

Barnstable recycling center to open at disposal area

By Andrea Leonard

Can you stand a little history? Recent history this time. It's important to today's happenings and tomorrow's as well.

As long ago (or as recently, depending on your point of view) as June 1971 I began campaigning for recycling valuable materials then, as now, finding a permanent home in our Town Dump.

That was the summer Barnstable townspeople started worrying about whether the Dump would last another year; after several attempts in various parts of the Cape to get recycling centers started, one got off the ground in our town.

In September, Jane Eshbaugh asked if I'd help publicize one in Osterville. I did, and with the help of thirty or forty men, women, boys and girls, it operated from September 25th that year until February 1972.

The Osterville Recycollects inspired similar volunteer centers in Centerville and Cotuit. Saturday mornings between 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. was recycling time; then there was the long trek to Monument Beach carrying the collected glass, cans and paper to the Canada Dry Bottling Company warehouse.

Business people loaned their trucks for carting the barrels of glass. People who came to watch or bring their own recyclables, stayed to help smash glass and haul the collection. It was great.

Volunteers worked in sunny warm weather through October and November. It was hot. Wearing heavy gloves, goggles, longsleeved coats and heavy slacks -- to avoid being badly cut by flying glass -- was no fun. They worked in cold and snowy weather, too. It gets that way in December and January. It was great to work together!

In February, Canada Dry announced it could no longer accept the smashed glass and crushed cans. The project collapsed with no place to dispose of the material once we'd collected

People -- some people -- are using it, bringing their tied or bagged newspapers and magazines to the van. Jane says it's estimated approximately ten per cent of the discarded papers are deposited in the van.

The rest, sadly, are still being carted into the landfill area, filling space the Board of Health is trying to conserve so we won't have to find a new location for our dump.

What are you doing with your old newspapers and magazines? Recycling them? Or sending them to the Dump with the rest of your trash?

Now, Jane tells me, we're ready to begin recycling glass at the Dump. This is a Town of Barnstable project. All it needs to succeed is your cooperation.

You who were volunteers, you who loaned your trucks, you who brought your glass, cans and papers -- will you join again? This time we're organized and won't be forced to stop for lack of a place to accept it.

It's to your advantage. The Dump IS filling up. If it hadn't been for finding an old section to reopen, we'd be out of space by now.

Where, in the Town of Barnstable, is there another location for the disposal area? Greater horrors! Then where?

Conserving space in the Dump is important. Saving valuable materials is important too. Waste is reprehensible! It goes against my Yankee grain, and probably

against yours, too.

Let's give recycling all our support -- especially now we've got the cooperation of the Town behind us.

Here's the plan: In a matter of weeks there'll be three bins at the dump for the collection of recyclable glass.

One will be for clear glass; it will be 22'x15'. One for brown glass, 14'x15'; and a similar one for green glass, same size.

Each will have an asphalt pad with concrete walls so a frontend loader can scoop it up into a dump truck. Then off the truck will go to Dayville, Connecticut, for re-use. By February it's expected a new collection plant will be completed, nearer than Dayville.

What'll all this cost the taxpayer? Aside from the saving of space in the Dump, we'll earn \$23 a ton for glass with no metal rings or caps. If the glass contains metal, it's worth only \$17 a ton.

Continued on Page 2

The Village Advertiser

CENTERVILLE - OSTERVILLE - MARSTONS MILLS - COTUIT - SANTUIT

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To get an idea of how successful this effort was three years ago in Osterville alone, over 187 ton of glass, cans and newspapers was carted off for recycling in the four-month operation.

How many tons were collected by the Centerville and Cotuit groups is unknown, but it's clear lots of space in the Dump was saved.

Ever since recycling was abandoned, people have been asking when it'll start again.

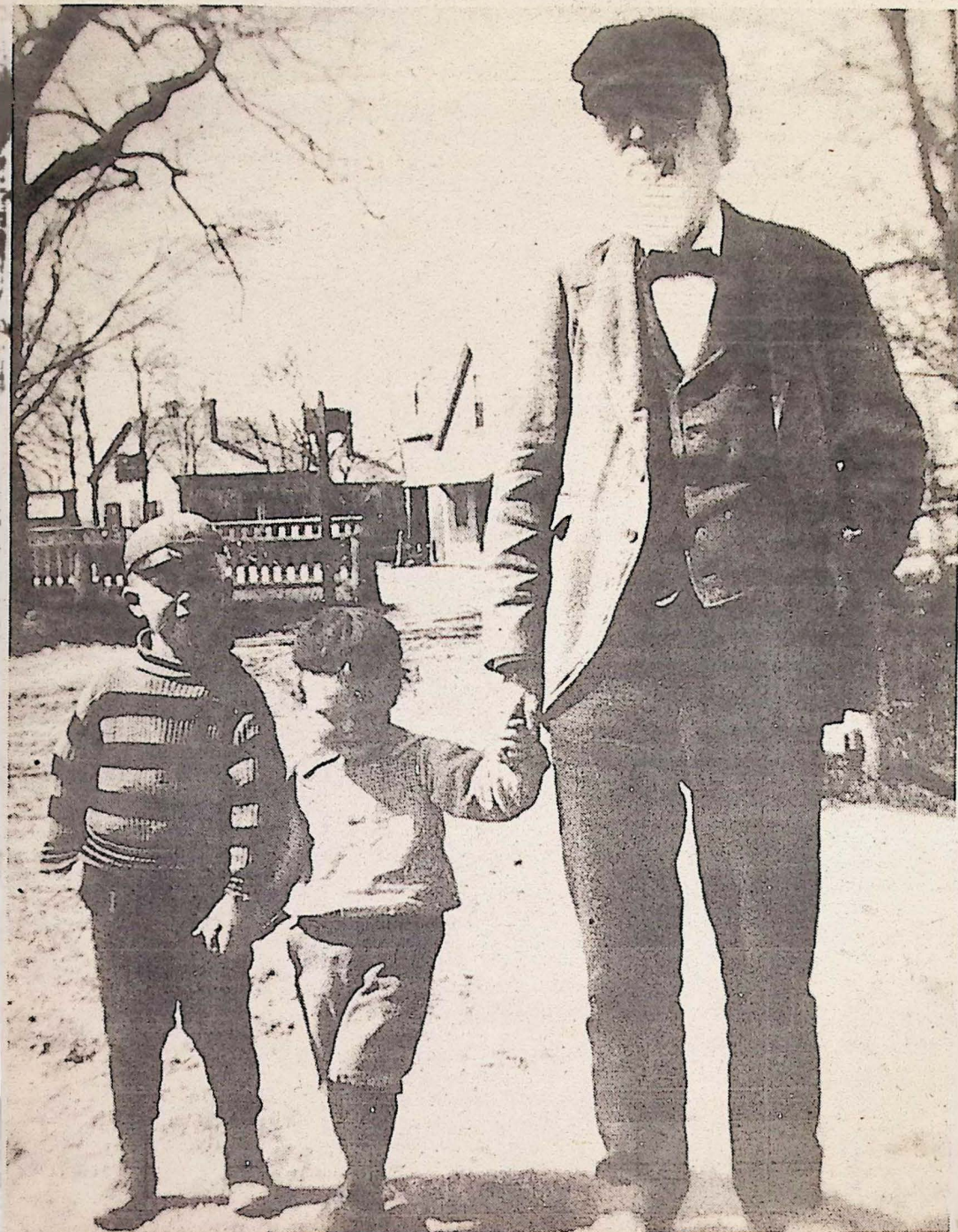
Not long after we had to give up the project, Jane Eshbaugh ran for the Board of Health and won election. Lots of people thought it would be only a matter of weeks before the Board was completely reorganized and the whole town would be in the recycling business.

Nothing of the sort happened. People wondered if Jane still cared. I knew she did; I also knew she respected the other members of the Board and intended to work with them -- not only on recycling but on all aspects of her job. She took it seriously.

The Board of Health has responsibilities beyond the management of the dump. Jane had all she could handle getting to know her job, the people she was working with, and the needs of the town.

Jane's the kind of person who doesn't forget when she believes in something. For about seven or eight months now, there's been a truck trailer at the dump to receive recyclable paper and magazines.

some of the Scudders



From left, Stuart Scudder, Wilson Scudder and grandfather Freeman Scudder. This 1900 photograph was taken in Osterville in front of what is now the World War I Soldier's Monument. House left in background is now

unoccupied, but is owned by Delton Hall. To the right of that is presently the Archibald Realty block of stores.

(Photo from the Chesbro collection courtesy of the Osterville Historical Society)