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THE  
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**A History of the Boston Post Cane**

In 1909 the Boston Post forwarded gold-headed ebony canes to Boards of Selectmen in 700 New England towns and requested that each be presented (with the compliments of the Post) to the oldest male citizen of the town. He was to use it as long as he lived (or moved from the town). At his death, the cane would be handed down to the next oldest citizen. The cane would belong to the town and not to the one who received it.

In 1930, after considerable controversy, eligibility for the cane was opened to women as well. The canes were made by a New York manufacturer from ebony shipped in seven-foot lengths from the Congo in Africa. The wood was seasoned for six months, turned on lathes, coated and polished. The 14-carat gold head is two inches long, decorated by hand, with a ferruled tip, and engraved – “Presented by the Boston Post to the oldest citizen of Bradford.” Selectmen are the trustees of the cane and keep it always in the hands of the oldest citizen.

As recorded in Bradford’s Two Hundred Plus: “The first cane was awarded to Hiram Gillingham, a native of Newbury, who lived most of his life in Bradford but had recently moved to Newbury. The award is said to have caused much controversy.” Subsequent holders of the cane included: Edwin Nichols, Martin Huntoon, Loren Bartlett, George Rand, David Morse, Charles Wiggin, Everett Kittredge, Herbert Larkin, Fred West, Clark D. Stevens, Arthur Dean Stevens, Herbert Wyman, John Flanders, Alfred Watkins, Bertha Arnold, Lora Hoyt Sanborn, Alice Crossley, Elna Carr, Alma Ryder, Ruth Nelson, Priscilla Danforth, and Galinas Leonas.

A note in Bradford’s Two hundred plus says: “According to a survey made in 1960, only fourteen canes could be located in New England, five in New Hampshire - Bradford, Sutton, New London, Pittsfield, and Andover.”

Based on this, the Bradford Board of Selectmen decided that in the future a replica cane will be presented to the Town’s oldest citizen. The original cane will be carefully encased under glass with brass plates identifying those who have held it in Bradford through the years.

Please join your fellow residents in honoring Edythe Craig when the Boston Post Cane will be presented to her. Sunday, October 16, 2011, 11:45 AM Bradford Town Hall.

**Bradford to Honor  
Dr. Edythe Craig**

The Town of Bradford will present the Boston Post Cane to Edythe Craig on Sunday, October 16. The event will take place at the Bradford Town Hall at 11:45am.

Edythe has earned the cane by longevity. In this case, the award is even more meaningful because of Edythe's work in the community.

Edythe will be 92 on Dec. 4th, 2011. She has lived in Bradford for 32 years as a full time resident; prior to that she summered here since 1949. She has been involved with the Women's Christian Guild , Bradford Church since the early 90's. She worked from 1979 through 86 at the State Prison in Concord as the prison physician. Then she was with the Maxfield Clinic in Guild and later Belknap Ave. in Newport from 1986 to 2000 when she retired.

She was involved with the BACC as a volunteer for about 10 years. a position that she still fulfills at this time. She is there 3 days a week , mornings only. She mentioned that she was trying to hold things together there but it is very difficult since the director's position has been eliminated. She served on the Bradford Planning Board for for two or three terms. Her other volunteer work included the Sunapee Lake Grange which is part of the Sullivan County Pomona Grange and was Master of Sunapee Lake for 10 years and secretary of both groups. She continues to drive her car but doesn't take long trips anymore since her family decided that she should no longer take long drives. Edythe collected money and was responsible at the Lettvin Concerts since the beginning for about 20 years both at the Bradford Church performances and then at the Meeting House. Edythe was a fixture at the door and responsible for the money.  
Congratulations, Edythe!