the Veazie side. Thus the residents of each town petitioned the county commissioners to allow them to establish a ferry between the two communities. Permission was given and the ferry service started. The first ferry man was George Davis. The ferry did well until 1917, by this time the automobile was coming into its own and bringing an end to the ferry. The commissioners were again petitioned, this time to end the service. Permission was granted, however, Mr. Victor Gorden continued to run the ferry on a demand basis until the late 1930's.

The river was also responsible for the development of the Veazie Power Station and Dam. In 1888 the first electric street railway in New England was started with its power coming from the Cross Street Station in Bangor. It soon became evident the station would not be able to handle the demand; so the site of an old lumber mill, the last of the famed 20 saw mills at one time to have operated on the river banks of the Penobscot River in Veazie, was chosen for the new power station.

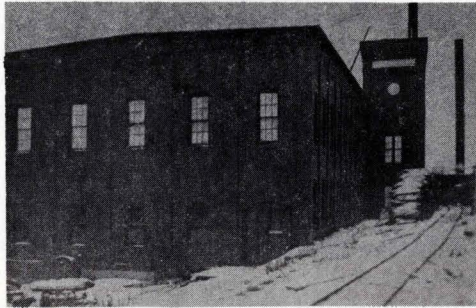
The original power plant, known as station "A," and the dam were built by the Veazie Lumber Company, about 1886. The dam was acquired by the Bangor Power Company in 1911.



A part of the old Veazie Dam

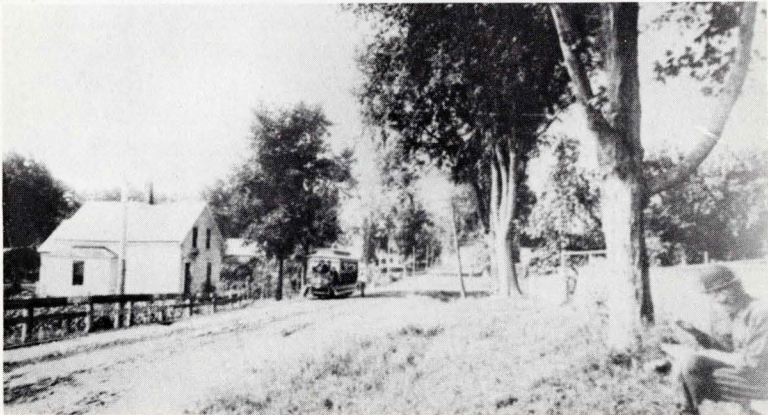
The power station building and land was acquired by the Railway and Electric Company. In 1891 the Veazie generating station was in business, the first Hydro station in Maine. As the street railway grew, new generating equipment was needed and more equipment was added at Veazie and Milford. The old Veazie Dam was replaced in 1912-1913 by a concrete one equipped with taintor gates, the first time such gates had been used in New England. The Dam was 842 feet long, 20 feet high. The reservoir created by the Dam extended over 2¾ miles from the Dam to the remains of a former Dam located in the Basin Mills section of Orono. By 1900 the Veazie power station, known locally as "The Pit", was producing the power to run over 30 miles of railway and to furnish lights and electrical power for several other local communities.

The second section of the power station was added in 1938-1939, this section is known as section "B".



Veazie Power station

The Electric Railway ran from Bangor to Orono as well as many other towns in the area. The trolley that ran through Veazie was discontinued in the 1940's. Many local people can well remember these old trolley cars.



Trolley going up the Main Street of Veazie

Having looked at Veazie's economic growth and reasons for its development we now will look at what this growth and development meant to our town. First, was the need for schools.

In 1820 North Bangor had one school located near Stucco Lodge. By 1875 Veazie had three school houses as is shown on an old atlas of 1875. The first was located on Chase Road near the home of Robert Cobb. The next school house is believed to have been located on School Street. The third was on Rock Street known as the Red School House. I might also mention that for a time school was held in the Doane house when it was a Town Hall.

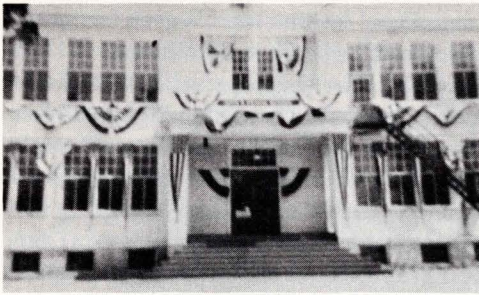
In 1896 the people of Veazie decided to have a high school. There were 26 students in the high and grammar schools at the time. Algebra and geometry were taught in addition to the regular subjects. Sciences and foreign languages were not offered. However, one student who wished to go to the University of Maine was given special instruction in Latin. This group of children planted the trees now growing in front of the John R. Graham School. The School was moved about 1920 to the site of the present Town Hall and used by the town until the Town Hall was built.



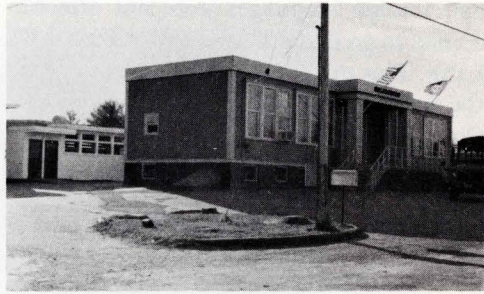
The High School-Grade School Building

In 1924-1925 the John R. Graham School was built. Over the years many changes have been made in the building. In the 1950's two rooms were added to the back of the first floor. In the late 1950's the left wing was added and in 1967 the right wing was added. During these periods of addition, students were housed in the present Town Hall and one class for several months attended school in Orono. In the early 1970's

the school underwent a major change as the top story was removed and a large addition was added on the back.



As the school looked for many years



The John R. Graham School today.

With the growth of Veazie the people saw a spiritual need for the Town. The Veazie Congregational Church is the only church in Veazie today. It has long been a center of town activities. The church had its beginning 15 years before that of the town.

On May 5, 1838 a group of about a dozen people wanted a church, and met at the home of Samuel Valentine. On May 22, of that same year they met again and voted that a Congregational Church be organized in the "village", to be called the Congregational Church of North Bangor. In 1844 the Church had 40 members. The Church was built by its members, who raised the money to build their Church by selling rights to pews for the sum of \$28.00, which gave the pew rights for them and their heirs forever. On March 29, 1845 the present Church was dedicated. On January 30, 1856 the name was changed to Congregational Church of Veazie to reflect the birth of the new town. On November 12, 1902 the Church was incorporated under the name Veazie Congregational Church. It has had many ministers from the Bangor Theological Seminary of which the Reverends Rensel Colby and Herry Trust, who was President of the Bangor Seminary for many years, were two of the better known. The Church bell was installed in 1898.

The Church has several stained glass windows. One of these windows, the Smith-Baker window, the large round one in the front of the Church was dedicated to the Reverend Smith Baker. Miss Addie Weed told me that she recalls a letter from Mr. Asa Smith telling that the window arrived at the Veazie Train Station and he was sent with a wheelbarrow to pick up the window, thus it was transported to the Church.

The Ladies Aid raised the money for the window by subscription. The cost was \$150.00. This group of ladies have long been the helping hand of the Church. The Ladies Aid was formed in 1902 when the Reverend Edwin Call Brown was called to be pastor of the Church. Reverend Brown's wife Ellen saw a need to have the ladies of the Church organized and she instituted the Veazie Congregational Ladies Aid. The ladies would meet in the afternoons to sew, crochet, knit and do other fancy work. In 1953 the ladies voted to plan at their meeting and to do their knitting, etc. at home. The Aid holds a fair annually in November.

If the Aid found the Church in need of funds, the ladies would find some way to raise the needed funds, often by holding public suppers. The Aid has given many receptions for new ministers, paid the Church insurance, purchased paint and built the basement. The Ladies Aid has about 25 members and they welcome any lady to join them. In 1958 the Colby Memorial Room was dedicated in honor of the Reverend Colby. This room was made possible in great part by the Ladies Aid. On April 30, 1961, the Church became part of the United Church of Christ. In 1972 ground was broken on the Church's new educational wing, which has been a much needed addition. The Christian Flag was given by the children of the John R. Graham School in memory of Mrs. Gilmore, a teacher there for several years.



Inside the Veazie Church



Outside of the Veazie Church

In the late 1800's Veazie had somewhere between four and six churches. The Free Baptist Church was located on Olive Street, where the Michael LaChance home is today. This site was later to be the location of the NEOP Hall (New England Order of Protection) also called the Penobscot Hall. The Lodge number was 111. Some of its members were: David B. Hutchinson, Charles E. Turner, Flora A. Hathorn, Abbie F. Spencer, and Etta C. Hersey. The Hall was used by the Lodge and was also used for town meetings and many other community events.



*The Free Baptist Church
and later NEOP Hall*

In an effort to conserve during the long winters, all but one of the churches were closed and they would alternate from one to the other and all attended that one Church. The Union Church was located where the Town Hall is today. In some of the books I read in writing this history, there is mention of a Methodist and a Calvinistic Baptist Church, but I have been unable to find where their location might have been.

However, none of Veazie's growth would have been possible without the people who helped in its growth. The first person to make his mark on Veazie was Colonel Jonathan Lowder. Colonel Lowder was part of an expedition up the Penobscot in the early 1770's. The expedition came as far as Eddington Bend. They camped there a few days, then spent several more days at the Lowder homestead near Mt. Hope. Colonel Lowder on this trip also did a diagram of the River.

Upon his return home he wrote the Governor of Massachusetts asking to be agent to the Indians in the area as they were troublesome, the Governor approved. As agent, he gave the Indians gifts of beads and blankets. Mr. Lowder built a log cabin surrounded by picket posts and kept good will with the Indians. He also performed other services for the government as a courier, and during the French and Indian War served as a Sergeant.

In 1774 he was a gunner at Fort Parnell. During the Revolution he was forced to work, much to his dislike, on the Fort at Castine, after he was taken prisoner. After the dismantling of that fort he became a clerk for Major Treat at the head of the tide in Bangor. Mr. Lowder had the confidence of the Indians and they made great efforts to have him appointed the Truck Master, which he was in July of 1776.

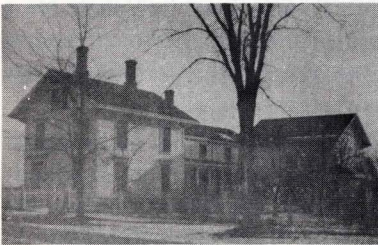
Colonel Lowder was one of the first settlers in the area. He married Deliverance Cook in 1777. On June 2, 1779 they were blessed with a daughter Avis Lowder. Several years later the Lowders moved to Castine and had two more children. He died in 1814 at the age of 83. Mr. Lowder is buried in the Veazie Cemetery and is the only Revolutionary War Veteran there.

The Lowder home was at the angle of the two roads running through Veazie, near Mt. Hope. His son William Lowder lived in Veazie for a time and reference is made to him several times in the town reports from the 1860's to the 1870's. He was one of the petitioners for the act to incorporate the town.

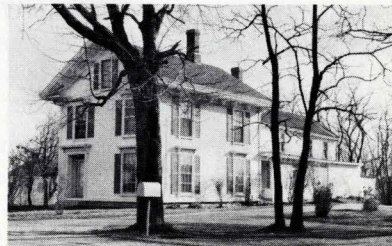
The second person to leave his mark on Veazie as well as his name was General Samuel Veazie. General Veazie was born in Portland, Maine, April 22, 1787 the son of John Veazie. His father's father, the Reverend Samuel Veazie, came to Harpswell, Maine from Nantasket in 1767. As a boy General Veazie was apprenticed to the trade of a baker.

It did not take him long to see that the baker's trade was not one of any great profit so he went to sea. He enlisted as a sailor at \$8.00 a month and the right to certain stowage rights both ways. The West Indian trade was good and he was soon able to purchase more stowage space. He proved to have a very good business head, for within a few years he had earned enough money to purchase the whole ship. General Veazie was married twice. His first wife was Susana Walker. They were married July 3, 1809 and had five children, two of which died young, the other three were Jones P. Veazie, John W. Veazie, and Franices A. H. Veazie. His second wife was Mrs. Mary C. Blanchard. His rank of General was from the War of 1812.

In 1826 he bought from Jackson Davis saw mills in Old Town and all the water power on the west side of Old Town Falls. Prior to this purchase Mr. Veazie had been involved with lumbering on the Androscoggin. He was soon to become the largest mill owner on the river. In 1837 General Samuel Veazie and several others purchased the Eastern Republican, a local newspaper. The paper had supported Andrew Jackson for President and sustained the Democratic Party in all its measures, until the paper was bought by Veazie and Company. These people were of the "Conservatives", a fraction of the Democratic Party who were opposed to President Jackson's measures in relation to the U.S. Bank. In 1837 he also was elected by the legislature as a member of the Governor's Council. Mr. Veazie also served as an alderman of the city of Bangor for two years. Mr. Veazie started his own bank and produced his own currency. General Veazie had a home on the corner of York Street and Broadway in Bangor. After moving to Veazie he built a new home on U.S. Route 2 now the Robert Turner home. However he kept his home in Bangor and used it as a winter residence. The General later built a home for his son John on the corner of Flag and Olive Streets, the home now owned by Kenneth Hayes. Besides owning the Veazie Railroad, his chain of mills had grown so that he owned 19 mills in Old Town, 20 in North Bangor (now Veazie), and 13 at Orono. The mills ran 24 hours a day and employed at one time as many as 500 men. General Veazie served as treasurer for the town of Veazie in 1860.

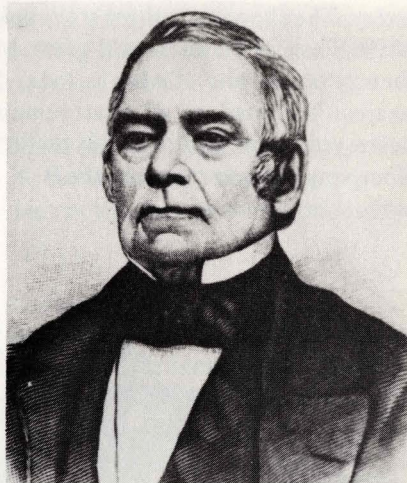


The Veazie home about 1900



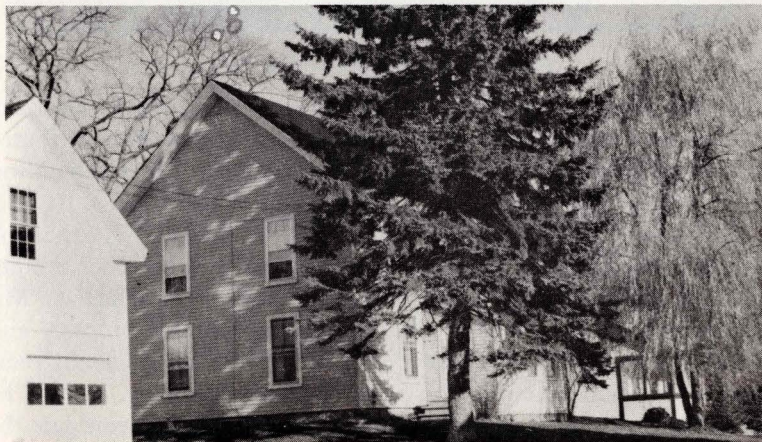
The Veazie home today

On March 12, 1868 General Veazie died in Bangor, Maine. He is buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery. The following is from the Town Report of March 30, 1868. "Voted that the inhabitants of Veazie done in the municipal capacity to express their regret at the recent death of General Samuel Veazie to whom the town is indebted for its separate municipal existence, and for its name — that they highly appreciate his character as a citizen who, in his various relations with the town, has maintained a high character for fair and honorable dealing, won the confidence and regard of the people."



General Samuel Veazie

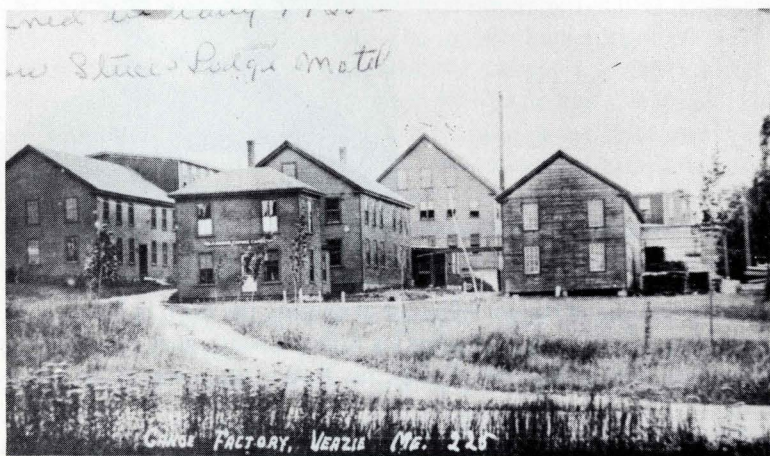
In appreciation of the compliment of naming the town in honor of his father, his son John, a month after his father's death gave the people of Veazie their first Town Hall. Today this Hall is the home of the Doane family.



The Doane House, the first Town Hall

The next person to make his mark on Veazie was Mr. B. N. Morris. Mr. Morris probably did more to put Veazie on the map than any other citizen since General Veazie. Mr. Morris was owner and builder of the world famous Morris Canoe.

Mr. Morris started building canoes around 1882 in his home on Flagg Street, today the Robert Topliff home, and for many years the Charles King home. Mr. King was the grandson of Mr. Morris. As Mr. Morris' business grew he had to move his canoe business from his home and built a canoe shop next to his home behind where Red's Market is today. The shop was a three story building about 50' by 80', built about 1890. Then as business still grew, Mr. Morris and his brother built a factory on the site of what is today Stucco Lodge. The main building nearest the road is all that remains of the old factory, as it was destroyed by fire in 1920. This factory was first called the Veazie Canoe Company but was renamed the B. N. Morris Canoe Company.



B. N. Morris Canoe Company

Another person to leave his mark on Veazie was John R. Graham. Mr. Graham I feel should be mentioned because of what he contributed even though he was not a member of our community. Mr. Graham was born in Enniskillen Court, County of Fermagh in the North of Ireland, on December 9, 1847. His family came to Boston in 1848. His education was only to the age of 13. He left school then and with his older brother organized and managed a shoe factory in Quincy, Massachusetts. Mr. Graham spent a great deal of time taking unprofitable property and turning it into profitable property. In the 1890's he set about reorganizing the Quincy and Boston Street Railway Company. In 1902 he came to Bangor upon the request of President Coffin to investigate the general condition of the public works company, later to become known

as the Bangor Street Railway. He liked Bangor and saw its potential growth. So in 1905 he became the president and general manager of the Bangor Railway and Electric Company, later known as the Bangor Hydro-Electric Company.

In 1911 Mr. Graham was a vital force in helping the city get back on its feet after the "Great Bangor Fire", for only a few days after the fire he announced plans to rebuild his home and make it bigger than before the fire. He also announced that a new six story Graham building would be built to replace the three story one burned in the fire. The Grahams have always given generously to the town projects as was most generously illustrated in 1924 when Mr. Edward Graham contributed \$10,000.00 toward the construction of the John R. Graham School, to be named after his father.

Many others have done much to honor our town and themselves. The following pages will list a few, but by no means all, who have done so much to make Veazie what it is today, as this would be an impossible task.

Frank Bostrum

Mr. Bostrum, a native son, was en route to the Philippines on December 7, 1941 from California. The war met him head on when he reached Hickam Field. His unarmed squadron was jumped by Japanese fighter planes. The record shows that all the planes in the squadron landed safely but not, however, until they had twisted free of the sneak attack. Five Japanese Zeros chased Bostrum's bomber, but he was able to evade them and landed on a nearby golf course.

In 1942 Colonel Bostrum again became a hero when he piloted the plane which took General MacArthur through skies filled with Japanese planes from the Philippines to Australia.

The Bostrum home is the residence of his sister, Mrs. Forrest Fleming. Mr. Bostrum now resides in York, Maine.

Harry Smith

Mr. Smith was the longest serving Fire Chief in Veazie. He served from about 1923-1943. The Smith home is located on School Street. The home was moved there by Mr. Smith from the corner of School and Oak Hill in 1912. The Smith family is one of the oldest families in Veazie going back five generations. Mr. Smith was born in 1885 in Veazie, in a home down by the old dump site on the Thompson Road. His wife Vivian Smith passed away in 1977 one of the oldest residents of Veazie.

Rensel H. Colby

Reverend Colby was one of the better known ministers to serve the

Veazie Congregational Church. He married Ida McPheters who was from one of the oldest families in Veazie. The basement of the Church was named for Mr. and Mrs. Colby. Reverend Colby was born in Wellesley, Mass. He went to the Bangor Theological Seminary. He and his wife had two children. Reverend Colby had several churches. His first church was in Scarborough, he ministered there for 18 years. From there he moved to South Paris serving there for 21 years. Then the Colbys moved to Wiscassett where, having been there three years, he passed away quite suddenly. Reverend Colby was a well liked man and is well remembered by all who knew him.

James G. Millner

Mr. Millner was Veazie's first casualty of WWII. Staff Sgt. Millner was reported missing March 13, 1943. He was a crew member aboard an airplane which was damaged by enemy aircraft during a bombing mission over Rangoon, Burma, and crash landed in the Gulf of Martaban. He served four years in the army and his service ended two weeks before Pearl Harbor and he immediately enlisted in the air corps. He was stationed in India before his last mission. In an impressive ceremony at Dow Field, the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross which had been awarded to Sgt. Millner were presented to his father by Col. Francis B. Valentine. Today the American Legion Post and Auxiliary bear his name.

Daniel Fletcher

Born in Mars Hill June 15, 1938. He married Doris Miller. The Fletchers moved to Veazie in 1964. They had four children. Mr. Fletcher served as Fire Chief for three years as well as on several other town committees. At the time of his death in 1976 he had worked hard for the new Municipal Building which by a vote of the townspeople now bears his name. He worked hard to bring about the formation of mutual aid with Orono so that the two towns may assist each other and better improve the fire protection for both towns. The 1976-1977 town report was dedicated to his memory.

Marjorie B. Jones

Mrs. Jones was born in Wesley, Maine on July 8, 1900. She married Austin W. Jones on Sept. 21, 1920 and moved to Veazie. She was active in many clubs. She was state president of the P.T.A., a charter member of the Garden Club, a member of the Maine League of Women Voters, and the State Republican Women. She was active in Girl Scouts, 4-H, and Girls' State. She moderated many town meetings. Mrs. Jones ran for the United States House of Representatives in 1951 against Mr. McIntire. She was unsuccessful in her bid. Mrs. Jones was well known

for her flower gardens and her own ice cream business. Mrs. Jones died Sept. 16, 1958.

Helen Todd

Mrs. Todd was born in Veazie. She served as moderator at many town meetings from 1952-1971. She served on many town committees. She was President of the Veazie Garden Club. She also belonged to many other groups. Mrs. Todd wrote the Veazie In Review, a history of Veazie performed for the town's 100th Birthday Celebration in 1953. Mrs. Todd passed away Nov. 1974 and has been greatly missed at town affairs.

Addie Weed

Miss Weed was born in 1883 in Stillwater, Maine. She is the oldest resident of our town. Her father was superintendent of the Gilman Mills, in Stillwater. He moved the Weed home from the present site of the Harold Kennett home to its present site today on State Street. At the age of three Miss Weed moved to Veazie, where she has lived all of her life. In later years she has been in good health. She is kept busy by her work in the Ladies Aid and the Garden Club, of which she is a charter member. Miss Weed served on the Cemetery Board for many years. She also served as clerk for the church for 15 years. She attended Veazie schools and went to Beals Business School. After finishing school she was secretary for Mr. John R. Graham.

William Jordan

Mr. Jordan is the oldest male in Veazie today. He was born April 22, 1886. He came to Veazie at the age of 18. He worked at the Morris Canoe Factory where he met his wife Grace Turner Jordan. They were married July 3, 1907. He served as Fire Chief before the town had a modern fire truck. He is the patriarch of his large family of nine living children, 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren of which most are living in Veazie today. His wife died in 1955. The Jordan family and their descendants are one of the oldest families in Veazie. Mr. Jordan has made his home on Lemon Street for 65 years. His health in later years has been good, allowing him to take part in many local events. He is often seen walking the streets of Veazie.

Veazie Since 1900

Veazie has grown and experienced many changes over the last 78 years. Thompson Road today is built up with many new homes, but in the 1920's this land was all farm land. Mr. Vaughan Jones was the farmer and he opened his farm up to the university for experimentation. He was one of the first farmers in the Bangor area to have a tractor.

In 1916 there was a very active group of Campfire Girls. They were active for about three years. The girls learned to knit and to live out of doors.

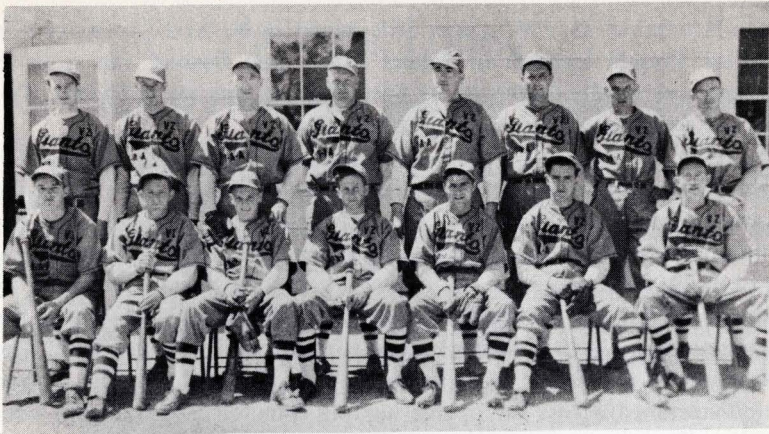
Also about this same time the T. J. J. Davis Farm was in business. The Davis Farm was located on Chase Road and delivered milk and cream door to door until 1960 when they started selling their milk to Grant's Dairy. In 1961 the farm barn was destroyed by fire. Descendants of the Davis family have lived in Veazie since 1883. These first Davis's also started by selling milk but stopped for some years, until a new generation again started the business. Today the young cows are kept here in Veazie and the milkers are kept on the farm in Kenduskeag.

In the early 1900's there was a dance hall in Veazie, it was located on the corner of Rock Street and Olive Street. Known as the old O'Brien home.

Sports have played a part in the lives of Veazie people, and given the town cause for pride. In 1933 the famed "Veazie Giants" were organized. They were a group of men that started playing baseball with other teams from other towns and the Veazie men were very often the victors. By 1935 the team had gained more men and played teams all over the state. The manager of the early team was Edger Boynton, the husband of Grace Welch. Carloads of townspeople would follow the teams to their games. Picnic lunches were packed and taken along and all day outings were made.



1st Giants Team



2nd Giants Team

About this same time the town also had a basketball team. The team was called the Veazie A.C.'s. This team was known statewide and seldom was beaten. This team was later replaced by the famed "Drinkwater Five". This team played its games in the Drinkwater Hall, and became as well known as the A.C.'s. The Drinkwater Hall was located in the area of the Town Hall and was for a time used as a cigar factory.

In the early 1930's the Town Hall was finally built. The funds for the building came from the WPA. It took many votes of the townspeople before it was finally built. The Town Hall has undergone several changes over the last 40 years and at the time of this writing is being remodeled for use as a community center.

During the time of the 1930's-1950's who can forget the home delivery of milk from the Gray Stone Farms? The farm was famous for its own ice cream that was a part of many an area family's Sunday outing. Also who can forget the famed chocolate milk, "all you can drink for 10c"? The farm was also well noted for its homemade fudge, and flower garden shop.

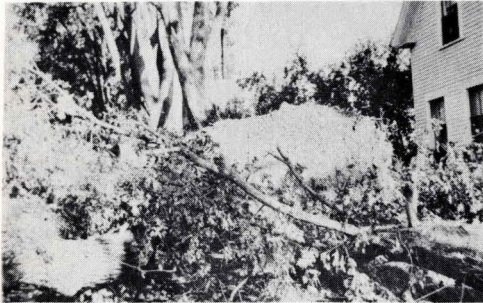


Gray Stone Garden Shop

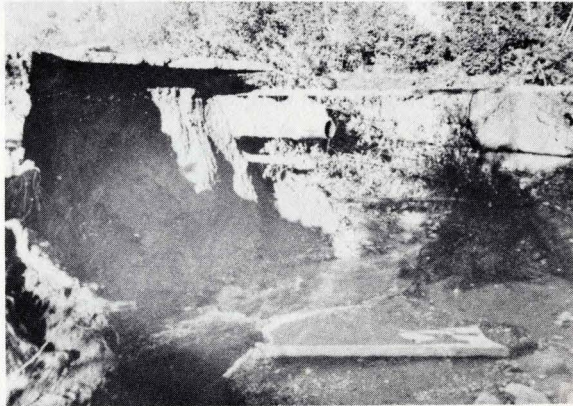
On November 23, 1947 a saw mill owned by Roland Lancaster and Aruthur French located on School Street just beyond the railroad crossing was totally destroyed by fire. The loss was set at \$5,000. The mill had only been in business for three years.

In 1953 the Town of Veazie celebrated its Centennial. A two day celebration was planned and some 5,000 people came to town to see the re-enactment of the history of Veazie. (Veazie In Review). The enactment was written and produced by Helen Todd. The cast was made up of many local people. A mile and a half long parade was seen by those in attendance. Following the parade a solemn re-dedication of the town also took place. A centennial celebration ball was also held. The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen F. S. Howartt, cut the ribbon which stretched across the bridge leading into town to start the celebration. The town also put on a baked bean supper. The town was decked out in flags and banners.

In October of that same year a hurricane hit the State of Maine and in our small town caused much damage. Trees were up-rooted and roads were washed out.



*Aftermath of Hurricane
on Olive Street*



*Road wash out on Main Street
near the new municipal building*

Veazie Today

Veazie today is a town with a population of about 1,850 people. Veazie is unique in many ways. The town has no slum area. It is made up of people who are mostly hard-working, middle-class people. Veazie is mainly a residential town with its citizens employed in the surrounding communities. However a number of Veazie people are employed in the Veazie plant of the Bangor Hydro.

In 1975 ground for a new municipal building was broken. The building is to house the Town Offices for the Town Manager, Clerk, Police and Fire Chief. It will also include the Fire Department, meeting rooms, dormitory and kitchen area.



The Fletcher Municipal Building

In 1976 the Town adopted the Town Manager form of government. The first Town Manager was Mr. James Finkle. Mr. Finkle served as Town Manager until Sept. of 1977. Upon his sudden departure Mrs. Dorothy Henderson assumed the job of Town Manager Pro Tem. As of October 31, 1977 the town has a new Town Manager, Mr. Curtis Lunt.

Also in 1976, Veazie was one of only about 130 communities in the State of Maine, to be a Bicentennial Community. During the year The Veazie Bicentennial Committee set up a small museum made up of items of local interest. The museum caused a great deal of interest and was well supported by the townspeople. The committee also had several talent nights with members of the town performing. This committee also commissioned Mr. Robert Cardin to design a town seal. This seal can be seen on the cover of this history. Also on the 5th of July a parade was held in honor of our nation's 200 years.

Veazie has several businesses: a meat packing plant, a boat building shop, a cement company, a storage warehouse, two bottling companies,

gun shop, a Chinese restaurant, three trailer parks, two grocery stores, a monumental company, an advertising agency, Sweeny's restaurant, a diaper service, a construction company, restaurant supply company, car sales, and a ceramic shop. There are also several clubs and organizations.

First there is the Fire Department. In the minutes of the Town on March 12, 1860 it was voted to pay \$1.00 to each member of the Engine Co. a company not to be less than 40 men, or more than 50 men. This is the first mention of a fire department to be found. The first fire house was located where the Mrs. Ada Sidelinker house was located. This home was moved some years ago, the David Smith home is now located near that spot on the corner of Oak and River View Road.

Before the town purchased their first fire truck their fire fighting equipment was a reel on two wheels that was hauled by the men to the fire. The first modern fire truck was purchased in the early 1920's.



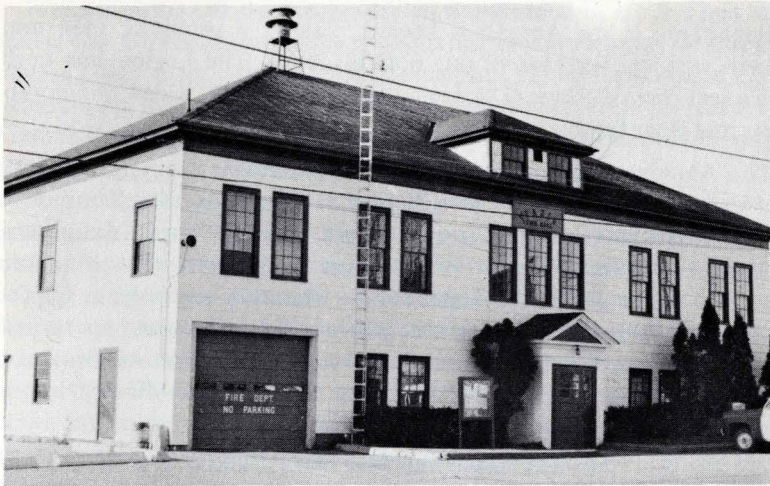
Chief Harry Smith with Veazie's first fire truck

Another truck was purchased in 1941, a Chevy. To replace this truck in 1961 a Ford truck was purchased by the town. Several years ago the town purchased an old truck and the men in the Department fixed it up and it is used to carry extra water to the fires. The town also owns a 1942 Chevy.

On June 10, 1952 Veazie's Fire Department started a new program by becoming a volunteer department. The heading in the Bangor Evening Commercial read "Veazie is Happy with New Fire Department".

In 1968 the Veazie Fire Fighters Association was organized due to changes in men and times, in an effort to reorganize themselves.

When the Town Hall was built the Fire Department was housed there.



The Town Hall and Fire House

In 1977 the Fire Department took up new quarters in the Fletcher Municipal Building.

Today the Department is made up of about 25 men. The Fire Chief is Mr. Donald Hillman.

There is also the Ladies Aid which has been mentioned earlier in this history.

Next there is the P.T.A. The first P.T.A. was started about 1932. This group remained active for a few years. Then in 1948 they were reorganized. Mrs. Guy Flagg presided at this meeting. Mrs. John A. Roe was elected President. The goal of the P.T.A. was to promote closer cooperation between school authorities, parents and townspeople. The P.T.A. has done many things to support the school and its programs. At this time the P.T.A. is inactive.

The Grange, known as the Rural Grange No. 207, Patrons of Husbandry, was formed some 60 years ago. This Grange was later replaced by the Veazie Grange 575 Patrons of Husbandry. For the last few years this Grange has been inactive. However, they have done much for the town. For many years there was a town honor roll located in front of the Town Hall, the Grange members were the ones who provided it to the town. They also put new steps and railings on the Town Hall, as well as two tubs of flowers on each side of the bulletin board. They also presented the altar cloth and have contributed to the floral fund, and the building fund of the church. They also gave the U.S. Flag and a

Bible. They have painted the Town Hall several times. They also gave books to the school library for the Lillian Turner Memorial Bookshelf.

Next there is the American Legion. This is a group of men and women who are veterans of our nation's wars. The Legion has been active for some 30 years. The Legion gives what help it can to the veterans and their families.

The American Legion Auxiliary has been active in many activities over the last 30 years. They have helped veterans and their families as well as others in town. This group of ladies are the wives, daughters, mothers and granddaughters of veterans of the wars of our nation. They also send a gift box to Togus and do what they can to make life for our veterans better. They have sent girls to Girls' State and sponsored Essay and Poppy Poster contests. This group of ladies was instrumental in the purchase and placing of the stone monument, dedicated to our servicemen and -women, in front of the Town Hall.

The Garden Club was formed by Mrs. Amy Calkins and Mrs. Ester Smith some 25 years ago. The first president was Mrs. Harold (Inez) Swift, and the first meeting was held at her home. The club was formed for the promoting of gardening. The ladies of the Garden Club voted in the spring of 1977 to join the State Federation of Garden Clubs.

The Womens Fellowship was formed May 19, 1971 by Mrs. Martha Haney, wife of the Reverend Ronald Haney who was pastor of the Church at that time. The Womens Fellowship is the official women's organization of the United Church of Christ of which the Veazie Church is affiliated. This group of ladies meet at night to give the working women of the church a chance to meet in Christian fellowship. They have a key woman who is the go between for the local group and the Maine Conference. The Church sends delegates every year to this conference. The first president was Etta Honey. The Fellowship sends to CWS (Church World Service). They have sent used clothing, layettes, school kits, health kits, sewing kits as well as new blankets, used soap, pajamas, sheets and used blankets. They have also run the Thrift Shop, which has been a good money making project. They have helped pay on the church building fund and at the time of this writing the church debt is now paid in full. They have also given to the Colby Memorial Fund and the General Fund.

Cub Scouts were formed in 1956-1957. The first cub master was Delmont Spencer. Later Stewart Hodgman became Cub Master and served for some 13 years. Today the Cub Master is Clair Woods. The Cub Scouts is for boys 8 thru 11 years of age. The Cub Scouts prepare boys to later be Boy Scouts. The boys meet in den meetings with a den mother and then meet once a month at their pack meeting. They hold

their pine wood derby race and hold a Blue and Gold Banquet on the anniversary of the founding of scouting.

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly), was formed in 1972. Their first leader was Gloria Mason. This group is for anyone who wishes to lose weight. They meet weekly at the Town Hall. They have had a State Queen who lost 68 pounds. They also have five KOPS (Keep Off Pounds Sensibly), members. These ladies have lost and kept their weight off. They have also marched in the town parades.

Next is the Brownies. For about 25 years there have been Brownie Scouts in Veazie. The Brownies over the years have done many worthwhile projects such as making candy for the older people of Veazie, singing at Christmas time and many other good deeds.

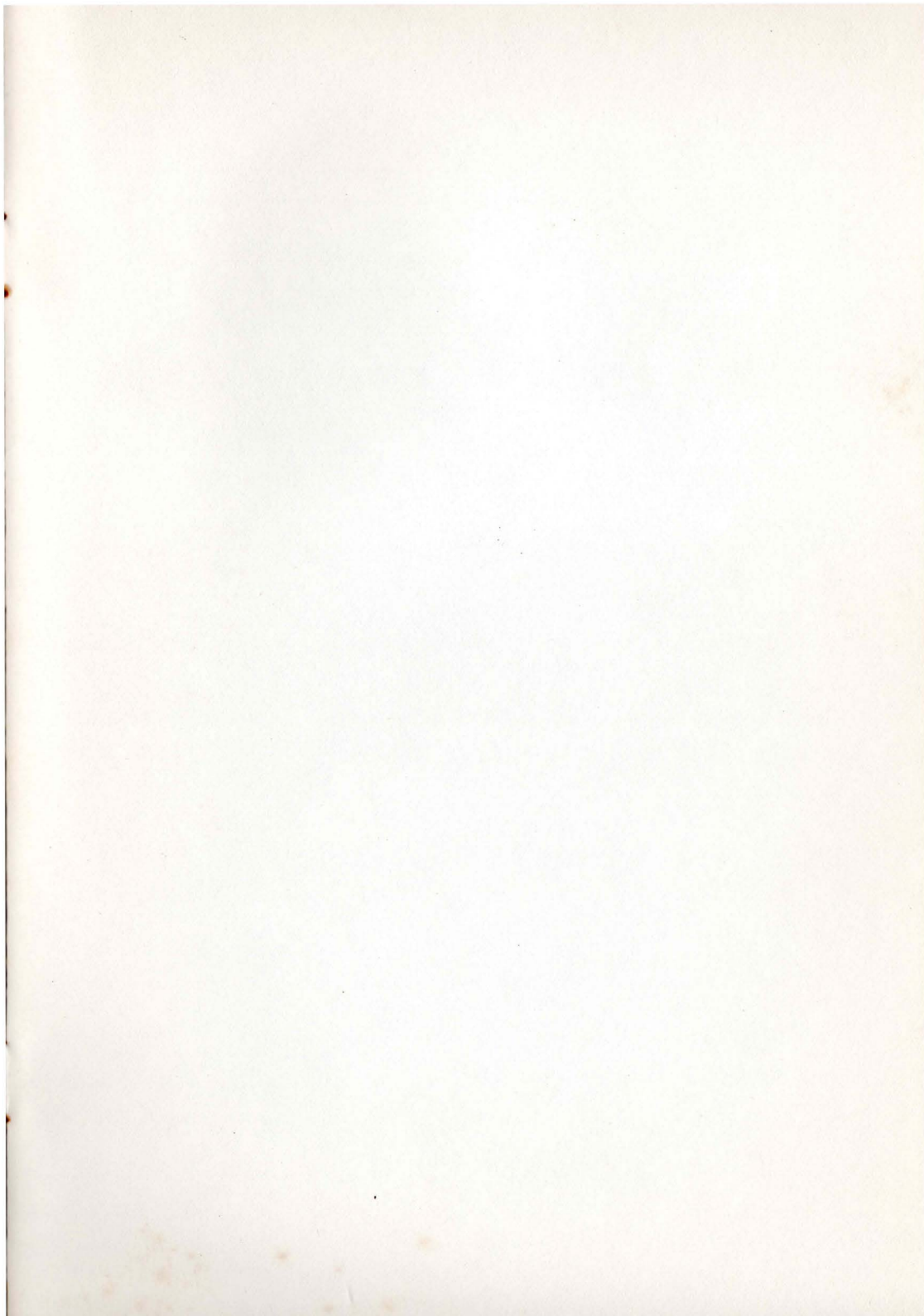
The last group is the Youth Fellowship. This is a group of young people of the Church who have been active and inactive as the ministers of the Church have had time or interest for. At present they are very active under the minister of the Church, Mrs. Lesack. This group of young people over the years have also shown great interest for our older citizens.

Having tried hard to include everything, I realize I am sure to have forgotten or overlooked something, for this I am sorry. I have only tried to make an attempt to record what I could for Veazie and its people past and present.

Sources

Some of my sources of information used in writing this history.

1. The Reports of the Town.
2. *The Penobscot Man* by Fannie Hardy Eckstorm.
3. *An Illustrated History of Bangor, Maine* by David C. Smith.
4. The Maine Sportsman.
5. *A Gazetteer of the State of Maine* by Geo. J. Varney.
6. *History of the Bangor, Old Town, and Milford Railroad* by Mrs. Mary H. Curran, compiler.
7. Vol. 9, Bangor clippings from 1912 clip from the Bangor Commercial.
8. *Maine Place Names and People of Its Towns* by Ava H. Chadbourne.
9. John R. Graham by Edward Montrose.
10. *Reflections From Eddington* by Caralyn A. Wood.
11. *Veazie In Review* by Helen Todd.
12. *History of Penobscot Co.*



REVIEWS

The first part of the book is devoted to a general introduction to the subject of the history of the English language. The author discusses the various influences that have shaped the language over the centuries, from Old English to Modern English. He also touches upon the role of literature and the media in the development of the language.

The second part of the book is a detailed study of the history of the English language. The author traces the roots of the language back to its Germanic origins and examines the various dialects that have developed over time. He also discusses the influence of other languages, such as Latin and French, on the English language.

The third part of the book is a study of the English language in the modern world. The author examines the role of English as a global language and discusses the various challenges that it faces in the 21st century. He also touches upon the role of technology in the development of the language.

