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in the years to come.

Interest in an art exhibit remained high by 1963. Dr. and Mrs. Lyle Farrell of Proctor Academy sponsored the next exhibition and offered the lawn at Proctor for the show. Thus, the first annual Andover Arts and Crafts Exhibit began over the Fourth of July. More than 600 people visited, and all enthused over the high quality of the paintings and crafts.

The Andover arts and craft exhibits continued to grow through 1965 and 1966, so that the exhibit expanded to showing not only on the Village Green, but in the Proctor gym and the Unitarian chapel as well.

Annaleida van't Hoff and Winslow Eaves were most instrumental in organizing the third and fourth annual shows, which were a big attraction over the Fourth.

Also in 1966, the Creative Arts Association of Andover was formed. Its goal was not only to organize the exhibit on the Fourth, but also to present programs on the arts. Annaleida continued as chairman until 1968, when she was elected to president of the Association, with Mrs. Alan Thompson as vice president.

In 1969, Winslow Eaves became president when Annaleida van't Hoff stepped down. Mrs. Thompson expressed much appreciation for her years of dedicated service. The Creative Arts Association then became a non-profit association devoted to "stimulating interest in the arts to raise funds for programs and for art instruction."

By 1970, the eighth annual Fourth of July Art Festival had attracted 1,000 visitors and many local, New England, and out-of-state artists. Local artists during these and later years were Annaleida van't Hoff, Winslow, Brian, and Clifford Eaves, Cordelia Graves, Sandy Graves, Maxine Boyd, Betty Jeanne Bassett, Marion and Charlie Bliss, Gracia Synder, Mrs. Eugene Fiers, Hugh Meier, Brad and Donna Hartwell, Donald Hall, Jane Kenyon, Sam Wild, Ann Margolis, John Hess, Heather Allan, Jim Shapiro, Viola Grant, Betty Lovejoy, Christopher Morse, Ethel Lindley, George Rochon, Townsend Howe, Carl

Cochran, Donald and Adrienne Campbell, Jerry Williams, Otto and Vivika Heine, and many, many others from New Hampshire and beyond. The exhibits were judged in various categories by the public and by well-known figures in the arts. Many years saw exhibits of and by local children, also.

The Fourth of July Festivals continued through the '70s, '80s, and into the '90s. The Creative Arts Association had a full schedule every year presenting programs, lectures, poetry readings, music, plays, and instruction, and taking part in art in the school. Classes in the school were given by local artists involved in "Artists In School" programs, of which Winslow Eaves was an ardent supporter.

In 1983, the Association also purchased works of art, deciding to start "a collection of visual arts to display in local public buildings." The first purchase was a painting entitled *October* by Annaleida van't Hoff. It was on display that year at the Bachelder Library in East Andover. It was later given to the library, where it can be viewed today.

In 1986, Annalieda van't Hoff, was once again president of the Association (one of the oldest in the state) and spearheaded a fund raiser to purchase for the town *Monument to the Future*, a massive, 14-ton, 12-foot-high granite sculpture by Winslow Eaves. However, the effort did not work out. The Association did purchase *Beginning*, a mahogany sculpture, which also can be seen at the Bachelder library.

The Andover Historical Society also has more detailed articles on individual local artists, their studios, gallery showings, and achievements, plus information on the Cottage Gallery opened in 1964 in East Andover by Violet Grant. The 1981 brochure published by the Creative Arts Association has many photos along with side quotes by local artists on their creative philosophies.

The Creative Arts Association brought to Andover and area residents, children and adults alike, unprecedented access not only to our highly-regarded and well-known local artists and crafts people, but also to some of the very best nationally-recognized ones in the arts.



Tony Caruso was presented with the *Boston Post Cane* for being the oldest known resident of Wilmot. Photo: Marc Davis

## Tony Caruso Receives Wilmot's Boston Post Cane

By Lindy Heim  
Wilmot Historical Society

Francis Anthony Caruso, known to his friends simply as Tony, is the oldest resident of Wilmot at age 95. He was born on April 7, 1917 in Newton, Massachusetts and raised there as the third in a line of eight children.

Tony was honored last month by the Wilmot Historical Society with a certificate attesting to his place in town history, accompanied by a picture of him holding the Wilmot *Boston Post Cane*. He will be receiving both the framed certificate and the picture to keep, while a duplicate copy of both will be hung in the Wilmot Town Offices for all to see. Congratulations, Tony!

Tony has had a remarkable life so far. The information that follows comes from a piece written about him in the 2007 *Intertown Record* Wilmot Bicentennial Souvenir Issue and a recent face-to-face interview by Liz Kirby.

Tony was born to emigrants from southern Italy. He was educated in Newton, Massachusetts, and later trained as a teacher. He taught high school woodworking for 20 years and also taught adult education.

During World War II, Tony served in

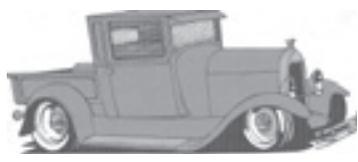
the US Navy as a cook on a tank landing ship during the Guam and Okinawa battles. In 1947, Tony built the first of the many houses he has built in the area, this one on Bradley Lake in Andover.

He built his own house in Wilmot on 14 acres of land he purchased for \$250 in 1956. This is where he resides today, with frequent visits by friends and the constant company of three female guinea pigs.

Tony raised three boys and a daughter, all of whom are still living. Tom, Frank, and John are retired. Tony's daughter Toni is an engineer. All four are residing in Connecticut or Massachusetts now. Sisters Eleanor and Rose still live in Connecticut.

Tony always loved Wilmot and the surrounding area and considers it home. As an outdoorsman, hunting and fishing and splitting wood are activities he has enjoyed throughout the years. All of his friends wish him well and congratulate him on being the oldest male resident in Wilmot.

*Andover is still looking for its oldest resident! If you are or know of someone in their mid-nineties or older, please contact the Andover Town Administrator at 735-5332.*



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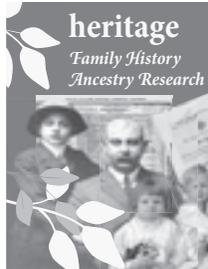
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