

DUNBARTON TOWN HALL RESTORATION PROJECT

This month it was my pleasure to sit down with another life long resident of Dunbarton, Alison Valliers. Many of you know Allison from her years of working in the Town Office where she served in a variety of roles over the years. She was most recently in charge of Accounts Payable/Payroll for 11 years, Secretary for the Zoning Board, Planning Board and Board of Selectmen. She continues to be a member of the Zoning and Planning Boards and still serves as Secretary of the Zoning Board.

She remains involved with the Dunbarton Historical Society, serving as their current President and was active in the Dunbarton Garden Club and the Old Home Day planning committee in the past. She also represents the town on the John Stark Scenic By-way Committee.

Like Bill Zeller, Alison had memories of the Grange meetings upstairs in the Town Hall. Her parents, Raymond and Sibyl Adams, were charter members of the Dunbarton Historical Society and her father served as Master of Stark Grange. Alison held the office of Lady Assistant Steward when she joined the Grange as a teenager.

Alison talked about the Town Christmas tree that was put in the upper Town Hall during the holidays and how each child was given an orange, some candy and a small gift. She didn't recall who played Santa Claus, perhaps someone reading this might know....

"There were school pageant's put on up there, one in particular I remember was 'The Wizard of Oz', my son played the Tin Man. Other events I remember were the Pilgrim Fellowship, which was the youth fellowship of the Congregational church, holding several dances up there during the mid 1950's."



Diana Firestone

Talking about dances sparked another memory, ballet lessons given by a local lady. The teachers name was Diana Firestone and she received her ballet training with none other than Mikhail Baryshnikov, the famed Russian-American dancer and choreographer.

Allison said that she and both her daughters, Dale and Tammy, along with local teens Kristine & Joanne Antonio, Cindy Stone and Jackie Belanger took lessons from Ms. Firestone and the girls danced in several ballet recitals on the stage upstairs. She recalled that the local Volunteer Fire Department also held some dances up there.

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Dunbarton Bellerina Beauties



Dale Riley



Dale & Tammy Riley

“I remember the 4-H Club holding an award ceremony up there to honor Jean Hodgman for her many years serving as their leader. It also was used for several variety shows that were fund raisers for local causes.”

The Town Hall Restoration Committee would love to hear from you if you have any interesting stories or memories of events in this historical building or photos you would like to share. Please contact EnidLLarsen@gmail.com or 774-360