

MYSTIC SEAPORT®

Staff Bulletin

January 3, 2002

Mystic Seaport Loses a Dear Shipmate

I know the entire Mystic Seaport community joins me in mourning the untimely loss of Trustee emeritus, dear friend, and close neighbor of the Museum, Bill Ames. Bill's love for the Museum and all it stands for is clear from the long, long list of his activities and accomplishments.

Bill first came to Mystic Seaport in 1951, when he was serving in the area as a Naval Officer. He was initially attracted here by the *Charles W. Morgan*, which he remembered and loved from his childhood in Fairhaven, Massachusetts during the 1920's. He became a Trustee in 1981, and a Pilot in 1983. In early 1983, he was appointed by Clifford Mallory as a charter member of the Yachting Committee, and went on to make many, many contributions to the Museum's preservation of yachting history. Bill's deep love of sailing was reflected in a multitude of his Mystic Seaport activities, including the instrumental role he and his wife Eileen played in supporting the annual Schooner Race. As a Trustee, Bill was a leader in establishing Mystic Seaport's Pooled Income Fund, to which he contributed over the years, and together with his wife Eileen, established the Bill and Eileen Ames Unitrust. As a Trustee emeritus, Bill continued his active participation, serving at the time of his death on the Audit, Yachting and Boating, and Facilities Management Committees.

Bill's *recorded* volunteer hours exceed 2800, and undoubtedly his unrecorded hours would bring the total close to double that! His volunteer service was highly diverse, including involvement with Membership, Education, Public Affairs, the Library, Interpretation, Curatorial, Gung-Ho Squad, Ships Plans, Yachting History Symposium, and the Boathouse. He was a favorite guide for Member tours to his native Fairhaven.

An involved member of the community, Bill worked to build and sustain the Museum's good relationships with many local groups, getting area organizations to donate funds as well as becoming involved with the Museum. And as if his own service was not sufficient, Bill actively recruited volunteers, especially among newcomers to the community. Another of Bill's many activities was the Community Carol Sing, where he famously keyed the singing by sounding a single note from his clarinet before each carol. He added his musical talents to many other Mystic Seaport festivities as part of the "Rock of Ages" band.

Bill Ames' cumulative generosity--of his time, objects for the collection, and funds--put him among one of the most important champions of Mystic Seaport. He will be sorely missed. I know you will join in extending heartfelt condolences to Bill's widow Eileen, whose own service to the Museum is invaluable and well known to all.

Doug

Please Take Note: The Admission prices for Jan.2 -Feb. 24 is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children.

Who's Coming, Who's Going:

Please welcome **Laure Smurz** to the Development Department. Laure (pronounced "Lory") will be the Executive Assistant to support Chris Cox and Mike Smiles. Laure can be reached at ext. 5365. Welcome Laure!

Mike Smiles

It's a Girl!!

Congratulations to **Lisa and Jeff Kerr** on the birth of their daughter, Emma Riley, who was born on Thursday December 27th at 3:24 a.m. Emma weighed 9 lbs. 14 oz. and was 20 1/2" long. We wish them much happiness.

Membership Building Closed Winter Weekends

With the exception of Martin Luther King Weekend on January 19-20, the Membership Building will be closed on weekends beginning Saturday, January 5. The building reopens weekends on February 16. Members visiting those weekends receive coupons good for a free coffee or hot chocolate in the Galley, and the Gate staff will take care of any new membership enrollment or renewals.

Lisa Reed

DUTY OFFICERS, Jan. 5-6, 2002

	Duty Officer	Security	Education & Interpretation	Library	Shipyard
Saturday	D. Mathieson Pager	J. Stauble x5310	C. Dobbs Pager	B. Hancock x5367	T. Wells x5341
Sunday	D. Mathieson Pager	J. Stauble x5310	C. Dobbs Pager	CLOSED	M. Bernier x5341

DEC 30TH
2001

REC

OBITUARIES

William Ames

Trustee emeritus of Mystic Seaport

Mystic — William L. Ames, 80, of 151 River Road, a trustee emeritus of Mystic Seaport, died Thursday at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London after being stricken at home.

Mr. Ames was an active volunteer and trustee at Mystic Seaport and Mystic & Noank Library, and he also served as the former harbor master of Mystic. He was also the director of the Chamber of Commerce in Mystic from 1965 to 1968 and was a member of the Groton Retirement Board and the Representative Town Meeting.

Born on Dec. 4, 1921, in Fairhaven, Mass., he was the son of the late George Bertram Ames and Clarissa Lewis Ames.

He married Eileen Etherington on April 15, 1944.

Mr. Ames was a 1938 graduate of Fairhaven High School. He received a bachelor's degree in 1942 from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where he was on the track team and received academic honors.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He served in Navy ship engineering in Maine, and was later sent to Massachusetts Institute of Technology to serve as a naval architect, designing submarines. Recalled to active duty during the Korean War, he served as on the team for the preliminary hull design of the USS Nautilus. He remained in the Naval Reserve, retiring as a commander after 22 years.

After World War II, Mr. Ames accepted a position with Western Electric, where, according to his family, he invented the "curly" retractable telephone cord. In 1953, after his military service, he became a civilian design engineer in submarine construction. He concluded his career as a chief engineer at Electric Boat in Groton, retiring after 30 years. His professional affiliations included the American Society of Naval Engineers and the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

Mr. Ames enjoyed sailing and music, playing the clarinet in a jazz band. He was commodore of the Ram Island Yacht Club, commodore and historian of Off Soundings, a member of the Fishers Island Yacht Club, and an honorary local officer of the Royal Navy Sailing Association. He was also a yacht measurer of the U.S. Sailing Association, and a member of Corinthians and the Cruising Club of America.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Eileen Etherington Ames.

Funeral services and burial are private. There are no calling hours.

Memorial gifts may be made to the W. L. & E. E. Ames Endowment Fund of Mystic Seaport, the W. L. and E. E. Ames Endowment Fund of Mystic & Noank Library, the W. L. Ames Fund at the Ram Island Yacht Club, or Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

The Dinoto Funeral Home, 17 Pearl St., Mystic, is in charge of arrangements.

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