

# BEVERLY HIGH SCHOOL



*Class of 1958*

Reunion Committee: Alan Barbeau, Marilyn (Moroni) Whitney, Jeff Wignall (ed.)  
Member9219@aol.com

**ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2016**

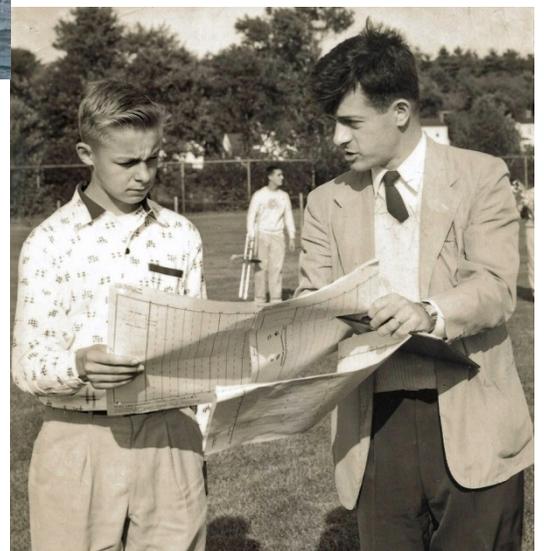


Dave Woodman sends this image of the successful launching of five years of painstaking labor “down Maine.”

Bob Howard reviews Master Plan with Band Director John Finnigan, Bob apparently not convinced: Herb Hammond in rear.



BHS Band Award Letter  
John Maglio



Ralph Archung contributes the following about his close friend, Ray Cormier (BHS Trade School 1958) - some may be aware of some, but I doubt all aware of all:

There is an old adage that goes something like this: As we go through life we will enjoy being in the company of many people we will call "friends." Those friends may be: "friends for a season, friends for a reason" or "friends for life."

Raymond Cormier and I started school together in Miss Barry's first grade class at McKay school in September, 1945. I remember Raymond coming to my rescue one day during recess when I was in a dispute over a game of marbles with two older second graders. Ray rushed to my side to advise me that my face would look better at the end of the day if I just let them keep the marbles that were in dispute.

Three years later my family moved from Glidden Street in Shingleville to Sunset Drive in Ryal Side. And, shortly thereafter, the Cormiers moved to Ryal Side too. They built a beautiful house on the end of Stewart Avenue. And I got to know almost all of the Cormiers after that. There certainly were a lot of them.

Ray and I became and remained very close friends through the years. We played tennis together, went deer hunting from Kenny April's camp in Maine, followed favorite jazz groups around the North Shore, played bridge with the Cormier clan and on one memorable Memorial Day, Ray and I climbed Mt. Washington with large packs on our backs to ski in Tuckerman's Ravine.

Later, after I graduated from college in 1964, I joined a Peace Corps project building schools in rural Ecuador. Raymond became interested and decided to join me, and came to Ecuador to help build our first school. Ray was loved by the local inhabitants of the village where we were working and they referred to him affectionately as "Cortico" (Shorty) or "Joven Ramon" (Young Raymond). When the school was completed, Ray and I traveled with a group to visit various places in Peru (Lima, Callao, Cuzco, Macchu Picchu, Puno), Bolivia (La Paz), Argentina (Buenos Aires and Mendoza), Chile (Portillo, Santiago, Valparaiso) and finally back to Ecuador where we would start building another school; however, Ray's sister, Carol, was about to be married and Ray returned home for that. I remained in Ecuador for one more year.

On my return to Beverly in 1966, I had a telegram waiting for me with a job offer from Douglas Aircraft Company in Long Beach California. Ray thought that sounded good too. The two of us took off in his 1962 blue Oldsmobile convertible for California. We got an apartment in Long Beach and Ray got a job right away as a toolmaker near Los Angeles. We had a great time playing tennis, fishing, skin diving and visiting nearby jazz clubs. We saw Jose Feliciano who was just getting his start in a club close by in Huntington Beach. On New Year's Eve, Ray went to L.A. with my cousin, Jane Mugglebee, to see jazz trumpeter, Dizzy Gillespie. Ray struck up a conversation with Gillespie's "chauffeur/aide/body guard" who was from Mendoza, Argentina. That went well as we had just been in Mendoza the previous year. As a result, Gillespie invited Ray and Jane to his place after the night club gig to continue celebrating the New Year. Later that year, Ray grew restless in California and returned home to Beverly to be near his family. That was when he started his own business by building a machine shop right there on Stewart Avenue in Beverly.

Fast forward a few years to 1972 and you find Ray and I have succumbed to that conspiracy of nature that finds us both married, Ray to Celeste in Massachusetts and me to Judy in California. And on a chilly day in January that year, I got a phone call from Ray to tell me to run to the store and pick up a newspaper. Ray had just become instantly famous by decoding some cryptic love letters that our past president, FDR, had written to Eleanor when they were courting. Raymond made national news with that clever feat. (Ed. Note: article from the Beverly Times reprinted here.)

Over the following years, Ray and I kept in touch and usually got together at least once a year. If you have seen the recent National Geographic TV series called "Wicked Tuna", they refer, very un-affectionately, to the local sport-fishermen on the tuna banks off of the Massachusetts coast as "Googans". Ray and I would go out with his brother-in-law, George Bushey, on George's lobster boat, the "Michael B," to fish for blue fin tuna. And, of course, we were "Googans." We never did catch a tuna while I was on the boat. However, after my last fishing trip with them, and I had returned to our

new home in Washington, Ray called to tell me that he and George had just caught a tuna. As I recall, it was about 300 pounds and those two Googans achieved the unique distinction of catching the smallest tuna of the year out of Gloucester.

Later in life, Ray changed vocations and became a Court Recorder where he got to meet a lot of interesting people. Ray loved that job - he was a consummate "People Person."

This story comes to a sad close. About 1999, Ray was stricken with a series of strokes that took him down. Ray's wife, Celeste, succumbed to cancer and they both passed away within a few weeks of each other. I had the opportunity to share some of this story then at the combined service that was held for them.

I am pleased to share this short story about Raymond Cormier with you, our mutual classmates. I think of him often. I miss him today. Raymond Cormier was my "Friend for Life."

# Toolmaker decodes FDR's love notes

By TOM CLARK

DANVERS — A secret code, devised by a youthful Franklin Delano Roosevelt to shroud entries in a personal diary, has baffled cryptographers and other experts for nearly two years, but a 31-year-old Danvers toolmaker believes he solved the mystery in less than two hours.

Raymond R. Cormier of 206 Maple Street, a Beverly native employed at True-Form Grinding and Tool Company in Beverly, became aware of the code Tuesday night when he read an account of the code's discovery in the Boston Globe.

Dr. Nora Ferdon of Brookline found the code while doing doctoral research at the FDR museum in Hyde Park, New York.

Excerpts containing the coded portions of the diary were reproduced in the Globe article. Dr. Ferdon, who discovered the code 18 months ago, had shown the diary to cryptographers, archivists, historians, FDR biographers and representatives of the Library of Congress.

None of the Roosevelt experts has been able to solve the mystery of the code.

But Cormier unraveled it in about an hour and one half.

Cormier told his wife he was going "to try and figure this thing out" and after solving the code, excitedly woke her about 1 a.m. Wednesday.

They called Dr. Ferdon in Brookline with the news, but Cormier says, "I really don't think she believed us at first."

Dr. Ferdon finally decided Cormier had indeed cracked the code when he read her the cryptic passages.

Strictly an amateur cryptographer, Cormier said working on the code "was more fun as a mystery than anything else."

Cormier said the numerical symbols in the code went only as high as six.

"I knew that in any given paragraph the letter e will appear most often so I designated every two an e," Cormier explained.

"Then I numbered the rest of the vowels (a-1, e-2, i-3, o-4, u-5 and y-6) and the code started to fall in place."

After inserting the proper vowel in place of FDR's numbers, Cormier began attacking the remaining symbols of the code.

Cormier was helped along by the fact that Roosevelt did not rely completely on the code to transcribe his personal thoughts.

"It's really a mystery," said Dr. Ferdon. "He'd be writing a normal entry into a diary and suddenly would switch to this code."

For the other symbols, Cormier figured that

Roosevelt used portions of standard letter characters.

"His G, for example, was like a normal G but with the top half cut off. D was a backward C without the line and he used just the top curl of the S," Cormier explained.

The code first appeared in the diary on an entry dated Tuesday, July 9, 1902. Roosevelt had arrived in Beverly aboard the yacht, "Half Moon".

The first portion was completely normal. "We all landed and played tennis. Took the Sohiers, T.B.B. and Swain out for a good long sail to Marblehead in p.m. All dine at Sohier's."

FDR suddenly switched his code and Cormier figures the remaining part of the entry reads, "and spend evening on lawn. Alice confides in me."

The next day the code appeared again. After a full line of 28 separate symbols, Roosevelt wrote in English, "Left Beverly at 6:30 a.m. Breeze as far as Thatcher Island. Lay off it five hours. Started engine and got to Portsmouth Harbor at seven. Anchored."

Roosevelt then did not use the code in the diary for seven months.

On Sunday, Nov. 22, 1903, he wrote, "To Groton at nine and get there in time for Church. Lunch with Aunt K's party."

Then he lapsed into the code again and Cormier transcribes what follows: "After lunch, a never-to-be forgotten walk to the river with my darling." The entry continues in English, "Super with all the relatives at Whitney's Chapel in evening."

The final line of the entry reverts back to the code which Cormier diagnosed as, "I am to go to New York next Sunday."

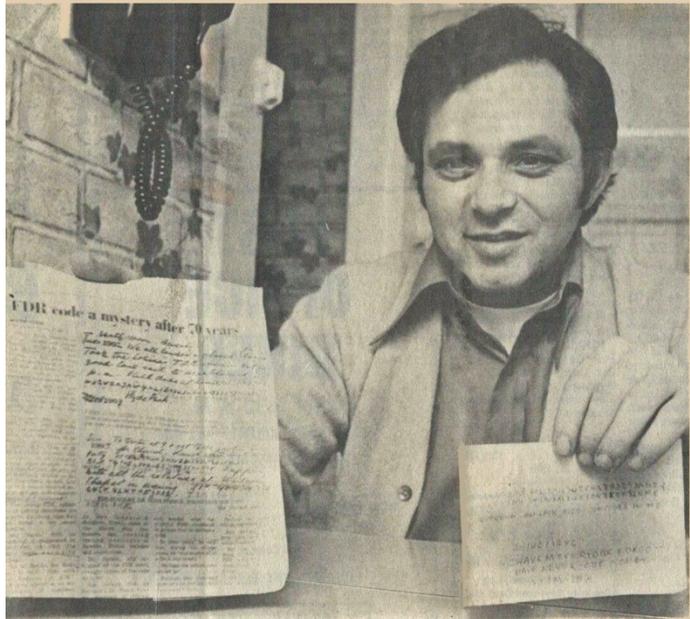
Dr. Ferdon, who found the code while researching for her thesis "Franklin Roosevelt, Psycho - Social Analysis of his Childhood and Youth", said she found just four entries in the diary where the code was used.

Although Dr. Ferdon feels Roosevelt didn't express any really significant thoughts in the coded diary, the fact he used a code is a curiosity worth exploring.

Dr. Ferdon thinks the love interest in the diary was probably FDR's future wife Eleanor but it could be the "Back Bay beauty" Roosevelt later said he was at one time enamored of while at Harvard.

Cormier said Dr. Ferdon is sending him photostats of all the coded entries but doesn't expect to go any further with the project than that.

"I just hope it helps her with her research and with the success of her thesis," Cormier stated while on his lunch break at True - Form on Thursday.



Raymond A. Cormier shows FDR code which he deciphered

(Ralph Turcotte photo)

## Beverly Evening Times

January 21, 1972

# BHS Nine Edged, 3-2, By Sachems In Cooney Field Season Opener

Jack O'Neal knocked in the tie-breaking and winning run as Saugus High opened its 1956-57 Essex County Baseball League season on a successful note, 3-2, at the expense of Beverly High school yesterday afternoon at Cooney Field.

The visiting Sachems overcame a two-run deficit, scoring two runs in the sixth and the game-winning run in the ninth to spoil Coach George "Chuck" Taylor's debut as pilot of the Garden City Warriors. It wasn't exactly a wasted afternoon for the new successor to Charlie Walsh, for Taylor and his hustling ball club (mostly underclassmen) made it known to a veteran-studded Saugus team, that Beverly will provide plenty of stiff competition in the long fight ahead.

Taylor's mound choice for this home inaugural was Johnny Maglio, a right-hander. Maglio was given a 2-0 cushion in the opening stanza, but that was all the backing he received in the chilly nine-inning affair. Actually, Maglio pitched better ball than his rival moundsman, but a couple of timely Saugus bingles coupled with a Beverly misque spelled the difference. Maglio struck out 10 and walked only four while Bruce Wolf, a southpaw, managed to fan only seven while yielding eight free ducks.

An oddity in the Beverly scoring

was that both runs resulted from double steals. Henry Betts opened the inning with a walk and Jackie Remare followed with a single to center, Betts moving to second. Second baseman Johnny Ryan reached on a fielder's choice and Remare was forced out at second. Then, Beverly pulled a double steal, Betts scoring and Ryan advancing along to second. Billy Whalen reached on a "boot" by shortstop Norm Peach to set up the second double steal which later found Ryan scoring.

Tippy Eramo doubled to keep the inning alive, but Wolf settled down to end the inning, getting Gordon Reid on a pop fly and Tommy Risoldi on a swinging third strike.

Maglio displayed great clutch pitching in the fourth inning, escaping without allowing a run after loading the bases with two away. Johnny retired O'Neal on a routine grounder and Allan Comeau on strikes, but Norm Peach, Dave Soper and Robin Eisenhour all managed to reach base. Maglio threw but four pitches in retiring Tom Maher on strikes to put out the fire.

Singles by Eisenhour and Bob Anderson knocked in the Sachems' two runs in the sixth after Eramo was left "dead" on third base in

the previous inning after tripling some 350 feet to left field.

Maglio had retired eight straight batters before Dick Barrows singled back to the mound in the ninth to inaugurate Saugus' winning run attack. Bob Gallant followed with a Texas League single to right and then O'Neal's bat did the damage when he singled home the winning run with a smash to left.

Beverly plays at Swampscott tomorrow afternoon in a non-league game, then on Friday, it's Beverly at Peabody in Essex County League action.

The summary:

SAUGUS										
	ab	r	bh	po	a	e				
Barrows rf	4	1	2	0	0	0				
Gallant cf	5	0	2	1	0	0				
O'Neal 2b	5	0	1	5	2	0				
Comeau c	5	0	1	7	1	0				
Peach ss	3	0	1	2	4	1				
Soper 1b	3	1	0	11	0	0				
Eisenhour 3b	3	1	1	1	4	0				
Maher lf	2	0	0	0	0	0				
Anderson lf	2	0	1	0	0	0				
Wolf p	4	0	1	0	4	0				
Totals	36	3	10	27	15	1				
BEVERLY										
	ab	r	bh	po	a	e				
Betts cf	3	1	0	3	0	0				
Remare lf	5	0	1	0	0	0				
Ryan 2b	4	1	0	3	2	0				
Whalen c	4	0	0	10	3	0				
Eramo rf	3	0	2	0	0	0				
Reid ss	3	0	0	2	1	1				
Risoldi 3b	3	0	0	0	2	1				
Bonjorno 3b	1	0	1	1	0	0				
Nelson 1b	3	0	1	7	0	0				
Maglio p	3	0	1	1	1	0				
Totals	32	2	6	27	9	2				
Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Ttl.
Saugus	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
Beverly	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

A tough loss, but a "building year."  
From John Maglio

For those who scratched their heads about the "Cove" photo in Issue 1 - it appears to be the (western) end of Brackenberry Beach.

Bill Jewett has been located, living in Lukeville, AZ since about 1972. Lukeville, population 1 (a guy named Luke lived there) quickly doubled. The way I heard it was Luke couldn't stand crowds so wandered off into the desert, and things got back to normal. Bill kept the original name so folks coming from elsewhere wouldn't get confused. You have to understand, if he changed it, folks would ask, "Why?" and he'd have to say, "No, that's somewhere else, not here."

That's because Why is 30 miles north of Lukeville, so there's that, and, no, I don't know and he didn't say. But it's the only thing there, so maybe that's Why, and, of course, it is, even though the reason may lie elsewhere.

Lukeville is also located smack on the Mexican border, and situated some 60 miles north of a resort area at Puerto Penasco (the "a" should have a ~, but I don't know how to do it) on the Gulf of California.

Puerto Penasco of course widely known as Al Capone's summer hangout, and the originally selected site for the Big Three conference during WWII until Joe Stalin said, "Are you kidding me!" (Not certain the word was "kidding" – it was in Russian – but, anyway they opted for Malta). It was also at the end of the designated evacuation highway for Southern California in the event of an attack by the Japanese. Californians eternally grateful that no attack occurred, and that could be why, but not Why, that's 70 miles north.

Bill retired in 1986 following a conversation with his boss about the job being shoved somewhere, and proceeded to do continue what he had been doing in a partnership arrangement best described as playing Monopoly and winning. And I have his assurance that it's all legal.

Holland America is presently developing the port area for cruise ships, which is the modern equivalent of the railroad coming through, so the value of investing long term is about to be realized.

Bill's leisure hours are spent hunting, fishing, camping, sailing, prospecting, and traveling, and likely to remain the same after his HA ships come in. Why not? – oh, that's in North Carolina.

\*\*\*\*\*

A couple of loose ends: I will direct you to the special notice at the end for more detail, but we seem to have resolved the matter of reaching the relatively few class members without email and can provide a means of access for them and avoid printing and mailing – and the associated costs.

Copies of **BHS Yearbooks** from the late 30's to about 2007 are **all on-line** for anyone interested – to find friends in other classes, etc. The site is <http://archive.org>. Click on the open book icon at the top left, then "e books and texts" on the next screen. Type "Beverly High School" in the search box, hit enter, and you're there, just locate the one (s) you want (they're not in order) and read on-line or download if you wish to keep a copy.

I have enough material for at least the next issue (August) but after the initial surge things went quiet. Send anything you think might be useful. If it's deemed not (or inappropriate) it won't see daylight, but I'll take bio material ("No brag, just fact." – [Walter Brennan]). This forum I think is much better for that than the old BHS Alumni site since the material gets a date stamp that keeps it in context, and it will be in yo' face, so you'll know if updating is needed. Bragging about your grandkids is allowed – or yourself if you care to, but remember, email lasts *forever*.

A suggestion has been made that we incorporate a BHS football game into the Reunion program. On consideration, I don't think it will work too well in that context mainly because of the scheduling issues – and there is a matter of comfort, particularly since the weather may not cooperate. Also, it would probably require a home game to work as intended. However the concept may good for an interested smaller group, so sound off on that, and if a dozen or so express interest, we'll try to get something going. I will ask for a volunteer to coordinate it locally (not necessarily the *suggestor* as I think was previously stated – unless voluntary). Something like this could be done at any time, so think fall of this year – everyone will be less elderly than in 2018 and may sit better in bleachers with two years less artheritis.



BHS Class of 1958  
c/o Jeff Wignall  
27 Martinack Avenue  
Peabody, MA 01960

**Special Notice:** This section had been reserved for mailing indicia should it have become necessary to print and mail copies to those without access to email. As of today (Feb. 2, 2016) we have arranged with Dick Page to have the newsletters posted on his **BHS Class of 1958** web site. This will allow *anyone* to read the newsletters on any available computer with Internet capability, and will allow us to continue distribution on a no-cost basis. We will be notifying those we are aware of about this option, but if any of you reading this knows of anyone in that situation, please pass the word. Access to the on-line version is at <http://www.penbayonline.com/bhs58>. For those unfamiliar with Dick's site, there are other things of interest to be found there, and I believe he would welcome additional material relating to the class, particularly photographs. As always, if any questions: [member9219@aol.com](mailto:member9219@aol.com).

Jeff