

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Swans Island Historical Society

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Date: Interview recorded in 2010 about events on Swans Island, ca. 1930

Description: Interview with Swans Islander Marguerite Staples about Ice cream socials.

Interview with Marguerite Staples about "Ice Cream Socials" in the 1930s

My name is Marguerite Staples and I live in, use to be Atlantic but now we're all Swan's Island. We didn't really get to know the people on the other side of the island that much. It was like a little town that was quite isolated from the other parts of the island because we didn't have cars then. If we ever went to the other side of the island like Minturn or Swan's Island village we had to walk.

They use to have socials down here at the Seaside Hall that they moved. Once a week, I think, there was always what we called an ice cream social there and we would play games like seven in and seven out and tucker and things like that where you march around. It was almost like a dance And then they had these big containers of homemade ice cream.

It was hard work to turn the cranks on those big ice cream freezers. You had to put the salt and the ice in them and then the favorite part of doing that was when they took the dash out of the middle thing that turns around and makes it nice and creamy. And at the end they'd take that dash thing out, they called it a dash, and then everybody got to take their spoons and lick the ice cream off the dash as a free sample.

And then they'd probably sell it then. I don't know what they'd sell it for but probably it was a nickel or a dime for a dish full or something. And it was a lot of fun. I'm sure we met a lot of people from the other side of the islands doing that because they would; everybody would get together on the island for those younger people who could come. It was a good time.