Union Town Manager Jay Feyler presents the Boston Post Cane to Irene Payson Jan. 13 at the Homestead at Owls Head.

OWLS HEAD — A high school basketball champion and longtime resident of Union was awarded the Boston Post Cane Jan. 13 at the Homestead at Owls Head.

Town Manager Jay Feyler presented the cane and a plaque to Irene Payson, 95, of Union.

On hand for the event were Irene's sons, Jeffrey and Paul Payson, and her granddaughter Brittany Payson.

Irene was born in Prospect and went to school in Rockland. She was a member of the class of 1933 at Rockland High School and played on the basketball team, which won the state championship.

"Just imagine," she said. "This decrepit old woman."

She moved to Union in the late 1940s. She worked as a secretary for a doctor's office and an insurance office. She later helped her husband, Grevis Payson, with the family business, Payson Farm Machinery.

Irene has always liked riding horses and once worked in a stable.

She is a member of the People's United Methodist Church in Union.

Asked the secret to longevity, she said she doesn't like smoking and noted that she has kept all of her teeth.
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